

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-73

DATE March 16, 2005

C.D. 6

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DELANO RECREATION CENTER: INSTALLATION OF PLAQUES IN
RECOGNITION OF CINDY MISCIKOWSKI AND CESAR CHAVEZ

* K. Chan	<u>hc</u>	J. Kolb	_____
J. Combs	_____	F. Mok	_____
H. Fujita	_____	K. Regan	_____



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve plaques, their wording, and installation for Cindy Miscikowski and Cesar Chavez, inside the Delano Recreation Center; and,
2. Authorize staff to permit the contractor to install the plaques and their bases in the Delano Recreation Center Building.

SUMMARY:

Delano Park is located at 15100 Erwin St, in Van Nuys. A new gymnasium building is under construction at this site. Councilmember Tony Cardenas, in conjunction with the Delano Park Advisory Board (PAB), proposed that the new building be named in honor of Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski. In addition to the new building, other park improvements including a soccer field, basketball courts, ball diamond, and a play area are being developed at Delano Park, creating an exciting and much needed community facility.

On July 20, 2004, the Delano PAB held a meeting to discuss the naming of the new gymnasium building. There were over 50 community members in attendance at the meeting. While the Delano PAB members supported naming the building after Ms. Miscikowski, many of the comments made at the meeting by community members supported naming the building after Cesar Chavez. On November 10, 2004, a community meeting was held to obtain community input on the proposed name for the new building. Approximately 100 members of the community were in attendance at this meeting. The attendees were divided in support of naming the new building in honor of Ms. Miscikowski or in honor of Mr. Chavez. In addition, there were a few people at the meeting who expressed a desire for Department staff to find an alternative that could possibly recognize both of

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these important leaders and role models.

The Department Naming Committee (Planning and Development Acting Superintendent and the Department Assistant General Manager) and Valley Region staff considered various options. Upon review of community issues and concerns, relevant facts and options, a consensus was reached by the Naming Committee, the Council Office, and staff to recommend the installation of two plaques inside the building, honoring both Mr. Chavez and Ms. Miscikowski. This option will keep the Delano name for both the park facility and the new building, which prevents possible confusion in the future due to multiple names at a facility.

Ms. Miscikowski has represented the 11th Council District for eight years. For four years she represented the neighborhood surrounding Delano Park. Amidst many obstacles, construction problems, and funding challenges, she worked tirelessly to secure the money to build this facility and to ensure that the new Recreation Center and outdoor park improvements would serve the needs of the community now and in the future. Ms. Miscikowski's leadership and dedication helped overcome several challenges that stood in the way of the completion of this new community facility.

Mr. Cesar Chavez was an important civil rights figure and activist who used non-violent protest to bring attention to the plight of migrant farm workers in California. He dedicated his life to the causes of equality and community empowerment. Some community members felt strongly that he should be honored by naming the new building after him as an inspiration to the youth of the surrounding community. It should be noted that there is a proposal for the new recreation facility being developed by the Bureau of Sanitation at the Shelton-Arleta landfill site to be named in honor of Cesar Chavez.

Installation of these two plaques honoring both of these community leaders and models will demonstrate to current and future community members how vision, determination and persistence can overcome challenges and achieve goals.

Department staff recommends installation of the plaques (see Exhibit A and Exhibit B). Council Office and Valley Region staff support this recommendation.

Both plaques would be approximately 14"x18" in size and be made of bronze. The plaques could cost approximately \$700.00 dollars each. Both plaques would be placed on the wall to the left of the double doors that lead into the gymnasium.

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of interior alterations involving remodeling where there will be negligible or no expansion of use, and therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Prepared by Camille Didier, City Planner, Planning and Development.

Cindy Miscikowski

In recognition of Ms. Miscikowski's vision and dedication to providing needed recreational opportunities for the Van Nuys community.

Her dynamic leadership and tireless efforts overcame many obstacles and secured the completion of this facility.

Ms. Miscikowski's passion and commitment to this neighborhood ensured that the hopes and dreams of this community became a reality for future generations.

This facility stands as a permanent reminder of how Ms. Miscikowski's persistence, patience, and focus improved the lives of an entire community.



**James K. Hahn, Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

**Tony Cardenas, Councilperson
Sixth District**

**Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager
Department of Recreation and Parks**

EXHIBIT B

Cesar Chavez

“Si Se Puede – Yes, We Can”

In recognition of Mr. Chavez's contributions to humanity and in appreciation of his tireless leadership to improve the lives of the disadvantaged.

The memory of his long, non-violent struggle reminds us that even tremendous obstacles can be peacefully overcome with persistence, commitment, and strength.

His lifelong dedication to the cause of equality teaches us not to only seek achievement for ourselves but to support progress and prosperity for our community.

The uplifting story of his remarkable life demonstrates to the youth of our city that there are positives alternatives, choices, and opportunities in a life filled with challenges.

Cesar Chavez stands as a model to people of all backgrounds and ages -- his discipline, humility, and courage serve as an inspiration for all.



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