

1001 Chicon St.
Austin, Texas 78702
August 16, 1977

Ms. Betty Baker
Historic Landmark Commission
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Tx. 78767

Re: Bethany Cemetery
Zoned Historic Landmark

Dear Ms. Baker:

The Bethany Cemetery Organization (B C O) request that the Bethany Cemetery be offically zoned by the City as a historic site. This Cemetery is located in East Austin. Some of the older B C O members say that Bethany is over one hundred years old but this has not been documented yet.

Your consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eva Ross

Eva Ross
B C O President

Attachment: 1

RECEIVED

AUG 18 1977

PLANNING DEPT.

Some Bethany Cemetery Members

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Eva Moss, President
1001 Chicon St.
Austin, Tx. 78702 | Ph. 478-8390 |
| 2. Willie Conley, Tres.
1122 Salina
Austin, Tx. 78702 | Ph. 472-3367 |
| 3. Connie A. Miller
4907 Oldfort Hill Dr.
Austin, Tx. 78723 | Ph. 926-5000 |
| 4. Vernon Fowler
3006 E. 14th St.
Austin, Tx. 78702 | Ph. 477-8180 |
| 5. Ruth Eckols
3301 Oakmont
Austin, Tx. 78703 | Ph. 459-7745 |
| 6. Alberta Hunt
2104 E. 13th St.
Austin, Tx. 78702 | Ph. 477-9369 |

Kalan Contreras
Historic Preservation Office
City of Austin
October 15, 2025

Subject: Request to consider initiation of historic zoning, Bethany Cemetery
(1300 Springdale Rd)

Dear Ms. Contreras:

We would like to include the Bethany Cemetery, located at 1300 Springdale Road, on the Historic Landmark Commission's November agenda for consideration of initiation of historic zoning. The owner, the Bethany Cemetery Association, fully supports this request. Bethany Cemetery is a six-acre, private burial ground located in East Austin. The Bethany Cemetery Company was formed in 1893 in response to the needs of the African American community. Bethany Cemetery is considered Austin's first black cemetery.¹

The Cemetery contains graves on site as early as 1871 and is strategically situated along El Camino Real de los Tejas, a 17th/18th- Century Native American and Spanish Colonial trade route. Hundreds of Austinites are buried at Bethany Cemetery, many of which have dedicated their lives to the betterment of African Americans throughout the region. Dozens are associated with local Black churches, benevolent societies, trade unions, lodges, businesses, war veterans, and tragic events such as the Waller and Shoal Creeks Flood of 1915. Bethany Cemetery is a reminder of the development of Austin's African American Community from the time of slavery and the Civil War through the present. The impact of the site and its interred are felt citywide to this day, as likely remnants of the Camino Real are intact, and Bethany Cemetery Association maintains an active curriculum program for public schools. The Cemetery's strong community value, historical associations, archeology, and landscape features, more than fulfill the criteria for local landmark designation. Thank you for your consideration and feel free to reach out regarding any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Roxanne Evans



Roxanne Evans
Historic Landmark Commissioner and
Vice Chair, District 2
BC-Roxanne.Evans@AustinTexas.gov
Motioned By: Commissioner Evans

Kevin Koch, AIA
Historic Landmark Commissioner, District 3
BC-Kevin.Koch@AustinTexas.gov
Seconded By: Commissioner Koch

1 Austin's first public cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, allowed a designated corner for "colored" Austinites in 1856, and the nearby Plummers Cemetery was established around 1898 (another private African American rural cemetery later purchased by the City of Austin). Evergreen Cemetery, established in 1926 to serve Austin's African American Community contains the historic Highland Park Cemetery. Highland Park Cemetery was established in 1891 and reportedly served all races from 1891-1893. Oakwood Cemetery was established by the state in 1839 and later transferred to the City of Austin

*in 1856. Approximately 1,211 people were buried in the “colored” section of Oakwood Cemetery between 1859-1880.
Source: Save Austin’s Cemeteries, Historic Cemeteries Master Plan, 2015*

Subject: Request to consider initiation of historic zoning, Bethany Cemetery
(1300 Springdale Rd)

Dear Mr. Fahnestock,

We would like to include the Bethany Cemetery, located at 1300 Springdale Road, on the Historic Landmark Commission's July agenda for consideration of initiation of historic zoning. The owner, the Bethany Cemetery Association, fully supports this request. Bethany Cemetery is a six-acre, private burial ground located in East Austin. The Bethany Cemetery Company was formed in 1893 in response to the needs of the African American community. Bethany Cemetery is considered Austin's first black cemetery.¹

The Cemetery contains graves on site as early as 1871 and is strategically situated along El Camino Real de los Tejas, a 17th/18th- Century Native American and Spanish Colonial trade route. Hundreds of Austinites are buried at Bethany Cemetery, many of which have dedicated their lives to the betterment of African Americans throughout the region. Dozens are associated with local Black churches, benevolent societies, trade unions, lodges, businesses, war veterans, and tragic events such as the Waller and Shoal Creeks Flood of 1915. Bethany Cemetery is a reminder of the development of Austin's African American Community from the time of slavery and the Civil War through the present. The impact of the site and its interred are felt citywide to this day, as likely remnants of the Camino Real are intact, and Bethany Cemetery Association maintains an active curriculum program for public schools. The Cemetery's strong community value, historical associations, archeology, and landscape features, more than fulfill the criteria for local landmark designation. Thank you for your consideration and feel free to reach out regarding any questions or concerns.

