



La Voz de Esperanza

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

Policy Statements

* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

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On May 15th of 2014,

San Antonio's City Council *approved* the Rezoning of Mission Trails Mobile Home Park with a 6-4 vote that included then Mayor Julián Castro's *opposition* along with then council members from Districts 1, 4 and 5. This gave the green light to build a high-priced luxury apartment building in the Mission Reach area and uprooted the Mobile Home Park residents. After the vote, Mayor Castro stated: "We need to be smarter about how we handle the issue of gentrification in this city..." He added, "We move mountains to create jobs in the city, we move mountains to preserve our aquifer, we move mountains to save bats, we move mountains to save historic buildings—and we need to move mountains for people." He then proposed The Task Force on Dynamic and Diverse Communities to seek solutions for a better way to revitalize communities *without displacement*.

Now, a year and many meetings later, and with ad-interim Mayor Ivy Taylor at the city's helm, the Task Force's report was up for a vote before Council on May 14, 2015—a day short of the historic displacement of Mission Trails residents. Two of the Task Force members, Nettie Hinton and María Berriozábal voted against accepting the report presented—recommending more time and specifics before acceptance by city council. María wrote a 9-page critique of the report (available from lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). She also wrote an editorial in the Express-News on May 13 asking that the protection of inner-city residents be clearly spelled out before being accepted by council. However, City Council voted **FOR** the report, set up a Commission and made changes that may favor developers unless a new mayor sees fit to protect residents in the onslaught of gentrification. In this La Voz issue we include some of the testimonies presented to council. San Antonio residents beware! ♦



El 15 de mayo, 2014, los miembros del Concilio de San Antonio **aprobaron** el cambio de zonificación para el barrio del Parque Movil de Mission Trails con un voto de 6-4. Los votos **en contra** incluyeron votos de los miembros del Concilio de distritos 1, 4, y 5—y el alcalde de entonces, Julián Castro. El voto dió la señal para desplazar los residentes y empezar la construcción de apartamentos de lujo en el area de Mission Reach. Después del voto, Castro, comentó: "Tenemos que tomar decisiones más inteligentes cuando se trata de manejar los problemas de gentrificación en esta ciudad..." Añadió: "Movemos montañas para crear trabajos en esta ciudad, movemos montañas para preservar nuestro acuífero, movemos montañas para salvar edificios históricos—y necesitamos mover montañas para la gente." Así, el alcalde Castro propuso El Grupo de Trabajo del Alcalde para Preservar Barrios Dinámicos y Diversos formado para buscar soluciones mejores para revitalizar comunidades **sin desplazamiento**.

Ahora, un año y montones de reuniones después, y con alcalde interino, Ivy Taylor, el reporte de El Grupo de Trabajo se presentó ante el Concilio el 14 de mayo—un día antes del aniversario del desplazamiento de residentes de Mission Trails. Dos miembros del Grupo no aceptaron el reporte—Nettie Hinton y María Berriozábal—quienes recomendaron mas tiempo y mas detalles antes de aceptar el reporte. Además, María escribió una crítica detallada de 9 páginas (disponible en lavoz@esperanzacenter.org) y un editorial en el SA Express-News el 13 de mayo pidiendo que la protección de los residentes del centro de la ciudad se expresara claramente con detalles en el reporte antes de ser aceptada por el concilio.

Sin embargo el Concilio votó para **aceptar** el reporte, formó una Comisión y pasaron cambios que—según parece—favorecen a los empesarios con ojo en nuestras tierras. Sólo si elegimos un alcalde que prioriza los residentes de San Antonio podremos evitar la embestida de gentrificación. ¡Águila, residentes! ❖

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VOZ VISION STATEMENT: La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.