



R-30

Date: November 13, 2018
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *AA*
Subject: Recommendation for naming the "Gayle Carter Uptown Dog Park"

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Refer to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee the request to consider and make a recommendation on re-naming the Uptown Dog Park as the "Gayle Carter Uptown Dog Park."

BACKGROUND:

The Uptown Dog Park opened at Scherer Park in 2009. Since its opening, Gayle Carter became the unquestioned champion and leader of the Uptown Dog Park community.

She organized the Friends of Uptown Dog Park to raise money for improvements at the dog park, including a bulletin board. She worked with City staff and the Council office on ideas to improve the dog park and better serve the dogs and their human companions.

Gayle organized numerous events to foster a strong sense of community around the dog park, including wiener dog races, potlucks, canine fashion shows, and photos with Santa. She also arranged for obedience training and agility classes to be offered at the Uptown Dog Park. Gayle worked with Fix It Long Beach to hold spay/neuter clinics. She also helped with the establishment of dog parks at Jackson Park and Coolidge Park. Her compassion and determination endeared her with the animal community throughout Long Beach.

Gayle was tenacious in her efforts, but her passion for the dog park community and caring for pets and people was infectious. She worked to make all users of the dog park feel welcome, but also ensured that they understood their responsibilities as pet owners. She was generous in helping others when they or their pets were in need.

Gayle Carter passed away on September 7, 2017 of congestive heart failure. As the headline of her obituary in the Long Beach Post stated: "Always Everyone Before Her Self." Gayle helped those who were experiencing homeless who had trouble taking care of their animals, and organized fundraisers for pet owners that needed help and rescue efforts.

Given the tremendous impact that Gayle Carter had on the Uptown Dog Park, and the compassion and support she provided to pet owners throughout Long Beach, it is fitting to honor her legacy by renaming the Uptown Dog Park as the "Gayle Carter Uptown Dog Park."

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact would be minimal to update the park signage and City listings.