

APPROVED

AUG 12 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-224

DATE August 12, 2009

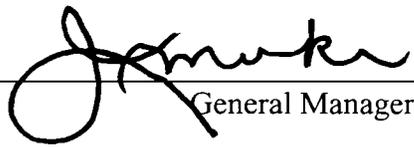
**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

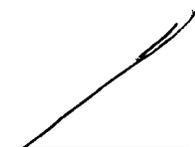
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MACARTHUR (GENERAL DOUGLAS) PARK – PROPOSED MONUMENT PROJECT; RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO THE SALVADORAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL FUND (SALEF) FOR ACCESS ONTO PARK; AND NEGOTIATION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTAINANCE OF A MONUMENT ON PARK PROPERTY

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	<u>ms</u>


General Manager

Approved 

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Conceptually approve SALEF's proposed Óscar A. Romero Monument Project with final approval conditioned on:
 - a. Funding being obtained by SALEF
 - b. Plan approval by Department of Recreation and Park's (RAP) Planning and Construction Division
 - c. Approval and Execution of a Lease Agreement by the Board
 - d. Ten percent retention on project budget or such other security deemed sufficient by Planning and Construction Division to guarantee project completion

2. Authorize staff to issue the Right-of-Entry Permit, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, for access to a portion of MacArthur (General Douglas) Park (MacArthur Park), as described in the body of this report in order to perform pre-construction and related preliminary project work, and;

3. Authorize staff to enter into negotiations with SALEF for a lease agreement for the purpose of construction and maintenance of a monument to commemorate the life of

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Archbishop Óscar A. Romero, subject to final Board approval, approval of the Mayor pursuant to Executive Directive No. 3, City Council approval, and City Attorney approval as to form.

SUMMARY:

On April 9, 2009, the Salvadoran-American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF) contacted the RAP staff with a proposal to construct and maintain a monument at MacArthur Park, in dedication to the late Archbishop Óscar A. Romero. The project is in keeping with the Los Angeles – San Salvador Sister City relationship. In March, 2005, the City of Los Angeles established March 24th as “The Day of Remembrance of Archbishop Óscar A. Romero.”

SALEF wishes to build the monument at the corner of 7th Street and Alvarado Street on MacArthur Park property located at 2230 West 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA. SALEF has submitted a proposed conceptual design plan for approval by RAP. As presented, the proposed monument would feature a bronze statue of Monseñor Romero, a spire with ascending doves, a curved stone bench, a stone crescent wall, stone paving, and bronze lettering. SALEF has estimated the cost of the project to be \$552,177.60

SALEF proposes to build the monument to add to the historical significance of MacArthur Park that has been established by the other existing monuments. SALEF believes that its design will beautify and instill a sense of pride and unity in the surrounding community which will help in reducing crime in an area that in the past has seen some troubled times. The intended message of this monument is that of peace, unity, and social justice, which was exemplified by Archbishop Óscar A. Romero’s life. The proposed monument would be a tribute to Monseñor Romero’s life, as a civic leader who spoke out against violence, repression, social injustice and poverty.

Monseñor Romero is a world-recognized spiritual leader who championed civil rights throughout his life. Born in Ciudad Barrios in San Miguel, El Salvador on August 15, 1917, Monseñor Romero rose to become the Bishop of the Dioceses of Santiago de María in 1974. At the age of 59, Óscar A. Romero became the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador. It was during El Salvador’s Civil War that Archbishop Óscar A. Romero began his human rights movement to speak out against torture, social injustice and poverty which garnered him national and international recognition. In 1979, Archbishop Óscar A. Romero was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Shortly after that, while celebrating Mass in El Salvador, Archbishop Óscar A. Romero was assassinated on March 24, 1980 by those opposing his teachings of love, courage, social justice, unity and peace.

SALEF proposes to honor that legacy by dedicating this proposed monument to Monseñor Romero in an effort to spread his message of non-violence and peace to the community that

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surrounds MacArthur Park. As part of SALEF's proposal, SALEF has made the following commitments to RAP:

- SALEF will obtain funding for the project.
- SALEF will be responsible for complete maintenance of the monument center.
- SALEF will provide detailed design plans for approval.
- SALEF will conduct community outreach efforts to gain support from the community.
- SALEF will comply with any other RAP or City requirements needed to build the monument.

RAP staff is recommending conceptual approval of the proposed monument center on the condition that prior to construction and final approval of the project: SALEF obtain funding for the construction of the monument; SALEF submit and obtain design plan approval for the project from RAP Planning and Construction Division; SALEF enter into a lease agreement with RAP for the site control/construction and maintenance of the monument; and SALEF provide as part of their budget 10 percent retention or other form of security deemed sufficient by RAP Planning and Construction Division to insure completion of the monument and maintenance.

RAP is also recommending approval to grant of a Right-of-Entry Permit (ROE Permit) in order for SALEF to conduct pre-construction activities and other related project activities needed before project approval. RAP would like to grant SALEF access to the park for project related purposes via a ROE Permit. Said ROE Permit would allow SALEF access to the park when necessary prior to project approval. The term of the permit would be indefinite until such a time when SALEF would no longer require access for the intended purposes that the ROE Permit would be granted for or would terminate upon the execution of a lease agreement.

Staff has determined that placement of the proposed monument in MacArthur Park and the associated issuance of a ROE Permit have been previously evaluated for potential environmental effects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the MacArthur Park Improvements Project in April 2008. Staff has further determined that the monument as proposed would not result in any significant environmental impacts. The Final EIR (FEIR) was certified by the Board on June 18, 2008 and a Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on June 24, 2008. As the concept for the monument has not changed since the certification of the FEIR, no additional CEQA documentation for approval of the monument and ROE is required.

This project has strong support from the Councilmember for the First District. In addition, Assistant General Manager and Superintendent for the Metro Region have been consulted and concur with staff's recommendations.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will not be any fiscal impacts as a result of these recommendations. Any cost associated with the conceptual approval of the project and granting of this permit will be incurred by SALEF.

This report was prepared by John Barraza, Management Analyst II, Real Estate and Asset Management Unit.