



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: MAY 17, 2021**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: NAMING REQUEST FOR THE COMMUNITY ROOM OR AUDITORIUM AT BOBBY BONDS PARK IN HONOR OF COUNCILMAN ANDY MELENDREZ

ISSUE:

Consideration of a request to name the Community Room or Auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Councilman Andy Melendrez.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission forward their recommendation to name the Community Room or Auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Councilman Andy Melendrez to the City Council for final decision, including the manner of recognition such as the installation of a plaque.

BACKGROUND:

Past-President of the Riverside Arts Academy, Mrs. Collette Lee, submitted an application (Attachment 1) requesting the Community Room or Auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park be named in honor of Councilman Andy Melendrez. The application states, "The Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors respectfully requests the City Council to consider this request".

The Park and Recreation Commission is responsible for the selection of the names for park and recreation facilities, subject to the approval of the City Council. According to the established protocol for the naming of parks and recreation facilities, the naming of specific areas within a park (garden, swimming pool, lake, ball field, etc.) is acceptable but should be kept to a minimum to avoid confusion. All names selected shall be acceptable and meaningful to a majority of the neighborhood/community where the park or recreation facility is located. Resolution No. 18647 adopted by the City Council in February 1995 further stipulates as follows:

A park or recreation facility can be named for a person only in limited situations. Such person, except for cases deemed extraordinary by the Park and Recreation Commission, should be honored posthumously. The person for whom a park or recreation facility is named must be an outstanding, long-time City leader or a person of national prominence or historic interest who has supported or contributed to open space and/or recreation activities and concepts, or a person who has made a significant personal contribution toward the acquisition and/or development of a

specific park or recreation facility. A donor whose contribution represents a major portioned of a planned park or recreation facility may designate a name as a condition of the donation, providing it conforms to the naming criteria set forth above.

DISCUSSION:

Councilman Andy Melendrez has served the City of Riverside since 2006. He has been a councilman, a leader, and an advocate for the Eastside and Canyon Crest neighborhoods.

As stated on the naming application, Councilman Andy Melendrez has been a champion and a strong supporter of the arts with continued leadership and advocacy. Councilman Andy Melendrez envisioned the arts coming to the City through the Riverside Arts Academy (formerly known as the Eastside School of the Arts). He brought opera, California Riverside Ballet, and joined forces to help create classical ballet opportunities to under resourced children of the Eastside. He was surprised when young families flocked to participate.

In addition to the Riverside Arts Academy, Councilman Melendrez was involved in the Eastside HEAL Zone, representing both public and private sectors, school districts, and health clinics to bring healthy behaviors to the community.

Councilman Melendrez also assisted in bringing the skate park to the Eastside and has always been paramount in advocating for the community.

The Commission may use its discretion to determine if, based on the information submitted in the application, whether to recommend the permanent naming of the Community Room or Auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Councilman Andy Melendrez.

The room can be recognized by the installation of a plaque near the entrance. The plaque should be similar to the architecture of the facility; final design must be agreed upon by both the Department and the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors, with the expectation that the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors will raise the funds to design and install the plaque.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with naming the Community Room or Auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Councilman Andy Melendrez; funds will be raised privately by the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors.

Prepared by: Mayra S. Ocampo, Administrative Analyst
Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Facility Naming Application
2. City of Riverside Administrative Policy: Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities and Resolutions