



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

R-21
Memorandum

Date: May 23, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the City Council

From: Stacy Mungo, Councilwoman, Fifth District *SM*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: RE-NAMING OF THE EL DORADO
NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY TO THE ERNIE AND JACKIE KELL
NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY**

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to request the City Council to consider renaming the El Dorado Neighborhood Library the “Ernie and Jackie Kell Neighborhood Library” in honor of the late Ernest Eugene Kell, Jr., City of Long Beach’s first elected mayor; approve a deviation from existing policy and procedures for naming of City-owned land, buildings and facilities; refer this item to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee for consideration; request the Library Services Department and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine to conduct further outreach around the renaming of the library; and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute any necessary agreements and dedication ceremony if approved.

BACKGROUND:

Long Beach’s first citywide elected mayor, Ernie Kell, recently passed away at the age of 88 after a lifetime of distinguished public service and lasting community contributions. Kell served as the City’s mayor from 1984 to 1994, and ran for the Long Beach City Council for the first time in 1975 when he was elected to represent the Fifth District from 1975 to 1988. During his tenure in office, he earned a reputation as a consensus builder with a personal touch and an eye toward bettering the lives of all neighbors.

Kell’s leadership put into motion many efforts that have shaped today’s Long Beach, including his work with convening the City’s first Homeless Task Force in 1987, the creation of the Mayor’s Homeless Fund, the expansion of the Long Beach Convention Center, and the start of the Long Beach Education Partnership, which grew into the Long Beach College Promise.

Kell was born on a farm in Washburn, North Dakota on July 5, 1928. During the Great Depression, Kell’s family moved to Wilmington, he graduated from Banning High School, enlisted in the Merchant Marines “to see the world,” and was drafted into the United States Army, serving nine months in Korea during the Korean War in 1951. Kell earned his Associate of Arts degree from Long Beach City College and attended California State University, Long Beach for four years, majoring in architecture.

DISCUSSION:

Administrative Regulations Number AR8-7, Issue 1, "Policy and Procedures for Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings, Facilities" establishes formal policies as a guide to the City Council in considering (1) appropriate names for City-owned land, buildings and facilities; and (2) whether, and under what circumstances, such land, buildings, and facilities should be named or renamed in honor of individuals.

A deviation from the policy guidelines is requested consistent with the particular consideration that "The naming of City-owned land, buildings and facilities in honor of deceased persons shall generally not take place until one year after their deaths, unless the City Council determines that there are overriding considerations for deviating from this policy guideline."

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no significant fiscal impact.