

APPROVED

AUG 12 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-214

DATE August 12, 2009

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 3

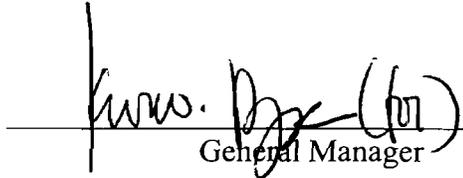
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WEST VALLEY PARK - RENAMING TO "LAPD SWAT OFFICER RANDAL D. SIMMONS PARK" AND INSTALLATION OF APPROPRIATE PARK SIGNAGE

R. Adams _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____
V. Israel _____

J. Kolb _____
F. Mok _____
K. Regan _____
*M. Shull _____




General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Rename West Valley Park to "LAPD SWAT Officer Randal D. Simmons Park"; and,
2. Authorize the installation of appropriate park signage.

SUMMARY:

West Valley Park is located at 6731 Wilbur Avenue, Reseda. This facility is an 8.38 acre park, which includes a children's play area, walking paths, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches, landscaping and irrigation.

On December 10, 2008, the City Council adopted a motion by Councilman Dennis Zine that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to re-name West Valley Park as "Officer Randal David Simmons Park" in memory of the late Police Department SWAT Officer Randal D. Simmons in recognition of his personal sacrifice and his dedication to the community. Through community input the proposed park name has been slightly modified to "LAPD SWAT Officer Randal D. Simmons Park."

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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 with a barricaded suspect in the West San Fernando Valley, during a standoff that injured another officer, and claimed the lives of five others.

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 like Watts, Hacienda Village, Compton, and Carson. He was an ordained minister at Glory Christian Fellowship International (GCFI) in Carson, California. He was instrumental with developing programs and Christian events that attracted many youth in these communities. His funeral was attended by police officers from around the world. His funeral was attended by nearly 10,000 mourners, the largest police officer funeral in Los Angeles and United States history.

The Commission has previously approved installation of a commemorative plaque in honor of Officer Simmons at West Valley Park (Board Report No. 08-216) and also granted conceptual approval of the park name change (Board Report No. 09-052).

On June 22, 2009, Department staff facilitated a community meeting to discuss the proposed name change. The attending community members were unanimously in support of the proposed name, LAPD SWAT Officer Randal D. Simmons Park.

Council District 3 and the Valley Region management and staff support the recommendations set forth in this report.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, Class 11(1) of the City CEQA Guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to the recreational facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval of this project will have a minor fiscal impact on the Department, as the cost of the signage will be funded by the Valley Region.

This report was prepared by Camille Walls, City Planner, and Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.