

May 11, 2021

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL & ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the Government, Personnel and Elections Oversight Committee and full City Council that the community center at Houghton Park be named the “Doris Topsy-Elvord Community Center at Houghton Park”. (District 9)

DISCUSSION

On April 6, 2021, the City Council referred an item to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) to consider naming the Houghton Park Community Center, “Doris Topsy-Elvord Community Center” in recognition of the legacy, contributions and service of community leader, Vice Mayor Doris Topsy-Elvord. This effort was brought forth by Vice Mayor Rex Richardson and the Doris Topsy-Elvord Naming Steering Committee. Vice Mayor Topsy-Elvord is a lifelong resident and has served the City and its residents with distinction, pioneered many firsts, and paved the way for Black leadership and civic engagement across the City.

The Commission considered this item at their April 15, 2021 meeting. The motion passed unanimously to approve and forward the recommendation to the Government, Personnel and Elections Oversight Committee (Committee) for consideration.

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 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 have been overly recognized in the past; and,
- A name may be selected through a competition or a contest.

According to the policy, City-owned land, buildings and facilities can be named in honor of a living person if the significance of that person's contribution is worthy of an exception to policy.

As stated in Vice Mayor Richardson's agenda item attached (Attachment A), Vice Mayor Topsy-Elvord's public service and dedication to the City of Long Beach and its residents would certainly meet this exception to the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs for new or replaced signage for the Community Center were not available to the Commission at the time of their April 15, 2021 meeting. It was agreed the approximate costs would be researched by City staff and if the recommendation was approved, the information would be included in a staff report to be presented to the Government, Personnel and Elections Oversight Committee at their next scheduled meeting. City Staff have since determined the cost to replace existing signage at the Houghton Park Community Center is approximated to be between \$40,000 and \$60,000. If the City Council approves and decides to proceed with this item, the required budget will need to be identified and appropriated

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR

