

2018 City Council District 3 Candidate Statement Transcripts

>> HELLO.

I'M SUSANA ALMANZA, YOUR CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3.

I'M A FOUNDING MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF PODER, AN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

I'M A NATIVE OF EAST AUSTIN AND A LONG TIME COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, EDUCATOR, MOTHER, AND GRANDMOTHER.

TOGETHER WE WILL WORK TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT NEIGHBORHOODS' AND SMALL BUSINESSES' UNIQUE CHARACTER, WHEREAS SABINO PIO RENTERIA HAS A LEGACY OF DISPLACING FAMILIES AND DESTROYING NEIGHBORHOODS.

IN 1928 THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED THEIR MASTER PLAN THAT FORCED THE RELOCATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR TO EAST AUSTIN.

IN THE 1930s AND '40s, PEOPLE OF COLOR BOUGHT AND BUILT THEIR HOMES FROM 2,000 TO \$8,000.

THOSE PROPERTIES ARE NOW VALUED FROM 250,000 AND ABOVE.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

IN THE LATE 1990s THE CITY COUNCIL DECIDED THAT IT WOULD EMBARK ON A NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS.

ONE NEIGHBORHOOD FROM WEST AND EAST AUSTIN WOULD BE CHOSEN.

WE THEN BEGAN TO ORGANIZE TO SUBMIT A PLAN ON BEHALF OF EAST AUSTIN.

FIVE NEIGHBORHOODS CAME TOGETHER TO FORM THE PUEBLO NETWORK: BLACKSHEAR, MONTOPOLIS, GUADALUPE, EAST CESAR CHAVEZ AND RAINEY STREET.

AT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS, EAST CESAR CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD, LED BY PIO AND LORI RENTERIA, SUBMITTED THEIR PLAN AS A SEPARATE APPLICATION.

THE PUEBLO NETWORK DIDN'T KNOW THAT PIO AND LORI RENTERIA WERE SECRETLY MEETING WITH CITY STAFF AND DEVELOPERS AND HAD MADE A DEAL.

FOR OVER A YEAR NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS AND RESIDENTS FOUGHT AGAINST THE EAST CESAR CHAVEZ PLAN, STATING THAT IT WOULD CAUSE MAJOR DISPLACEMENT OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS IN GENTRIFIED NEIGHBORHOODS.

PIO AND LORI RENTERIA CAUSED THE DISPLACEMENT OF HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS, THE ELDERLY STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES.

THEY SUPPORTED THE FIRST HIGH PRICED CONDOS IN THE EAST CESAR CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD, WHILE RESIDENTS PROTESTED.

LET'S MOVE FORWARD TO 2015.

COUNCILMAN SABINO PIO RENTERIA BEGAN TO ADVOCATE FOR HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENT AND CodeNEXT, STATING THAT HIGH DENSITY MEANT AFFORDABILITY.

AFFORDABLE FOR WHO?

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THIS CREATING AFFORDABILITY.

AGAIN, PIO HAS A LEGACY OF DISPLACING RESIDENTS. COUNCILMAN PIO REFUSED TO LISTEN TO THE RESIDENTS REGARDING CodeNEXT.

SO WE HAVE GATHERED THE 31,000 SIGNATURES TO PUT CodeNEXT ON THE BALLOT.

COUNCILMAN PIO VOTED AGAINST PUTTING A VALIDATED PETITION ON THE BALLOT, AND WE HAD TO TAKE THE CITY TO COURT.

THE JUDGE RULED THAT CodeNEXT INITIATIVE MUST BE PUT ON THE BALLOT.

DEMOCRACY WON.

CodeNEXT DIDN'T RESPECT NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AND WOULD HAVE INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES AND RENTAL PRICES.

IT WOULD MEAN MORE DISPLACEMENT.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WE MUST VOTE FOR PROPOSITION J, WHICH GIVE RESIDENTS A CHOICE TO APPROVE OR DISPROVE ANY PLAN LIKE CodeNEXT AT THE BALLOT.

REFOCUS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF LAND CODE.

PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF CURRENT RESIDENTS AND DISCOURAGE THEIR DISPLACEMENT.

PRESERVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF TRULY AFFORDABLE AND LOW INCOME HOUSING.

STREAMLINE AND UPDATE TECHNOLOGY OF CITY'S INEFFICIENT PERMITTING PROCESS.

AND RETURN THE COMMUNITY PLANNING DISTRICT.

IMPLEMENT THE PEOPLE'S PLAN, WHICH ADDRESSES HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND EQUITY.

