



SENATOR BORRIS L. MILES
DISTRICT 13

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2017

Media Contact: Justin Concepcion
Office: 512-463-0113
Justin.Concepcion@senate.texas.gov

Senator Miles Fights to Save the 1st Integrated Golf Course in the South

Senator Borris Miles voiced support for SB 822, to preserve and protect Austin's Lions Municipal Golf Course (Muny).

"I stand in support of SB 822, to protect the historical and cultural impact Muny has had on African American history as the first integrated golf course in the South," said Senator Miles. "Last year, the US Department of Interior and National Parks Service added Muny to the list of the National Register of Historic Places due to its significance during the Civil Rights movement."

Muny was constructed in 1928 and has been under the operation of the City of Austin since 1936, which leases the property from the University of Texas. In 1950, two African American youths defied Jim Crow Laws and were arrested for playing a round of golf at Muny. The mayor ordered their release and then worked to integrate the golf course to be open for all.

"For fifty years, we heard reports that UT was considering selling off the golf course for more lucrative development. I find it unconscionable that its leadership would even consider selling this civil rights treasure. Before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and *Brown v. Board of Education* went before the US Supreme Court, Muny was integrated, when every other course in the South was "Whites Only," " said Senator Miles.

SB 822 would protect Muny by transferring it from the University of Texas to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where it would be recognized for its historical and cultural importance and maintaining it as a public golf course.

Senator Miles is a joint author of Chairman Craig Estes' legislation.

"Muny is a huge part of African American history. The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently added this golf course to the 2016 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, as one of the nation's landmarks that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. This is bigger than UT, Austin and Texas because people of color have fought to preserve our history on similar landmarks. This is no different. We will continue to fight to keep our history from being erased," said Senator Miles.

###

"Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight"

CAPITOL OFFICE
3.S3
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-0113

COMMITTEES
Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs
Health & Human Services
Natural Resources & Economic Development
Nominations

DISTRICT OFFICE
5302 Almeda, Suite A
Houston, TX 77004
713-665-8322
713-665-0009 Fax