







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**

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**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.