

**To: Councilman Nettles / City of Fort Worth**

**From: James P. Walker, President – Historic Southside Neighborhood Association**

**Re: Nurturing African American Culture: A Journey Through Evans and Rosedale Development**

Introduction: I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable development in our community, dedicated to celebrating and preserving African American culture. The Evans/Rosedale project not only emphasizes cultural significance but also showcases a thriving hub of businesses that contribute to its vibrancy.

### **Development Overview**

- Purpose: Fostering African American Culture Designation
- Location: Historic Southside

### **Key Establishments**

1. Williams Barber College
2. Fort Worth Tarrant County NAACP
3. Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum (Tarrant County Black Historical Genealogical & Society)
4. Evans Avenue Cleaners
5. Smoke -a-Holics Bar B Que
6. Stephanies Jamaican Kitchen
7. Alpha Family Group
8. James Walker Realty
9. Baker Chapel AME Church
10. Kappa House
11. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
12. Antioch Baptist Church
13. St. Andrews United Methodist Church
14. Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
15. Renaissance House/ Flint House

16. Federated Women's Club
17. Fortress
18. Holitz Blend (Coffee Shop)
19. KEEN Group
20. Shamblee Library
21. Fort Worth Metro Black Chamber of Commerce
22. Van Zandt Guinn Elementary School
23. Mama E's Bar-B-Que and Soul Food
24. Mt. Zion Baptist Church

### **Community Pillars**

- These businesses serve as pillars, embodying the essence of Black culture and heritage.
- From spiritual spaces to cultural centers, each contributes uniquely to the community.

### **Mount Zion**

- Established in 1894, Mt Zion Baptist is a 130-year cornerstone of spiritual growth and community engagement in the Historic Southside.

### **Fort Worth Tarrant County NAACP**

- For 86 years in the Fort Worth Tarrant County NAACP has been a powerful advocate for civil rights and equality in Fort Worth.

### **Lenora Rolla Museum (Black Historical Genealogical Society)**

- The Rolla Museum is the home of the Tarrant County Black Historical Genealogical Society. It houses much of the history of the Historic Southside

### **Evans Avenue Cleaners**

- Evans Avenue Cleaners is a long-established Lawson Family cleaning establishment in the Historic Southside. It provides essential services while contributing to the local economy.

### **Smoke-a- Holics Bar B que**

- A Bar B Que Delight celebrating great Bar B Que which has a significant history in the black community, dating back to the days of slavery when African Americans cooked meat over open pits as a means of survival. As time passed, barbecues became an important part of social gatherings in black communities, including church picnics and family reunions.

### **Stephanies Jamaican Kitchen**

- Stephanie Jamaican Restaurant brings cultural and diversity to restaurant offerings to the Historic Southside.

### **Alpha Family Group**

- Focused on strengthening family bonds and community support through house development in the Historic Southside

### **James Walker Realty**

- Facilitating home ownership and land ownership. Through the purchase and selling of real estate.

### **Baker Chapel AMC Church**

- Established in 1908, this 116-year-old church is a hub of spiritual growth and community outreach.

### **Williams Barber College**

- Williams Barber College is a full-service barber college that has been in business on the Historic Southside for over 60 years.

### **Antioch Baptist Church**

- Antioch Baptist Church has more than a 50-year history of service and outreach in the Historic Southside

### **St. Andrews United Methodist Church**

- St. Andrews Methodist Church began in 1888, but St. Andrews United Methodist Church held its first service at its Missouri Street location in 1951. St. Andrews has led the community through education, music and worship for more than 73 years.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this development not only showcases the economic vitality of our community but also serves as a testament to the rich tapestry of Black culture. As we continue to grow and thrive together, let us celebrate these businesses as the heart and soul of the Southside and Historic Southside. Thank you for your attention, and let's look forward to a brighter future for our community!

James P. Walker – President

Historic Southside Neighborhood Association