

Late Backup

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FLOODED HOME BUYOUT

My name is Stuart Harry Hersh, and like most in Austin, I rent. I am here to support the proposed buyout of homes which have been flooded or are at risk of being flooded if you do not act. The people who live in southeast Austin are my brothers and sisters just as the people who were impacted by flooding were on Memorial Day 1981.

It was my job in 1981 as the Building and Standards Coordinator to tell people who came to our offices at 301 West 2nd Street or asked us to drive to their homes one of three things:

1. The City intended to acquire their home to reduce flooding risk by expanding Northwest Park drainage improvements.
2. Their home was so damaged structurally that they would have to demolish the home or the City would seek an order to demolish their home.
3. They could repair their home based on an inspection list supplied by a City inspector without elevating their house. We had a contentious internal discussion and litigation before we told people they did not have to elevate.

Any of us who have had water pour into our home or seen what that can do to others feel compassion for our fellow citizens just like all of you do. Passing this resolution is the first step to show that we really care. More steps to come.

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