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December 29, 2014

Texas Recreation and Park Society
18593 FM 1431
Jonestown, Texas 78645

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of the San Jacinto Plaza to be designated as a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation & Park Society.

San Jacinto Plaza has been the heart of downtown El Paso, TX for over 125 years. The Plaza was the first established park in the City and was included in the 1859 plat of El Paso by Anson Mills.

It became a fully functional plaza in 1883, named for the battle for Texas Independence in 1903, used as a transportation hub, and has been the center of El Paso's Christmas celebrations since 1954.

There are 16 plaques within San Jacinto Plaza, making it a noteworthy historical designation in the El Paso region. Two are designated by the Texas Historical Commission, two are designated by the El Paso County Historical Commission and one is a Texas Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

The City's comprehensive plan - "Plan El Paso" – speaks of San Jacinto Plaza as historically the most important public space in the city, recommending improvements to the Park to enhance its use as the primary central civic space.

El Pasoans approved bond funds in 2012 to completely revitalize San Jacinto Plaza as a key element of a larger downtown revitalization effort. The improved plaza will bring renewed life back to downtown.

Thank you for your consideration to designate El Paso's San Jacinto Plaza as a Lone Star Legacy Park.

Respectfully,

Chair, El Paso Historic Landmark Commission



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