

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE SHENG THAO AND
COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB

**RESOLUTION RENAMING A SEGMENT OF JOAQUIN MILLER PARK
KNOWN AS CASTLE CANYON TO "RICHARD L SPEES CANYON", IN
HONOR OF HIS DEDICATION TO PROTECTING THIS ACREAGE AS
OPEN SPACE**

WHEREAS, Joaquin Miller Park is a City of Oakland park bordered by Joaquin Miller Boulevard and Skyline Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, there is an area of Joaquin Miller Park known as Castle Canyon; and

WHEREAS, Richard (Dick) L. Spees served as Oakland Councilmember representing District 4 for 24 years and actively supported the community's desire to protect the acreage known as Castle Canyon, bordered by Castle Drive to the east and Mastlands Drive and Larry Lane to the west; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s, part of Caste Canyon was under threat of development despite community opposition; and

WHEREAS, an application has been submitted by the Office of Council President Pro Tempore Sheng Thao requesting the commemorative renaming of a segment of Joaquin Miller Park Known as Castle Canyon to Richard L Spees Canyon in District 4; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 then-Councilmember Dick Spees assisted the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association, gathering environmentalists, slope engineers, and attorneys to oppose the development; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, a compromise was reached, and eight acres of Castle Canyon were purchased by the City of Oakland after successful lobbying to use Measure K funds; and

WHEREAS, members of the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association asked Council President Pro Tempore Sheng Thao to advocate for the renaming of Castle Canyon to "Richard L.

Spees Canyon” in honor of former-Councilmember Spees’ contributions to this acreage in Joaquin Miller Park; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 65024 C.M.S., sets forth the procedure for designating official names for municipal facilities in the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 65024 C.M.S. specifies that any request to rename a park or recreation facility be referred to the Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) and the recommendation of the PRAC then be referred to the Rules and Legislation Committee, and that the Rules and Legislation Committee recommendation then be referred to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Council President Pro Tempore submitted an agenda item to the PRAC to be heard at the June 9, 2021 meeting of that body; and

WHEREAS, at the June 9, 2021 meeting of the PRAC, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the renaming of Castle Canyon to Richard L. Spees Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Council intends to honor Richard L. Spees’ contribution to the City of Oakland by renaming Castle Canyon, which was preserved as part of a park to benefit all Oaklanders, to Richard L. Spees Canyon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Council of the City of Oakland hereby approves renaming the segment of Joaquin Miller Park known as Castle Canyon to “Richard L. Spees Canyon”, in honor of his dedication to protecting this acreage as open space for public benefit.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California