

#36
2-12-04

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in order to meet the security requirements for the new federal courthouse at Republic Square Park, the General Services Administration has requested that the City of Austin vacate a portion of the right-of-way that comprises the 400 block of San Antonio Street; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council finds that it is reasonable to initiate the street vacation process for the entire portion of the 400 block of San Antonio Street; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the 400 block of San Antonio Street (in combination with the proposed extension of Nueces Street from Second Street to Cesar Chavez Street) will not harm downtown traffic flow, but will enable the construction of a landmark courthouse and enhance Republic Square Park through expansion and potential contributions for improvement; and

WHEREAS, Republic Square is one of the original four squares of the Austin plat of 1839 with the original Auction Oaks where the first Austin lots were sold and a rich cultural history that included a long period (1870-1927) where it was the institutional and cultural center of Austin's Mexican-American community; and

WHEREAS, the City has engaged in revitalization plans of the Square through a Task Force in 1999, a historical report of the Square, and most recently with a conceptual design created in partnership with Texas

Commission on the Arts (TCA), Austin Parks Foundation (APF), and Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) with the inclusion of major work by internationally renowned Texas sculptor Jesus Moroles, and dynamic programming by APF, DAA, and TCA; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin requests that the General Services Administration implement its Good Neighbor Program with the Federal Courthouse and Republic Square to work with the City and other partners to continue this good work, including helping with funding; and

WHEREAS, close cooperation with the federal government in this process will, in addition to providing for a better courthouse and park, also open the door to other opportunities to improve mobility in and through downtown Austin, such as the reopening of the 300 block of Ninth Street to public traffic;
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to:

1. initiate the street vacation process for the 400 block of San Antonio Street for the proposed federal courthouse site;
2. begin discussions with the General Services Administration and other federal government representatives regarding the vacation of the 400 block of San Antonio Street, and the reopening of the 300 block of Ninth Street;

3. request that the General Services Administration participate with the City under its Good Neighbor Program in planning and funding for the proposed federal courthouse site, and Republic Square Park; and
4. study the possibility of the extension of Nueces Street south from Second Street to connect with Cesar Chavez Street; and
5. return to Council with recommendations for action and appropriate agenda items.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk

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