



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Alex Gale, Interim Officer, Office of Real Estate Services (ORES) *AS*

DATE: September 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Resolution 20170928-056 - Montopolis Negro School Property at 500 Montopolis Drive

On September 28, 2017, City Council approved Resolution 20170928-056 which directed staff to negotiate for the acquisition of the property located at 500 Montopolis Drive that houses the Montopolis Negro School, one of the last remaining vestiges of segregated education in the Austin Community.

On June 28, 2018, City Council approved Resolution 20180628-081 authorizing the Law Department to file an action in eminent domain to acquire the property. The eminent domain process has been initiated and ORES staff will continue to work with the Law Department to secure the acquisition. In adherence with the requirements mandated by Texas Property Code, Chapter 21, pertaining to condemnation, a Special Commissioners' Hearing will be scheduled within the next few months. Please note that the actual scheduling of the Special Commissioners' Hearing is dependent upon the availability of multiple parties and at the sole discretion of the probate court. The timeline of events related to the scheduling of the hearing are occurring within a typical timeframe for such cases. We will follow up with Mayor and Council with the status upon completion of the hearing and any subsequent actions.

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has provided preliminary cost estimates associated with operating the space as a museum and recommends operating the space in a manner similar to existing PARC museums. PARC staff have not yet identified a non-profit partner to operate or maintain the property, but will continue to refine cost estimates and explore partnership opportunities as the acquisition process proceeds.

This memo serves as a request to extend the date to report back to Council with an update on the process no later than December 1, 2018.

Please feel free to contact me at 512-974-1416 if you have any questions.

xc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Kimberly McNeeley, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation Department