

# APPROVED

JUL 11 2018

## BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 18-136

DATE July 11, 2018

C.D. 10

### BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RANCHO CIENEGA SPORTS COMPLEX – APPROVAL OF NAMING BASEBALL DIAMOND #4 AS DEANGELO 'DD' PARHAM FIELD; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA), PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11 (1) OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES (ON PREMISE SIGNS)

|                       |            |                |       |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| AP Diaz               | _____      | V. Israel      | _____ |
| <i>for</i> R. Barajas | <u>CSP</u> | S. Piña-Cortez | _____ |
| H. Fujita             | _____      | N. Williams    | _____ |

*Ramon Barajas*

General Manager

Approved X Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the naming of the Baseball Diamond #4 at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex as the "Deangelo 'DD' Parham Field" (Project);
2. Authorize the installation of appropriate signage;
3. Find the Project is categorically 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, and direct Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) staff to file a Notice of Exemption; and,
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the purpose of filing a Notice of Exemption.

### SUMMARY

Rancho Cienega Sports Complex (Rancho Cienega) is located at 5001 Rodeo Road. The Rancho Cienega is a twenty-nine (29) acre facility which contains baseball diamonds, basketball courts, a football field, a soccer field, and picnic areas. This facility offers sports programming, swimming, tennis and track as well as aerobics, arts and crafts, L.A. Kids, and Summer Day Camp. This facility also features the Celes King III Swimming Pool, Charmette Bonpua Skate Park and Arthur Ashe Tennis Center.

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In October 2017, the City Council passed a Motion presented by Herb J. Wesson, Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District, which requests that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) name the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex's Baseball Diamond No. 4 as the "Deangelo 'DD' Parham Field". The Council Motion is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Deangelo "DD" Parham (2002-2017) lived in Council District 10 his entire life. DD passed away suddenly on October 20, 2017 due to complications from an illness. During his short life DD was often playing sports at the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex.

On October 27, 2017 a memorial service for DD was held at Rancho Cienega. The service was attended by a diverse group of family, friends and community members. Speakers included Kimani Black, council deputy for CD 10, who shared that the Dodger Foundation was providing a donation to assist with funeral expenses, and that the Council Office 10 would be requesting that RAP rename Baseball Diamond #4 in Deangelo's name (Exhibit B).

Council District 10 strongly supports this naming request. Council District staff has confirmed support for this proposal from both the surrounding community, including the West Adams Neighborhood Council, the Baldwin Hills Homeowners Association, and the LA Dodger Foundation.

On May 16, 2018, this proposal was presented to the Facilities and Maintenance Repair Commission Task Force (Task Force) for review. The Task Force recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

Staff has evaluated the proposed naming and finds it to be in compliance with the Board adopted Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities. The name "Deangelo 'DD' Parham Field' honors the memory of a leader of the youth community who was recognized by his peers for his devotion to and participation at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex.

RAP's management and staff are in support of the recommendations.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed project involves the installation of on premise signs. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Board determine that the subject project is categorically 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. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There will be no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund for the naming of this Baseball Diamond #4 as installation of new signage will be the responsibility of the Council District 10 as the project applicant.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A  
Exhibit B

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, PARKS, AND RIVER

MOTION

Deangelo "DD" Parham (2002-2017) lived in Council District 10 his entire life. He suddenly passed away on October 20, 2017 due to complication from an illness. At only 14 years old, he was the baby of the family. DD was smart, kind, funny, and an all around great kid who loved his family deeply.

DD recently moved back to his parents' hometown in Alabama, where they were just beginning to start their new lives. He leaves behind a host of family members in Los Angeles, including five brothers and one sister.

Since he was five years old, DD could often be seen at the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex playing one of his favorite sports: baseball.

In recognition of the positive impact DD had on those around him and his love of baseball, it is appropriate that Baseball Diamond #4 at the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, with the support of the LA Dodgers Foundation, located at 5001 Rodeo Road, be named as the "Deangelo 'DD' Parham Field."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to name the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex's Baseball Diamond #4 as the "Deangelo 'DD' Parham Field."

PRESENTED BY:   
HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

cc

OCT 31 2017



ORIGINAL

# Fallen 14-Year-Old Is Remembered at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex

By E. Mesiyah McGinnis, Staff Writer

Published November 2, 2017



***(L) Rancho baseball Coach Chris Cowser and Tony Parham hold up 14-year-old Deangelo's commemorative photo in Dodger blue, as Kamani Black, deputy, Los Angeles City Council, speaks to Deangelo's supporters during his memorial on October, 27, 2017. (photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis)***

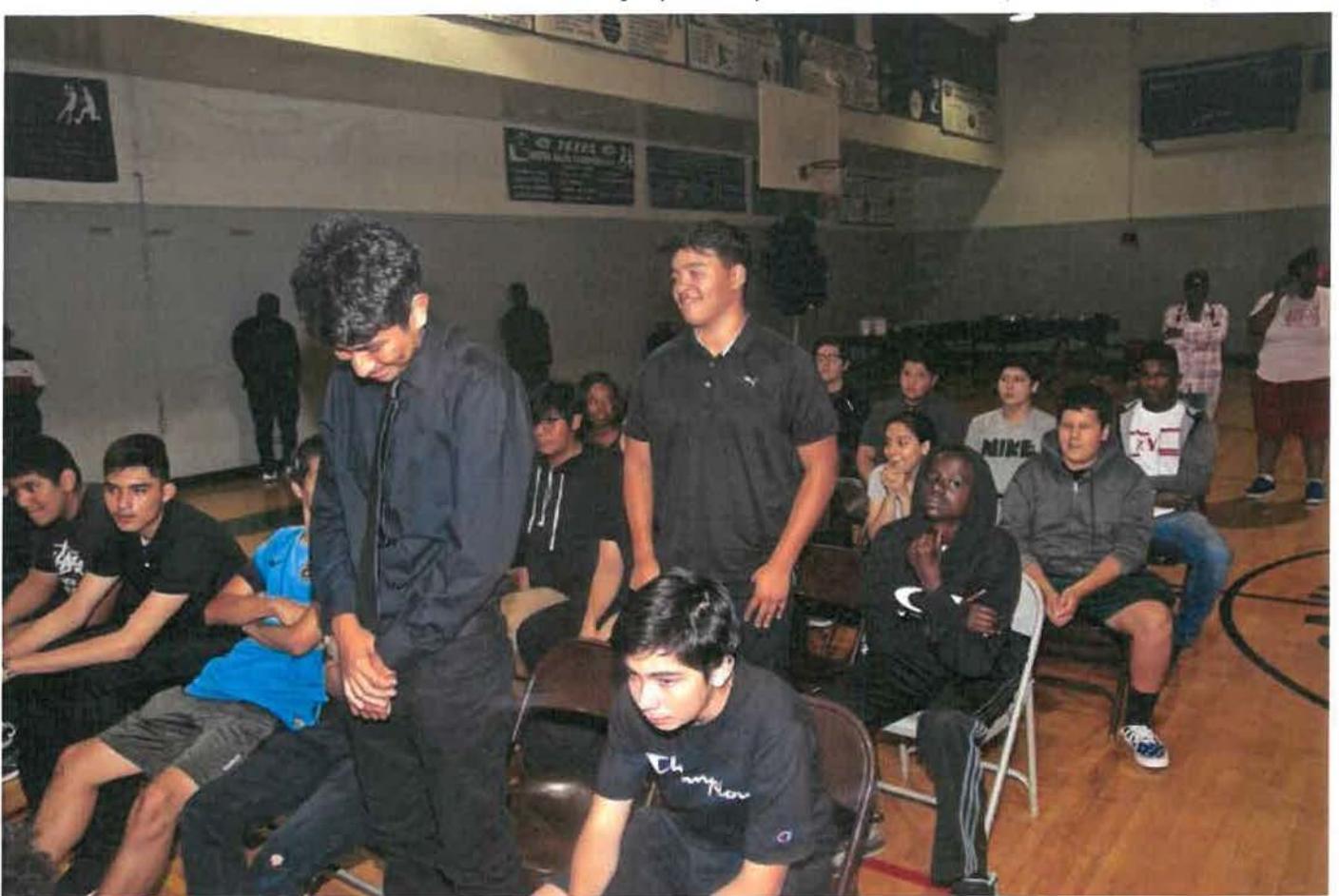
On October 20, at only 14 years of age, Deangelo "Dee Dee" Parham suddenly passed of an enlarged heart. Although he lived in Los Angeles, he was in Alabama at the time of his passing; his death was felt miles away as the community of mourners came out to Rancho Cienega Sports Complex, in South Los Angeles, to pay their final respects and share in the loss of a great friend. Dee Dee was the younger brother of Antonio Chatmon and Tony Parham, local kids, who made names for themselves as elite athletes at Rancho, Dorsey High school and beyond. Dee Dee was the youngest family member following in his big brother's legacy. He was very much loved by his high school friends, park community and family.

Antonio welcomed and thanked the packed crowd for attending his little brother's memorial, held in the basketball gymnasium. According to Antonio, Dee Dee practically grew up at the park. He loved being at Rancho and participating in the sports programs. "He was what coaches call a 'Rancho Park Rat,'" he said. The memorial was also a chance for his friends and extended family to celebrate his life. The love and support that was shown was overwhelming, with a diverse group coming to share in sacred and funny memories. Pastor Johnson, who prayed, asking God for understanding, delivered the message of death never being easy. "No matter how saved you might be, death is never easy .. especially when a young person's life is taken," said Pastor Johnson. "We better find God. God may not take the pain away, but God will give you grace."



***Pastor Johnson speaks to young mourners of the passing of Deangelo Parham at Rancho Cienega Park, on October 27, 2017. (photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis / LA Sentinel)***

Kamani Black, deputy, Los Angeles City Council, spoke of his fond memories of Dee Dee and read a heartfelt letter, sent from the Dodger organization. "We are incredibly saddened to hear of the sudden death of Deangelo ... we are honored to call him a member of the Dodgers Foundation family and are grateful baseball placed so much joy in his heart, Kamani read. He then shared with the audience that the Dodger Foundation was providing a donation of \$2,500 in hopes of assisting with the family's funeral expenses. Black also shared with the grateful audience a commemorative photograph of Deangelo in his Dodger uniform; he also revealed the City Council's plan to request that Los Angeles Recreation and Parks rename Diamond 4 in Deangelo's name.



***"Dee Dee's" friends share fond memories at his memorial. (photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis / LA Sentinel)***

Deangelo's high school friends spoke highly of him, and other peers sang or just shared fun stories to pay their last respects to their fallen friend. Older brother, Tony Parham delivered heartfelt words of reflection, and thanks Deangelo's friends for being so supportive of him. "My little brother, you were more than my brother, you were my friend," he recited. "My little brother, my little brother, handsome cause you look like me, my little brother, when I lost you, I lost a part of me." Antonio reflected, "he was a very talented person who had yet to reach his full potential. He made such an impact in his short time here and I wish I had a chance to talk to him one last time," he said. After the memorial, Dee Dee's Friends and family moved to take a group photo on Diamond 4, which will soon be named in Deangelo's honor. "My brother's heart was larger than his small body could handle. May you rest in heaven, your big brother," said Antonio.



***The Parham and Chatmon family celebrate the life of Deangelo Parham, on Diamond 4 at Rancho Cienaga Sports Complex. (Photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis / LA Sentinel)***

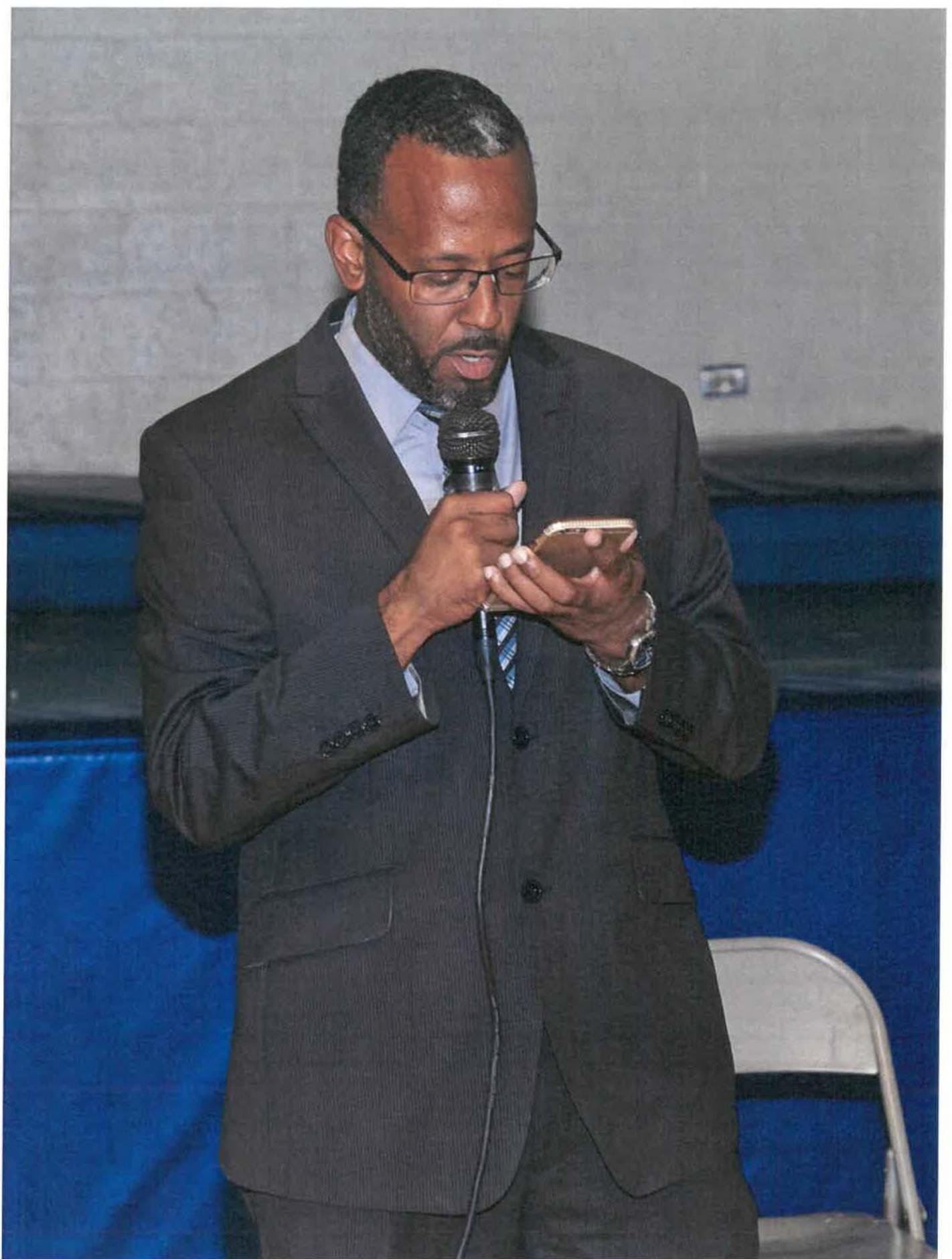
"Every person in his family was an athlete. Whenever we were choosing teams, Dee Dee was always the first kid on my list. On behalf of Rancho Cienaga Park, we love Dee Dee and the Chatmon and Parham family," said Recreation Coordinator Phillip Wiley. According to Wiley, the kids and parents of Rancho are a family; they celebrate the good times and comfort one another during the challenging times. "We are family at Rancho."

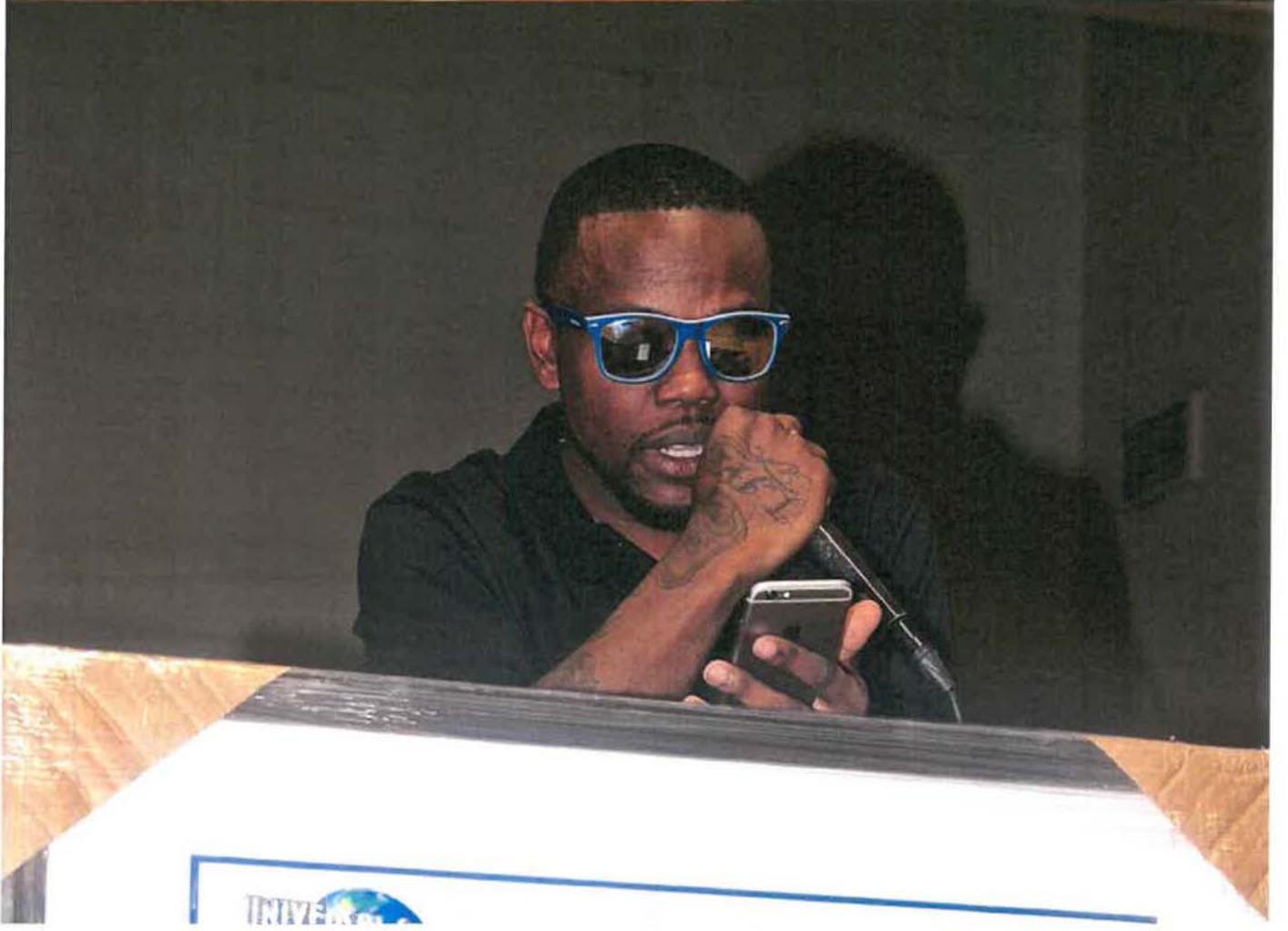


***After the memorial, Dee Dee's Friends and family moved to take a group photo on Diamond 4, which will soon be named in Deangelo's honor. "My brother's heart was larger than his