



Facility Naming
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 26
AGENDA DATE: Thu 09/30/2004
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SUBJECT: Approve a resolution naming the community center located at 7500 Blessing Avenue the St. John Community Center and naming the recreation center within the community center the Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Parks and Recreation **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT: **AUTHORIZATION:** Warren Struss

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Stuart Strong, Division Manager, 974-6766

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

The Community Center is located at 7500 Blessing Avenue in the St. John neighborhood and shares a campus with J. J. Pickle Elementary School. The Community Center, which opened in January 2002 has not been officially named by the Austin City Council.

The Parks and Recreation Department received a request to name the Community Center for Virginia L. Brown in November, 2003. The City of Austin Public Information Office began the official process for nominations to name the facility in February 2004. The deadline for submitting nominations was May 24, 2004. The naming applications were reviewed and public comment received by the Land and Facilities Committee of the Parks and Recreation Board during June, July and August 2004. On August 24, 2004, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended a compromise proposal to have the St. John Community Center to be the name of the multi-purpose facility that houses a recreation center, clinic, library and police substation. This allows the neighborhood to retain its cultural heritage associated with the name St. John. The Board further recommended that the recreation center be named for Virginia L. Brown.

Ms. Brown was a pioneer and visionary for the St. John's community. Among her many accomplishments are successfully advocating for the construction of the St. John Community Center and the J. J. Pickle Elementary School. Ms. Brown was the first Director of the original St. John's Neighborhood Center located at 7100 Bethune Avenue. She also worked at the St. John Community Center until her passing in June, 2003. Ms. Brown was highly involved in community activities such as clothing and feeding the poor, providing shelter for the homeless, making health care affordable and accessible and assisting the less fortunate with job opportunities.

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Virginia L. Brown was the first director of the original St. John's Neighborhood Center located at 7100 Bethune Avenue and among her many accomplishments, successfully advocated for the construction of the St. John Community Center and the J. J. Pickle Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brown was a pioneer and visionary for the St. John's community, being highly involved in community activities such as clothing and feeding the poor, providing shelter for the homeless, making health care affordable and accessible, and assisting the less fortunate with job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department is in support of naming the recreation center in the community center located at 7500 Blessing Avenue, the "Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center"; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department is also in support of naming the community center located at 7500 Blessing Avenue, the St. John Community Center in an effort to retain the cultural heritage associated with the name St. John.

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

The City Council finds that Ms. Brown's long years of outstanding service to the St. John's community satisfies the criteria for the naming of a building and that the procedural requirements for the naming of a facility have been satisfied;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The recreation center in the community center located at 7500 Blessing Avenue is named the "Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center" in honor of Virginia L. Brown's many years of service and her valuable contributions to the St. John's community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The community center located at 7500 Blessing Avenue is named the "St. John Community Center" to retain the cultural heritage associated with the name St. John.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk