



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Petition drive to support El Paso history

Sen. Rodríguez, Cmmsr. Stout, Rep. Annelo join advocates in gathering signatures Saturday and Sunday; volunteers welcome!

Sept. 8, 2017 - Advocates for Duranguito continue their petition drive to force the city to have an election on placing an historic overlay on the neighborhood. At 5 p.m. Saturday, state Sen. José Rodríguez will join volunteers as they kick off their walk, and at 5 p.m. Sunday, El Paso County Commissioner David Stout and city Rep. Alessandra Annelo will join the walk kick-off ([see detailed info on where and when below - media is invited at 5 p.m.](#)). Also coming up: On Monday, an important day in the fight to preserve history, support neighborhoods, and hold the City accountable its own stated standards transparent and ethical government, community supporters will gather in Duranguito ([see info on when and where below](#)).

Petition

This is the second round for the petition process, which is allowed for by the City Charter and involves two steps. In the first step, petitioners who voted in the 2012 bond election ask City Council to call an election to allow the public to decide whether to make Duranguito an historic district. In this case, although petitioners gathered 2,400 signatures, City Council failed to step up for historic preservation, which forces the second step. That is to gather 1,600 signatures from voters who voted in the most recent city elections. Once those petitions are verified, under the City Charter, the City must call an election. Petition gathering is time-consuming and detail-oriented, as the City will parse every detail of the petition, and only the signatures of those who previously voted count. Despite this, thousands of eligible El Pasoans already have signed.

Gathering

On Monday, a hearing in the 384th District Court will decide whether to allow demolition of nine historic buildings, several of which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The City is in court opposing attempts to halt the demolition, which could take place as early as Tuesday if a temporary order to halt the demolition is not issued. Once demolished, the buildings cannot be restored to the historic neighborhood fabric. The City is proposing the demolish the neighborhood for a sports arena, and continues to pursue that even though a judge found clearly that a sports arena was not authorized by the public because that is not what was on the ballot or the ordinance authorizing the

election. The City has spent millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars on lawyers and consultants in its drive to displace residents and demolish an historical neighborhoods.

Petition details

- What: Historic designation for Duranguito petition drive
- When: 5-8 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 9) and Sunday (Sept. 10)
- Where: 7230 Gateway Blvd East, Suite A/B
- Information: Sito Negron, 915.351.3500

Duranguito gathering details

- What: Gathering in Duranguito after court hearing on whether demolition can proceed
- When: 5:30 p.m. Monday (Sept. 11)
- Where: Firefighters Memorial Park, corner of Leon and Overland in Duranguito
- Information: Sito Negron, 915.351.3500

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Economic Development; Transportation; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.