

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED

NO. 15-105

DATE May 20, 2015

MAY 20 2015

C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SAINT ANDREWS RECREATION CENTER – NAMING OF GYMNASIUM BUILDING IN HONOR OF MR. BRAD PYE, JUNIOR

R. Adams

V. Israel

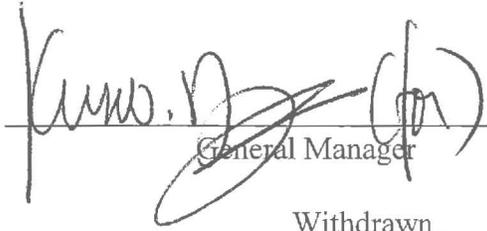
*R. Barajas

CSP f

K. Regan

H. Fujita

N. Williams


General Manager

Approved

Disapproved

Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Grant approval to name the gymnasium building at Saint Andrews Recreation Center, the Brad Pye, Jr. Athletic Center, in honor of Mr. Brad Pye, Jr.; and,
2. Authorize the installation of appropriate park signage.

SUMMARY:

Saint Andrews Recreation Center is an 8.58 acre community park located at 8701 South Saint Andrews Place, Los Angeles, California 90047. The facility includes an indoor gymnasium/auditorium, lighted baseball diamonds, indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a football field, picnic tables, tennis courts, as well as sports and after school programs.

In 2014, the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) considered a request from Council Office 8 to rename Saint Andrews Recreation Center as Brad Pye, Jr. Recreation Center in honor of Brad Pye Jr. Unfortunately, under the Board's adopted Naming Policy, a RAP facility can't be named for a person who is still living. Therefore, since Mr. Pye, is very much alive, the request was denied.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2 NO. 15-105

Recently, the Council Office subsequently submitted to staff a revised request to name the indoor gymnasium feature at this facility the Brad Pye, Jr. Athletic Center. RAP staff has reviewed this revised request and finds that it falls within the parameters of the Board's Policy. As stated in the policy, the naming of a feature within a park for a person is allowed if that person is of 'unique significance' and where there is 'compelling and impressive substantiation demonstrating how the interests of City and its residents were served or impacted.'

Brad Pye, Jr. served and positively impacted the Los Angeles community in many ways. He was the first African-American President of the Department of Recreation and Park Board of Commissioners, serving on the Commission from 1969 to 1979 and elected Commission President for four separate appointments from 1970 to 1971, 1972 to 1973, 1973 to 1974, and 1977 to 1978. He is credited during his time on the Board of Commissioners for opening senior positions within the Department to African American employees, thus paving the way for Algin Sutton to be the first African-American Assistant General Manager of the Department and Jackie Tatum to be the first African-American General Manager of the Department.

In addition, Brad Pye, Jr. spent much of his life in the Central Avenue area of Los Angeles, near the Saint Andrews Recreation Center. He attended both Lafayette and Carver Junior High Schools and Jefferson High School before majoring in journalism at East Los Angeles College. Mr. Brad Pye Jr. was employed by the County of Los Angeles where he worked for over 24 years for the County Angeles, first as a senior deputy in the Second Supervisorial District which includes Saint Andrews Recreation Center and then as a manager within the Department of Children and Family Services. He is perhaps most widely remembered for his prolific career as a sportswriter and commentator having written for the Los Angeles Sentinel, L.A. Watts Times and Inland Valley News newspapers and broadcasting on radio stations KGFJ, KJLH, KACE and KDAY. Mr. Pye also served as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Sports Arena Commission from 1967 to 1979. During his tenure as a sportswriter Mr. Pye would also host mentoring sessions at St. Andrews Recreation Center for local youth, thus strengthening the nexus between Mr. Pye and this particular park.

Given the 'compelling and impressive substantiation demonstrating how the interests of City and its residents were served or impacted' by Brad Pye, Jr., as well as his historic accomplishments in the fields of youth and professional sports, Recreation and Parks management and are in support of the recommendation to name the existing gymnasium at Saint Andrews Recreation Center the Brad Pye, Jr. Athletic Facility.

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

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3 NO. 15-105

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Department for the naming of this indoor gymnasium as the costs for the creation and installation of the appropriate signage will be paid for by funds provided by the Council Office.

This report was prepared by Cid Macaraeg, Senior Management Analyst II, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.



**Brad Pye Jr.
Athletic Center**