

## 55th Way - Revised Siteplan

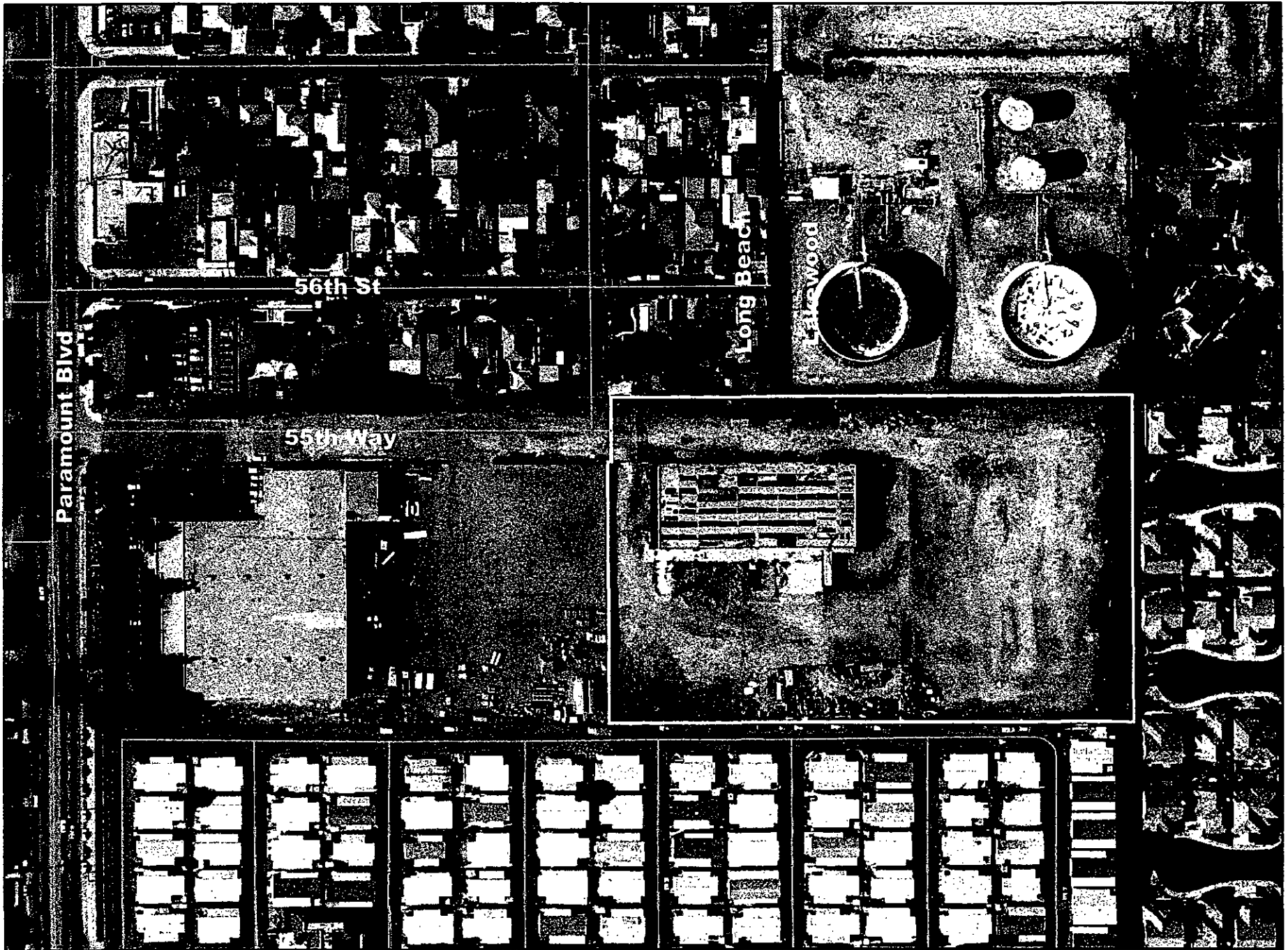
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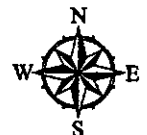
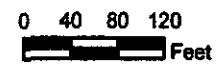
North



Scale 1"=40'-0"



**2910 East 55th Way**





**Date:** May 10, 2005  
**To:** Mayor O'Neill and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Val Lerch, Councilmember, Ninth District  
Rae Gabelich, Councilwoman, Eighth District  
**Subject:** Naming of 55th Way Parkland Parcel, Ed "Pop" Davenport Park

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The parkland at 55<sup>th</sup> Way is a 5.5 acre parcel that will become a neighborhood park with many amenities, including parking, a restroom, tot lot, multi-purpose fields, basketball courts, game tables and bike racks. This future park site will be unique, in that it will be planted with many California native plants.

