



City of Long Beach  
Working Together to Serve

**R-7**  
Office of Vice Mayor Robert Garcia  
Council Member, First District  
Memorandum

**Date:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Vice Mayor Robert Garcia, First District *RG*  
**Subject:** **Robert Gumbiner Park**

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**Background:**

A new park is scheduled to break ground at Alamitos Ave. and 7<sup>th</sup> St. later this year. The park will provide much-needed recreational activities to area youth, create green space in a neighborhood that currently has none, and close down the most dangerous intersection in the City of Long Beach.

Naming the new park after Dr. Robert Gumbiner is an appropriate way to recognize this health care pioneer and philanthropist. As a doctor and an administrator, Gambier facilitated the growth of his small medical practice into one of the largest HMO's in the country. Despite his success, Gumbiner insisted that his business "provide the most care to the most people for the least amount of money," upholding his belief that charging fees for individual services is "basically immoral."

In 1996 he founded the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA). Today his vision for building a museum that exclusively features contemporary Latin American fine art - the only museum in the Western United States to do so - exists as a "can't miss" Long Beach landmark, attracting thousands of visitors each and every year. At the time of his death in 2009, he was still working to culturally enrich this city by facilitating the opening of the Pacific Island and Micronesian Art Museum.

Today, five years after he passed away, Dr. Robert Gumbiner's admirable commitment to the beatification of Long Beach and the well-being of its people can be felt throughout this city. Providing a tangible symbol of his influence and philanthropy would be a fitting way to celebrate the opening of this new park.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend designating the park at Alamitos Ave. and 7<sup>th</sup> St. as "Robert Gumbiner Park," and refer this item to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None.