

HISTORICALLY BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS ORDINANCE #

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING HISTORICALLY BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS AS PROTECTED ZONES FROM GENTRIFICATION, CULTURAL ERASURE, NATURAL DISASTERS, URBAN RENEWAL, & LAND DISPOSSESSION

Resources

The idea of Historically Black Neighborhoods (HBNs) came from local scholar Jessica Bellamy, inspired by the work of Dr. Andrea Roberts' Texas Freedom Colonies Project.

[The Texas Freedom Colonies Project](#)

[National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)

[Historic Landmarks & Preservation Districts Commission](#)

Ideas

1. residents have a lifetime right to remain in their neighborhood
2. residents have a lifetime right to refuse development terms in their neighborhood
3. residents have a lifetime right to return to their neighborhood
4. all developments must be approved by neighborhood associations in addition to receiving x amount of signatures from current residents
5. all developments must execute a community benefits agreement with the neighborhood association in addition to x amount of residents
6. government officials (including council members and other government employees) are prohibited from negotiating development deals without neighborhood associations and x amount of residential approval
7. the neighborhood advisory board for neighborhood plans must represent the neighborhood demographics including but not limited to race, age, income, and residents who rent vs own their home
8. Metro Government will reserve x amount from its rainy day fund for natural disaster relief for Historically Black Neighborhoods
9. land bank, vacant land, and vacant home purchasing en masse by non-residents is prohibited
10. community land trusts must be created and controlled by residents
11. resident representatives are required to be a part of the redistricting process for neighborhoods, council districts, and congressional districts
12. any residents who rent have priority buying when property becomes available for purchase
13. houses for rent will have an affordable rent-to-own program for residents making \$35K or less
 - Whereas Smoketown, Russell, Shawnee, Parkland, Chickasaw, Algonquin, Park Hill, Park Duvalle, California, Newburg, and Berrytown are hereby designated as Historically Black Neighborhoods.

Questions

- Should we be ready to use different language in case we get into a 'discrimination' battle over the word "black"? (alternatives can be freedom colonies or freedom settlements)
- Should we mention or set school expectations?

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- Should we put an ask that allocates NDF money annually to the neighborhood?
- Should we put terms about neighborhood outreach?
- Should we address the nuisance ordinance or should that be a separate policy?
- Should we designate historically black neighborhoods that have already been gentrified? Harrod's Creek, Limerick Petersburg?
- It's important this is more than a label. (Example: Harlem is a historically black neighborhood. [*From 2000 to 2005, 32,500 blacks moved out and some 22,800 whites moved in to the Harlem district.*](#))
- If rent control is blocked by state law how can we work around it?