



**City of Long Beach**  
Working Together to Serve

**Memorandum**

**C-1**

**Date:** April 5, 2011

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**From:** Councilman Andrews, Chair, Housing and Neighborhoods Committee

**Subject:** **RENAME THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT CESAR E. CHAVEZ PARK**  
**“THE JENNY OROPEZA COMMUNITY CENTER”**

---

The Housing and Neighborhoods Committee, at its meeting held Tuesday, March 22, 2011, considered communications relative to the above subject.

It is the recommendation of the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee to the City Council to rename the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park “The Jenny Oropeza Community Center.”

Respectfully submitted,

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

---

Councilman Dee Andrews, Chair

Prepared by:  
Gloria Harper

Attachment (s)



**City of Long Beach**  
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum 

**Date:** February 2, 2011  
**To:** Housing and Neighborhoods Committee Staff  
**From:** Larry Herrera, City Clerk  
**Subject:** City Council Referral to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee

---

At the City Council meeting held Tuesday, February 1, 2011, the following agenda item was referred to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee:

**JENNY OROPEZA COMMUNITY CENTER**

Councilmember Garcia moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Lowenthal, that the communication be received and referred to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee.

LARRY G. HERRERA  
City Clerk

Prepared by:  
Gloria Harper

Attachment

cc: Patrick West, City Manager  
Suzanne Frick, Assistant City Manager  
Reginald I. Harrison, Deputy City Manager



City of Long Beach

**R-12**

Office of Robert Garcia  
Councilmember, First District

**Date:** February 1, 2011

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District  
Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal, Second District  
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District  
Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District

**Subject:** Jenny Oropeza Community Center

---

**Background:** The entire state of California was saddened by the recent passing of State Senator Jenny Oropeza of Long Beach. Senator Oropeza was a tireless advocate for the interests of our City and its residents. Senator Oropeza's proudest accomplishment was the creation of Cesar E. Chavez Park. She worked for many years with community residents to envision new park space in Downtown Long Beach.

Chavez Park is home to a popular community center. In order to honor Senator Oropeza, the City should consider naming the community center in her memory. This center is the heart of the park Senator Oropeza created and loved so much. Naming it the Jenny Oropeza Community Center is an appropriate way to honor and remember Senator Oropeza. The park itself would remain Cesar E. Chavez Park. Senator Oropeza would be proud to share the honors in this park with one of her heroes, Cesar Chavez.

Senator Oropeza was an inspiring leader and an excellent role model. She was a pioneer for women and Latinas in Long Beach, serving two terms as Student Body President at Cal State, serving as a schoolboard member, and then becoming the first Latina elected to the City Council. She also served in the State Assembly, leaving a legacy of public health initiatives, legislation to protect women's safety, environmental preservation, and support for education, among many other accomplishments.

The contribution and legacy of Senator Oropeza are unquestionably worthy of such an honor, and the location is ideal, given her work on behalf of the surrounding neighborhoods and the park and community center.

**Recommendation:** Request the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee consider at the earliest opportunity renaming the community center at Cesar E. Chavez park "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center", and report back to Council with its recommendation.

**Fiscal Impact:** Minimal costs associated with this item include signage and staff time.

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4027  
FAX (916) 327-9113

LONG BEACH OFFICE  
115 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 430  
LONG BEACH, CA 90802  
TEL (562) 495-4766  
FAX (562) 495-1876

PARAMOUNT OFFICE  
16401 PARAMOUNT BLVD.  
PARAMOUNT, CA 90723  
TEL (562) 529-6659  
FAX (562) 529-6662

SENATOR.LOWENTHAL@SEN.CA.GOV  
WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/LOWENTHAL

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**ALAN LOWENTHAL**  
TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



February 1, 2011

*RLZ*

TRANSPORTATION  
AND HOUSING  
CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CALIFORNIA PORTS AND  
GOODS MOVEMENT  
CHAIR  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
STATE SCHOOL FACILITIES  
CHAIR  
MEMBER  
BANKING, FINANCE  
AND INSURANCE  
BUDGET AND FISCAL  
REVIEW  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE  
#2 ON RESOURCES,  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION, ENERGY  
& TRANSPORTATION

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

I fully support this important first step in the process to name the community center at Cesar Chavez Park in honor of Jenny Oropeza. Through her leadership, the park became a reality. As a colleague and a friend, this is a fitting way to commemorate her years of public service and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Alan S. Lowenthal  
State Senator, 27<sup>th</sup> District



**Date:** March 22, 2011

**To:** Members of the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee

**From:** George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

**Subject:** Recommendation to Name the Community Center at Cesar E. Chavez Park as "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center" *(A.C.)*

---

**DISCUSSION**

At the February 1, 2011 City Council meeting, First District Councilmember Robert Garcia, Second District Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal, Fifth District Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, and Ninth District Councilmember Steven Neal requested that the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park, located at 401 Golden Avenue, be named "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center" (Attachment A). According to Administrative Regulation AR 8 – 7, the City Council referred the request to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission considered this request at their February 17, 2011 and March 17, 2011 (Attachment B) meetings and unanimously approved this request.

The Administrative Regulations AR 8 – 7 applies to the naming of all public land, buildings and facilities. AR 8 – 7 provides several policies to guide the consideration of a naming request. The following are those policies:

- The name should incorporate Long Beach whenever important for civic recognition or identification;
- A name in honor of a recognized geographic area, a topographic feature or a historically significant event may be appropriate;
- A name in honor of persons or families who have donated the land or a substantial portion of the improvement costs may be appropriate when applicable;
- A name in honor of a person or persons who have served the nation, the State of California, and/or the City of Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner may be appropriate if warranted by service of major significance;
- A name in honor of a living person, or of a deceased person within one year of their death, is not appropriate, unless the significance of that person's contribution is worthy of an exception to the policy;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate when a name in honor of another person has been given to the same site, building or facility in the past;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate if that person has been overly recognized in the past; and,
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

Naming the community center "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center" is appropriate under the category of honoring a person of exceptional contribution. State Senator Jenny Oropeza was a tireless advocate for the interests of our city and its residents. She worked for many years with community residents to envision new park space in Downtown Long Beach.

This center is the heart of the park Senator Oropeza created and loved so much. Naming it The Jenny Oropeza Community Center is an appropriate way to honor and remember Senator Oropeza.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with the recommended action.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE:**

Concur with the recommendation to name the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park as "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center."

GC:rb  
C:\MYDOCUMENTS\ COUNCIL\HNC JENNY OROPEZA COMMUNITY CENTER.DOC

Attachments

APPROVED:

  
PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER



City of Long Beach

Office of Robert Garcia  
Councilmember, First District

Date: February 1, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District  
Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal, Second District  
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District  
Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District

**Subject: Jenny Oropeza Community Center**

---

**Background:** The entire state of California was saddened by the recent passing of State Senator Jenny Oropeza of Long Beach. Senator Oropeza was a tireless advocate for the interests of our City and its residents. Senator Oropeza's proudest accomplishment was the creation of Cesar E. Chavez Park. She worked for many years with community residents to envision new park space in Downtown Long Beach.

Chavez Park is home to a popular community center. In order to honor Senator Oropeza, the City should consider naming the community center in her memory. This center is the heart of the park Senator Oropeza created and loved so much. Naming it the Jenny Oropeza Community Center is an appropriate way to honor and remember Senator Oropeza. The park itself would remain Cesar E. Chavez Park. Senator Oropeza would be proud to share the honors in this park with one of her heroes, Cesar Chavez.

Senator Oropeza was an inspiring leader and an excellent role model. She was a pioneer for women and Latinas in Long Beach, serving two terms as Student Body President at Cal State, serving as a schoolboard member, and then becoming the first Latina elected to the City Council. She also served in the State Assembly, leaving a legacy of public health initiatives, legislation to protect women's safety, environmental preservation, and support for education, among many other accomplishments.

The contribution and legacy of Senator Oropeza are unquestionably worthy of such an honor, and the location is ideal, given her work on behalf of the surrounding neighborhoods and the park and community center.

**Recommendation:** Request the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee consider at the earliest opportunity renaming the community center at Cesar E. Chavez park "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center", and report back to Council with its recommendation.

**Fiscal Impact:** Minimal costs associated with this item include signage and staff time.



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

2760 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697  
 (562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

selected  
**best in the nation**

[www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

February 17, 2011

## MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

City of Long Beach

California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee and the full City Council that the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park be renamed "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center."

### DISCUSSION

On February 1, 2011, First District Councilmember Robert Garcia, Second District Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal, Fifth District Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske and Ninth District Councilmember Steven Neal sent a memo (Attachment A) to the Mayor and Members of the City Council requesting that the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park, located at 401 Golden Avenue (Attachment B), be renamed "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center." The Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation will be transmitted to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council.

