



The Honorable Amarillo Mayor Ginger Nelson, et. al
Amarillo City Council
601 S. Buchanan Street
Amarillo, TX 79105

October 11, 2021

Dear Mayor Nelson and Amarillo City Council Members,

On behalf of the Amarillo Branch NAACP, I would like to begin by thanking you for your service to all who call Amarillo home. We sincerely appreciate your selfless devotion to addressing the most pertinent needs of our beloved city regardless of zip code or socio-economic status. Therefore, it is our esteemed privilege to submit our thoughts to you regarding a critical issue we believe you have the legal authority and humble responsibility to resolve.

As it pertains to the North Heights Neighborhood Plan Rezoning Initiative, the Amarillo Branch NAACP fully endorses the entire proposal. After approximately 16 months of conscientious work and the concerted efforts of Amarillo residents, particularly those residents belonging to the North Heights Advisory Association, a plan for rezoning is now under the purview of the elected municipal leaders of our city. North Heights residents, business owners, and all interested persons have had myriad opportunities to voice their concerns and propose their recommendations through written correspondence and in-person community meetings. In fact, door-to-door canvassing for the rezoning effort was successfully conducted and validated the approval of those most likely to be affected by any rezoning effort.

After decades of economic neglect from political leaders with the power of the purse, the Amarillo Municipal Election of 2015 ushered in a new wave of progress for areas such as North Heights, San Jacinto, and Eastridge through the strategic development of neighborhood plans. Fortunately, subsequent councils, including your own, have continued to make economic revitalization a priority for communities of color. These efforts have been transformative and will be generational cures if the progress does not abruptly cease. It is time to accept the reality that North Heights was initially established without regard for zoning requisite for a thriving residential community with economic empowerment. Nevertheless, our community of color was resilient.

However, we now implore the Amarillo City Council to approve Ordinance No. 7926 and Ordinance No. 7939. Furthermore, we invite you to the North Heights community to experience the diversity and faith of a people long overlooked. Let us envision a future far brighter than the past. It will continue to be our pleasure to work alongside you on behalf of Amarillo.

Respectfully,

Patrick R. Miller

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