

2018 City Council District 1 Candidate Statement Transcripts

>> HELLO, AUSTIN.

MY NAME IS NATASHA HARPER MADISON, AND I'M RUNNING FOR AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1.

I MADE THE COMMITMENT TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL BECAUSE I WANTED TO GIVE BACK TO MY CITY AND MY COMMUNITY.

I LOVE THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY WITH MY WHOLE HEART, AND I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE MOST MEANINGFUL WAY POSSIBLE.

AS I'VE SERVED THE CITY IN MULTIPLE CAPACITIES, INCREASINGLY I REALIZED THAT I CAN CREATE THE MOST POSITIVE IMPACT AT A GREATER POLICY AND FUNDING LEVEL AS A CITY COUNCILMEMBER.

AS A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, A MOTHER, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, AND A THRIVING BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR, I'M UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO SERVE DISTRICT 1.

AND I'M RUNNING ON A PLATFORM THAT INCLUDES AFFORDABILITY, EQUITY, AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY.

MY FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE WAS NOT UNLIKE MANY AUSTINITES, PAST OR PRESENT.

MY MOTHER DID EVERYTHING RIGHT, BUT WE WERE POOR.

WE DEPENDED ON PUBLIC BENEFITS.

MY MOTHER WORKED MULTIPLE JOBS, WITH LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SUPPORT OR CHILD CARE, FOR FIVE CHILDREN.

WE DEPENDED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN EAST, NORTHEAST, AND SOUTHEAST AUSTIN.

WE WERE HIGHLY TRANSIENT AND FREQUENTLY MOVED IN THE DARK OF NIGHT TO AVOID EVICTION.

I HAVE A DEEP AND PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OFFERING PATHWAYS TO MOBILITY AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES.

IF ELECTED, I WILL ALWAYS PRIORITIZE CONSTITUENT SERVICES ABOVE ALL ELSE.

RESIDENTS DESERVE TO HAVE A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN TURN FOR HELP.

I WILL PRIORITIZE CREATIVE APPROACHES TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING, INCLUDING CO OP MODELS, AMENITIES DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUSIONARY ZONING, AND DEPLOY TOOLS THAT PREEMPT DISPLACEMENT.

I WILL ENSURE THAT ALL ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNERS APPLY FOR THEIR RIGHTFUL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS AND ARE ABLE TO GET RELIABLE INFORMATION WHEN NAVIGATING HIGH PROPERTY

TAXES FOR FOLKS WHO WANT TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES, AS WELL AS NEGOTIATING THE SALE OF THEIR PROPERTIES FOR THOSE WHO ARE VOLUNTARILY MIGRATING BUT WANT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE JUST AS LIKELY TO FEEL THE PINCH OF HIGH PROPERTY TAXES, AMONG OTHER ISSUES SPECIFIC TO THEIR NEEDS.

I WILL SHOW UP FOR OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES.

I COMMIT TO WORKING WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND COMMUNITY TO FIND REAL SOLUTIONS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE.

I WILL PRIORITIZE INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, FINANCIAL AND DIGITAL LITERACY, INCLUDING ROBUST EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

HARD WORK ALONE IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH FOR FAR TOO MANY AUSTINITES.

WE MUST PREPARE OUR CITIZENS TO EARN LIVING WAGES AND RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM HIGH QUALITY EMPLOYMENT.

I WILL ENSURE AUSTIN MAKES INVESTMENTS IN FAMILIES THROUGH FOOD ACCESS; RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE; AND TRANSPORTATION.

IT WOULD BE MY HONOR TO SERVE THE DISTRICT I GREW UP IN.

AND I BELIEVE MY EXPERIENCES AND VALUES MAKE ME BOTH THE MOST QUALIFIED AND THE MOST COMMITTED CANDIDATE TO SERVE DISTRICT 1.

WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR GENERATIONS OR YOU'RE NEW TO TOWN, I PLEDGE TO ADVOCATE FOR YOU AND YOUR NEEDS IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR CITY, WITH TOLERANCE, OPENNESS, AND RESPECT.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.

AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> I CAN REMEMBER AS A YOUNG MAN SITTING IN THAT PRISON CELL, PRAYING THAT GOD WOULD USE ME IN A MIGHTY WAY.

I JUST NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD MANIFEST INTO POLITICS.

BUT I'M PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY FOR PEOPLE TO REALIZE A BETTER CONDITION IN THEIR LIVES.

THIS IS MY MINISTRY.

BEING A CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORGANIZER, IT'S MORE THAN JUST ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

I'M AN ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE. AND I WORK TIRELESSLY.

NOT JUST AT CITY HALL AND AT THE CAPITOL, BUT IN COMMUNITIES AS WELL.

WORKING FOR PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN BRING UNITY BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND RESTORE FAMILIES.

MY PARENTS MOVED ME AND MY OLDER SISTERS TO AUSTIN WHEN I WAS JUST FIVE YEARS OLD TO FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

AND THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE AN EXTENDED FAMILY HERE IN AUSTIN, DISTRICT 1 HAS LITERALLY BEEN MY FAMILY FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

DISTRICT 1 IS FILLED WITH DIVERSE, HARD WORKING, KIND AND COURAGEOUS PEOPLE WHO HAVE STAYED THE COURSE AND HAVE SACRIFICED.

AND I'M INSPIRED BY THAT.

AND THAT IS WHY I SAY WHEN I BECOME CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, YOU BECOME CITY COUNCIL.

DISTRICT 1 DESERVES A LEADERSHIP THAT IS DEPENDABLE AND DECISIVE, THAT WILL TAKE SERIOUSLY THE CONCERNS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS, NOT JUST THOSE THAT THEY'RE BEHOLDEN TO.

AS AN ORGANIZER, I WORK WITH EXPERTS ALL THE TIME.

AND I KNOW THAT THE PROBLEMS THAT DISTRICT 1 FACES WILL NOT BE SOLVED BY ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH ALL THE RIGHT IDEAS.

I KNOW IT WILL TAKE A COLLECTIVE GENIUS, A COMBINED EFFORT OF A UNIFIED CITY.

PEOPLE ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR OWN CONDITIONS.

THEY DESERVE TO BE HEARD.

THEY DESERVE A CHAMPION.

WE WILL FIX OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

WE WILL PROVIDE UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND SUSTAINABILITY.

WE WILL ELIMINATE THE CONDITIONS THAT CAUSE CRIME.

AND WE'LL DO THIS TOGETHER.

I'M COMMITTED TO THIS.

MY NAME IS LEWIS CONWAY, JR.

I'M RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1.

THANK YOU.

>> MY NAME IS REEDY SPIGNER III.

I AM A CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 1 SEAT ON THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL.

I AM A THIRD GENERATION AUSTINITE WHOSE ROOTS RUN DEEP THROUGHOUT THIS COMMUNITY.

IN 1946 MY GRANDPARENTS, DR. JAMES MURPHY HOLLOWAY AND MRS. MILDRED COLEMAN HOLLOWAY, MOVED THEIR HOME FROM WACO TO 2201 EAST 22ND STREET IN EAST AUSTIN.

MY GRANDFATHER WAS ONE OF AUSTIN'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN DOCTORS.

HE PRACTICED AT HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL, THE ONLY INTEGRATED HOSPITAL IN AUSTIN DURING THAT TIME.

MY GRANDMOTHER, MRS. MILDRED COLEMAN HOLLOWAY, BECAME A PROMINENT FIGURE IN TEXAS DEMOCRATIC POLITICS.

SHE HELPED LAUNCH THE TEXAS BLACK COALITION OF DEMOCRATS, THE UNITED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, AND SHE SERVED AS AN ELECTION JUDGE FOR MANY YEARS AT HER POLLING PLACE AT ST. DAVID'S CHAPEL CHURCH ON MARTIN LUTHER KING AND CHESTNUT IN EAST AUSTIN.

TODAY AUSTIN HAS EXPERIENCED ENORMOUS GROWTH.

EACH DAY OUR CITY IS GROWING BY 100 ADDITIONAL PEOPLE, MAKING AUSTIN ONE OF THE FASTEST GENTRIFYING CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN EAST AUSTIN THIS GROWTH HAS COST OUR POPULATION GREATLY.

OUR POPULATION OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, LEGACY RESIDENTS, AND WORKING FAMILIES ARE DECLINING.

OUR PROPERTY TAXES AND ANXIETY SURROUNDING ISSUES OF RACE AND CULTURE ARE RISING.

TRAFFIC HAS MADE TRAVELING TO DOWNTOWN FRUSTRATING.

THESE CONFLICTS ARE DESTROYING OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN DISTRICT 1.

OUR CITY GOVERNMENT MUST AID DISTRICT 1 RESIDENTS WITH THESE CHALLENGES.

THIS IS WHY I'M RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL.

MY CAMPAIGN HAS FIVE MAIN PRIORITIES.

ONE, MAKING DISTRICT 1 A UNITED, LIVABLE COMMUNITY THAT HAS AFFORDABLE HOUSING, GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT HEALTH CARE, AND SAFE PARKS.

TWO, CREATING IN DISTRICT 1 A DIVERSE WORKFORCE, DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES.

THREE, CREATING A 21ST CENTURY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WITH EASY CONNECTIVITY TO OTHER PARTS OF AUSTIN.

FOUR, ADVOCATING FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT CITY SERVICES FOR ALL AUSTINITES.

FIVE, ADVOCATE PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES THAT EMPHASIZE COMMUNITY POLICING.

MY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE INCLUDES 20 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE.

I HAVE WORKED FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS AS A GRANT MONITOR.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES.

MY EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND AS A RESEARCH SPECIALIST AND ANALYST REQUIRES INTENSE ISSUE EVALUATION, STRATEGY, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND EXECUTION.

THESE SKILLS ARE WELL SUITED TO BE DISTRICT 1'S COUNCILMAN.

I HOLD A BA IN MARKETING FROM CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA; A MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH FROM SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY IN BATON ROUGE; AND I'M CURRENTLY A CANDIDATE FOR Ph.D. IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP FROM PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY IN PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS.

MY EXPERIENCE, LIVING AND STUDYING AND WORKING IN THESE THREE SOUTHERN CAPITAL CITIES AUSTIN, ATLANTA, AND BATON ROUGE MAKE ME UNIQUELY PREPARED TO PROVIDE INNOVATIVE INSIGHT AND SOLUTIONS.

ALL THREE CITIES ARE FACING SIMILAR STRUGGLES WITH GENTRIFICATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND INCOME EQUALITY.

LET ME BE CLEAR.

THIS CAMPAIGN IS FOCUSED ON SOLUTIONS FOR DISTRICT 1, NOT DIFFERENCES.

WHETHER ETHIC, CLASS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR PARTY AFFILIATION, OUR CAMPAIGN WILL NOT PIT ONE VERSUS AGAINST ANOTHER.

AUSTIN NEEDS UNITY, NOT DIVISION.

WE WELCOME EVERYONE: BLACK, WHITE, BROWN, STRAIGHT, LGBTQ, RICH, POOR.

THESE ARE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, OUR STREETS, OUR LIVES, OUR AUSTIN.

MY COMMITMENT IS TO SERVE ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 1 AND CONTRIBUTE TO ITS GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

I CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WALKING THE STREETS AND MEETING ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF DISTRICT 1 TO HEAR YOUR CONCERNS.

I ASK THAT YOU STAND WITH ME NOW AS WE STAND WITH EACH OTHER TO MAKE AUSTIN A CITY THAT WE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME AND PROUD TO HAND TO OUR CHILDREN.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME SHARE WITH YOU MY STORY AND MY MOTIVATION FOR SEEKING THIS IMPORTANT OFFICE.

MY UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WILL ALLOW ME TO BE READY TO GO ON DAY ONE.

ONCE AGAIN, MY NAME IS REEDY SPIGNER, AND I'M A CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 1 AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL.

I WOULD LOVE YOUR VOTE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE MOVE AUSTIN FORWARD.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> HI.

MY NAME IS VINCENT HARDING.

I AM RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 1.

DISTRICT 1 HAS A RICH HISTORY.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A COALITION OF A FUTURE AUSTIN WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, RACES, AND ECONOMIC STATUSES.

MY CAMPAIGN IS BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLE "ALL HANDS ON DECK."

I BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY IS STRONGER AND OUR GOVERNMENT IS BETTER WHEN MORE PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED.

AS A DISTRICT 1 FAMILY, WE HAVE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES.

