

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED
JUL 23 2008

NO. 08-216

DATE July 23, 2008

C.D. 3

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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SUBJECT: WEST VALLEY PARK – INSTALLATION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN HONOR OF SLAIN LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT, SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS OFFICER RANDAL DAVID SIMMONS

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	M. Shull	_____

OK for MS.


General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a commemorative plaque in honor of slain Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Officer Randal David Simmons at West Valley Park;
2. Approve the wording on the commemorative plaque as described in the Summary of this Report; and,
3. Direct staff to install the plaque, as indicated.

SUMMARY:

Officer Randal David Simmons, a 27-year veteran of the LAPD, was murdered in the line of duty on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Officer Simmons became the first LAPD, SWAT, Officer to die in the line of duty. Officer Simmons was shot and killed in a police action involving a suspect barricaded in the West San Fernando Valley area, during a standoff that injured another officer, and claimed the lives of five civilians.

Officer Simmons attended Fairfax Senior High School and Washington State University, where he played football. He committed much of his time to helping and comforting people in urban communities including Watts, Hacienda Village, Compton, and Carson. He was an ordained minister

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at Glory Christian Fellowship International (GCFI) in Carson, California. He was instrumental in developing programs and Christian events that attracted many youth in these communities. His funeral was attended by 10,000 mourners including police officers from around the world. Officer Simmons' funeral was the largest in honor of a police officer in the history of the City of Los Angeles and United States of America.

The 12" x 24" plaque will be created in Officer Simmons' memory. The plaque will be placed in cement, and set in front of the entrance to the Children's Play Area at West Valley Park, a small neighborhood park located in the West Valley Civic Center, adjacent to the library and the police station.

Both the Reseda Neighborhood Council and Chamber of Commerce have expressed their support for the proposed plaque. The West Valley Police Activity League Supporters (Pals) will pay for the plaque. The plaque will read:

This children's play area was dedicated to Los Angeles Police Officer Randal D. Simmons on July 26th, 2008. Officer Simmons was a dedicated and exemplary SWAT Officer who died protecting others in the line of duty on February 7th, 2008. A strong supporter of youth, Officer Simmons was a mentor to thousands of children in our City, a hero to fellow officers and a leading light to his friends and family. He will be sorely missed by all. May he rest in peace.

Presented by West Valley Pals

Department Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (I), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The Councilmember of the Third District and Valley Region Superintendent support installation of this plaque at West Valley Park.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Installation of this item will have negligible impact on the Department's General Fund, as the cost of the plaque will be funded by the applicant, the Pals organization. Minimal maintenance will be required for the upkeep of the plaque.

This report was prepared by Louis Loomis, Management Analyst II, Valley Region, and Camille Walls, City Planner, Planning and Development Division.