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March 20, 2018

Mayor Steve Adler and City Council Members

City of Austin

Post Office Box 1088

Austin, TX 78767-8865

Sent via E-mail

Re: Rosewood Courts Historic Designation

Dear Mayor Adler and City Council Members:

Preservation Austin supports the designation for Rosewood Courts Public Housing. Preservation Austin has worked extensively with the Housing Authority, City Council Member Ora Houston, Mid Tex Mod and others to develop a statement of preservation principles to guide the preservation and redevelopment of the site.

One of the most important principles that was identified is that "Preservation Austin and Mid Tex Mod will work with HACA and the City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office and Historic Landmark Commission to designate the selected grouping of eight buildings and associated green space as a local historic district."

Rosewood Courts has already been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The low-income housing was developed for African-Americans in two phases; the first begun in 1938 and the second in 1940. The project was designed by supervising architect H.F. Kuenhe and Page and Southerland Architects. Charles Coatsworth Pinkney was the landscape architect. The site is also associated with then Congressman Lyndon Johnson who advocated for low income housing, Nathan Straus and the U.S. Housing Administration (1937 U.S. Housing Act).

We hope that you will vote for historic zoning of the grouping of eight buildings at Rosewood Courts and we look forward to the designation of this important site.

Sincerely,

President, Preservation Austin