

APPROVED

AUG 07 2019

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 19-154

DATE August 7, 2019

C.D. 10

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RANCHO CIENEGA SPORTS COMPLEX – NAMING RANCHO CIENEGA SPORTS COMPLEX AS RANCHO CIENEGA PARK AND NAMING OF SPORTS COMPLEX AT RANCHO CIENEGA PARK IN HONOR OF MICHELLE AND BARACK OBAMA - CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(1) [ON PREMISE SIGN] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	<u>DF</u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the naming of Rancho Cienega Sports Complex as Rancho Cienega Park (Park);
2. Approve the naming of the Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega Park as "Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega Park" (Complex);
3. Authorize the installation of appropriate signage to reflect the naming of the Park and Complex as approved in this Report (Project).
4. Determine that the Project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(1) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines;
5. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a Notice of Exemption; and,

SUMMARY

Rancho Cienega Sports Complex is located at 5001 Obama Boulevard. This 28.97 acre facility contains many sports amenities including the Celes King III Swimming Pool, Jackie Robinson

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Stadium, Arthur Ashe Tennis Center, Charmette Bonpua Safe Skate Spot, Lonnie Wilson, Jr. Gymnasium and more. This is a Clean and Safe Spaces (CLASS) park which offers sports programming, arts and crafts, children and teen programming.

On May 3, 2019, Herb J. Wesson, Council President, 10th District, introduced Motion 19-0471, which requests that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) ‘rename the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex as the ‘Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex’’. The Council Motion is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

On May 21, 2019, Herb J. Wesson, Council President, 10th District, submitted a letter to the Board requesting that it “rename the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex as the “Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega Park’’. The letter of request is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the first African-American President of the United States. He served two terms as the 44th President of the United States and received support from Angelinos, garnering over 75% of the votes cast in the City of Los Angeles in both the 2008 and 2012 elections. Barack Obama began his college education in Los Angeles at Occidental College from 1979 to 1981. He returned to Los Angeles as Senator Obama on February 20, 2007 to hold his first campaign rally in Los Angeles at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex where he was joined by thousands of supporters. On May 4, 2019, thousands of community members came to celebrate the renaming of Rodeo Road, on which Rancho Cienega Sports Complex is located, to Obama Boulevard.

Among her many accomplishments, Michelle Obama has worked as an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity and healthy eating. In 2009 her advocacy work led to the formation of the *Let’s Move!* Initiative, dedicated to helping children and their families lead healthier lives. This initiative led to the formation of the first-ever presidential Task-Force on Childhood Obesity to develop a national action plan to mobilize the public and private sectors and engage families and communities in an effort to improve the health of the nation’s children.

Rancho Cienega Sports Complex has never been officially named by the Board and is instead a name administratively applied based on the local geography. The term La Cienega is derived from the Spanish word cienega, which means swamp or marshland and refers to the natural springs and wetlands in the area between Beverly Hills and Park La Brea and the Baldwin Hills Range. Rancho La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera was a 4,219-acre Mexican land grant given in 1843 by Governor Manuel Micheltorena to Vicente Sanchez. Paso de la Tijera appears in circa 1860 maps where a path crosses a stream, at today’s intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

A sports complex is a group of sports facilities such as those found at Rancho Cienega. The proposed names “Rancho Cienega Park” and “Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega Park” would honor the accomplishments of President and First Lady Obama by placing the sports facilities located at Rancho Cienega under the Obama Sports Complex

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name while at the same time keeping the heritage name of Rancho Cienega Park which honors the unique land development history and geography of the Los Angeles region.

This naming proposal was presented to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force (Task Force) on June 19, 2019, at which time the Task Force recommended the proposal be forwarded to the Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners for consideration. RAP management and staff support this proposal.

TREES AND SHADE

The proposed naming will have no impact on trees or shade.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

RAP staff requests authorization to install appropriate signs at the Park and Complex consistent with the naming of the Park and Complex as described in this Report. As such staff recommends that the Board determines that such action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(1) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

New signs for the facility will be paid for utilizing funds for the current construction project at the Park and Complex.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

- Goal No. 3:** Create and Maintain World Class Parks and Facilities
Outcome No. 1.A: Support the completion of six (6) major park projects, including 6th Street PARC, First and Broadway Park, Rancho Cienega Park, Slauson and Wall, South LA Wetlands and South Park
Result: Naming the Park and the Sports Complex completes the transformative effect of the projects at Rancho Cienega.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS

- Exhibit A – Council Motion
Exhibit B – Letter of Request

HEALTH, EDUCATION, NEIGHBORHOOD,
PARKS, ARTS & RIVER **MOTION**

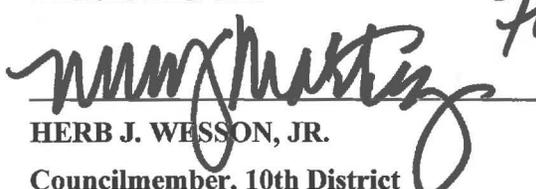
On November 4th, 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the first African-American President of the United States, a night that will forever be remembered. He would go on to serve two terms as the 44th President of the United States, receiving an overwhelming amount of support from Angelenos, garnering over 75% of the votes cast in the City of Los Angeles in both the 2008 and 2012 elections. President Obama is no stranger to Los Angeles. He began his college education in Los Angeles, as an undergraduate student at Occidental College from 1979 to 1981 before leaving for Columbia University. Shortly after announcing his candidacy for president in 2007, then Senator Obama held his first campaign rally in Los Angeles at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, located in the 10th Council District. He was joined by thousands of supporters.

Michelle Obama is one of the most accomplished women to ever serve as First Lady of the United States of America. A lawyer by trade she is the only First Lady in the nation's history to hold two Ivy League degrees. Michelle Obama serves as a role model for women, and has worked as an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity and healthy eating. In 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama planted the White House Kitchen Garden on the South Lawn to initiate a national conversation around the health and wellbeing of our nation. That conversation led to *Let's Move!* An initiative launched in 2010 dedicated to helping kids and families lead healthier lives. At the start of *Let's Move!*, President Obama established the first-ever Task Force on Childhood Obesity to develop a national action plan to mobilize the public and private sectors and engage families and communities in an effort to improve the health of our children. She also worked with the US Tennis Association to build or refurbish more than 6,200 kid-sized tennis courts across the country, sign up more than 250,000 kids to complete their PALAs, and train 12,000 coaches to help kids learn the sport of tennis.

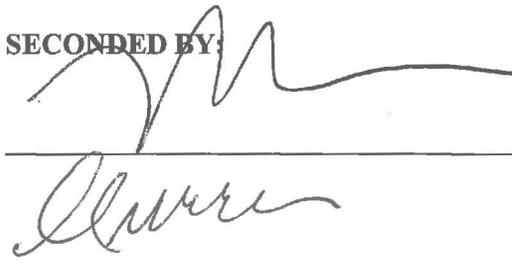
Council President Herb J. Wesson Jr. has worked diligently to secure 75 Million dollars of funding for upgrades to the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex resulting in new turf for Jackie Robinson Stadium, the Charmette Bonpua Skate Park, and a soon to be construction state of the art pool and gymnasium. Given the significance of the upgrades that will occur at the park, it will be as if a new park will emerge from the current site once all construction is complete. It is therefore appropriate that the City of Los Angeles rename the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, as the, "Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega" in honor of the Obama's work as First Lady and President on improving the overall health of all Americans by promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to rename the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex as the "Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega."

PRESENTED BY:


HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY:





MAY 03 2019

ORIGINAL



HERB J. WESSON, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER, 10TH DISTRICT
PRESIDENT, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

May 21, 2019

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board Commissioners
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Recreation and Parks Commission:

On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the first African-American President of the United States, a night that will forever be remembered. He would go on to serve two terms as the 44th President of the United States, receiving an overwhelming amount of support from Angelenos, garnering over 75% of the votes cast in the City of Los Angeles in both the 2008 and 2012 elections. President Obama is no stranger to Los Angeles. He began his college education in Los Angeles as an undergraduate student at Occidental College from 1979 to 1981 before leaving for Columbia University. Shortly after announcing his candidacy for president in 2007, then Senator Obama held his first campaign rally in Los Angeles at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, located in the 10th Council District. He was joined by thousands of supporters.

Michelle Obama is one of the most accomplished women to ever serve as First Lady of the United States of America. A lawyer by trade she is the only First Lady in the nation's history to hold two Ivy League degrees. Michelle Obama serves as a role model for women, and has worked as an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity and healthy eating. In 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama planted the White House Kitchen Garden on the South Lawn to initiate a national conversation around the health and wellbeing of our nation. That conversation led to *Let's Move!* An initiative launched in 2010 dedicated to helping kids and families lead healthier lives. At the start of *Let's Move!*, President Obama established the first-ever Task Force on Childhood Obesity to develop a national action plan to mobilize the public and private sectors and engage families and communities in an effort to improve the health of our children. She also worked with the US Tennis Association to build or refurbish more than 6,200 kid-sized tennis courts across the country, sign up more than 250,000 kids to complete their PALAs, and train 12,000 coaches to help kids learn the sport of tennis.

As Councilman of the 10th District, my office has worked diligently to secure 75 Million dollars of funding for upgrades to the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex resulting in new turf for Jackie Robinson Stadium, the Charmette Bonpua Skate Park, and a soon to be construction state of the art pool and gymnasium. Given the significance of the upgrades that will occur at the park, it will be as if a new park will emerge from the current site once all construction is complete. It is therefore appropriate that the City of Los Angeles rename the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, as the, “Michelle and Barack Obama Sports Complex at Rancho Cienega Park” in honor of the Obama’s work as First Lady and President on improving the overall health of all Americans by promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Please contact my Legislative Director, Justin Wesson, at 213-473-7010 should you require additional information.

Sincerely,



HERB J. WESSON, JR.
President, Los Angeles City Council
10th Council District

HJW;jw:slw