



COUNCILWOMAN
LENA GONZALEZ

R-28

DATE: July 18, 2017
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Mayor Robert Garcia *RG*
Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, District 1 *LG*
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, District 7 *RU*
SUBJECT: Renaming the Senior Meals Program

BACKGROUND:

The City of Long Beach lost a true advocate in 2015 when resident and older adult advocate Ruth Ricker passed away. Ruth was an active resident of the 1st District, whose passion in life was to see a permanent Senior Meal Program in our parks. She knew and advocated strongly that for a vast majority of our older adults in Long Beach the Senior Meal Program was their only time to socialize with other older adults and in some cases their only warm meal of the day.

Prior to her passing in 2015, Ms. Ricker was appointed by Mayor Robert Garcia to serve as a member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee appointed by Mayor Robert Garcia. She was also appointed by Mayor Beverly O'Neil to serve on the General Plan Commission and was a member of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-Macdonald's Senior Congressional Council.

The contributions of Ms. Ricker on behalf of older adults across the City of Long Beach and the region are undeniable and merits the recognition requested with this name change. She was a true community leader who fought for the reinstatement of this program until her very last days.

RECOMMENDATION

Request the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee consider at the earliest opportunity renaming the Senior Meals Program at Cesar Chavez Park the "Ruth Ricker Senior Meals Program", and report back to City Council with its recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendations.