



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: March 25, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Sara Krause/512-854-9230

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Commissioner Bruce Todd

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Commissioner Bruce Todd

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CONGREGATION AGUDAS ACHIM'S HISTORY IN TRAVIS COUNTY AND CONGRATULATING THE CONGREGATION ON ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: See attached proclamation.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: See attached proclamation.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A

WHEREAS, the Agudas Achim Congregation had its beginnings in 1914 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Frankat First and Brazos, holding services for Jewish people from Travis County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the congregation continued to grow, and rented a variety of places to accommodate local Jews, with a Mr. Saffer from Temple, Texas conducting High Holiday services from 1916-1922, and Wolf Meyerowitz, a butcher and grocer from Kyle, serving as cantor; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Agudas Achim was chartered on February, 16 1924 and established its first synagogue at Seventh and San Jacinto, electing Israel Cohn as its first president; and

WHEREAS, the Congregation purchased a new site on the southeast corner of Tenth and San Jacinto where it built a beautiful, two-story synagogue, dedicated on September 6, 1931; and

WHEREAS, Agudas Achim bore witness and participated in historical events as they unfolded in Travis County and beyond, welcoming Jewish servicemen stationed in the Austin area and housing a USO in the basement of the synagogue during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the congregation voted in to affiliate with United Synagogue of America in 1948 and to become part of the Conservative movement; and

WHEREAS, the on September 6, 1963, the religions dedication of the building at 4300 Bull Creek was held, and the dedication was attended by President Lyndon Baines Johnson on December 30, 1963, and in March of 2001 moved to its present location on the Jewish Dell Campus in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Stone Ten Commandments that stood atop the Synagogue at 10th and San Jacinto for over 30 years were installed on the new grounds of Agudas Achim at a ceremony kicking off the Centennial Celebration of fall 2013; and

WHEREAS, the congregation continues to grow, with a diverse group of more than 650 families and individuals that aspire to create a holy community in conversations, study, worship and social services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THAT THE AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION HAS CONTINUALLY BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND CONGRATULATES THE CONGREGATION ON ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Signed and entered this XX day of XX, 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Pct. 1

BRUCE TODD
Commissioner, Pct. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MARGARET GOMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4