



**R-11**

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

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**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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