small body could handle. May you rest in heaven, your big brother," said Antonio. (photo E. Mesiyah McGinnis / LA Sentinel)***

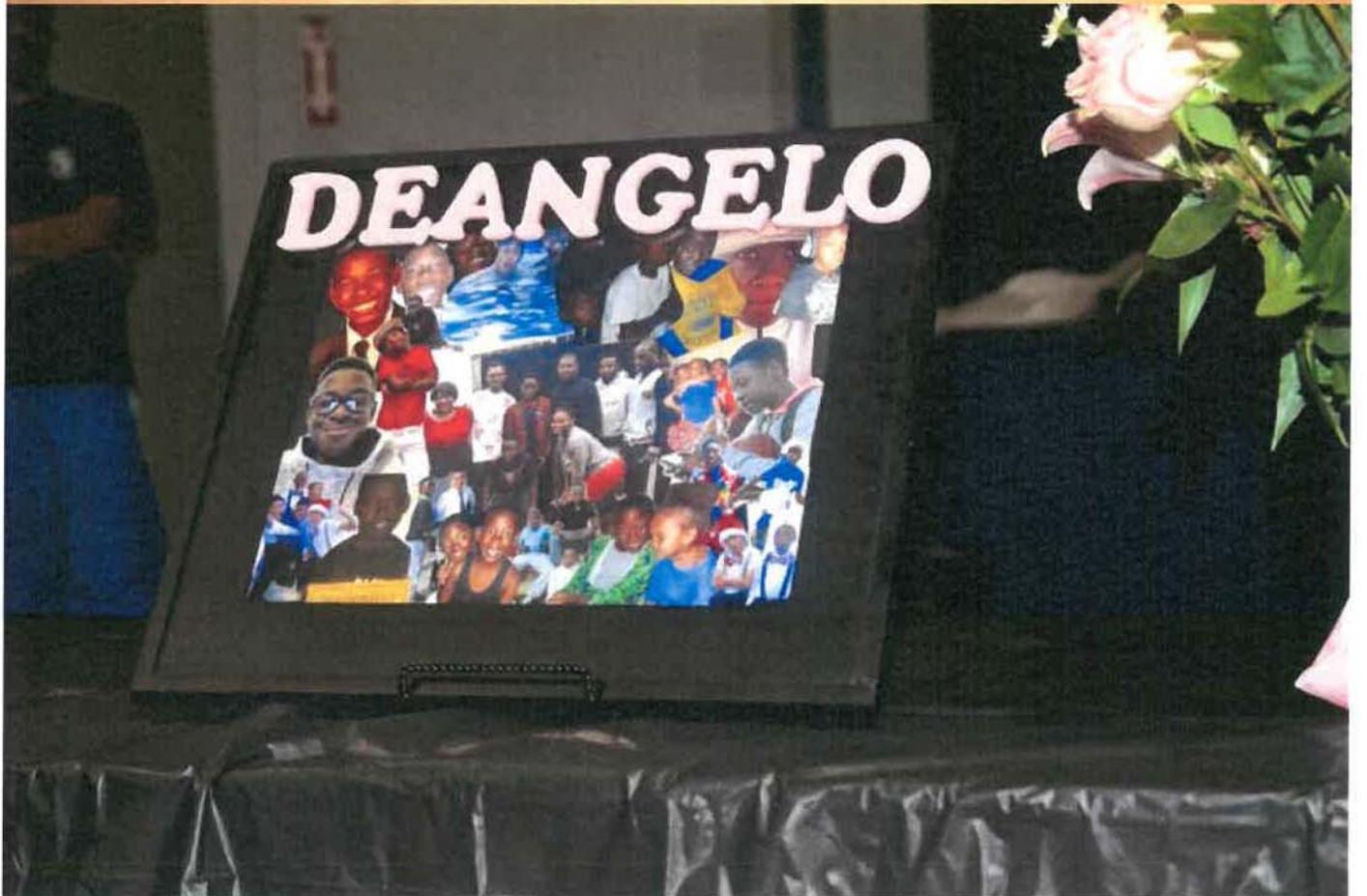
**Additional Photos by E. Mesiyah McGinnis - LA Sentinel**

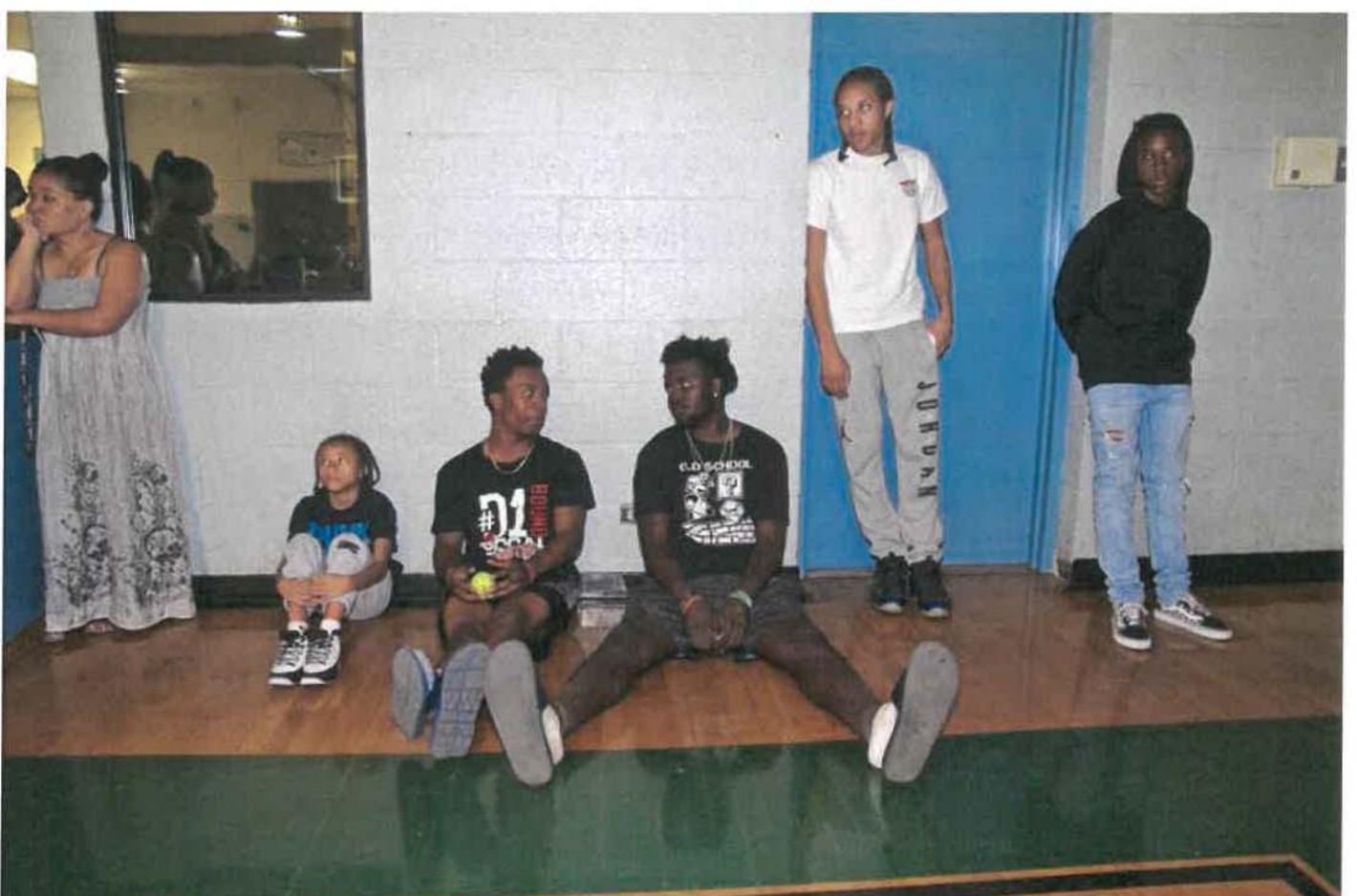


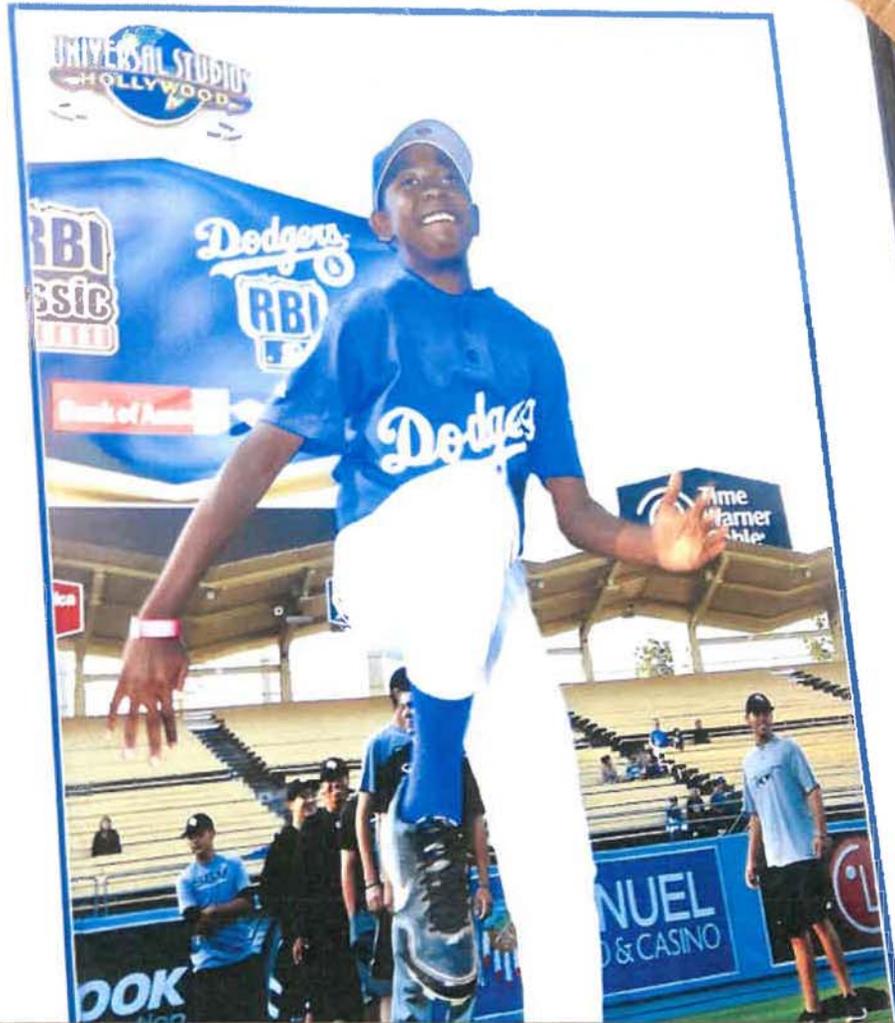


















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