

**RESOLUTION NO. 20121011-117**

**WHEREAS**, community members and the Austin City Council have been involved in planning and development of a cultural center dedicated to the Mexican American community for several decades; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1970's, Chicano activists came together to create spaces dedicated to Chicano arts, culture and education like El Centro Chicano and Juarez-Lincoln University, both of which were destroyed by arson; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Mexican American Cultural Center Task Force was formed by the Austin City Council in the mid-1980's; and

**WHEREAS**, community leaders continued to work to develop and break ground on a cultural center until the Mexican American Cultural Center finally broke ground in November 2005, nearly 20 years after the initial task force was formed by city council; and

**WHEREAS**, the placement of the Mexican American Cultural Center, now renamed the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESBMACC), was significant because of its proximity to the former Juarez-Lincoln University site as well as being located in the center of a traditionally Mexican American neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, the ESBMACC is faced with continued challenges to fully realize the vision of a completed, built-out cultural center even as the Rainey neighborhood in which it is located changes through commercial development; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the primary issues of concern from patrons and members of the city's advisory board is parking and access; and

**WHEREAS**, a parcel of land is up for Council consideration that is located directly adjacent to the ESBMACC that could be used for continued development of the ESBMACC parking needs and could maintain much needed lines of site for approaching patrons;

**WHEREAS**, The Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board voted on June 16, 2012, to recommend that the City Council not sell the parcel of land in question, and reaffirmed that vote on October 4, 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to remove the parcel of land at 64 Rainey Street from consideration for sale or development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to develop a range of options for use of this parcel of land by the Parks and Recreation Department for specific development that would address the needs of the adjacent Emma S.

Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and incorporate this parcel of land into the ESBMACC master plan, and return to Council with options for consideration and action no later than December 1, 2012.

**ADOPTED:** October 11, 2012

**ATTEST:**

  
Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk