

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

December 21, 2022

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2022-579  
**COMMON NAME:** E Cevallos between I-35 and Probandt St  
**ADDRESS:** Right of Way at E Cevallos  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** UZROW  
**ZONING:** IDZ, RIO-7E, Public Property/Right of Way  
**APPLICANT:** City of San Antonio; City Council Resolution  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 5  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Memorial Designation of a portion of E Cevallos for Emma Tenayuca  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** December 08, 2022  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** Not Applicable Due to City Council Emergency Orders  
**CASE MANAGER:** Edward Hall

## REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to add the Emma Tenayuca Memorial Way name designation to a portion of Cevallos St bounded to the west by Interstate 35 and Probandt St to the east, with no change to the official street name or mailing addresses.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

*Sec. 6-674. - Commencement of the process for changing the name of a street and/or adding the designation of a memorial name.*

- (a) An application to change the name of a street or adding a memorial name designation shall only be filed with the development services department by:
- (1) A member of the city council;
  - (2) The director of development services, if it is determined that the street name change is in the best interest of the health, safety, welfare, and public convenience and safety of the citizens of San Antonio;
  - (3) One of the following located on the subject street:
    - a. A group;
    - b. An agency;
    - c. A business;
    - d. An owner of property; or
  - (4) An officer or authorized representative of a governmental subdivision, agency, or department.
- (b) The official application shall be on a form prescribed by the development services department. A complete application shall consist of:
- (1) The official application form, and
  - (2) Required fees (see section 6-677).
- (c) In addition to the official application, the following shall be submitted:
- (1) The name and address of all owners of property affected by the name change. The applicant shall submit this information for the purposes of official notification. The development services department shall verify the list of owners of property. An incorrect notification list shall cease the case until such time that a correct list is submitted by the applicant.
  - (2) A copy of the complete application shall also be submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation so that a review as provided in subsection 6-675(c) may commence.
- (d) There shall be an application completeness review that shall take no longer than ten (10) business days.
- (e) From the date of the respective city council action, a segment of street that city council has approved for change of name or addition of memorial designation may not be altered for a period of five (5) years.

(Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0239, § 1, 3-31-11; Ord. No. 2011-12-15-1049, § 1, 12-15-11; Ord. No. 2017-05-04-0296, § 1, 5-4-17)

*Sec. 6-675. - Administrative review.*

(a) The development services department shall distribute copies of the application for review and comment to:

- (1) Every city department.
- (2) The United States Postal Service.
- (3) Bexar County.
- (4) Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network.
- (5) Applicable School District(s).
- (6) City Public Service Energy.
- (7) San Antonio Water System.
- (8) BexarMet Water System.
- (9) Texas Department of Transportation.
- (10) Any other department or entity the director may determine is appropriate.

(b) The agencies listed in subsection (a) shall have a review and comment period consisting of no more than ten (10) days. The ten-day review and comment period shall begin the next business day following the completion of the application completeness review. All agency comments shall be addressed by the applicant before placement on any commission agenda. If no comment is received by a reviewing agency by the tenth (10th) day, the application shall be presumed acceptable by that agency.

(c) During the administrative review of the application, the office of historic preservation shall make a determination whether the current street name affected by the application meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Names a street within a historic district, whether that be local or the National Register;
- (2) Names a street wholly within, or a street with a portion within, the original thirty-six (36) square mile boundary of San Antonio;
- (3) Is the name of a primary arterial as shown on the Major Thoroughfare Plan of the city. Should any of these criteria be found, consideration by the historic and design review commission shall be required before the case can be scheduled for consideration by the planning commission, and any recommendation from those considering bodies shall be forwarded to the city council for their review.

(d) Staff shall schedule the item for consideration on the next available agenda of the planning commission or historic and design review commission, if applicable, following the completion of the administrative review period.

(Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0239, § 1, 3-31-11; Ord. No. 2011-12-15-1049, § 1, 12-15-11)

*Sec. 6-676. - Public hearing process for renaming.*

(a) The renaming of streets, including the designation of a memorial name, requires a recommendation from city staff, the planning commission at a public hearing, the historic and design review commission if determined under subsection 6-675(c), and final consideration by city council at a public hearing.

(b) Not less than ten (10) days before the first public hearing, the development services department shall:

- (1) Mail notice of the public hearing(s) to all owners of real property along the subject street segment as listed in the Bexar County Appraisal District, and registered neighborhood associations within which the subject street segment is located. Notices of public hearing(s) for renaming streets shall contain the following:

- a. An explanation of the request; and,
- b. The submitted street name(s); and,
- c. The general location of the street to be renamed; and,
- d. The justification for the renaming submittal; and,
- e. The date, time, and place of the public hearing(s) to consider the new street name(s); and,
- f. A statement that the meeting(s) shall be open to the public in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and

shall provide time for public comment; and,

g. Information directing that any written response in favor of or against a submitted name change may be sent to

the development services department.

(2) Post notice on the development services department's internet website and leave posted throughout the entire public process.

(c) At the public hearings, the planning commission shall consider the request and make a recommendation on the suggested name(s).

(d) The planning commission's recommendations and rationales for the recommendations shall be forwarded to the city council for final consideration in accordance with the city council agenda item scheduling procedures.

(e) Notification of the city council public hearing shall be as prescribed in section 6-676. Should the city council approve the new name(s), the written rationale of the planning commission shall be kept by the city clerk for historical reference.

(Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0239, § 1, 3-31-11; Ord. No. 2011-12-15-1049, § 1, 12-15-11)

## **FINDINGS:**

- a. The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to add the Emma Tenayuca Memorial Way name designation to a portion of Cevallos St bounded to the west by Interstate 35 and Probandt St to the east, with no change to the official street name or mailing address. This location is located within the City's original thirty-six square mile boundary, but is not located within a historic district.
- b. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST – A Council Consideration Request was submitted in November 2022, to permanently commemorate Emma Tenayuca, a Mexican American labor leader, union organizer, educator, and civil rights hero. Office of Historic Preservation staff finds the request of a Memorial Way to be appropriate and a step towards ensuring that San Antonio's Mexican American Heritage and legacies are appropriately celebrated and honored.
- c. HISTORY OF EMMA TENAYUCA AND CEVALLOS ST – Cevallos St first appears on the 1889 map of San Antonio published by J. J. Olsen & Sons, San Antonio, Texas, and on the 1896 Sanborn map. The name of Cevallos St may be affiliated with Pedro Cevallos who acquired land in the area between the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek in 1853.

The proposed memorial way would honor Mexican-American labor leader, union organizer, educator, and civil rights hero, Emma Tenayuca along a portion of Cevallos St. According to the Handbook of Texas History, Emma Beatrice Tenayuca was born in San Antonio, Texas to Sam Tenayuca and Benita Hernandez Zepeda on December 21, 1916. The family have Native American and Spanish roots in Mexico and Texas. Emma Tenayuca became involved with labor activism while still a student at Brackenridge High School. After graduating from high school her work as a labor organizer and her participation in marches, demonstrations, and sit-ins related to issues affecting the ethnic Mexican community brought her increasing notoriety.

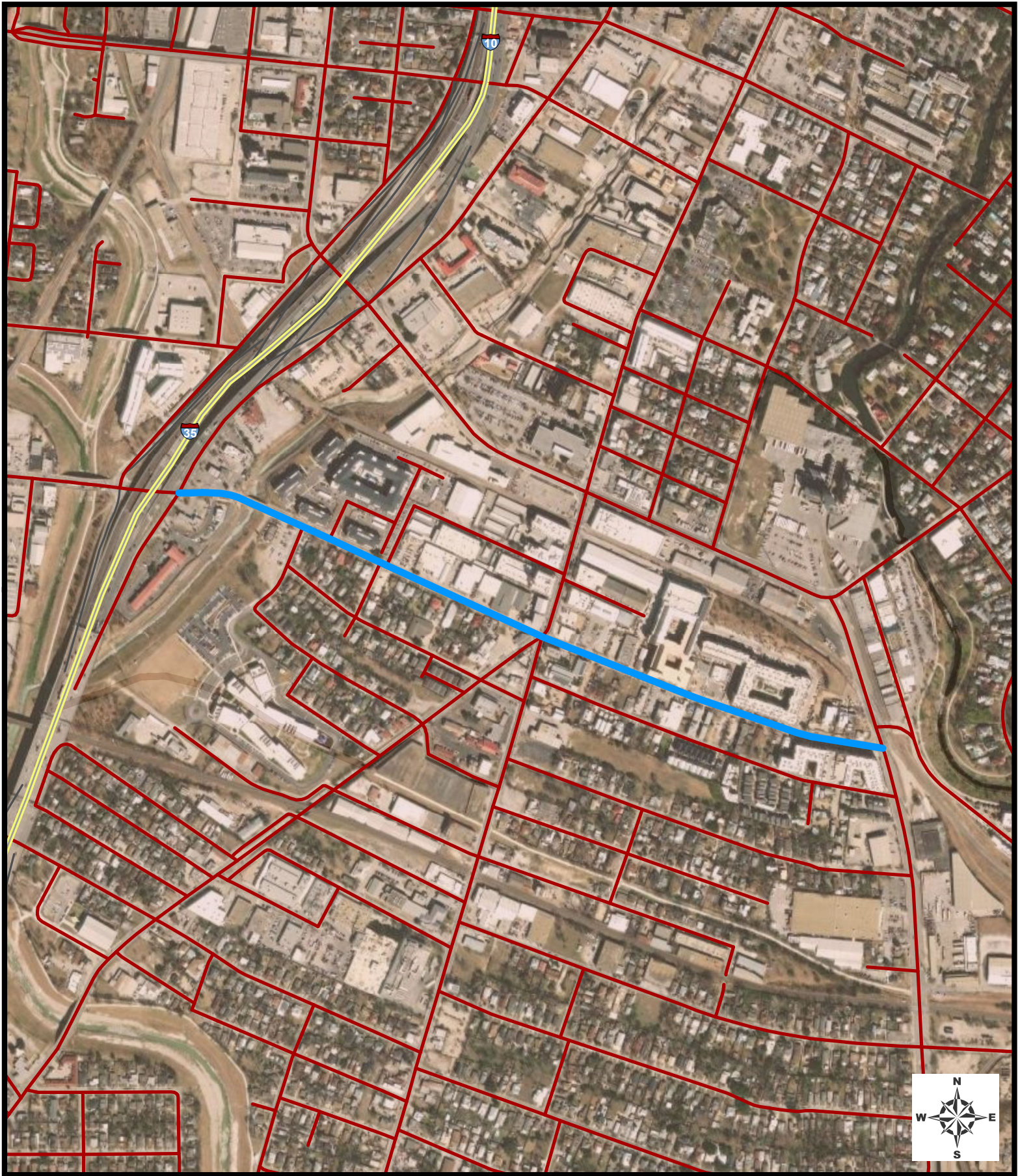
While working with the Texas Workers Alliance in 1938, Tenayuca became involved with the approximately 12,000 pecan-shellshers, the majority of whom were Mexican women, who worked in sweatshop conditions that were hazardous to their health for extremely low wages. When workers at the Southern Pecan Shelling Company located at 135 E Cevallos were informed that their wages were being reduced, the workers went on strike in January 1938. Emma Tenayuca emerged as the leader of the striking workers. Nearly 10,000 pecan shellshers picketed for over three months during which they were subject to violence and arrest. As a show of good faith, the striking workers returned to work while their case was being arbitrated. On April 13, 1938, the arbitration board allowed for \$0.05 a pound for pecan pieces and \$0.06 a pound for pecan halves with a half cent increase starting May 31. On June 25, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act into law, establishing a federal minimum wage of \$0.25 and federal regulation of wages and hours starting October 24 of that year. In response to the new minimum wage, thousands of pean workers were laid off.

The struggle of the pecan and other agricultural workers for better wages and working conditions was a key moment in Mexican American civil rights and labor history. The proposed memorial designation is appropriate.


**RECOMMENDATION:**


Staff recommends approval as submitted based on findings a through c.





E CEVALLOS ST SEGMENT

 E CEVALLOS ST SEGMENT

 Miles  
0 0.065 0.13 0.195 0.26



**City of San Antonio**  
**Development Services Department**  
**Land Entitlement Section**  
1901 S. Alamo, San Antonio, Texas 78204  
P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio, Texas 78283  
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd>

## City Council District 5

Proposed Memorial Designation  
for Emma Tenayuca





**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: City Council  
FROM: Mayor Ron Nirenberg; Councilwoman Teri Castillo, District 5  
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andrew Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council  
SUBJECT: Designation of a Memorial Way for Emma Tenayuca  
DATE: November 18, 2022

COSA - CITY CLERK  
2022 NOV 22 AM 11:22:53

**Issue Proposed for Consideration**

We ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the City Council:

**Designation of a Memorial Way on Cevallos Street from Interstate 35 to Probandt Street – with no change to the official street name or mailing address – for Emma Tenayuca**

**Brief Background**

*Background provided by the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute:*

On January 31, 1938 – the Pecan Shellers' Strike erupted in San Antonio when workers were informed their wages would be reduced and some 12,000 mostly Mexican American workers walked off the job. At the time, San Antonio was the center of Texas' pecan industry.

Wages were extremely low, hours long, and work conditions were often hazardous to health with constant exposure to pecan shell dust that made workers vulnerable to tuberculosis and other lung problems.

The Texas Workers Alliance's **Emma Tenayuca** emerged as a leader in the pecan shellers' strike, which lasted over a month during which time picketers were subject to arrests and attacked with billy clubs and tear gas. On March 8, 1938, while the case was still being arbitrated, the workers returned to the factories under the previously reduced rates while awaiting a decision. On April 13, 1938, the arbitration board allowed for 5-cents a pound for pecan pieces and 6-cents a pound for pecan halves, with a half-cent increase starting May 31st.

On June 25, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act into law, establishing federal regulation of wages and hours and setting a minimum hourly wage at 25-cents beginning October 24th.



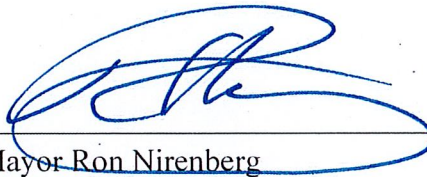
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

In response, thousands of pecan workers were ultimately laid off. Despite the outcome, the courage of the pecan shellers inspired other agricultural workers to push for better wages and is remembered as an important event in Mexican American civil rights and labor history.

---

Permanently commemorating **Emma Tenayuca** – Mexican American labor leader, union organizer, educator, and civil rights hero – is the first step of many in ensuring San Antonio's Mexican American heritage and legacies are appropriately celebrated and honored throughout our city. Beyond the Memorial Way designation, we would also like to formally request an exploration of the creation of a statue – leveraging any and all community partnerships – to further enshrine Emma Tenayuca's indelible mark on San Antonio's rich history.

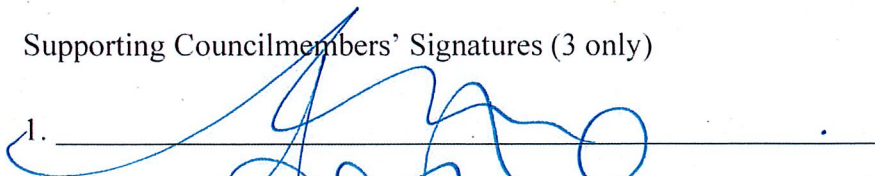


Submitted for Council consideration by:

  
Mayor Ron Nirenberg


Submitted for Council consideration by:

  
Councilwoman Teri Castillo, District 5

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (3 only)

1.   
2.   
3. 

District

  
7

CSA - CITY CLERK  
2022 NOV 22 AM 11:22:58