Construction for the existing landfill closure began in April 2005 and completion of the park is expected to be December 2005.

Naming of the park was presented to the North Project Area Committee (NPAC) on March 24, 2005 for consideration and was approved.

Corporal Ed Davenport served the City of Long Beach as one of our finest Police Officers for some 41 years. (Please see biography attached.)

It would give North Long Beach great pride to honor this outstanding officer by naming the site after "Pop" Davenport.

**Recommendation:** Refer to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration of naming the parcel at 55<sup>th</sup> Way, Ed "Pop" Davenport Park at their May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and request a report back to City Council for the meeting of June 7, 2005 for final approval.



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697

(562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

May 19, 2005

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

**Subject:** Recommendation Regarding "Ed 'Pops' Davenport Park" as the Potential Name for the new Park Being Constructed at 55<sup>th</sup> Way

The action before the Parks and Recreation Commission is to recommend a name for the new mini-park being developed at 55<sup>th</sup> Way.

**Background.** The Ninth District City Councilmember, Val Lerch, has requested that the new park being developed in his district be named the "Ed 'Pops' Davenport Park." The North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area Advisory Committee reviewed this suggestion on March 24, 2005 and concurred with the choice. According to Administrative Regulation AR8-7 (Regulation), the City Council has referred the request to the Parks and Recreation Commission for recommendations (see Attachment #1). The Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation will be transmitted to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee of the City Council, who will then make a recommendation to the full City Council.

The Regulation applies to the naming of all public land, buildings, and facilities and provides several policies to guide the consideration of a naming request.

- 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.
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

Naming the park site after Ed "Pops" Davenport is appropriate under the category of persons who have served Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner of major significance. It is fitting that this honor be bestowed on Corporal Ed Davenport who served as a Long Beach Police Officer for 41 years. After that long and distinguished career, he died in the line of duty in 2003 (see his biography in Attachment #2).

**Discussion.** Referring to the naming policies in AR8-7, the name, Ed "Pops" Davenport Park, is appropriate as it honors an exceptional career of service to the community. The length of his career is exceptional as well as his long service with the Police Department's SWAT unit. Corporal Ed "Pops" Davenport died while on duty from an accident performing maintenance at the Police Pistol Range. Additional biographical information is attached.


It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee and the full City Council that "Ed 'Pops' Davenport Park" is an appropriate name for the new park being developed on 55<sup>th</sup> Way in North Long Beach.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Eschen,  
Manager of Planning and Development

Concurred by,



Phil T. Hester,  
Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

PTH:DLE:lr  
C:\DOCS\RecComm\DavenportParkNaming.doc

Attachments

## Corporal Ed "Pops" Davenport

Ed Davenport was born in the small town of Ellsworth, Kansas. A year later, his family moved to West Long Beach where they lived in several locations, including Carmelitos housing. Ed graduated from Jordan High School having earned the honor of being named to the ALL-CITY football team as offensive tackle and defensive middle line backer.

Two things of major importance happened to Ed in 1956. He married his beautiful wife Beverly, and he joined the United States Air Force, serving his country for four years.

After leaving the service, he worked in various jobs and then joined the Long Beach Police Department in May of 1962. During his outstanding career Ed has worked many assignments. He started in Patrol, moved to Vice-Zone patrol, and then to motors where he stayed for approximately ten years. In his next assignment, Ed worked undercover in the Suppression of Burglary detail, followed by his assignment as a staff member for the Deputy Chief of the Patrol Bureau.

Ed then went back to field, joining the Metro team, followed by his final transfer to the Combat Training Range as Rangemaster and Firearms Instructor. As the senior firearms instructor, he shared his skills and knowledge with over 600 police officers in the fine art of marksmanship and weapons handling. During his tenure at the Combat Range, he instructed thirteen regular and five reserves academies. He also taught courses specific to the various weapons the Department authorizes for duty, and taught a course in the application of chemical devices.

Without a doubt, Ed's favorite assignment was the SWAT Team. He was a member for over thirty-one years working as a scout, team leader, armorer, and tactical leader for several missions.

