



# Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

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**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS** **DATE: APRIL 29, 2026**

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT** **WARD: 1**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF CESAR CHAVEZ COMMUNITY CENTER NAMING**

**ISSUE:**

Informational Item – Community Engagement Process for Review of Cesar Chavez Community Center Naming

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item provides information to the Park and Recreation Commission and seeks input on a proposed community engagement process regarding the naming of the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1993, the Cesar Chavez Community Center was named in recognition of Cesar Chavez, a prominent historical figure known for his contributions to labor rights and social justice. That same year, the facility was acquired by the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

On March 19, 2026, the City of Riverside announced it would remove a City Council agenda item recognizing Cesar Chavez Day and instead observe Farmworkers Day this year. The mayor also called for a thoughtful review, including community input, of public facilities and monuments named after Cesar Chavez.

Public discourse and community inquiries have since emerged regarding the facility's name. Currently, the City has not taken a formal position on this matter, and no proposal to rename the facility is being presented.

While the City is aware of additional assets bearing the same name, this report is specific to the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

**DISCUSSION:**

This item is presented as informational only. Staff is not recommending a name change or presenting renaming options at this time.

Staff is initiating the process by seeking guidance on a community engagement approach prior to the development of any potential options.

Given the importance of this facility to the surrounding community, staff believe that any potential future consideration should be informed by a transparent and inclusive public process. As referenced in recent City communications, the Park and Recreation Commission may be asked to review options at a future date.

With the Commission’s support, staff propose conducting a comprehensive engagement process that may include:

- Community meetings and listening sessions
- Online and in-person surveys
- Outreach to neighborhood groups, community organizations, and facility users
- Engagement with historical and cultural stakeholders
- Coordination with the Mayor’s Multicultural Forum to support inclusive outreach and ensure diverse community perspectives are represented

All options would remain open throughout this process, including retaining the current facility name.

It should also be noted that the Community Center is currently closed for renovations.

Following completion of the community engagement process, and should the City elect to proceed, staff would return at a later date with potential options for Commission consideration.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

Prepared by: Noemi Lopez, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Deputy Director

Approved by: Pamela M. Galera, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Attachments: City of Riverside Administrative Manual – Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities