

**From:** Anna Christensen <[annachristensen259@gmail.com](mailto:annachristensen259@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:46 AM  
**To:** Antonio Viramontes <[Antonio.Viramontes@longbeach.gov](mailto:Antonio.Viramontes@longbeach.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re meeting, 5/11/22 Agenda Item 2 22-011HR

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Antonio, Please review and share these comments with the Equity and Human Relations Commissioners before tonight's meeting if they have not already seen them. Thanks, Anna Christensen

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Anna Christensen <[annachristensen259@gmail.com](mailto:annachristensen259@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, May 10, 2022 at 9:33 AM  
**Subject:** Re meeting, 5/11/22 Agenda Item 2 22-011HR  
**To:** <[teresa.gomez@longbeach.gov](mailto:teresa.gomez@longbeach.gov)>

As a community member, activist for indigenous peoples, and parent who raised her Native American children in Long Beach, I support changing the name of Lincoln Park to Toypurina Park. The challenges of surviving and thriving in a climate where racism is embedded in the status quo are many and they are everyday and everywhere. Please make things better than they were when my kids were going through an educational system that lied about history, profiled them as less than equal, and allowed them to be victimized by teachers and white peers for being Native, having tribal names, long hair, and brown skin, and for knowing and speaking truth to power.

I am including the following email that I wrote this morning to two residents who are contemporaries of mine and oppose the name change.

*Dear Friends, With all due respect, I hope that you will agree that it is important to reevaluate our national icons/heros from multiple perspectives before defending them from those who challenge the dominant narrative. My guess is that the three of us are from a time in which our educational system and communities did not question honoring Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Wilson, and, here in Long Beach, John Sutter. Columbus was an icon, and we were taught that we were a nation of pioneers and immigrants who built a land of equity and opportunity for all. Times have changed as the hard truths of our nation's history have become common knowledge. Those who fostered this patriotic narrative have been exposed as flawed human beings whose actions caused great harm and as leaders and policy makers responsible for genocide, slavery, colonialism, and expansionist wars. Must we continue to defend their heroic status in spite of this? How essential are they to our individual and collective identities? Should we excuse them as products of their time, dismiss their critics, and choose not to acknowledge a shared history? If we devalue or deny reality, who does this make us in the eyes of those demanding that public streets, schools, and parks where we gather together, not idealize those who victimized their ancestors? If the status quo prevails, who represents us and who remains invisible?*

*Our neighbors are asking that our City Park not be named for the U.S. President responsible for the largest public hanging in US History, the execution of Dakota prisoners of war, who also approved the imprisonment of hundreds who defended their tribe, and the subsequent removal of thousands from their homelands in Minnesota. To the victor went the spoils of war and there was no mercy shown to*

those who dared to resist. ( Read: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/traumatic-true-history-full-list-dakota-38>).

When you consider what a small request this is in the long arc of justice that Martin Luther King spoke of, perhaps you will reconsider. For details on the Lincoln Park: Ditch the Penny & Change the Name see the petition here: [https://www.change.org/p/long-beach-city-council-lincoln-park-ditch-the-penny-change-the-name?source\\_location=topic\\_page](https://www.change.org/p/long-beach-city-council-lincoln-park-ditch-the-penny-change-the-name?source_location=topic_page)