

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-286

OCT 14 2008

DATE October 14, 2008

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

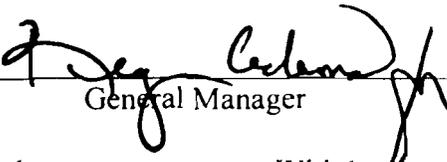
C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: HAZARD PARK - INSTALLATION OF A BOULDER AND MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN HONOR OF THE WALKOUT/BLOWOUT STUDENTS OF MARCH 1968

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

CS completed


General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a boulder and memorial plaque behind the backstop of baseball diamond No. 2 at Hazard Park;
2. Approve the wording of the memorial plaque to the Walkout/Blowout students of March 1968, as described in Attachment A, and its placement on the boulder; and,
3. Authorize Department staff to issue a right-of-entry permit to the 40th Anniversary of the East Los Angeles Walkout Commemorative Committee for the installation and maintenance of the boulder and memorial plaque as indicated.

SUMMARY:

The 40th Anniversary of the East Los Angeles Walkout Commemorative Committee has proposed the installation of a boulder and memorial plaque in honor of the Walkout/Blowout Students of March 1968. The boulder and memorial plaque would be installed behind the backstop of baseball diamond No. 2 at Hazard Park, located at 2230 Norfolk Street, Los Angeles, California 90033.

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On March 6, 7, and 8, 1968, students from all over Los Angeles banded together to bring light to the inequity that Hispanic students faced on a daily basis. Exercising their civil rights, these students bravely walked out of school in protest. The non-violent protest rallied local communities to work toward instituting positive change. The state of education of minority students achieved national attention.

A Park Advisory Board (PAB) meeting was held on February 12, 2008 to discuss the installation of the memorial, and the impact on Hazard Park. As a result, the PAB voted in favor of installing the memorial to the Walkout/Blowout students. Department staff has reviewed the Commemorative Committee's proposal and recommends the installation of the boulder and memorial plaque. The granite boulder will be approximately 42" in height, 48" in width, and 36" in depth. The bronze plaque will measure approximately 24" in height and 18" in width. The bronze plaque will read as described in Attachment A, and be mounted on the boulder.

Councilmember José Huizar has agreed to cover the cost of the plaque, boulder, and installation. The 40th Anniversary of the East Los Angeles Walkout Commemorative Committee has agreed to provide maintenance for the memorial plaque. Department staff has identified the location behind the backstop of baseball diamond No. 2 as the optimal location within Hazard Park to highlight the memorial and honor the students who participated in the Walkout/Blowout of 1968. Please see Attachment B.

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(1), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will be no fiscal impact on the Department's General Fund. Councilmember José Huizar has agreed to cover the cost of the plaque, boulder, and installation. Maintenance of the plaque will be provided by the 40th Anniversary of the East Los Angeles Walkout Commemorative Committee. Access for maintenance purposes will be provided for by the right-of-entry permit. Maintenance requirements for the plaque and boulder will be negligible.

This report was prepared by Jason Kitahara, Acting Management Analyst II, Metro Region.



IN HONOR OF THE STUDENTS
 OF GREATER LOS ANGELES
 LOS NINOS HEROES
 FOR THEIR UNSELFISH COURAGE,
 BRAVERY, AND VALOR DURING
 THE BLOWOUTS
WALKOUTS
 TO BETTER EDUCATION FOR
 FUTURE GENERATIONS
 MARCH 6-7-8, 1968.
 A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY SAYS
 THANK YOU

Board of Recreation and
 Park Commissioners
 Barry A. Sanders
 Luis A. Sánchez
 Candy Spelling
 Maria A. Casillas
 Johnathan Williams

ATTACHMENT - A



"Dedicated by
 Councilmember
 José Huizar,
 City of Los Angeles,
 14th Council District and
 the 40th Anniversary
 Walkouts Committee



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

Dear Ms. Israel:

We understand that the Department of Recreation and Parks has a set of standard policies regarding special projects that are permitted on park property. While in most cases our office makes every effort to adhere to City guidelines when submitting requests, there are instances that may arise which force Council offices to seek exceptions to standard policies and procedures. The attached memorandum represents just such a request.

On March 6, 7, and 8 of 1968, high school students from the Greater Los Angeles Area exercised their 1st Amendment rights by staging one of the largest high school demonstrations in the history of this country. Over twenty thousand students stood up and walked out of their schools to demand a better education, an equal opportunity to take part in college-prep courses, and the right to learn about their own cultures.

The walkout/blowout students came together at Hazard Park and garnered national attention for their struggle to achieve equality. Thanks to the brave acts of these young men and women, students in Los Angeles have been able to reap the benefits of an educational system that better reflects the rich cultural diversity of this great city.

For the past four decades, the efforts of these young heroes have gone unrecognized. On March 8, 2008 the community is going honor these students by re-enacting the march from Lincoln High School to Hazard Park. The committee, headed by Sal Castro, one of the original leaders of the Walkout movement and leader of the Chicano Youth Leadership Conference, inc. would like to have a commemorative bronze plaque dedicated to these students mounted onto a rock and permanently installed in Hazard Park.

In order to ensure that this event becomes a reality, Councilmember Huizar has agreed to cover the costs of the plaque, rock, and its installation. Hazard Park Director, Aaron Shaw and his maintenance crew have recommended an optimal location within the park for the stone to be placed that would properly honor the memory of these brave students while ensuring public safety in the park.

We thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of our request and hope this memorandum provides sufficient support to justify any deviations from standard custom and practice. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff should there be any questions or concerns.

Best regards,


Armando Gonzalez
Boyle Heights Area Director
Councilmember: Jose Huizar

-For-

Joseph S. Avila
Chief of Staff
Councilmember Jose Huizar

ATTACHMENT - B