LET'S STOP PIO'S LEGACY OF DISPLACEMENT.

PIO WANTED TO GIVE AWAY OUR PUBLIC PARK ROY GUERRERO TO A PRIVATE FOR PROFIT CORPORATION AND VOTED TO ELIMINATE NUMEROUS BUS ROUTES.

WHILE I HAVE SERVED ON NUMEROUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN, WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT I'VE; WORKED TO EMPOWER AND GIVE VOICE TO THE MOST IMPACTED.

I, ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF PODER, HAVE HELPED ORGANIZE NUMEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, WORKED ON NUMEROUS GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGNS, AND WORKED TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND ORDINANCES THAT PROTECT AND BENEFIT THE PEOPLE.

TOGETHER WE CAN APPOINT RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY MINDED INDIVIDUALS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WHO WILL BRING BALANCE TO DECISION MAKING POLICY PROCESS AND CREATE COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO SERVE AS ADVISORS ON BEHALF OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

MY CAMPAIGN DOES NOT RELY ON BIG MONEY.

IT RELIES ON GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT.

WE SUPPORT PEOPLE'S INTERESTS, NOT MONEY INTERESTS.

TOGETHER WITH STUDENTS, INDIVIDUALS, AND FAMILIES, WE CAN ADVOCATE TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND THE SUPPLY OF LOW INCOME AND MODERATE HOUSING.

CONTROL PUBLIC LAND FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

PRESERVE AND GROW SMALL BUSINESSES AND CULTURAL ASSETS.

PROVIDE INCOME AND ASSET CREATION BY PROVIDING NEEDED SERVICES, SUCH AS CHILD CARE, ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, TRANSPORTATION, RETAIL SECTOR, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

PROMOTE A CITY WIDE LIVING WAGE OF \$15 AN HOUR.

PROTECT OUR PUBLIC GREEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT. IMPROVE OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE PEOPLE'S PLAN, WHICH ADDRESSES HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND EQUITY. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE AFRICAN AMERICAN, HISPANIC, LATINO, AND ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE COMMISSION.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO RECLAIM, REMAIN, AND REBUILD OUR CITY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL INCOMES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO VOTESUSANA.COM.

THANK YOU.

>> HI.

I'M COUNCILMEMBER SABINO RENTERIA.

BUT ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY CALL ME PIO.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED HERE IN AUSTIN.

I GREW UP SHINING SHOES AND SELLING NEWSPAPERS UP AND DOWN CONGRESS AVENUE.

AS A TEENAGER, I HELPED SUPPORT MY FAMILY BY PICKING COTTON IN THE FIELDS.

I ATTENDED HIGH AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL, GRADUATED FROM AUSTIN HIGH, AND ROWED IN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND LATER WENT TO UT AUSTIN.

I WORKED FOR EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY, AND THEN I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO LAND A JOB WITH IBM AS A COMPUTER AND PRINTER TECHNICIAN.

FOR 34 YEARS I PROVIDE TECH SERVICE TO CAMPUS AND BUSINESS ALL OVER AUSTIN UNTIL I RETIRED IN 2008.

DURING THAT TIME I MET AND MARRIED MY WONDERFUL WIFE, LORI RENTERIA, AND WE RAISED THREE BRIGHT KIDS TOGETHER.

THERE IS NOTHING I AM MORE PROUD THAN MY FAMILY.

I AM NOW A GRANDFATHER AND VERY RECENTLY BECAME A GREAT GRANDFATHER TOO.

MY FAMILY, ALONG WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS, IS WHAT ALWAYS INSPIRED ME TO FIGHT FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND TO DO ALL I CAN TO IMPROVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND OUR CITY.

IT'S THE REASON I SERVED ON PTAs, NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, AND NONPROFIT BOARDS.

AND WHY I SERVE ON BOTH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD FOR THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

IT'S WHY I ALWAYS BEEN AN ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, BETTER SCHOOLS, AND SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THE REASON I DECIDED TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL IN 2014.

IN JANUARY OF 2015, I BECAME THE FIRST COUNCILMEMBER TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 3.

AND SINCE THEN I HAVE FOCUSED ON THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT SOUTH AND EAST AUSTIN MOST.

AT THE TOP OF THAT LIST IS AFFORDABILITY.

THERE ARE MANY FACTORS THAT AFFECT AFFORDABILITY, BUT MY WORK AND MY CAMPAIGN ARE FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING THREE PRIORITIES.

THE FIRST IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

AS OUR COMMUNITY AS OUR CITY CONTINUES TO GROW, LOW INCOME AND WORKING FAMILIES ARE BEING DISPLACED, INCLUDING THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN HERE FOR GENERATION.

EAST AUSTIN HAD FELT THE BURDEN MOST, BUT LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS A CITY WIDE ISSUE.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING EVERYWHERE AND NOT JUST CONCENTRATED IN JUST ONE AREA.

WE NEED TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN PLACES WITH ACCESS TO OTHER RESOURCES, LIKE SCHOOLS, JOBS, HEALTH CARE, AND HEALTHY FOOD CHOICE.

MY GOAL IS TO HELP BUILD INCLUSIVE, MULTIGENERATION NEIGHBORHOODS WITH RACIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY.

THAT'S WHY I'VE HELPED NONPROFIT HOUSING PROVIDERS LIKE AUSTIN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES BUILD HUNDREDS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND WHY I VOTED IN SUPPORT OF THE 2 MILLION \$250 MILLION AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND.

MY SECOND PRIORITY IS AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION.

WHILE HOUSING RECEIVES A LOT OF ATTENTION, TRANSPORTATION IS THE SECOND HIGHEST EXPENSE FOR MOST FAMILIES.

TRANSPORTATION COSTS LIKE CAR PAYMENTS, REGISTRATION, INSURANCE, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND PARKING ADD UP.

THAT MEANS THAT MANY FAMILIES ARE LEFT WITH FEW MOBILITY CHOICE.

WE NEED TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OPTION.

THAT'S WHY I SUPPORTED THE 2016 MOBILITY BOND AND WHY I USE MY POSITION ON THE CAPITAL METRO BOARD TO ADVOCATE FOR A MORE EQUITABLE AND RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

AND, FINALLY, MY THIRD PRIORITY IS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

MANAGING TO LOWER THE COST OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION WAS WILL ONLY DO SO MUCH FOR AFFORDABILITY.

WHILE WE TRY TO MAKE THESE THINGS COST LESS, WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE SURE WORKING AUSTINITES CAN MAKE MORE.

WE NEED TO PROVIDE MORE EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TO AUSTIN FAMILIES.

THAT'S WHY I CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED FOR WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESS.

I VOTED TO RAISE THE CITY LIVING WAGE TO \$15 AN HOUR AND TO EXPAND WORKERS' PROTECTION, INCLUDING PAID SICK LEAVE.

THE WORK HAS EARNED ME THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE FUND AND THE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL.

I WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT ONCE AGAIN SO WE CAN KEEP WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY AT CITY HALL.

PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE D3FORPIO.COM TO JOIN MY CAMPAIGN AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE CAN GET INVOLVED.

THANK YOU.

>> MY NAME IS AMIT MOTWANI, AND I'M ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO BRING RELIEF, ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY TO OUR DISTRICT 3.

[SPEAKING NON ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL GETTING OUT TO VOTE FOR BETO.

I ENDORSE HIM 100%.

AND I APPLAUD TEXAS IN SETTING OUR HISTORIC VOTING REGISTRATION RECORD.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SURFING THIS BLUE WAVE WITH YOU.

I'M ALSO PROUD TO SEE US FULFILLING OUR CIVIC DUTY, SCROLLING DOWN THE BALLOT AND MAKING SURE OUR VOICES ARE HEARD BY VOTING IN OUR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, AND SUPPORTING PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH G, BRINGING MUCH NEEDED FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND AFFORDABILITY SUPPORT.

I AM SENSITIVE TO ECONOMIC STRUGGLE BECAUSE I'VE LIVED IT.

AND THAT'S WHY AFTER HELPING START A SUCCESSFUL TECH COMPANY I SPENT THE LAST 15 YEARS IN NONPROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES IN AUSTIN TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES.

CURRENTLY I SERVE AS CIO FOR UNITED WAY FOR GREATER AUSTIN, BRIDGING TECHNICAL SKILL AND DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY NEED.

WHAT I'VE BEEN SEEING REPEATEDLY IS THAT HOUSEHOLDS IN AUSTIN THAT ARE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS ARE UNABLE TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS AS OUR COST OF LIVING QUICKLY OUTPACES WAGES.

AND WHEN POLICY IS BASED ON A MEDIAN INCOME OF 86,000 A YEAR, IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT AFFORDABILITY IS UNREACHABLE FOR SO MANY IN MY DISTRICT WHO MAKE THOUSANDS LESS.

WE MUST FACT THE FACTS.

AND THE FACT IS 42% OF CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OLD IN AUSTIN ARE GROWING UP IN POVERTY.

AND IN DISTRICT 3 THAT NUMBER IS OVER 70%.

THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.

AND THAT'S ALSO WHY THE CONVERSATION IN OUR DISTRICT MUST SHIFT TO IMMEDIATE RELIEF, PEOPLE CENTERED RELIEF.

FOR MOST OF US AFFORDABILITY DOESN'T MEAN PARSING A MILLION DOLLAR LOT INTO 3 , \$400,000 CONDOS.

IN DISTRICT 3 IT MEANS BEING ABLE TO ACCESS QUALITY HOUSING WITHOUT SPENDING MORE THAN 30% OF YOUR INCOME ON IT.

AND JUST AS IMPORTANT, IT MEANS BEING ABLE TO STAY IN THE HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS YOU GREW UP IN.

AND HOUSING COSTS ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE.

BUT IN ADDITION TO THAT, AFFORDABILITY ALSO MEANS HAVING ACCESS TO WHOLE HEALTHY FOODS, MONTHLY UTILITY BILLS THAT DON'T CREATE TOXIC STRESS, AND SAFE, COMFORTABLE, AND COST EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION TO GET US QUICKLY TO SCHOOL, WORK, AND OUR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

WE'RE HEARING FROM RESIDENTS ABOUT A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE, PROMISES THAT DENSITY WOULD BRING AFFORDABILITY SIMPLY WEREN'T KEPT.

AND WE KNOW THAT DENSITY IS A KEY PART OF THE AFFORDABILITY FORMULA AND MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN LOCKSTEP WITH NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS WHO HAVE INVESTED SO MUCH IN COMMUNITY DRIVEN PLANNING.

THE COST OF LIVING IS TOO HIGH.

AND OUR TEACHERS, OUR RETIREES ON FIXED INCOMES, OUR SERVICE INDUSTRY, OUR BUS DRIVERS, SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS, CREATIVES, MUSICIANS THOSE WHO CREATE THE FRAMEWORK AND ATTRACT INVESTMENT FOR OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH ENGINE CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY ENRICH AND FIND THEMSELVES ONE CRISIS AWAY FROM FORECLOSURE, EVICTION, OR EVEN WORSE.

HOW CAN WE HONOR THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO CAME BEFORE US IF THE RESIDENTS THEY FOUGHT FOR CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO STAY IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

OUR BEST INTERESTS ARE ALL TETHERED TOGETHER, AND WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIND A WAY FORWARD, ABOVE THE FEUDS, ABOVE THE MY WAY/HIGHWAY POLITICS, AND TOWARD AN EQUITABLE FUTURE, WHERE ALL RESIDENTS MAY THRIVE.

I'M HONORED TO PRESENT A CLEAR PATH FORWARD.

MOST IMMEDIATELY, AS I MENTIONED, WE VOTE FOR THE ENTIRE A TO G BOND PACKAGE, BRINGING MUCH NEEDED FUNDING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

WE DEVELOP AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASAP AND PRESERVE THE EXISTING STOCK.

WE ENFORCE RENTER PROTECTIONS AND STAFF UP CITY PERMITTING, TO REDUCE PERMITTING COSTS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WHILE WE REENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND SIMPLIFY THE LAND USE CODE.

WHEN AFFORDABILITY IS STILL UNREACHABLE, WE MUST RAISE THE FLOOR.

WE USE EVERY POLICY MECHANISM AVAILABLE TO BRING TAX RELIEF TO HOMEOWNERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES, CONTINUING TO SUSTAINABLY INCREASE EXEMPTIONS FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE HOMEOWNERS.

AND AS ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE CITIES IN THE WORLD, WE MUST LEAD WITH OUR VALUES AND BRING COST RELIEF FROM THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET.

WE MANAGE OUR SOCIAL SERVICE CONTRACTS MORE ACTIVELY AND ENSURE THEY'RE ALIGNED WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS.

BY STRATEGICALLY INVESTING IN COORDINATION AND NAVIGATION OF OUR HUNDREDS OF PRIVATE SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, WE CAN CONNECT RESIDENTS TO HEALTH SCREENINGS, COUNSELING, HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS, MEDICAL APPOINTMENT TRANSPORTATION, HOUSEHOLD NEEDS, EMPLOYMENT TRAINING, AND EVEN QUALITY CHILD CARE, DRAMATICALLY EASING HOUSEHOLD COSTS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY BUILDING AVENUES TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

I'VE SPENT THE LAST TWO DECADES BEING AGGRESSIVE AND INNOVATIVE TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY BY LEVERAGING SYSTEMS AND COALITIONS.

YOU CAN TRUST I'LL DO SO FOR THE NEXT TERM.

I SUPPORT OUR MAYOR IN HIS STEWARDSHIP OF AUSTIN INTO IT'S ADULthood AS WE APPROACH THE TOP TEN LARGEST CITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

IT'S HIS JOB TO MOVE THE CITY FORWARD, AND I BELIEVE IT'S THE COUNCILMEMBERS' DUTY TO MAKE SURE NONE OF US HAVE LEFT BEHIND.

TO HONOR OUR PAST WHILE POSITIVELY CHANNELING THE INEVITABLE GROWTH THAT'S OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE.

MY VALUES, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE WILL DRIVE ME TO BRING RELIEF, ACCESS, AND OPPORTUNITY TO DISTRICT 3.

AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE.

>> MY NAME IS JAMES VALADEZ, AND I'M RUNNING FOR AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 3.

I'M A NATIVE AUSTINITE.

I HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE HERE.

I ATTENDED AUSTIN'S ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AND THEN GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS.

I HAVE SERVED ON MULTIPLE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, INCLUDING THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE EXPERIENCE SERVING ON THE TRAVIS CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE AISD INNOVATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE, AND HAVE SERVED AS A COUNTY PRECINCT CHAIR.

AS A PROFESSIONAL REAL ESTATE BROKER, MY JOB IS TO FIND PEOPLE HOMES AND UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF INCREASED TAXES, DEMOLITIONS, AND PRESSURES OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THE DISTRICT AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE USING ALL THE TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL TO BRING ABOUT AFFORDABILITY.

EXPANSION OF VARIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO SERVE THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED IS CRITICAL.

WE MUST WORK DILIGENTLY TO DEVELOP CITY OWNED LAND WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN HIGH OPPORTUNITY AREAS, WITH TWO AND THREE BEDROOM OPTIONS TO ACCOMMODATE FAMILIES' NEEDS.

WE MUST CREATE DEEPLY AFFORDABLE UNITS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE 60% MFI LEVEL AND BELOW IN NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

OUR MEDIAN INCOME LEVEL AS A DISTRICT IS WELL BELOW THE CITY WIDE MEDIAN.

SO IT'S IMPORTANT WE FOCUS THESE UNITS TOWARD A PRICE POINT THAT OUR RESIDENTS CAN AFFORD, NOT WHAT'S AFFORDABLE TO THE REST OF THE CITY.

AS A COMMUNITY, WE NEED TO LEARN FROM THE CodeNEXT PROCESS.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

WHAT WENT RIGHT?

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS BEING OBSERVED AND INCLUDED IN THE CODE REWRITE PROCESS IS CRITICAL.

WE HAVE SPENT INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF TIME AND MONEY ON THESE RESOURCES AS A COMMUNITY, AND THEY REPRESENT THE VOICES OF OUR RESIDENTS.

THE DENSITY BONUS, FEE IN LIEU, AND PARKLAND DEDICATION FEES NEED TO BE RECALIBRATED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THESE TOOLS.

I'M IN FAVOR OF MEASURED GROWTH TO CORRIDORS AND ACTIVITY CENTERS AS SPELLED OUT IN IMAGINE AUSTIN.

TO ADDRESS OUR TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, WE NEED TO HAVE A MULTIFACETED APPROACH, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPROVING TRAFFIC LIGHT TIMING ON OUR CORRIDORS, TO BETTER ALIGN WITH PEAK DEMAND TIMES; INCREASE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN BIKE LANES AND OUR TRAIL SYSTEMS; ENHANCING SAFE PATHS TO SCHOOL WITH EXPANSION OF OUR SIDEWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN BEACONS.

AS A COMMUNITY WE SHOULD ALSO EXPLORE OPTIONS REGARDING SCOOTER DOCKING STATIONS AND RIDE SHARE DROP ZONES.

FINALLY, CREATING BUS ROUTES THAT ARE SAFE, EFFICIENT, AND AFFORDABLE.

I WANT TO REPRESENT YOU AND THE CONCERNS OF DISTRICT 3 ON THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL.

AGAIN, MY NAME IS JAMES VALADEZ, AND I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE THIS NOVEMBER.

THANK YOU.