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RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, On August 11, 1977, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 770811-E changing the use designation on 2402 San Gabriel Street (Franzetti Store Building of Wheatville) from “C” commercial district to “C-H” commercial historic district; and

WHEREAS, the building has significant associations with the Reverend Jacob Fontaine from 1875 until his death in 1898; and

WHEREAS, Jacob Fontaine was born into slavery in Arkansas in 1808 and came to Austin in 1839 as the servant of Edward Fontaine, the personal secretary to Mirabeau Lamar, the first president of the Republic of Texas and the founder of the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, upon emancipation in 1865, Jacob Fontaine was instrumental in the establishment of churches and schools for the freed slaves in Austin; and

WHEREAS, Jacob Fontaine established his grocery business and home in this building, in the heart of the freedmens’ settlement at Wheatville in 1875; and

WHEREAS, from this building, Jacob Fontaine continued to establish institutions to promote the literacy of the freed population of Austin; and

WHEREAS, from this building, Jacob Fontaine published the Gold Dollar, the first African-American newspaper in Austin; and

WHEREAS, Jacob Fontaine has unparalleled significance in the history of Austin’s African-American population; and

