



CITY OF LONG BEACH

THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, California 90802 • (562) 570-6194 FAX (562) 570-6068

January 11, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Hearing on Request to Establish a New Street Name ("Barbara London Drive") For an Unnamed Private Street Within the Airport Leading to Donald Douglas Drive (Council District 5)

DISCUSSION

The Department of Public Works (applicant) is proposing that an unnamed private street in the airport be named after a WWII female aviator who used to be based in Long Beach. This north/south street, which leads to Donald Douglas Drive, is currently referred to as the "loop road." This road is adjacent to parking lots A and B and there are no businesses located on the loop road.

Barbara London was the first commanding officer of the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), later known as Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP), and commanding officer of the 6th Ferrying Group based in Long Beach during WWII.

At its December 2, 2004 meeting, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing to consider the proposed street name change (please see attached report and minutes). The Long Beach Airport Public Affairs Officer presented a video explaining why the request was being made and provided the flying history of Barbara London. At the conclusion of the public hearing, a motion was made and passed 5-0 to recommend that the City Council approve the proposed name change.

Chapter 20.36.110 of the Long Beach Municipal Code regulates street names and includes the following provisions. Proposed street names shall be substantially different from each other and from existing street names so as not to be confusing in sound or spelling. Street name changes may be initiated by anyone who believes it is necessary by filing the appropriate fee with the Director of Planning and Building. The Director of Planning and Building shall submit the proposed change with a sketch map to the Planning Commission and the City Council for review.

The procedures call for all abutting property owners and residents who will be affected by the proposed change to be notified by mail of the scheduled public hearing. After receipt of the Planning Commission recommendation, the City Council may act to change said street name by resolution and direct the Director of Public Works to change such maps and street signs as are necessary.

In accordance with the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, a Categorical Exemption (CE 04-238) was issued on November 1, 2004 under a Class 1 exemption (CEQA Guideline Section 15301).

Assistant City Attorney Michael Mais reviewed this report on December 28, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The Municipal Code requires that the decision of the Planning Commission be transmitted to the City Council at its earliest convenience.

As the City owns all abutting properties, the Public Hearing notice was only mailed to the representative of the 5th Council District and to the applicant to post on site.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost to install the new street signs is \$500.00, as determined by the Department of Public Works.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

- 1) Receive the supporting documentation into the record and conclude the public hearing; and
- 2) Adopt the attached resolution for the proposed street name of Barbara London Drive for an unnamed private street within the airport as shown on the sketch attached to the Planning Commission staff report.

Respectfully submitted,

MORTON STUHLBARG, CHAIR
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

BY: 

FADY MATTAR
ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Attachments:

Planning Commission staff report and draft minutes of December 2, 2004
Resolution