



Community Services and Youth Committee Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

**TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

DATE: MAY 29, 2015

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

WARD: 4

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO NAME THE GYMNASIUM AT YSMAEL VILLEGAS COMMUNITY
CENTER AT VILLEGAS PARK IN HONOR OF GLEN AND MARY AYALA**

ISSUE:

The issue before the Community Services and Youth Committee is a request to name the gymnasium at Villegas Park in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Services and Youth Committee review the request to name the gymnasium at Villegas Park in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala and provide input and direction towards the request.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

On May 11, 2015, the Park and Recreation Commission, following discussion, with Chair Whatley; Vice Chair Johnson and members Lyles, Venegas, Negron, Rounds, Cardullo, Elliot and Feola present, unanimously made the recommendation to move the naming request forward to the Community Services and Youth Committee per Administrative Manual Policy Number 01.021.00: Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities.

BACKGROUND:

On August 8, 2011, the Community Services and Youth Committee considered the request to name the band shell at Villegas Park in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala and after discussion unanimously continued the item because there was insufficient documentation and justification to move forward.

On January 30, 2015, a request to name the gymnasium at Villegas Park in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala was received. This request was almost the same as one that was previously considered by the Park and Recreation Commission and the Community Services and Youth Committee which was to name the band shell at Villegas Park in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala.

On April 13, 2015, the Park and Recreation Commission, with Chair Whatley; Vice Chair Johnson and members Lyles, Negron, Venegas and Elliot present, voted 5-1 to table the request to name the gymnasium at Villegas Park in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala in order to give the Ayala family time to provide sufficient documentation to support their request.

At the May 11, 2015, Park and Recreation Commission meeting, Director Cruz provided background to the naming request and informed the Commission that the Ayala family had provided additional documentation to support their request.

Eleven speakers (Pastor Laverne Gaines, Anthony Ayala, Ron Velasquez, Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Ted Orozco, Ruben Ayala, Bonnie Ayala Rodriguez, Richard Ayala, James Ellis, Ana Martinez, and Linda Murillo) spoke in favor of the naming request. A motion was made to accept the request to name the Villegas Community Center gymnasium in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala and to forward the request to the Community Services and Youth Committee.

The Park Naming Resolution provides the Park and Recreation Commission with the following key guidelines:

- 1) Preference will be given to names relating to geographical location, historic significance or geologic features.
- 2) A park facility can be named for a person only in limited situations as outlined in Section 2 of the Resolution.
- 3) The Park and Recreation Commission (in its advisory capacity) are responsible for the selection of names for parks and recreation facilities, subject to the approval of the City Council.
- 4) A public meeting indicating that there is significant justification and support by the community is required prior to changing the name of a park or recreation facility.

The procedures outlined in the Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities Administrative Policy states that the Commission/Review Body may choose whether or not to move a request forward.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
for John A. Russo, City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:

1. Naming/Renaming Application 1-30-2015
2. Report of Community Services and Youth Committee 8-8-2011
3. Minutes of Community Services and Youth Committee 8-8-2011
4. Report of Park and Recreation Commission 5-11-2015
5. Minutes of Park and Recreation Commission 5-11-2015
6. Minutes of Park and Recreation Commission 4-13-2015
7. Letters of Recommendation
8. Newspaper Articles
9. Pictures and Roster of Glen and Mary Ayala's Involvement with Community
10. Online Petition
11. Signed Petition
12. Parks Naming Resolution
13. City Facility Naming Policy