The Administrative Regulations AR 8-7 applies to the naming of all public land, buildings and facilities. AR 8-7 provides several policies to guide the consideration of a naming request. The following are those policies:

- The name should incorporate Long Beach whenever important for civic recognition or identification;
- A name in honor of a recognized geographic area, a topographic feature or a historically significant event may be appropriate;
- A name in honor of persons or families who have donated the land or a substantial portion of the improvement costs may be appropriate when applicable;
- A name in honor of a person or persons who have served the nation, the State of California, and/or the City of Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner may be appropriate if warranted by service of major significance;
- A name in honor of a living person, or of a deceased person within one year of their death, is not appropriate unless the significance of that person's contribution is worthy of an exception to the policy;

February 17, 2011

Page 2

- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate when a name in honor of another person has been given to the same site, building or facility in the past;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate if that person have been overly recognized in the past; and,
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

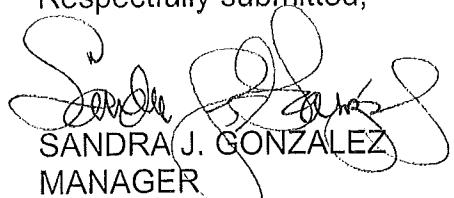
Naming the community center "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center" is appropriate under the category of honoring a person of exceptional contribution. State Senator Jenny Oropeza was a tireless advocate for the interests of our City and its residents. She worked for many years with community residents to envision new park space in Downtown Long Beach.

This center is the heart of the park Senator Oropeza created and loved so much. Naming it the Jenny Oropeza Community Center is an appropriate way to honor and remember Senator Oropeza.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
SANDRA J. GONZALEZ  
MANAGER  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

APPROVED:

  
GEORGE CHAPJIAN  
DIRECTOR

GC:SGG:jca  
P:\Plng-Develadm\1Shared\P&Rletters\Jenny Oropeza Community Center naming PROltr 02-17-11.doc

Attachments



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



2760 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697  
 (562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

selected  
**best in the nation**

March 17, 2011

[www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
 City of Long Beach  
 California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park be named "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center."

### DISCUSSION

Community members approached First District Councilmember Robert Garcia to propose naming the community center at Cesar Chavez Park as "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center." On February 1, 2011, First District Councilmember Robert Garcia, Second District Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal, Fifth District Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske and Ninth District Councilmember Steven Neal sent a memo (Attachment A) to the Mayor and Members of the City Council requesting that the community center at Cesar E. Chavez Park, located at 401 Golden Avenue (Attachment B), be named "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center."

This item was brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission at their February 17, 2011 meeting (Attachment C), where it was decided to table the item for one month, to the March 17, 2011 meeting, to request public opinion at that time. It was also decided to hold the March 17, 2011 Commission meeting at the Cesar Chavez Park community center to be more accessible to the surrounding neighbors. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation will be transmitted to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council.

The Administrative Regulations AR 8-7 applies to the naming of all public land, buildings and facilities. AR 8-7 provides several policies to guide the consideration of a naming request. The following are those policies:

- The name should incorporate Long Beach whenever important for civic recognition or identification;
- A name in honor of a recognized geographic area, a topographic feature or a historically significant event may be appropriate;

March 17, 2011

Page 2

- A name in honor of persons or families who have donated the land or a substantial portion of the improvement costs may be appropriate when applicable;
- A name in honor of a person or persons who have served the nation, the State of California, and/or the City of Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner may be appropriate if warranted by service of major significance;
- A name in honor of a living person, or of a deceased person within one year of their death, is not appropriate unless the significance of that person's contribution is worthy of an exception to the policy;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate when a name in honor of another person has been given to the same site, building or facility in the past;
- A name in honor of a person is not appropriate if that person have been overly recognized in the past; and,
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

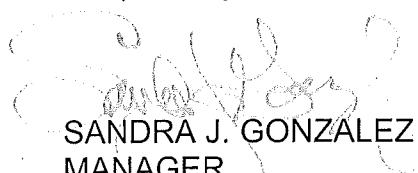
Naming the community center "The Jenny Oropeza Community Center" is appropriate under the category of honoring a person of exceptional contribution. State Senator Jenny Oropeza was a tireless advocate for the interests of our City and its residents. She worked for many years with community residents to envision new park space in Downtown Long Beach.

This center is the heart of the park Senator Oropeza created and loved so much. Naming it the Jenny Oropeza Community Center is an appropriate way to honor and remember Senator Oropeza.

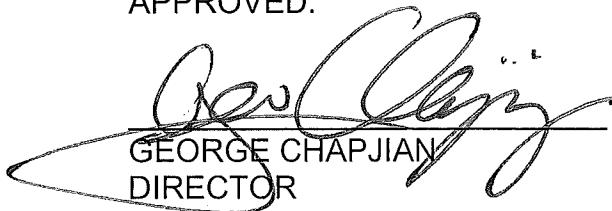
**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
SANDRA J. GONZALEZ  
MANAGER  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**APPROVED:**

  
GEORGE CHAPJIAN  
DIRECTOR

GC:SGJ:jca  
P:\Plng-Develadm\1Shared\P&Rletters\Jenny Oropeza Community Center naming PRCltr 03-17-11.doc

Attachments



Chavez Oropeza P&RC Naming Att B 2-3-2011 sg