

# APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

JUN 03 2009

NO. 09-155

DATE June 3, 2009

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MOUNT CARMEL RECREATION CENTER – CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL FOR ATHLETIC FIELD NAMING IN HONOR OF MARLIN AND MIKE MCKEEVER AND KERMIT ALEXANDER

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

*Kenneth B...*  
General Manager *(for)*

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant conceptual approval and authorize staff to continue the process relative to the naming of an athletic field at Mount Carmel Recreation Center, the Alexander McKeever Athletic Field, in honor of Mike and Marlin McKeever and Kermit Alexander.

SUMMARY:

Mount Carmel Recreation Center is located at 830 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street in the South Los Angeles area. This is a three (3) acre facility, which includes baseball diamonds, basketball courts, athletic fields, a children's play area and a senior citizen center.

Mr. John Young, founder of the organization, Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI), has proposed naming the athletic field at Mount Carmel in honor of Mike and Marlin McKeever and Kermit Alexander. Mount Carmel Recreation Center stands on the site which once housed Mount Carmel High School. These men attended Mount Carmel High school as student-athletes who refined their skills there, and learned personal growth, commitment and the discipline necessary to succeed in college, in professional sports, and in life.

Mike and Marlin McKeever graduated from Mount Carmel High School and went on to play for the University of Southern California (USC). Later, Marlin McKeever played professional football. Sadly, both McKeever brothers have now passed away.

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Kermit Alexander also graduated from Mount Carmel High School and went on to play for the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He also played professional football, and is currently active in humanitarian efforts with his church and for children in need in Haiti.

This proposed naming would provide a positive example to young people in this area that hard work does pay off, as well as dedication to hope and personal discipline. In honoring these student-athletes, who came directly from this community, we honor great expectations for our young people. In addition, this naming would call attention to all of the great Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) programs offered at Mount Carmel and at other sites, of which some community members may not be aware.

This naming is supported by the Mount Carmel High School Alumni Foundation (see Exhibit A).

Subsequent to Board approval to proceed with the process, an exact name and athletic field will be determined, and the appropriate community outreach conducted.

Department staff has reviewed this proposal and found no objections. The next step is to continue the Department's process and to prepare a Final Report to the Board which would be submitted for its consideration.

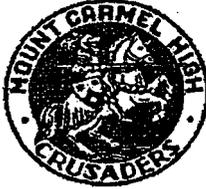
Council District 8 and Pacific Region Superintendent are in support with the recommendations as set forth by the Department.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Fiscal impacts will be described in subsequent Reports to the Board on these proposals.

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

# EXHIBIT A



MOUNT CARMEL  
ALUMNI FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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April 28, 2009

Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager  
Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks  
221 North Figueroa Street - Suite 1550  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Mukri:

On behalf of the Mount Carmel High School Alumni Foundation, we are absolutely thrilled at the prospect that the athletic field at Mount Carmel Park will be renamed on behalf of two of our school's most cherished heroes, Marlin McKeever and Kermit Alexander. We applaud the city for this great step.

Mr. McKeever, along with his brother Mike, will forever be remembered for his great contributions in helping to establish the historic legacy of a small Catholic boys' high school in the heart of south Los Angeles. Mr. Alexander was one of the first African-American stars to emerge from Mount Carmel and he has been an incredible contributor as a role model to the dreams and aspirations of so many young people ever since.

The collective Mount Carmel family and friends look forward to the upcoming dedication ceremony as a great opportunity to celebrate our work on behalf of the place where much of our legacy was developed.

If the MCAF can be of assistance, please contact me at 213.689.9707.

Warm regards,

**Lance A. Williams**

Lance A. Williams, Ph. D.  
Chairman, MCAF

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