SOME OF THOSE INCLUDE DISPLACEMENT, AFFORDABILITY, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH CARE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, AND EDUCATION.

I AM RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL BECAUSE I BELIEVE I AM THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON TO HELP.

AS AN ATTORNEY, REAL ESTATE AGENT, SOMEONE THAT HAS EXPERIENCE AT THE HOUSTON CITY HALL, THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE, WHO IS THE FORMER CHAIR OF AUSTIN'S BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, AND FORMER CHAIR OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC POLICY, I HAVE LED IN POLITICS, HAVE A PROVEN RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND HELP PERSUADE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS TO DO THINGS WE HAVE NEVER DONE BEFORE.

PERSONALLY, I AM A FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE THAT HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY MY FAITH TO SERVE OTHERS.

MY PARENTS WERE WORKING CLASS PEOPLE AND SACRIFICED SO MUCH.

ON MY FIRST DAY OF ORIENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW, I MET MY WIFE MEAGAN, WHO IS A CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, AND WE HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO SERVING OTHERS.

I BELIEVE THE DREAMS OF MY FAMILY ARE SIMILAR TO THE DREAMS OF MOST FAMILIES, THAT EACH GENERATION WOULD GO FURTHER AND PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS.

I WANT TO HELP OTHER FAMILIES PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.

A KEY ROLE OF A COUNCILMEMBER IS TO GET TO A MAJORITY VOTE.

I HAVE BUILT COALITIONS ACROSS AUSTIN, AND MY RELATIONSHIPS WILL HELP DISTRICT 1 ACCOMPLISH ITS GOALS.

I AM THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS CAMPAIGN THAT HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY MULTIPLE CURRENT COUNCILMEMBERS IN A RUN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE, AND I AM HONORED TO BE ENDORSED BY INCUMBENT COUNCILMEMBER ORA HOUSTON.

IN MY TIME WITH THE PARTY, INCLUDING BECOMING THE YOUNGEST CHAIR AND ONLY THE SECOND AFRICAN AMERICAN IN HISTORY, I HELPED RAISE OVER \$1 MILLION.

WE HELPED PASS THE LARGEST AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION BONDS IN CENTRAL TEXAS HISTORY, AND WE HAD THE HIGHEST VOTER REGISTRATION PERCENTAGE EVER AT 92%.

I BELIEVE IN GRASS ROOTS ADVOCACY, DOOR KNOCKING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

I ALSO HOSTED COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON POVERTY, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, POLICING, IMMIGRATION, AND RACE.

I ALSO USE CO MODERATED KLRU'S CONVERSATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

I BROUGHT POLICYMAKERS TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEN HANDED THE MICROPHONE TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE TO GET DIRECT ANSWERS FROM CITY OFFICIALS.

IF ELECTED, I WILL LEAD US THROUGH CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS ON ISSUES SUCH AS LAND USE, RISING PROPERTY TAXES, AND EQUITY.

AS AN ATTORNEY, I REPRESENTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

I ADVISED ELECTED OFFICIALS ON OPEN MEETINGS, OPEN RECORDS, PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES, BUYING AND SELLING REAL ESTATE.

AUSTIN IS THE 11TH LARGEST CITY IN THE COUNTRY.

MY SKILLS ARE DIRECTLY TRANSFERABLE TO THE POSITION OF BEING A COUNCILMEMBER.

AUSTIN IS ROUTINELY RANKED AS ONE OF THE TOP CITIES IN THE WORLD, AND WE ARE.

AT THE SAME TIME, LONG TIME RESIDENTS ARE BEING DISPLACED BY RISING PROPERTY TAXES.

INCREASED COSTS OF HOUSING IS CAUSING AN AFFORDABILITY EMERGENCY.

A THIRD OF MINORITY CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP IN POVERTY.

OUR ROADS ARE CONGESTED.

AND THE LIFE EXPECTANCY IN SOME PARTS OF DISTRICT 1 IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.

I WILL FIGHT TO STOP THE DISPLACEMENT OF RESIDENTS BY UTILIZING THE LEGAL TOOLS THAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE.

I WILL ADVOCATE AT THE LEGISLATURE TO REFORM SCHOOL FINANCE SO THAT PROPERTY TAXES WILL BE LOWER.

I WILL PARTNER TO WORK WITH WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS TO INVEST IN JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.

I WILL FIGHT TO ENSURE WE FOCUS ON PROVIDING LOW COST CHILD CARE SO THAT KIDS CAN BE SAFE WHILE THEIR PARENTS DRIVE TO GET THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING THEY NEED.

CENTRAL TEXAS NEEDS A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

WE MUST ENSURE A SAFE TRAVEL RIDE FOR THOSE THAT ARE DISABLED, SAFE WALKING PATHS FOR CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY, AND PROTECTED BICYCLE LANES.

WE MUST INVEST IN OUR ROADS, IMPROVE MASS TRANSIT BY HAVING DEDICATED PATHWAYS FOR BUSES AND RAILS.

WE SHOULD UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS SYNCHRONIZED LIGHTS AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES.

WE MUST WORK TO DECREASE WAIT TIME FOR BUSES AND HAVE MORE COMFORTABLE BUS STOPS.

I WILL FIGHT TO END FOOT DESERTS AND INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY MOVED BY THE STORIES THAT I'VE HEARD ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL.

I WANT THE DISTRICT TO KNOW THAT I HEAR YOU, I SEE YOU, AND WE HAVE SO MUCH WORK TO DO.

BUT WE CAN DO THIS WORK TOGETHER.

ONCE AGAIN, MY NAME IS VINCENT HARDING.

I AM RUNNING FOR AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL.

I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT.

AND YOU CAN VISIT VINCEHARDING.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THANK YOU.

>> HI THERE.

MY NAME IS MISAEL RAMOS, OR IF YOU CAN PRONOUNCE IT IN SPANISH, "MISAEL RAMOS," AND I AM THE OFFICIAL WRITE IN CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCIL.

TO GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND ABOUT MYSELF, RAMOS COMES FROM MY IMMIGRANT MOTHER, WHO CAME HERE FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WITH HER FAMILY TO START A NEW LIFE.

WE WERE VERY POOR, BUT THE HARD WORK AND AMBITION THAT MY MOTHER EXHIBITED HELPED MOTIVATE ME TO BECOME THE FIRST PERSON IN MY FAMILY TO ATTEND AND GRADUATE COLLEGE.

I CAME TO AUSTIN IN 2006 FOR THAT EXACT SAME REASON AND FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CITY INSTANTLY.

PROFESSIONALLY, I EVENTUALLY WENT ON TO BECOME A FORECLOSURE PREVENTION SPECIALIST.

THIS JOB ALLOWED ME TO HELP FAMILIES STAY IN THEIR HOMES ACROSS AMERICA DURING THE GREAT RECESSION.

I ALSO WORKED AS A BUSINESS ANALYST, HELPING STATES WITH THEIR HARDEST HIT PROGRAMS.

THAT PASSION TO HELP OTHERS DROVE ME TO GET INVOLVED WITH MY COMMUNITY.

AND IN DOING SO, I HELPED TO ENACT POSITIVE CHANGES, SUCH AS WORKING WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, GETTING HISTORICAL DESIGNATION FOR MY NEIGHBORHOOD, REPRESENTING MY COMMUNITY AT VARIOUS CITY WIDE ORGANIZATIONS, ALL WHILE BEING A STAUNCH ADVOCATE AGAINST NEGATIVE POLICIES AND ISSUES LIKE CodeNEXT.

I'M RUNNING FOR DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCIL TO BE THE VOICE OF OUR EASTSIDE COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IN THE TRENCHES WITH MY FELLOW NEIGHBORS, I FEEL I AM THE TRUEST REPRESENTATIVE OF AND FOR THE PEOPLE.

WITH YOUR WRITE IN VOTE FOR ME, WE CAN BUILD ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST GENERATIONS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, BETTER SCHOOLS, AND NEWER FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION, ALL WHILE KEEPING THE AUSTIN CHARM AND IDENTITY INTACT, ALLOWING OLDER AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO FALL AND STAY IN LOVE WITH THIS CITY AS I DID YEARS AGO.

AGAIN, MY NAME IS MISAEAL RAMOS, OR "MISAEAL RAMOS," AND I'M ASKING FOR YOUR WRITE IN VOTE FOR DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCIL.

THANK YOU.