Thank you,



JuanRaymon Rubio, Associate AIA
Historic Landmark Commissioner, District 2

BC-JuanRaymon.Rubio@AustinTexas.gov
Motioned By: Commissioner Rubio



Kevin Koch, AIA
Historic Landmark Commissioner, District 3

BC-Kevin.Koch@AustinTexas.gov
Seconded By: Commissioner Koch

¹ Austin's first public cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, allowed a designated corner for "colored" Austinites in 1856, and the nearby Plummers Cemetery was established around 1898 (another private African American rural cemetery later purchased by the City of Austin). Evergreen Cemetery, established in 1926 to serve Austin's African American Community contains the historic Highland Park Cemetery. Highland Park Cemetery was established in 1891 and reportedly served all races from 1891-1893. Oakwood Cemetery was established by the state in 1839 and later transferred to the City of Astin in 1856. Approximately 1,211 people were buried in the "colored" section of Oakwood Cemetery between 1859-1880. Source: *Save Austin's Cemeteries, Historic Cemeteries Master Plan, 2015*



Travis County Historical Commission

June 17, 2024

Subject: Bethany Cemetery Historic Designation
To: Austin Historic Landmark Commission

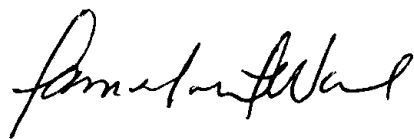
It has come to our attention that the Bethany Cemetery Association is applying for a city historic designation. Bethany Cemetery is an historic African American Cemetery purchased and developed by John Holland and William Tears in 1893. It contains the burials of many notable persons and has, for the past years, been overlooked and neglected. There is currently concern that development next door to the cemetery may bring unwanted use and potential damage to the site.

The Travis County Historical Commission commends Sue Spears and the members of the Bethany Cemetery Association (BCA) in their efforts to protect and document the deep history of the cemetery and help educate the public about the lives of the important people buried there. We believe that a city historic designation will help provide a layer of recognition and protection to this valuable resource.

African American historical research and tourism is quickly gathering importance as the community actively seeks information about lost relatives and the lives of people buried in traditional African American cemeteries. For too many years, much of the needed information has been lacking, and it is only recently that these histories have been available to the general public. There has been a strong uptick in interest from the public and preservation organizations (such as our commission) are now regularly contacted about such data. We feel that a City of Austin Historic Designation for Bethany will serve the community and foster African American Heritage Tourism in Austin.

We ask that the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission carefully review and accept the application of the Bethany Cemetery Association for a city designation in its efforts to protect, document and educate the public about this important historical and cultural site. If we can provide any further assistance, please let us know.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Robert Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Ward" being the most prominent parts.

James Robert "Bob" Ward
Chair
Travis County Historical Commission



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Tom Byrd
Joyce Conner
William Doolittle
Miguel Ángel
Fernández de
Mazarambroz
John Kisalus
Bob Perkins
Dave Regan
Jesús Treviño
Bob Ward

Executive Director

Steven Gonzales

Contact

P.O. Box 41286
Austin, Texas
78704
P: 512-850-9073
F: 512-451-3110

June 25, 2024

Subject: Bethany Cemetery Historic Designation

To the Austin Historic Landmark Commission,

The Bethany Cemetery is one of the oldest African American Cemeteries in Austin. Established by John Holland, William Tears, Henderson Rollins and Allen Bradley in 1893, the cemetery has served the community since that time as the resting place for members of the Austin African American population. Before the creation of the cemetery, a section of the El Camino Real ran through the grounds and traces are still visible on the landscape.

The El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association supports the efforts of the Bethany Cemetery Association in obtaining a local landmark designation for the tract. We feel that the presence of the trail serves to remind us of the historical interconnectedness that links us all together. Recognition from the City of Austin and your commission will help further the narrative of both the cemetery and the trail.

Please let us know how we can further this effort and if we can be of additional service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Bob Ward
Public Relations Committee

www.elcaminotrail.org

July 1, 2024

City of Austin Historic Preservation Office and
Historic Landmark Commission Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I join Commissioner Rubio in an initiative to grant historic zoning designation to the Bethany Cemetery in East Austin.

I have, off and on over the past few years, had the occasion to support the Bethany Cemetery Association. The fact that the association has been a good steward of this land as well as working hard to preserve its impressive history, allows us to have this conversation today.

I look forward to a full discussion on the preservation of this cemetery and its history and look forward to hearing how I can be a part of making this initiative a success.

Sincerely,

Roxanne J. Evans

Commissioner Roxanne J. Evans



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Cyndee Lake

STAFF

Lindsey Derrington, Executive Director
Meghan King, Policy and Outreach Planner
Rosa Fry, Programs Manager
Sarah Anderson, Development Coordinator

July 2, 2024

RE: Bethany Cemetery Historic Landmark

Dear Chair Heimsath, Vice Chair Featherston, and Members of the Historic Landmark Commission,

[Preservation Austin](#) exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write today in support of designating Betheny Cemetery as a City of Austin Landmark for its Historic Associations, Community Value, Archeology, and Landscape Features. We commend Sue Spears and the Betheny Cemetery Association for their tenacious advocacy in preserving and celebrating this incredibly significant site of Austin's Black heritage.

Betheny Cemetery was formally established in 1893, though burials at the site date to as early as 1879. The first Black cemetery in Austin, Betheny opened after Oakwood Cemetery ran out of room for Black graves in its small, segregated section. The Bethany Cemetery Company, formed in 1893 by William Holland, Henderson Rollins, Allen Bradley, and William M. Tears, maintained the site until 1933. Bethany Cemetery is the final resting place for hundreds of Black Austinites, including graves of formerly enslaved individuals. Betheny Cemetery tells the story of Austin's Black community, from slavery and Jim Crow to the present-day advocacy and education efforts of the Betheny Cemetery Association.

In alignment with our Underrepresented Heritage [Advocacy Priority](#), we commend the Historic Landmark Commission for taking the initiative to protect one of Austin's most significant sites of Black heritage. We wholeheartedly support the designation of Betheny Cemetery as a City of Austin Landmark. Thank you for your consideration and your service to our city.

Sincerely,

Melissa Barry, President

January 5, 2026

RE: Bethany Cemetery Historic Landmark Designation

Dear Chair Heimsath, Vice Chair Evans, and Members of the Historic Landmark Commission

[Preservation Austin](#) exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write today in support of historic landmark designation for Bethany Cemetery for its community value, landscape features, and historical associations. Bethany Cemetery is one of Austin's most significant sites of Black heritage, and we are honored to partner with the Bethany Cemetery Association and its leader, Sue Spears-Martin, in preparing this nomination.

Established in 1893, Bethany Cemetery is the oldest known Black cemetery in Austin, providing burials to African Americans in Austin at a time when there were few options to do so. The cemetery encompasses hundreds of known burials, dating from 1879, before the official founding of the cemetery, to 1985. The people laid to rest at Bethany speak to the plurality of the African American experience in Austin, including stories of enslavement and emancipation, Buffalo Soldiers, State of Texas employees, religious leaders, domestic workers, entrepreneurs, and athletes. During an era when Black life was chronically under-documented in the official record, Bethany Cemetery provides a critical genealogical record for hundreds of lives.

Bethany Cemetery exemplifies Black communal effort and perseverance in the absence of public support. With no municipal cemetery available to African Americans at the time, five Black businessmen established the Bethany Cemetery Company in 1893, purchasing the land and providing burials to Black Austinites. By the 1930s, Eva Taylor Ross led the effort to care for the cemetery, working to bring attention and remembrance to Bethany Cemetery until her passing in 1992. In the mid-1990s, the mantle was assumed by Sue Spears-Martin, current president of the Bethany Cemetery Association, whose leadership has mobilized community support, preserved Bethany's stories, and sustained restoration efforts amid nearby development pressures.

Bethany Cemetery provides a critical link to Austin's Black past that must be preserved for generations to come. We are proud to support the designation of Bethany Cemetery as a City of Austin Landmark. Thank you for your consideration and your service to the City of Austin.

Sincerely,



Miriam Conner, President

From: [SpringdaleHeflinWebberville NeighborhoodAssociation](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Case Number: C14H-2025-0117 Bethany Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:03:36 AM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to say that I am in favor of the change in zoning for Bethany Cemetery to include an H to designate it as an Historic Landmark. Its landmark status is long overdue. It is a treasure to both our East Austin neighborhood and also to the city of Austin. It must be recognized for its historical significance and preserved and cared for with the respect it deserves.

--

Cristina Vincent

Springdale Heflin and Webberville Neighborhood Association (SHAWNA), Founder and President

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at
"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend a public hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, you have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request, or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, in order to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website:
www.austintexas.gov/planning.

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice.

Case Number: C14H-2025-0117

Contact: Kalan Contreras, 512-974-2727

Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, January 7, 2026

Alexandria Anderson
Your Name (please print)

☒ I am in favor
☐ I object

1209 Cometa Street
Your address(es) affected by this application

[Signature]
Signature

01/7/2026
Date

Daytime Telephone (optional): _____

Comments (optional): _____

I support the rezoning of Bethany Cemetery as a resident and also the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association supports this as well

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:
City of Austin, Austin Planning

Historic Preservation Office
P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767

Or email at:
preservation@austintexas.gov

From: [SpringdaleHeflinWebberville NeighborhoodAssociation](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Case Number: C14H-2025-0117 Bethany Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:03:36 AM

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--

Cristina Vincent
Springdale Heflin and Webberville Neighborhood Association (SHAWNA), Founder and President

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Case Number: C14H-2025-0117

Contact: Kalan Contreras, 512-974-2727

Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, January 7, 2026

Your Name (please print)

LaShon Marks

☒ I am in favor
☐ I object

Your address(es) affected by this application

4512 Gilmore Ave Austin TX 78724

Signature

Date

Daytime Telephone (optional):

Comments (optional):

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:

City of Austin, Austin Planning

Historic Preservation Office

P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767

Or email at:

preservation@austintexas.gov

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

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Case Number: C14H-2025-0117

Contact: Kalan Contreras, 512-974-2727

Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, January 7, 2026

Jimmie Buchanan Jr. / Amy McCullough

Your Name (please print)

☒ I am in favor
☐ I object

1301 Astor Place, Austin, TX 78721

Your address(es) affected by this application

[Signature]

Signature

12-27-25

Date

Daytime Telephone (optional): (512) 551-9391

Comments (optional):

We are highly in favor of this
re-zoning and hope Bethany
Cemetery remains a historic
site for all time.

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:

City of Austin, Austin Planning
Historic Preservation Office
P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
Or email at:
preservation@austintexas.gov

From: [Lajoy Edwards](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#); [Dre"Chelle E](#); [Day Edwards](#)
Subject: Descendant Support for Preservation of Bethany Cemetery
Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026 10:34:57 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for designating Bethany Cemetery in Austin, Texas as a protected historic site.

My ancestors are buried at Bethany Cemetery, and it remains one of the few surviving physical records of Black families who lived, labored, and built community in Austin during eras when their histories were rarely documented elsewhere. Preserving this cemetery protects not only sacred burial grounds, but also irreplaceable genealogical and cultural history.

Historic designation would honor descendant families, safeguard dignity for those buried there, and ensure Austin's history is preserved fully and truthfully. I respectfully urge the Committee to support permanent protection for Bethany Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted

Dreamer Edwards

Descendant of those buried at Bethany Cemetery

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From: [Anne Marie Valerio](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:17:38 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Mr. Contreras,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marie Valerio
Round Rock, Texas

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From: [Jennie Birkholz](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: : Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:30:57 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Mr. Contreras,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennie Birkholz
Round Rock, TX
512-581-1938

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Bethany Cemetery
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:42:35 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Mr. Contreras,

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I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
DeNae Robbins
Round Rock, Texas

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: C14H-2025-0117
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:53:11 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

If these were your ancestors, would you even be considering anything less?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christy Barrett

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From: [Steve Johnson](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: In favor of Bethany Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:29:24 AM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

As a member of Capital Lodge 23 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, it has been my privilege and honor to witness and participate in the restoration happening there.

I strongly support Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

From its beginnings as a vacant lot to being designated as a TX historical site, the evolution of this cemetery is inspiring. It definitely deserves to be on the city's roster of historical sites as well.

=====

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From: [Ann Schwartz](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Cc: [LandUseLiaison](#)
Subject: Public comment for 2/10/25 meeting on adding an H designation to Bethany Cemetery
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:18:30 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of changing the zoning of Bethany Cemetery to include an H, designating it as an Historic Landmark. As a local educator, I recently brought a group of students to tour Bethany. It was a wonderful learning experience for us all and emphasized for me that Bethany is an important site of Austin history which should be recognized and preserved.

Sincerely,
Ann Schwartz

Ann Schwartz, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Chair, Behavioral Sciences Program
Co-Chair, Sociology Program
Coordinator, Service-Learning Program
Concordia University Texas
11400 Concordia University Drive
Austin, TX 78726
512-313-5417
[REDACTED]

"With no sacredness of the ballot there can be no sacredness of human life itself. For if the strong can take the weak man's ballot, when it suits his purposes to do so, he will take his life also."

-- Ida B. Wells (1910)

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From: [Hade Tejeda](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Cc: [LandUseLiaison](#)
Subject: Public comment for 2/10/25 meeting; Adding an H designation to Bethany Cemetery
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:15:36 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of changing the zoning of Bethany Cemetery to include an H, designating it as an Historic Landmark. As a local university student, I recently had the chance to tour Bethany, and it is absolutely an important site of Austin history that should be recognized and preserved.

This cemetery holds legendary figures and stories that are central to the fabric of our city, but more importantly, it stands as a vital commemoration of Black history and lives that have long been overlooked. The individuals buried here endured immense pain, strife, and injustice throughout their lives. They deserve, at the very least, the formal recognition and validation that comes with an Historic Landmark designation.

Preserving Bethany Cemetery is a necessary step in honoring their legacy and ensuring that the full, diverse history of Austin is respected for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Best wishes,

Hade Tejeda



Class of 26', Psychology
Concordia University Texas
Behavioral Sciences Club President

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From: [Nadia Barbot](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Cc: [Howard, Patrick - BC](#)
Subject: Support for Bethany Cemetery Historic Landmark - PC Feb 10, 2026
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:03:26 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Kalan,

I am writing to express support for making Bethany Cemetery a Historic Landmark during the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow, February 10, 2026.

Bethany Cemetery is an important fixture in East Austin, as it is the oldest cemetery where Black residents were first buried. The community, led by Ms Sue Spears and the Bethany Cemetery Association, are stewarding and improving and maintaining the cemetery each month, and I believe it is becoming a point of pride among many. We want it to be maintained as a quiet resting place and place of learning history for students, the community at large, and future generations.

Thank you,
Nadia Barbot
District 1 resident, 78723

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From: [Lauryn Stork](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for C14H-2025-0117 (Bethany Cemetery)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:12:02 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hi there!

I am writing in support of the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery.

While I do not live in Austin (one town over!), I really hope the history and legacy of this historical Black cemetery is protected by these designation efforts. I find this to be of huge concern to me - I ultimately hope the families of the deceased have a protected place to pay their respects for generations to come. (My own family actually has ancestors buried in a nearby historical cemetery just outside of Austin. It's been wonderful to see younger generations take an interest in their lineage.)

I do hope the Planning Committee considers the support from the community on this endeavor.

Thank you so much for your time!

Lauryn Stork

[REDACTED]
(361) 563-4262

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From: [Lauren Mahaffey](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning - Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 1:38:13 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hi Mr. Contreras,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Lauren Mahaffey
Round Rock, Texas

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From: [Laura B](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:20:11 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Mr. Contreras,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them. We value our shared history and protecting the Bethany Cemetery will help communities maintain their connection to their history.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura B
Austin, Texas

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From: [Felecia Miller](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:07:25 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Felecia Miller
Buda, Tx

Felecia Miller

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From: [Micah Reese](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:27:04 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Micah Reese

Austin, TX



Micah Reese
M.Arch 27', UT Austin | Graduate Candidate

[\(512\)364-6542](tel:(512)364-6542) | lin.com/in/micah-h-reese/



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From: [Amanda Pouncy](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:39:53 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I'm writing in full support of the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery with deep cultural, familial, and community roots. Granting this site historic zoning protections is an important step in preserving the history, legacy, and dignity of those laid to rest there — and in ensuring future generations can continue to honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve this request.

Sincerely,
Amanda Pouncy-Ross
Austin, TX 78748

--

Amanda L. Pouncy (she/they)
[REDACTED]

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From: [Jennifer Jones](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:27:41 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Jones
Austin, Texas

—

Even 5–6 sentences helps. Numbers matter. Voices matter. Family history matters.

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From: [Carole Carter](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning - Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:43:37 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

As I work on my family genealogy I am finding that information points to some of my family members being buried at Bethany Cemetery. I look forward to locating their plots.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Carole Carter
Austin, Texas

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

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From: [Aimee Millangue](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:23:07 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Aimee Millangue
Austin, Texas

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From: [Aimee Millangue](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:23:07 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Aimee Millangue
Austin, Texas

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From: [Shaunvale Canada](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:34:05 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

I am writing to express my strong support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117), which is scheduled for consideration on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery with deep cultural, familial, and community meaning. Granting historic zoning protections would help safeguard this sacred space, preserve its legacy, and honor those laid to rest there—ensuring that future generations can continue to remember and respect its importance.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to preserving our shared history.

Sincerely,

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From: [Jenna Bollweg](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning - Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:22:43 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the request to grant historic zoning to Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117), which is scheduled for consideration on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a profoundly important historic Black cemetery, representing generations of families and serving as a meaningful record of our community's history. Providing historic zoning protections is a vital step in honoring those laid to rest there, safeguarding the site's cultural significance, and ensuring it is preserved with the respect it deserves.

Coming up on the 100 year anniversary of the City of Austin's Master Plan, I believe that it's important to show that the City of Austin is committed to not only safeguarding a site of significant Black Austin history, but preserving and supporting it.

I respectfully ask the Planning Commission to approve the historic zoning designation for Bethany Cemetery. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jenna Bollweg
Austin, TX

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From: [Johnnie Conley](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Cc: [Johnnie Conley](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:47:26 AM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Johnnie Conley
Pflugerville, TX

Johnnie Conley
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [LyTisha Haywood](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:42:41 AM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Greetings,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

As a black homeschool mom, it's important to have the historical sites preserved and honored so that future generations can understand the progress of our country. In a time when Austin prices and the culture change have driven out so many black families with direct connections to this cemetery, the city needs to make this significant show of support.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lytisha Haywood

Austin, TX native

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From: [Dawn Skinner](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:43:24 AM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Ms. Contreras,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. I believe it is important to our community to protect this cemetery to help preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Skinner
1403 Payne Ave, 78757

512-657-8194

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From: [Gail Lewis](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:55:53 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Gail Lewis
2412 Lightfoot Trl
Austin, Tx 78745

Sent from my iPad

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From: [Frances Carter](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning-Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:19:11 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Planning Commission[,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Historical Zoning of Bethany Cemetery in Austin, Texas. When preparing to lay my father to rest, I discovered that several other members of my family were also buried there. The Fowler family has deep roots in the Springdale community, and I carry many fond memories of growing up in the area during the 1960s and 1970s.

Bethany Cemetery is more than a burial ground—it is a vital piece of our community's history. Preserving it through historical zoning ensures that the stories, legacies, and cultural heritage of families like mine are protected for future generations. It is imperative that we safeguard and document these legacy sites so they remain part of our shared history and prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to preserving Austin's historic places.

Sincerely,

Frances Fowler-Carter Austin Property Owner Current Houston Resident



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From: [Shirley J Alexander](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historical zoning-Bethany Cemetary
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:02:46 PM

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[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

IMPORTANT: Bethany Cemetery Hearing – Tomorrow

A historic zoning item for Bethany Cemetery (Bethany Cemetery is a historically Black cemetery located in Austin, Texas, established during the era of segregation when African Americans in Austin were largely denied burial in white cemeteries.) has officially been placed on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Agenda Item:

C14H-2025-0117 – Bethany Cemetery

This item is requesting historic zoning / protection for Bethany Cemetery — a Black cemetery where generations of our ancestors are laid to rest. Approval would help protect the land, headstones, and legacy from future harm, neglect, or development. 1300–1308 Springdale Road, Austin, TX 78721

It's on the 1300 block of Springdale Road in East Austin, right across from Sims Elementary School.

The Planning Commission is accepting public input, and written support truly matters.

How you can help (VERY EASY)

Please send a brief email TODAY or early tomorrow expressing your support:

Email: Kalan.Contreras@austintexas.gov

Subject line: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)

You do not have to live in Austin.

You do not have to be an expert.

Family connection, historical concern, or community support is enough.

—

Copy & Paste Email Script

Feel free to personalize, or send as-is:

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shirley Alexander
Austin, Texas

—

Even 5–6 sentences helps. Numbers matter. Voices matter. Family history matters.

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From: [Alicia Cardenas](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:32:20 AM

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<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Cardenas
Austin, TX

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From: [Lady Laran](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:28:23 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Laran Snyder
Austin, TX

Harmony Vocalist,
-The Patrice Pike Band
Austin, Texas

"Music is the Key to Life" - LGS

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at
"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Gary Miller](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:24:27 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026, Planning Commission agenda.

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I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Gary A Miller
Wichita, KS. formerly of Austin, TX.

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"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Nat](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:27:23 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

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I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nat Reid-Snow
Austin, Texas

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Amanda Garcia Davenport](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Historic Zoning Commission Request Bethany Cemetery - 2025 - 0117
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:55:39 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Garcia Davenport

--

AGD
512-507-8422
@AG_Dav12
@MyLatinaMom

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at
"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Brenda Sterling](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:07:24 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--Sincerely,

Brenda Sterling

12433 Dessau Rd. Austin, Tx. 78754

512-585-9423

[What's to come is better than what's been. Bishop L. Trotter](#)

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at
"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [L.S](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:26:12 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ellis,
Austin, TX

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From: [Connie Williams](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:41:07 PM

External Email - Exercise Caution

Dear Planning Commission:

My name is Connie Williams, and I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026, Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this sacred site preserves the dignity, history, and legacy of those laid to rest there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

My family has deep roots connected to Austin's historic Black cemeteries. My great-grandfather, Reverend Curtis Hawkins, who passed away in December 1916, is buried at Bethany Cemetery. I have attached a photo of his headstone and picture. At the time of his death, Reverend Hawkins owned and lived on the land that later became Evergreen Cemetery. In 1917, his wife, May Hawkins, sold the land to an investor, who later sold it to the City of Austin, where it became Evergreen Cemetery.

Because of this history, the preservation of historic Black cemeteries is deeply personal to me. These sites are not just burial grounds, they are living records of Black land ownership, resilience, faith, and community during a time when African Americans were denied equal access and protection.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery so its legacy is preserved with care, honor, and accountability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With gratitude,



Connie Williams
Austin, Texas

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at
"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [KAMIAH KINCHION](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:06:34 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kamiah Kinchion
Ancestors buried at BethanyCemetery

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Shamika Scarver](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Re: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:57:42 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello Mr. Contreras,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shamika Scarver
Jarrell, TX

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Jennifer Contreras, Kalan](#)
To: [Jennifer Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning—Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 5:55:46 AM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Greetings,

As a former teacher at Sims Elementary, I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Graf
Austin, Texas

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Gena Gonzalez](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) Dear Mr. Contreras,
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 3:57:17 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

On behalf of the Littig Preservation Alliance, we write in strong support of Agenda Item C14H-2025-0117, requesting historic zoning for Bethany Cemetery.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically Black cemetery established during segregation, when African Americans in Austin were denied burial in white cemeteries. It stands as sacred ground — a place where generations of Black families laid their loved ones to rest with dignity despite systemic exclusion and injustice. These ancestors helped build this region, and their resting place deserves permanent protection.

As descendants of Freedmen and founding Black communities in Central Texas, we understand deeply that cemeteries are not simply land parcels — they are living archives of heritage, resilience, and identity. Protecting Bethany Cemetery ensures that the stories, sacrifices, and contributions of those buried there are not erased by neglect or incompatible development.

Historic zoning is a necessary and meaningful step to safeguard the land, preserve headstones and burial markers, and honor the cultural landscape of East Austin. Once sites like this are lost or disturbed, they cannot be restored.

We respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve historic zoning for Bethany Cemetery and affirm the City's commitment to protecting historically Black burial grounds and the ancestors who rest there.

Thank you for your consideration.

With respect,

Littig Preservation Alliance

Gena Gonzalez

Founder & Board Member

512-855-8249
[REDACTED]

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at
"cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [Debbie Zapata](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning - Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 1:53:44 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

I am writing to express my full support for the historic zoning request for Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117) on the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission agenda.

Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I grew up in northeast Austin. My piano teacher lived in Springdale. My family shopped at Springdale Shopping Center. Austin's changed so much over the decades, and historical roots are even more essential now.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Debbie Zapata
Austin, Texas

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning – Bethany Cemetery (C14H-2025-0117)
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 7:30:52 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello,

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Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina Fay
Austin, Texas

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From: [Marquita Franklin](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Subject: Support for Historic Zoning –
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 5:27:57 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email - Exercise Caution

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Bethany Cemetery is a historically significant Black cemetery that holds deep cultural, family, and community importance. Protecting this site helps preserve the history, legacy, and dignity of those buried there and ensures future generations can honor and remember them.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to support granting historic zoning protections for Bethany Cemetery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marquita Franklin,
Austin, Texas

—

Even 5–6 sentences helps. Numbers matter. Voices matter. Family history matters.

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend a public hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, you can speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request, or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website: www.austintexas.gov/planning.

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice. Correspondence and information submitted to the City of Austin are subject to the Texas Public Information Act (Chapter 552) and will be published online.

Case Number: C14H-2025-0117

Contact: Kalan Contreras, 512-974-2727

Public Hearing: 2025-02-10, Planning Commission

3500 Prairie Heights Dr

Austin, Texas 78641

☒ I am in favor
☐ I object

Your Name: *Solis Toms & Solis*

4607 E. 12 St. Austin, Tex

Your address(es) affected by this application (optional)

Feb 6 - 2026

Date

Signature

Daytime Telephone (optional):

Comments:

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:

Austin Planning

Kalan Contreras

P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767-8810

Or email to Kalan.contreras@austintexas.gov

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend a public hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, you can speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request, or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website: www.austintexas.gov/planning.

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Case Number: C14H-2025-0117

Contact: Kalan Contreras, 512-974-2727

Public Hearing: 2025-02-10, Planning Commission

3500 Prairie Heights Dr

Austin, Texas 78641

☒ I am in favor
☐ I object

Your Name: *Solis Toms & Solis*

4607 E. 12 St. Austin, Tex

Your address(es) affected by this application (optional)

Feb 6 - 2026

Date

[Signature]

Signature

Daytime Telephone (optional):

Comments:

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:

Austin Planning

Kalan Contreras

P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767-8810

Or email to Kalan.contreras@austintexas.gov

From: [Leah Bojo](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#)
Cc: [Temaria Davis](#); [Katie Gengler](#); [McKnight, Kim](#)
Subject: Re: Cemetery qs?
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:01:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2025-08-14 - 12th & Springdale - Plan Set 7.pdf](#)
[2026_01_07_Regular Meeting Backup, Historic Landmark Commission 36.pdf](#)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Hi Kalan,

Thanks for sending this - attached is the survey in backup and a copy of our most recent survey. Along the rear boundary we show 641.37 feet and the historic survey is 714.32 feet. At some point the rear part of the cemetery was sold off and is now part of our client's property so we need to make sure that we don't rezone that part that's not cemetery anymore.

I'm looping in Kim, too. Hoping you can use our survey to reduce that back portion? I know it's just going to PC on Tuesday, so we have time to reduce before getting to CC.

Leah M. Bojo, AICP, Director of Land Use & Entitlements

2705 Bee Caves Road, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78746

Drenner Group, PC | [REDACTED] cell | [REDACTED] | www.drennergroupp.com

From: Contreras, Kalan <Kalan.Contreras@austintexas.gov>

Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 at 8:46 AM

To: Leah Bojo <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Temaria Davis <[REDACTED]>, Katie Gengler
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Cemetery qs?

We are using the tax map (.pdf p. 3) and site plan (.pdf p. 35) from the application (<https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=464992>), since neither Commission-initiated historic zonings nor simple single-parcel historic zonings require a survey.



Kalan Contreras
Principal Planner
Historic Preservation Office
Austin Planning
512-974-2727

kalan.contreras@austintexas.gov

Correspondence and information submitted to the City of Austin are subject to the Texas Public Information Act (Chapter 552) and may be published online.

La correspondencia y la información enviada a la Ciudad de Austin está sujeta a la Ley de Información Pública de Texas (Capítulo 552) y puede ser publicada en línea.

From: Leah Bojo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2026 2:12 PM
To: Contreras, Kalan <Kalan.Contreras@austintexas.gov>
Cc: Temaria Davis <[REDACTED]>; Katie Gengler <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Cemetery qs?

External Email - Exercise Caution

Hi Kalan,

Thank you for reaching out! My client owns the property adjacent to the Bethany Cemetery on the west and south. I know that over the years there have been several different boundaries for the cemetery and so I want to make sure that my client's property isn't inadvertently zoned history based on an incorrect survey. Could you send me the survey that you will be using for this rezoning?

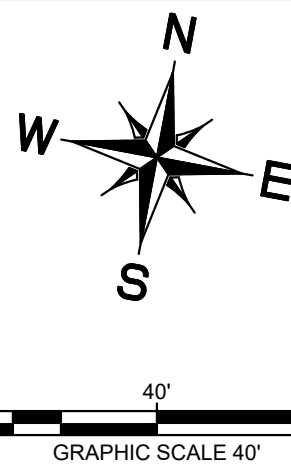
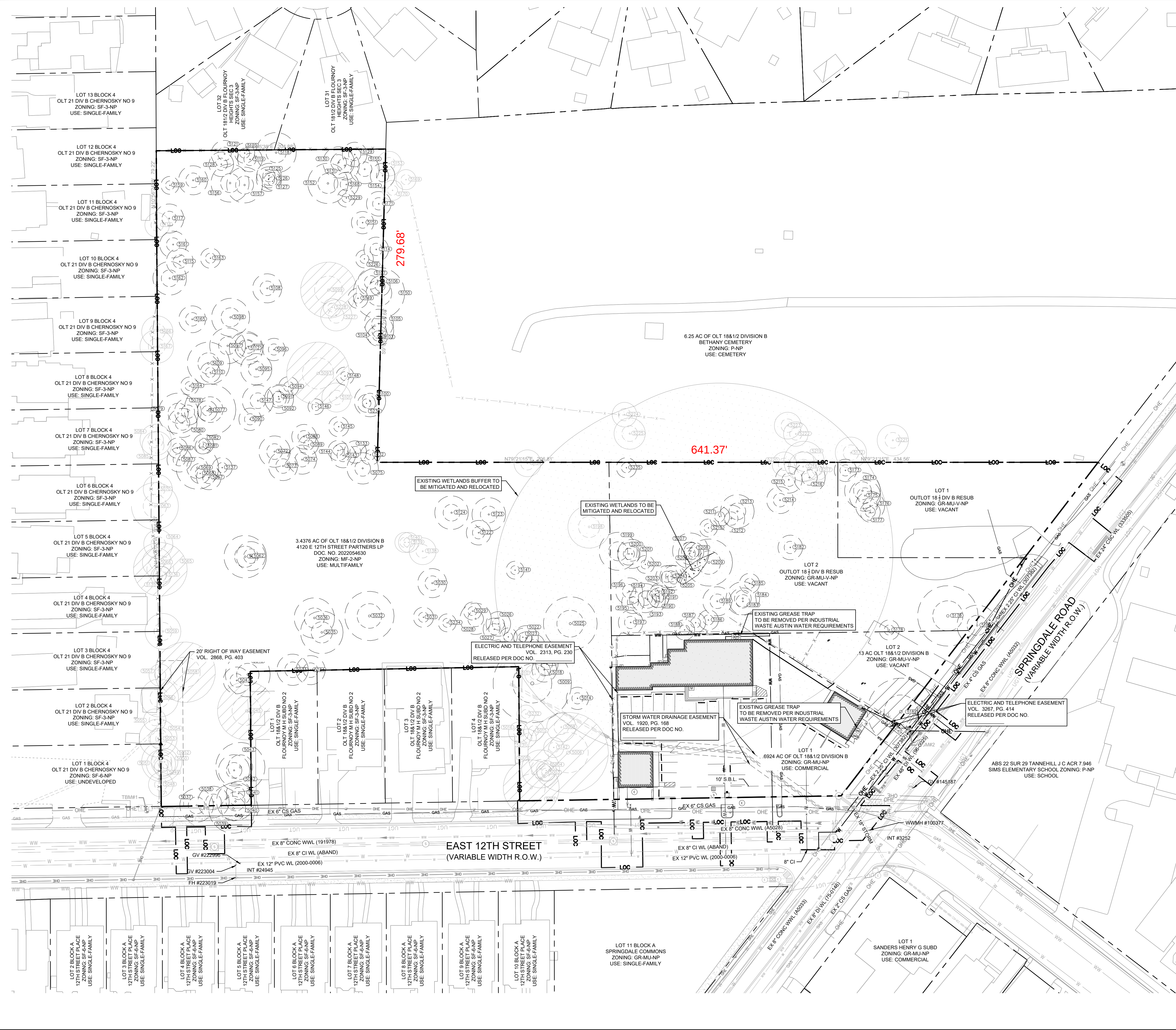
Thanks so much and hope you're staying warm!

Leah M. Bojo, AICP, Director of Land Use & Entitlements

2705 Bee Caves Road, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78746

Drenner Group, PC | [REDACTED] | www.drennergrouppc.com

Plotted By: Perez, Paulina Date: August 14, 2025 10:44:42pm File Path: \\EAU-Civil\069408701 - Heartwood - 12th & Springdale\CAD\Plan\Sheet C - Existing Conditions and Demo Plan.dwg
This document, together with the concepts and designs presented herein, is an instrument of service, and is intended only for the specific purpose and client for which it was prepared. Reuse of and improper reliance on this document without written authorization and adaptation by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. shall be without liability to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.



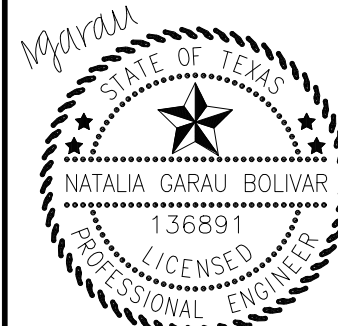
LEGEND

	PROPERTY LINE
	ADJACENT PROPERTY LINE
	EASEMENT LINE
	WATER LINE
	WASTEWATER LINE
	STORM SEWER LINE
	GAS
	GUARD RAIL
	OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
	BENCHMARK
	FIRE HYDRANT
	WATER METER
	WATER MANHOLE
	WATER VAULT
	WATER VALVE
	IRRIGATION VALVE
	WASTEWATER CLEANOUT
	STORM SEWER GRATE INLET
	STORM SEWER MANHOLE
	GAS METER
	GAS SIGN
	GAS VALVE
	TELEPHONE BOX
	ELECTRIC BOX
	ELECTRIC METER
	ELECTRIC MANHOLE
	UTILITY POLE
	GUY ANCHOR
	TRAFFIC SIGNAL
	SIGN
	LOC
	LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION AREA
	EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN
	EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED

NOTES:

- TREES AND TOPOGRAPHY BASED UPON SURVEY BY 4WARD LAND SURVEYING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2022. TPBELS #10174300. NO WARRANTY IS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO THEIR ACCURACY.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL FIELD VERIFY ALL ELEVATIONS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
- A PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ANY SITE DISTURBANCE.
- REFERENCE THE EROSION CONTROL PLAN SHEET FOR EROSION CONTROLS TO BE PLACED PRIOR TO THE PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING.
- EROSION CONTROLS MUST BE MAINTAINED DURING ANY SITE DISTURBANCE OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.
- LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC AND FRANCHISE UTILITIES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY NOT BE COMPLETE. CONTRACTOR SHALL CALL THE ONE CALL CENTER (472-2822) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO COMMENCING DEMOLITION OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT ANY OTHER UTILITY COMPANIES WHO DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE ONE CALL PROGRAM FOR LINE MARKINGS. THE CONTRACTOR BEARS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VERIFYING LOCATIONS OF EXISTING UTILITIES, SHOWN OR NOT SHOWN, AND FOR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO THESE FACILITIES.
- REMOVAL OR RELOCATION OF EXISTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FRANCHISE UTILITIES (WATER, ELECTRIC, AND GAS ETC.) WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE SITE DEMOLITION SHALL BE COORDINATED WITH THE APPLICABLE UTILITY AGENCIES.
- ALL UTILITIES IN STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY TO REMAIN IN PLACE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
- THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEMOLITION, REMOVAL, AND DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAVEMENT SECTION, STRUCTURAL SUBGRADE, STRUCTURAL FOUNDATION, AND UTILITIES WITHIN THE SITE. CONTRACTOR TO DISPOSE ALL DEMOLITION SPOILS OFF-SITE IN A LEGAL MANNER.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO EXISTING UTILITIES, IRRIGATION LINES, PAVEMENT, ETC., TO REMAIN RESULTING FROM DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES AND REPAIR AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.
- THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL PERMITS REQUIRED FOR DEMOLITION AND DISPOSAL.
- ALL ITEMS TO BE REMOVED SHALL BE DISPOSED OFF-SITE IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO ALL APPLICABLE REGULATIONS.
- CONTRACTOR TO RESTORE ANY CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER AND FIRE LANE STRIPING PROPOSED TO REMAIN THAT IS DAMAGED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- REFERENCE TREE LIST ON SHEET 13 - TREE LIST.
- REFERENCE LANDSCAPE SHEETS FOR TREE REMOVAL AND MITIGATION CALCULATIONS.
- REFERENCE ARBORIST REPORT COMPLETED BY BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS, DATED OCTOBER 2, 2023.
- REFERENCE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (ERI) COMPLETED BY ECS SOUTHWEST, DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2023.
- TREE PROTECTION FENCING IS REQUIRED FOR ALL TREES WITHIN THE LIMITS OF DEMOLITION ON SITE BEFORE DEMOLITION OCCURS. WHERE FENCING CANNOT BE PLACED TO PROTECT THE EXTENT OF THE CRZ WITH NATURAL GROUND COVER, PROVIDE 8" LAYER OF ORGANIC HARDWOOD MULCH OUTSIDE OF THE FENCING.
- STRAPPING 2X4 OR THICKER LUMBER (TO MATCH HEIGHT OF BUILDING) SECURELY AROUND TREE TRUNK, BUT TRESS ROOTS, AND ROOT FLARE. IS REQUIRED IF FENCING CANNOT GO AROUND THE ENTIRE HALF CRZ.
- IF PRUNING IS NECESSARY DURING DEMOLITION, IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE DEMOLITION PROCESS. IT MUST BE PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED ARBORIST AND NO MORE THAN 25% IS PERMITTED.
- ALL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES (CEFS) AND ASSOCIATED SETBACKS MUST COMPLY WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE. THE NATURAL VEGETATIVE COVER MUST BE RETAINED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE. CONSTRUCTION IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT AS DEFINED IN THIS SITE PLAN, AND WASTEWATER DISPOSAL OR IRRIGATION IS PROHIBITED.
- CONTRACTOR TO INSURE THAT AN ARCHEOLOGIST WILL BE ON PROPERTY TO OBSERVE AND MONITOR ANY EXCAVATION WITHIN 25' OF CEMETERY TRACT PER RESTRICTIVE COVENANT #2023153581.

Kimley»Horn
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TBE Firm No. 928



KHA PROJECT	069408701
DATE	AUGUST 2025
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DESIGNED BY	NG
DRAWN BY	PP
CHECKED BY	GP

OVERALL EXISTING
CONDITIONS

12TH AND SPRINGDALE
4120 & 4130 E 12 STREET
CITY OF AUSTIN
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

SHEET NUMBER
7 OF 76