

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-299

DATE September 17, 2003

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: NORTH ATWATER PARK: NAMING OF BASEBALL FIELD, IN HONOR OF RICHARD "MOE" MONTANEZ

L. Barth _____
J. Combs _____
A. Coroalles _____
J. Duggan _____

H. Fujita _____
*B. Lukehart TSC.
J. Kolb _____

Bill Fujita FOR MONT
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the naming of the baseball field at North Atwater Park, in honor of Richard "Moe" Montanez; and,
2. Direct Griffith/Metro Region staff to install the appropriate signage/plaque.

SUMMARY:

On August 8, 2003, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, seconded by Councilmember Garcetti, introduced a Motion (File No. 03-1679) to name the baseball field at North Atwater Park in honor of Richard "Moe" Montanez. North Atwater Park is located at 3900 Chevy Chase Drive.

Richard "Moe" Montanez has been a dedicated Recreation and Park employee since his retirement in 2000 and has worked as a community liaison and pioneer in establishing neighborhood programs. His efforts led to community organizations addressing issues of concern to children and youth. He was instrumental in spearheading efforts to increase positive alternatives for youth, especially sports activities. His efforts resulted in the establishment of the baseball field at North Atwater Park, which was dedicated in the mid 1990's. His dedication and involvement with community activities are fine examples of caring and creating a wonderful facility for area youth, where they may choose a positive activity to enjoy, learning cooperation and teamwork.

Councilmembers LaBonge and Garcetti, and other community individuals and groups have expressed their support for the naming of the recreation center building. Staff has reviewed this proposal and recommends approval of the naming. Griffith/Metro Region staff supports the name adoption. Outreach to the community, discussions with the Park Advisory Board members and many other neighborhood members have all expressed support for this proposal.

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Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of the placement of an on-premise sign, which is a minor structure that is accessory to (appurtenant to) the existing park facilities, and therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Report prepared by Camille Didier, Advance Planning/Special Projects.