



COMMISSIONER DAVID C. STOUT | PRECINCT 2

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Segundo Barrio Historic District approved!

El Paso County Commissioner David Stout: “A significant and exciting County achievement!”

El Paso, Texas – The federal government has approved the Segundo Barrio Historic District application, which was filed by El Paso County after more than two years of work. Details to follow regarding a County press conference to be held on Monday, November 8th, 2021.

“We expected this application to be approved, but it’s still amazing to see it actually realized. This is a significant and exciting County achievement,” said El Paso County Commissioner David Stout, who brought to proposal before the El Paso County Commissioners Court. “Meanwhile, however, the Downtown Historic District application is with the National Park Service in a sort of limbo. It meets all the criteria, but because more than 50 percent of property owners, by a very slim margin, oppose the district, it has not been approved.”

Nationally designated Historic Districts come with no property rights restrictions, but they do provide financing tools that give property owners incentives to renovate their properties. Certain restrictions on the property do apply if, and only if, property owners decide to use those financing tools, typically tax credits. With this approval, which will be formally published Nov. 15 by the National Park Service, there are 686 individually listed and contributed properties in the Segundo Barrio.

“I hope that once property owners Downtown see how it works in the Segundo Barrio district, they will withdraw their objections, which are based on misinformation about their property rights in a nationally recognized historic district,” said Commissioner Stout. “Meanwhile, I’m very happy to be able to celebrate the recognition by the federal government of the importance of the Segundo Barrio.”

It’s hard to imagine a place more fundamental to El Paso’s identity than the Segundo Barrio, which was wild, natural space only 150 years ago. From the application, speaking of Segundo Barrio in the 1850s, “Segundo Barrio remained marked as “bosque”—or forest habitat found along flood plains of streams and rivers in the Southwest—on the plat map.”

But by the turn of the century, development was taking place. For more than 100 years, it has served as the “Ellis Island of the Southwest,” welcoming countless immigrants from Mexico and all over the world.

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El Paso County Commissioner David Stout was elected in 2015 to represent Precinct 2, which stretches from a portion of West El Paso to Central, East-Central, and Northeast El Paso. Precinct 2 includes Downtown, the Chamizal, Ascarate Park, parts of Fort Bliss and the El Paso Airport, and the hospital district. He serves on behalf of El Paso County on the boards of the Emergence Health Network, the Central Appraisal District, the Conference of Urban Counties, and the Texas Association of Counties.