

RESOLUTION NO. 20181115-024

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

WHEREAS, the original designation of this building, while referencing Reverend Fontaine and Wheatville, did not fully address the importance of the African-American history of the neighborhood and its residents; and

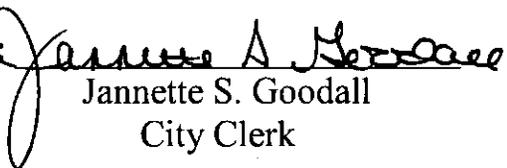
WHEREAS, this is the only building remaining from the Wheatville Community; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Austin City Council recognizes 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.

ADOPTED: November 15, 2018

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk