



San Angelo NAACP Unit 6219

P O BOX 5796

Petition to City of San Angelo to Replace Restrooms at Martin Luther King Park

This is a petition requesting that the restrooms at Martin Luther King Park be replaced to appropriate facilities, like those at other city parks.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Park located in San Angelo has been grossly neglected. **For more than 15 years, the park has not had restrooms for residents or visitors to use on any occasion other than portable potties.** While the portable potties are cleaned routinely, failure to provide decent restrooms for the community and others who visit this community park is unacceptable.

In March 2019, members of the NAACP presented a complaint about the restrooms to the Parks and Recreation Board of the city of San Angelo. We were advised that the park is considered a community park that serves the entire city of San Angelo. Further, after some investigation, this board, along with the Parks and Recreation Director, Carl White, informed us that the park falls into the category of community parks and therefore should be eligible for consideration of restroom facilities. **We were further informed that the decision to allocate funding to replace the portable toilets, would be that of the city council, and namely the council person that represents that district to initiate the request.**

We exchanged emails and voice mails over the past 2 years with the city council person representing this district, District 4, Lucy Gonzales. **Councilwoman Gonzales has failed to respond with any concrete information about the concerns of her constituents or other citizens who visit the park on a regular basis.**

During the 2019 budget planning period, representatives from the NAACP presented their concerns about the restrooms to the full council. We were advised that they would look into the matter and determine where funding could be allocated to remedy this problem.

The Parks and Recreation Director was prepared at the city council meeting and provided examples of what the potential replacements restrooms would be like, and the associated cost. Additionally, comments had been made by the board members in the Parks and Recreation presentation that consideration should be given to replace the restroom, include cameras and other recommendations. Despite these recommendations, no action has been taken. Portable bathrooms still remain.

There is an outcry from the community to remedy this issue! There are various events in the park and there are no restrooms for our children, our elderly or anyone; this is a public park where families and groups like to host family reunions, community and neighborhood gatherings, birthday parties, school reunions, and other social gatherings. Several groups would like to host at least 3 events at Martin Luther King Park during 2021- but that cannot happen because there are NO RESTROOMS.

Parents, grandparents and others from throughout the city **CAN NOT ENJOY THE PARK- THERE ARE NO RESTROOMS. A PORTABLE POTTY IS NOT A SUITABLE RESTROOM.**

There are options to remedy this problem. While we remain in this pandemic, it could be done within a short period of time. City workers could have this project assigned to them, provided funding is approved by the council.

Why should residents of District 4, or any other San Angelo resident be required to accept this inhumane treatment?

[Sign the Petition- Click here.](#)

Sherley Spears, President

Executive Leadership Team: