



**DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL COUNCIL**  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

R-20

May 16, 2011

City Council  
333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear City Council:

The Downtown Residential Council (DRC) would like to express its support for the naming of Harvey Milk Promenade Park.

The DRC is comprised of six Downtown Long Beach Neighborhood Associations: East Village Association (EVA), North Pine Neighborhood Alliance (NPNA), Ocean Residents Community Association (ORCA), Promenade Area Residents Association (PARA), West End Community Association (WECA), and Willmore City Heritage Association (WCHA). In total, these six associations represent several hundred active DRC members and several thousand Downtown Long Beach residents.


We are in support of naming of the park the Harvey Milk Promenade Park because it helps realize our collective hopes and dreams of inclusiveness for all of our neighborhoods and it demonstrates that our Citywide elected leaders care about Long Beach as a whole.

Downtown Long Beach is our home, and we wish for our neighborhoods to be a vibrant, eclectic, inviting, diverse, and livable. We believe that this new park will add to the vibrancy of our Downtown and will be a great tourist attraction.


We thank Robert Garcia and the 1st District Office in the visioning of this new park and look forward to seeing more creativity, sustainability, and cultural diversity Downtown.

Sincerely,

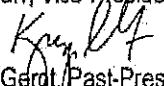
Downtown Residential Council Board of Directors

  
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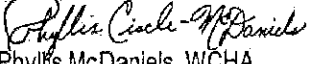
  
Mike Dunfee, ORCA President

  
Peter Johnson, PARA President

  
Joen Garnica, PARA

  
Shirley Buchanan, WECA

  
Patty Lund, WCHA

  
Phyllis McDaniels, WCHA

cc: Mayor Bob Foster, City Manager Pat West, City Council, City Clerk Larry Herrera, DRC Board

R-20

From: "Karen Highberger" <khighberger@earthlink.net>  
To: "district5" <district5@longbeach.gov>, "district1" <district1@longbeach.gov>, "district2" <district2@longbeach.gov>, "district3" <district3@longbeach.gov>, "district4" <district4@longbeach.gov>, "district6" <district6@longbeach.gov>, "district7" <district7@longbeach.gov>, "district8" <district8@longbeach.gov>, "district9" <district9@longbeach.gov>, "mayor" <mayor@longbeach.gov>  
Date: 05/17/2011 11:47 AM  
Subject: 3rd and Promenade Park name

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Dear Mayor Foster and Council Members,

In regards to the proposed naming of the park at 3rd and the Promenade in honor of Harvey Milk, I would like to suggest an alternative. This area is home to the 1938 Works Progress Administration mural that was originally on the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. It has been at it's current location since 1982. The mural is a Long Beach Historic Landmark and measures 22' X 33'. At the time of it's installation, it was the biggest achievement of the Federal Arts Program. It depicts a scene of Long Beach outdoor activities-swimming, fishing, picnicking, etc. Forty artists worked on the project. The fact that it is such an important piece and that it has survived is reason to celebrate and acknowledge. I believe it would be better to name the park area a name that celebrates Long Beach and this important City landmark. The suggestion of Unity Park is more in the spirit of what this mural portrays. To name a park that is home to a long standing Long Beach treasure for someone from San Francisco does not seem right to me. We should celebrate the unity and diversity of Long Beach-the unity of our past , our present and our future. I understand Harvey Milk's contribution to the LGBT community, but I think the mural is too important to ignore. I know the timing of this vote coincides with Gay Pride Weekend and Harvey Milk's birthday, but I think the name should be carefully considered and not rushed through. Possibly, the Council should reach out to the preservation community in Long Beach for some input. Thank you for your consideration of my suggestion.

Best Regards,

Karen Highberger

[khighberger@earthlink.net](mailto:khighberger@earthlink.net)  
EarthLink Revolves Around You.



May 16, 2011

City Council  
333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear City Council:

The Promenade Area Residents Association would like to express its support for the planning and naming of the future Harvey Milk Promenade Park.

The Promenade Area Residents Association represents residents within the following boundaries of Downtown Long Beach: Pacific avenue to Long Beach boulevard and 1st street to 3rd street.

We are in support of naming the park, the Harvey Milk Promenade Park because we respect diversity and inclusiveness for all of our residents Downtown. We appreciate that Citywide leaders care about the entire population of Long Beach.

Downtown Long Beach is our home, and we wish for our neighborhoods to be a vibrant, eclectic, historical, inviting, diverse, and livable, in which we are able to walk, dine, shop, raise our kids, retire, work, play, and enjoy our lives. We believe the Harvey Milk Promenade Park will help Downtown fulfill this wish by providing another bright spot in our community for residents to enjoy and feel proud of.

We thank the 1st District Council lead by Robert Garcia for developing a plan that lays this framework and takes us one step closer to realizing our dreams for our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,  
Promenade Area Residents Association

Peter Johnson President

R-20

From: "jthomas @dslextreme.com" <jthomas@dslextreme.com>  
To: Robert Garcia <robertgarcialb@yahoo.com>, Suja.Lowenthal@longbeach.gov, Broc Coward  
<Broc.Coward@longbeach.gov>  
Cc: "jthomas @dslextreme.com" <jthomas@dslextreme.com>  
Date: 05/16/2011 07:33 AM  
Subject: For the Harvey Milk Park

I am very pleased to add my support toward the naming of the park at Third Street and Promenade Harvey Milk Park.

I can not think of a better setting to honor Supervisor Milk that beneath the WPA 1938 Mosaic mural commonly known as "Recreation in Long Beach".

Although the impressive mural depicts people at play, socializing and enjoying the beautiful beach setting Long Beach offers, the mural also captures a sense of cultural diversity and positive active "interchanges" between citizens and visitors alike Long Beach supported- then and now. As if a to be a pointiant sign for our future, the mural demonstrates a true sense of a community in harmony, recognizing that we are stronger when we support our rich and unique cultural diversity and sustain positive opportunities, such as parks, for all citizens to interact. ***Our parks not only exercise our bodies, but also exercise our minds.*** The scenes and activities are of men, women and children of color and social-economic levels- all involved in a "Civil Play" including sports, hobbies, passive conversation and dialog ,activities Long Beach still enjoys. Our current cultural diversity should be honored and the positive acts of our citizens and community leaders would be forever celebrated by the "community place" and setting that Harvey Milk Park would provide.

John Thomas