

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: November 15, 2018

Item Number: **024**

Planning and Zoning

Approve a resolution recognizing the renaming of the 'Franzetti Store Building of Wheatville' to 'The Reverend Jacob Fontaine Gold Dollar Building' to commemorate the African-American history of the building, the contributions of Reverend Jacob Fontaine to Austin's African-American population, and the freedmens' settlement at Wheatville.

District(s) Affected: District 9

Lead Department	Planning and Zoning
Fiscal Note	This item has no fiscal impact.
For More Information	Steve Sadowsky, Historic Preservation Office, Planning and Zoning, 512-974-6454
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	September 24, 2018 - approved by the Historic Landmark Commission on an 8-0 vote with Commissioners Brown and Hibbs absent.

Additional Backup Information:

2402 San Gabriel Street has significant associations with the Reverend Jacob Fontaine from 1875 until his death in 1898. 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. Upon emancipation in 1865, Jacob Fontaine was

instrumental in the establishment of churches and schools for the freed slaves in Austin. He established his grocery business and home in this building, in the heart of the freedmens' settlement at Wheatville in 1875. From this building, Jacob Fontaine continued to establish institutions to promote the literacy of the freed population of Austin. He published the *Gold Dollar*, the first African-American newspaper in Austin. Jacob Fontaine has unparalleled significance in the history of Austin's African-American population and 2402 San Gabriel Street is the only building remaining from the Wheatville Community.