

300 Lives — Displaced

The Mission Trails Mobile Home Community, MTMHC, was rezoned on May 15, 2014 to clear the path to build high-end apartments while displacing 300 lives. I don't know what the solution is and I gather that neither did the city when they approved the re-zoning of Mission Trails. Here are a few recommendations made by the residents:

- Although landowners are within their right to sell, it was, and is, the City's responsibility to handle this better.
- It was the City's responsibility to avoid any displacement to occur.
- City can give incentives to developers for not displacing current residents.
- City could make sure that current residents have priority on renting or buying in new development.
- City should try to make it possible so that development projects improve the quality of life of current residents rather than remove current residents to pave the way for new residents that will benefit and enjoy improvements that the current residents have every right to benefit from themselves, because after all—are we not all created equal under the constitution of the U.S.?

No one did their homework to see what the economic impact would have on the 300 lives that were displaced—sending the residents in all directions as if a natural disaster had hit our community. But it was not a natural disaster, it was a man-made disaster.

The City would show an act of good will if they were to rectify the wrong that came out of this decision, and close the wound that was inflicted on all the residents of the Mission Trails community. This decision not only incurred a debt for the residents but it also affected their physical, emotional & spiritual well-being—creating emotional stress and anxiety, with many seeking therapy to overcome this injustice. I do believe that in order for there to be closure and healing that the City Council • should make an effort to work with the residents • and come up with a viable plan to incur some or all of the debt that the residents were forced into. Do not waste a portion of your life only focused on the dollars and forget about the lives around you. There are many things in life that are not fair, but God is with us, and He will eventually bring justice if we continue to trust Him. —Mary C. Flores / *Former Resident of the MTMHC, #38* ♦

The remaining residents of Mission Trails Mobile Home Community (MTMHC) are due to move out by February 28, 2015 and face financial hardship as a result of their displacement. Help supplement the minimal support that the City of San Antonio has offered, thus far. Make a tax deductible donation at www.crowdrise.com/missiontrails, or mail checks to OUR Casas, 2300 W. Commerce, Ste 302; SATX 78207. For info on how else to support former residents of MTMHC call or text: 210.262.0654; email: aspanglisholive@gmail.com.

Raza e Injusticia....continúa de p.7

vez más, las posibilidades de brindar justicia están en contra de afroamericanos.

Lamentablemente, hemos visto una oleada de homicidios de afroamericanos y latinos a manos de policías en los últimos años. De hecho, uno de estos últimos ocurrió posteriormente al juicio de Darren Wilson, cuando un policía disparó y mató a otro hombre afroamericano desarmado en la escalera de un edificio de vivienda pública en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Mientras que el sistema continúe sesgado hacia los afroamericanos y otras personas de color, la balanza de la justicia seguirá inclinándose en contra de ellos. Esta forma de racismo no emana de racistas iracundos que sólo escupen veneno, sino más bien de ciudadanos comunes que, conscientemente o inconscientemente, se niegan a reconocer los privilegios que reciben por pertenecer a la raza blanca—tales como el beneficio de la duda que se otorgan entre ellos—y de las desigualdades y los costos que marcan las vidas de afroamericanos y otras personas de color. ♦

Bio: Rogelio Sáenz es Decano del Colegio de Políticas Públicas y Profesor Peter Flawn de Demografía en la Universidad de Texas-SA. Este ensayo fue originalmente publicado en Inglés en el San Antonio Express-News. For the English version go to: www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Dual-justice-system-remains-in-U-S-5969721.php.

Katharine "Kittu" Riddle,



born Katharine Parker on May 21, 1919 in Mussoorie, Uttar Pradesh, India left peacefully on July 27, 2014 in Tucson, AZ. She was 95. Her life consisted of helping others — as a missionary or working in community for women and children. She was married for 35 years and had three children. After divorcing,

she continued an amicable relationship with her ex-husband. She lived in San Antonio with Margot Kostenbader, her partner of 30 years, and was involved with the Doté Foundation and the Women's Resource Center creating *Story Letters*, an international women's publication. Her autobiography, *A Nourishing Life*, was published by Pentland Press in 1999. A Guide to the Katharine Riddle Papers is housed at the UTSA Libraries Special Collections (www.lib.utsa.edu/special-collections). Kittu's life was exemplary — may she rest in peace. ♦