Ed and Beverly had three beautiful children together: Christi Lynn, Robert and Darren. Robert (a former Long Beach police officer) currently works for the Murrieta Police Department, and Darren is the Tactical Sergeant on the Long Beach Police Department SWAT Team. Each of Ed's children has two children of their own, making Ed a Grandfather six times over.

Ed was an outstanding husband, father and police officer who had the utmost respect of the entire compliment of the Long Beach Police Department. He contributed to the community by living his life as an example to others by always doing what was right, and he proudly served both his Country and City with distinction and honor.

SR/gr Blo 2005



Corporal Edward R. Davenport  
Long Beach Police Department

Date of Birth: May 31, 1938  
Date Appointed: May 15, 1962  
End of Watch: February 4, 2003

Long Beach Police Department Corporal Edward R. Davenport was found unconscious on the pistol range grounds on Monday, February 3.

A department employee found Davenport on the ground next to a ladder, suffering from a head wound and in full cardiac arrest. The employee administered CPR until the Long Beach Fire Department arrived.

Davenport was transported to Los Alamitos Medical Center where he remained in critical condition until passing away on Tuesday, February 4.

Investigators reported that Davenport was on a ladder performing range maintenance duties prior to being found. The coroner's report showed that he had fallen from the ladder sustaining a blow that broke his neck when a limb struck his head.

Davenport was hired by the Long Beach Police Department in 1962 and worked numerous assignments including patrol, motors, special investigations, and was a special weapons and tactics team (SWAT) member for more than 30 years.

He most recently served as the SWAT team armorer. He became a range master at the police academy in 1991 and had been providing firearm instruction, testing and maintenance.

"Not only did members of the Long Beach Police Department who came through the academy train with Davenport, but law enforcement personnel from other countries benefited from his years of expertise," stated department spokeswoman, Nancy Pratt.

Davenport's longest assignment was with SWAT. His many years of dedication to the elite unit earned him the nickname "Papa SWAT" among his fellow officers.

Davenport had been on the force so long that he was part of the Long Beach P.D.'s "Magnificent Seven," composed of seven officers who have served on the department for 35 years or more. And while many of the "Seven" had retired by



2001, Davenport was still working strong when he was awarded the police officer association's (POA) coveted Richard A. Rose Career Achievement Award, given to officers with more than 20 years on the job. In 1992, he was named the department's "Employee of The Year."

Chief of Police Anthony Batts announced Davenport's death at a city council meeting that he was attending. He stated, "Ed Davenport, who we called "Pops" because he's an icon to this organization, he's like a father, because we're like a family, took it upon himself at the Long Beach Police Academy shooting range where he's been for 21 years – 21 of his 40 years – to go out and cut down some bushes.

Ed, being 64 years of age, went up on a ladder to try to cut down bushes to save the city some money and fell from that ladder, striking his head, sustaining a blow that broke his neck, and also some leg injuries.

"Ed said that he would never leave the Long Beach Police Department, when asked when he was going to retire. This was his life. This was his family. And I'd just like to applaud him and his career.

"And with that, I am going to move to name our Long Beach Police Academy shooting range, where he worked for 21 years, after Ed Davenport, and I will bring that to you in the coming weeks."

Funeral services for Davenport were held Feb. 10, at the Terrace Theater in Long Beach followed by interment at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Born in 1938 in the small town of Ellsworth, KS, Davenport's family moved to Long Beach when he was 12-months-old. He graduated from Jordan High School and then joined the U. S. Air Force.

Davenport is survived by his wife of 46 years, Beverly; children and grandchildren, Christy, Mark, Richard and Michelle Stowers; Bob, Cindi, Robert and Jayme Davenport; Darren, Suzanne, Justin and Christopher Davenport; brothers, Bob, Ronald, and Dex Davenport; and sister, Linda Davenport.

Davenport's sons followed in his footsteps into the career of law enforcement. Robert Davenport hired on with the Long Beach P.D. in 1982, and transferred to the Murrietta P.D. in 1997, becoming one of its founding members. He is currently a detective sergeant and their SWAT team leader. Darren Davenport hired on the Long Beach P.D. in 1987, and is currently a motor sergeant in the Field Support Division.

The family has asked that any donations be sent to the Long Beach POA, in honor of the "Corporal Ed Davenport Memorial Scholarship Fund," 2865 Temple Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90806.

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