

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND
2008 APR 10 PM 4:43

To: Office of the City Administrator
Attn: Deborah A. Edgerly
From: Office of Parks and Recreation
Date: April 22, 2008

Re: Resolution Naming a New Park At 65th Avenue and International Boulevard the Tomás Melero-Smith Park for Peace and Unity

SUMMARY

Tomás Melero-Smith, an employee of the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), and a young man just beginning his adult life, was fatally shot on September 1, 2007 in Oakland. At a Parks for Peace event at Josie de la Cruz park where Melero-Smith worked, OPR planted a tree and installed a plaque honoring Melero-Smith's memory. In February 2008, in conjunction with support from the charitable organization Kaboom! and Councilmember Desley Brooks, a new park was built in place of a vacant lot at 65th Avenue and International Boulevard. Councilmember Brooks and Melero-Smith's family are requesting that the park be named the Tomás Melero-Smith Park for Peace and Unity.

FISCAL IMPACT

Naming the park the Tomás Melero-Smith Park for Peace and Unity is estimated to cost \$1,100 for the manufacture of the sign. The sign will be made of recyclable materials and will be paid for out of StopWaste.org funding: Fund 2175; Organization 30682; Account 52212; Project H63630; Program SC17.

BACKGROUND

Tomás Melero-Smith was fatally shot on September 1, 2007 in Oakland. Melero-Smith had been employed as a youth recreation leader at the Carmen Flores Community Center and worked hard to improve the Fruitvale community where he grew up. Tomás Melero-Smith's family wrote a petition to the Mayor, City Councilmembers, the City Administrator, the Director of Office of Parks and Recreation, and the Police Chief asking the City to invest in its youth and to memorialize the contributions to the community made by Tomás Melero-Smith.

There is very little green space in the area around 65th Avenue and the community has long sought a productive alternative to the blight of the undeveloped lot there. Councilmember Desley Brooks worked with the nonprofit group Kaboom! to organize volunteers to build a park on the blighted lot. Staff from the Public Works Agency and the Office of Parks and Recreation also dedicated numerous hours and City resources to support the creation of the park.

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KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Youth violence is of profound concern to everyone in the City of Oakland. The Office of Parks and Recreation embraces its responsibility to help bring about peace on the streets of our City. Naming this new park in honor of Tomás Melero-Smith is a small act that will take one devastating act of violence and convert it into a peaceful outcome in the form of a City park.

The naming of the park in honor of Tomás Melero-Smith is in line with the criteria listed in Resolution No 65024 C.M.S. on Designating Official Names for Municipal Facilities, item (c): unique or civic circumstances. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the park name at its regular meeting on March 12, 2008. In naming the park for Melero-Smith, his death is converted into a peaceful purpose.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

The naming of the park does not provide economic or environmental opportunities, however, naming the park the Tomás Melero-Smith Park for Peace and Unity does provide for a social equity opportunity in that it honors a man whose good work might not otherwise be acknowledged.

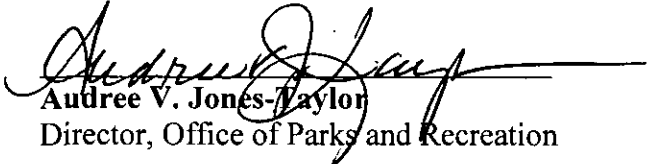
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Naming of the park has no impact for disabled and senior citizens.

RECOMMENDATION AND ACTION REQUESTED

Staff recommends and requests that Council pass a Resolution naming the new park at 65th Avenue and International Boulevard the Tomás Melero-Smith Park for Peace and Unity.

Respectfully submitted,


Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Director, Office of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: Kip Walsh, Assistant to the Director
Office of Parks and Recreation

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

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OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality:

A. London for
Oakland City Attorney's Office
Susan Mark

2008 APR 10 PM 4:43 Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember _____

RESOLUTION NAMING A NEW PARK AT 65TH AVENUE AND INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD THE TOMÁS MELERO-SMITH PARK FOR PEACE AND UNITY

WHEREAS, Tomás Melero-Smith was fatally shot on September 1, 2007 in Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Melero-Smith had been employed by the City as a youth recreation leader at the Carmen Flores Community Center and worked hard to improve the Fruitvale community where he grew up; and

WHEREAS, Tomás Melero-Smith's family wrote a petition to the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and others asking the City to invest in its youth and to memorialize the contributions to the community made by Tomás Melero-Smith; and

WHEREAS, City staff together with the nonprofit group Kaboom! organized volunteers and worked to build a new park at 65th Avenue and International Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Naming this new park in honor of Tomás Melero-Smith is a small act that will take one devastating act of violence and convert it into a peaceful outcome in the form of a City park; and

WHEREAS, The naming of the park is in keeping with the criteria listed in Resolution No. 65024 C.M.S. on Designating Official Names for Municipal Facilities, item (c): unique or civic circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the park name at its regular meeting on March 12, 2008; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the park at 65th Avenue and International Boulevard be named the Tomás Melero-Smith Park for Peace and Unity; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Office of the City Attorney has approved this resolution as to form and legality and a copy will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California