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Date: February 16, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor and Council
From: Councilwoman Cindy Allen, Second District
Councilwoman Suzie Price, Third District
Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District
Subject: Beverly O'Neill Arts Center

RECOMMENDATION:

To forward a request from community members to the Government, Personnel and Elections Oversight Committee to consider naming the Long Beach Performing Arts Center the "Beverly O'Neill Arts Center" in honor of her contributions to Long Beach.

DISCUSSION

Community members wish to change the name of the Long Beach Performing Arts Center to the "Beverly O'Neill Arts Center" in honor of her many contributions to the civic, education, non-profit, arts and cultural communities of Long Beach. The attached letter describes in detail her contributions to the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve Recommendation

February 5, 2020

Honorable Mayor Robert Garcia
Honorable Cindy Allen, Councilmember, 2nd District
Honorable Members of the City Council

**SUBJECT: Renaming of the Long Beach Performing Arts Center as the
"BEVERLY O'NEILL ARTS CENTER"**

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

Dr. Beverly O'Neill has inspired and lifted up so many of us in Long Beach for decades. "Mayor O'Neill" led the city through one of its most challenging economic downturns and set a new direction for investment and job opportunities in Long Beach for decades to come. Throughout her entire life Dr. Beverly O'Neill has contributed greatly to improving the lives of students, residents, workers and business owners across the city. ***It is right and fitting on the commemoration on her recent 90th Birthday (September 2020) that the City of Long Beach memorialize her extensive contributions to the city by renaming the Long Beach Performing Arts Center as the "BEVERLY O'NEILL ARTS CENTER."***

The recommended renamed Beverly O'Neill Arts Center will encompass the Long Beach Terrace Theater, terrace plaza area and the Beverly O'Neill Theater. "Beverly O'Neill Arts Center" signage is envisioned to be prominently displayed along Ocean Boulevard at the front of the terrace plaza area.

Dr. Beverly O'Neill has improved the quality of life for countless people throughout the region, and is indeed deserving of the highest commendation from the city of Long Beach. A lifetime resident of Long Beach, Beverly O'Neill attended local schools and was introduced to a life of service through the work of her mother, Flossie Lewis, who contributed to the establishment of the first AI-Anon group in Long Beach. Over the years, Beverly O'Neill has passionately supported the Flossie Lewis Center, which has helped thousands of women overcome substance abuse.

Beverly O'Neill is a graduate of Long Beach Poly High School, Long Beach City College (LBCC), CSU, Long Beach and the University of Southern California where she earned an EDD in Education Administration. Dr. O'Neill devoted herself to a remarkable decades-long career in education, teaching in the Long Beach Unified School District before joining LBCC as a music teacher, women's advisor, Campus Dean, Dean of Student Affairs, and Vice President of Student Services and serving five years as Superintendent and President of LBCC prior to her retirement.

Beverly O'Neill won the 1994 mayoral election at the beginning of a tumultuous period for Long Beach and its residents as the United States Navy began the closure of all of its local facilities while also thousands of aerospace manufacturing jobs were eliminated, the combination of which created enormous economic challenges for the city.

Over the course of her three consecutive terms as Mayor, Beverly O'Neill demonstrated extraordinary leadership setting a new direction for Long Beach from an economy dependent upon naval and aerospace jobs to a new economic system built on what she proudly called the "3 Ts & R"-- Technology, Trade, Tourism, and Retail--restoring the community's pride while building a track record of success that elevated Long Beach's reputation locally, regionally, and nationally.

Mayor O'Neill has been lauded by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush as well as former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for her many achievements while in office. Mayor O'Neill also provided national and statewide leadership as President of the United States Conference of Mayors and the League of California Cities. She has generously served the Long Beach community through her participation on the boards of Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Leadership Long Beach, LBCC Foundation, CSULB Foundation, and other beneficial groups, in addition to featuring more than 275 local nonprofit organizations on her public-access television program, *The Heart of Giving*.

With the enduring support of her late husband of 58 years, Bill O'Neill, along with her daughter, Teresa, and her grandson, Nolan, Dr. Beverly O'Neill has forged a remarkable record of civic service and community engagement, which has earned her the great respect and sincere admiration of a wide circle of friends, colleagues, educational and civic leaders, and countless others whose lives she has touched.

Throughout her life, music and theater has been a personal passion and a focus of civic pride. Beverly O'Neill was an avid singer and has worked tirelessly to expand arts and cultural opportunities at Long Beach City College and across the city. Mayor Beverly O'Neill often remarked how vital a vibrant arts and cultural community is to the economic health and spiritual enrichment of a city and its people.

With respect and admiration, the undersigned wholeheartedly recommend to the Mayor and City Council that Beverly O'Neill be commended and recognized for her countless contributions to the Long Beach community along with her significant professional, educational, and civic accomplishments. And, ***therefore, recommend renaming the Long Beach Performing Arts Center to the "BEVERLY O'NEILL ARTS CENTER."*** .

We sincerely thank you for your consideration,

Ad Hoc Community Committee

Randal Hernandez, Chair
Lou Anne Bynum, Interim President,
Long Beach City College
Jane Netherton, Community Leader

Carmen O. Perez, Community Leader
Gloria Cordero, Community Leader
John Thomas, Community Leader

Elected Officials

Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senator
Honorable Janice Hahn, Board of Supervisors,
County of Los Angeles

Honorable Robert "Bob" Foster, Former Long
Beach Mayor
Honorable Herlinda Chico, Board Member, Long
Beach City College

Long Beach Civic Leaders

Dr. Jane Close Conoley, President,
CSU, Long Beach
Steve Goodling, Long Beach Convention &
Visitors Bureau
Kelly Lucera, Long Beach Symphony
Jessica Quintana, CentroCHA
Kraig Kojian, DLBA
Richard Gaylord, Realtor
Jim Zehmer, TABC
Skip Keesal, Keesal Young & Logan
John Bishop, Memorial Medical Center
Carolyn Caldwell, Dignity Health
Judy Ross, Community Leader

Marcelle Epley, Long Beach Community
Foundation
Chris Wacker, Laserfiche
Ryan Altoon, Anderson Pacific
Debra Fixen, Shoreline Village
Mark Guillen, Crown Castle
Walter Larkins, Community Leader
Diane Jacobus, Community Leader
Cathy Weider, Community Leader
Frank Newell, Community Leader
Robert Stemler, Community Leader
Gary DeLong, Community Leader
Annette Kashiwabara, Community Leader