

**RESOLUTION NO. 20170803-056**

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Berl L. Handcox Sr., was the first African American Council Member elected under the Manager-Council form of government, serving from 1971 through 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Handcox dedicated his life to improving living and working conditions for Austin's African American community by increasing job opportunities, improving East Austin infrastructure, and bridging East Austin to the rest of Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Handcox was well known for initiating the Community Improvement Program to enhance deteriorating areas of East Austin and eventually all of Austin, as well as the "Handcox Paving Policy" which curbed, guttered and paved roads throughout the entire city; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1972, Council Member Handcox and the Council directed the City Manager to authorize grant funds to support the construction of the City's wastewater treatment and collection facilities, focusing on the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant funds purchased and installed a centrifuge, which propelled East Austin infrastructure enhancements, modernizing the wastewater treatment plant and greatly improving air quality in East Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his time on Council, Council Member Handcox spent considerable time passionately advocating for water and wastewater facilities to be both cleaner and more equitably distributed throughout the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin's newest water treatment plant, currently called *Water Treatment Plant 4*, which was completed in 2014, is evidence of Council Member Handcox's legacy as it boasts an unprecedented environmental commissioning process that protected the environment both during construction and into the future, confirming Handcox's passion to provide Austin with environmentally sound water and wastewater treatment infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Handcox resides in City of Austin's District 6, and has lived in his home for over 40 years; the same district that *Water Treatment Plant 4* is located; and

**WHEREAS**, it is both fitting and deserving that Council Member Handcox be honored through the naming of a major piece of water infrastructure due to his incredible efforts and accomplishments during his time on the City Council; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to initiate proceedings in accordance with § 14-1-39(A) of the City Code for the re-naming of *Water Treatment Plant 4* with the suggestion that it be named the *Berl L. Handcox, Sr. Water Treatment Plant*.

**ADOPTED:** August 3, 2017

**ATTEST:**

  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk