



AGENDA REPORT

City Council

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| DATE: | March 1, 2022 |
| TO: | Mayor Butt and Members of the City Council |
| FROM: | Councilmember Nathaniel Bates |
| Subject: | Rename Baseball Diamond #2 at Nicholl Park in Honor of National Hero Willie Mays |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT: | Per the response of the Parks and Landscaping Superintendent, the cost to replace signage at Nicholl Park and to update the website is minimal and included in the Parks and Landscaping operational budget. |
| PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: | The City Council approved the recommendation of the Recreation and Parks Commission to rename Baseball Diamond #2 to the Willie Mays Baseball Field at the 2/15/2022 City Council meeting. |
| STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE: | The City Council and the Recreation & Parks Commission approved a request from the Park Plaza Neighborhood Council and the South Side Improvement Group Plus One to rename Diamond #2 at Nicholl Park to Willie Mays Baseball Field |
| RECOMMENDED ACTION: | PUBLIC HEARING to receive public comment on a proposal to rename Baseball Diamond Field #2 at Nicholl Park to Willie Mays Baseball Field; and ADOPT a resolution - Councilmember Nathaniel Bates (510-620-6743). |

DISCUSSION:

In June of 2015, Mr. Charles Cavness made a request to nominate Baseball Great, Willie Mays for a Recognition of Heroes at Nicholl Park. Willie Howard Mays, Jr. is an American former professional baseball center fielder who played Major League Baseball for 22 seasons. Willie Mays, also known as The Say Hey Kid, played for the New York and San Francisco Giants, the New York Mets, as well as the Birmingham Black Barons in the Negro Baseball League.

As a local hero, Willie Mays came to Richmond each year for 10 years to participate in the March of Dimes charitable events at Nicholl Park. Along with other national league players, Willie Mays would work with the little league teams. Mayor Livingston and Richmond residents alike were excited to participate in the activities and to see baseball heroes.

At its December 6, 2021, regular meeting, the Recreation and Parks Commission received a report from the Willie Mays Field Committee to approve the establishment of a Willie Mays Day and to rename Baseball Diamond #2 after Willie Mays. The Committee informed the full Commission of the support from several neighborhood councils. After hearing from speakers, the Recreation and Parks Commission approved the request and recommended that it be forwarded to the Richmond City Council for approval.

Community Supporters

- Park Plaza Neighborhood Council
- Pullman Neighborhood Council
- Laurel Park Neighborhood Council
- North and East Neighborhood Council
- Hilltop Neighborhood Council and
- The South Side Improvement Group Plus One

The resolution describes the steps taken to rename the baseball diamond. Upon approval, staff will work with the Recreation and Parks Commission to plan the Willie Mays Day in May of 2022 and keep the City Council informed of the progress.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

Attachment 1 – Resolution

Attachment 2 – Notice of Public Hearing