

A resolution of the Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods (OCEAN) to request extension of the Urban Renewal Plan for East 11th and 12th Streets for a period of at least ten years.

WHEREAS the voters of Austin in 1959 elected to create an Urban Renewal Agency (Agency) to carry out Urban Renewal project powers in accordance with Chapter 374 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS the City of Austin adopted the Urban Renewal Plan for East 11th and 12th Streets (Plan) in 1999 to restore the vitality of formerly thriving African-American business corridors by promoting development of retail, residential and commercial uses that would respect and enhance adjacent neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS it tasked the Agency with implementation oversight, including compliance with the Plan's vision and project controls; and

WHEREAS a preponderance of properties within the Plan area remain undeveloped in accordance with the vision and controls; and

WHEREAS, the Plan area is integral to the African American Cultural Heritage District, and significant historic assets within the Plan area have fallen into neglect, including a City of Austin landmark and buildings identified as eligible for landmark status by the 2016 East Austin Historic Survey; and

WHEREAS the Agency retains ownership of several parcels of land on East 11th Street that require dispossession and development; and

WHEREAS, former Agency properties along East 12th Street that were disposed of via Request for Proposal in 2014 remain undeveloped, and one has been sold to a new owner without authorization of the Urban Renewal Agency; and

WHEREAS the Plan is set to expire on December 17, 2018; and

WHEREAS Austin City Council may extend the Plan's expiration date by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, extension will ensure adequate time to foster compliance of all parcels and to fulfill the promise of a twenty-year renewal effort in which thousands of area stakeholders along and nearby East 11th and 12th Streets have invested their time, energy, and resources; and

WHEREAS all but two blocks of the Plan area lay with the Central East Austin Neighborhood Plan Area boundaries and OCEAN serves as the contact team for six neighborhoods directly impacted by successful implementation of the Plan—including Swede Hill, Robertson Hill, Kealing, Davis-Thompson, Guadalupe and Blackshear-Prospect Hill Neighborhoods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods supports the extension of the Urban Renewal Plan for East 11th and 12th Streets for at least a ten-year period and encourages Austin City Council to adopt in a timely manner an ordinance to such effect, that being prior to the Plan's current expiration date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'N' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Nathan Jones

President, Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods

June 25, 2018