



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

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

September 20, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the donation of open space near the southeast corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Santa Fe Avenue (1640 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street) and recommend Molina Park as the name for the mini-park proposed for the site. (District 1)

## DISCUSSION

First District City Councilmember, Bonnie Lowenthal, has requested the City accept the donation of a parcel of land at 1640 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street from the Molina family and that the new mini-park be named Molina Park (Attachment #1). An aerial photo showing this site is attached (Attachment #2).

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation (AR) 8-7, the City Council referred the request to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration of the proposed name. The Parks and Recreation Commission considered the action on August 18, 2005, concurred in the recommendation to accept the site for a park and to name the park, Molina Park, and is forwarding their recommendation to the full City Council for adoption.

The site is located in the southeastern portion of the westside community, a high-density neighborhood with a large number of children. This area, east of Santa Fe Avenue, has no park areas. Although the area is primarily developed with single or two-story dwellings, the overall density is high because many of these homes and duplexes are built on small lots and tend to be occupied by large households. The site is just over one-eighth mile (the service radius adopted for mini-parks) from Admiral Kidd Park, but that park does not serve the younger children of this neighborhood because Santa Fe Avenue provides a major barrier to access. Thus, the site meets all the location criteria established in the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan and is ideally situated to serve the westside community east of Santa Fe Avenue.

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AR 8-7 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 the Molina family is appropriate under the category of persons who have served Long Beach in an exceptional or distinguished manner of major significance. Mary Molina was a Long Beach schoolteacher who also served as Regional President of the Parent Teacher Association. As such, she was a role model to her community and to her family, inspiring her family to carry on a tradition of active contributions to the community. The family, and Molina Healthcare, have been active participants in city health fairs and other events and have contributed over 400,000 books to the Book Buddies program. Additionally, the community has benefited from their successful business with 500 employees at three Long Beach locations, their continued residence in Long Beach, and the public benefit of the nature of the business they are in, low cost health care.

The naming for the Molina family is also appropriate under the criteria of naming a site for the person or family donating the property.

This letter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna F. Gwin on September 8, 2005, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on September 12, 2005.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is not time critical.

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FISCAL IMPACT

The recommended action will have no fiscal impact; however, future expenditures for improvement and maintenance of the open space as a mini-park will need to be budgeted.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



PHIL T. HESTER  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

PTH:DLE:lr  
Attachments

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER