

TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2007 CMR: 398:07

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FROM POLICY & SERVICES COMMITTEE TO
RENAME CITY HALL PLAZA TO "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND
CORETTA SCOTT KING PLAZA"**

RECOMMENDATION

The Policy & Services Committee recommends that the City Council rename City Hall Plaza to "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Plaza" in honor of their combined contributions. If the Council authorizes the renaming, staff further recommends that the Council authorize staff to begin design work on an appropriate small sign or plaque for the plaza.

BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2007, the Policy & Services Committee considered a report from staff that recommended the renaming of either City Hall Plaza or Lytton Plaza in honor of the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King (see Attachment A). The Committee recommended on a 4-0 vote that the City Council rename City Hall Plaza. Since that meeting, staff has met internally to discuss the cost and timing of placing a small sign or plaque on the plaza. If the Council authorizes the renaming of the plaza, staff would work to complete the design and installation of this sign in time for a dedication ceremony in January 2008 to coincide with Dr. King's birthday.

The Committee also discussed an interest in additional public art on the plaza to commemorate the Kings. Staff recommends that this become an item for discussion as part of any upcoming plaza reconstruction effort, working with the Public Art Commission. This would prevent the installation and then removal of any art during the reconstruction. However, there may be opportunities to consider temporary exhibits (either artistic or educational) on the plaza to recognize the Kings.

RESOURCE IMPACT

Staff recommends installation of a more permanent plaque or sign as compared to the traditional wooden signs installed at other community parks. The estimated cost of this type of signage is approximately \$10,000. Staff recommends using existing funds in CIP# PG-06003 (Benches,

Signage & Fencing) to pay for the design and installation work. Staff will monitor the funding in this CIP based on work plan estimates for the year. If a need for additional funding exists, staff will include a request along with the other mid-year budget requests.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is consistent with direction provided by the City Council during previous discussions of renaming in recognition of the Kings.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This is not a project requiring environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Attachment A: CMR 290:07 June 26, 2007 Report to Policy & Services Committee with attachments

Attachment B: Excerpt of minutes from June 26, 2007 Policy & Services Committee meeting

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