

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

AGENDA DATE: May 17, 2011

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Nanette Smejkal, Director (541-4283)

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: 5

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Approve a Resolution naming the park located at 12930 G.R. Campuzano Drive as Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez USMC Park.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

The naming of parks and recreation facilities follows a Council adopted policy. The Marine Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez Memorial Committee provided the naming application, petitions, and research. The Naming Subcommittee and the entire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) reviewed the naming application and heard from supporters. Consensus was reached, advice was sought on protocol, and the PRAB recommends naming the facility "Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez USMC Park." Attached please find background materials.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

Enter appropriate comments or N/A

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted to approve the naming recommendation on May 9, 2011 and forward to City Council for consideration with a recommendation to approve.

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign

also)

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council accept the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to name the park located at 12930 G.R. Campuzano Drive, City of El Paso, El Paso County Texas, as **SGT JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ USMC PARK**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT the park located at 12930 G.R. Campuzano Drive, El Paso, Texas, shall henceforth be named and known as **SGT JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ USMC PARK**; and,

THAT the Marine Sgt. Jesus Roberto Vasquez Memorial Committee ("Applicant") shall incur the customary costs associated with the naming of a park, such as installing or replacing signs with the park name or any other signs posted or affixed to a facility. Any proposed signs shall be acceptable to both the Parks and Recreation Department and Applicant. (District 5)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

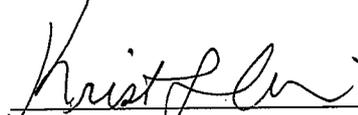
CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

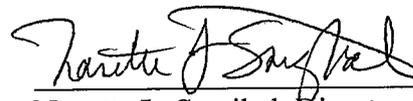
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen L. Choi
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Nanette L. Smejkal, Director
Parks and Recreation Department



City of El Paso PARK NAMING/CHANGING Application



Applicant Information

Please print or type the information in black ink

Applicant Name: MANUEL GAMEROS
 Mailing Address: 10545 GREENWAY AVE City: EL PASO Zip: 79925
 Home Phone: (915) 591 2503 Work Phone: (915) 525-6645 Cell Phone: (915) 525 6645
 Email Address: mg_ranch@yahoo.com
 Organization: SGT JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Non-Profit YES

Proposed Name / Change

Park/Facility Location/Address: 12930 GR CAMPUZANO DR
 Current name of Park or Facility: TRES SUEÑOS #1 Not Applicable

Suggested Name: ^{Option?} MARLYNE SGT JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ PARK

Category:

- Outstanding Individual(s)
Acknowledges the sustained contribution that has been made by such individual(s) to the City of El Paso and/or the development and management of the City's park and recreation system.
- Common usage identifying the Neighborhood
Acknowledges the geographic location or common name that gives a particular identity to a neighborhood.
- Historical Event, Person, Place
Preserves and honors the history of El Paso, its founders, other historical figures or local landmarks.
- Natural or Geographical Feature to the area
Acknowledges a prominent or unique natural or geological feature in the surrounding area.
- Benefit/Organization Acknowledgement
Major gift, acknowledges the significant benefit of a donation
- Other

Describe:

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA
PARKS AND RECREATION
STAFF ONLY

Date Received by PAR: 3-3-2011 M.B.
 Date of Committee Meeting: 4-5-2011 M.B.
 Date of PRAB Meeting: 4-11-2011 M.B.
 Date of City Council Meeting: _____

JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ

JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ (BETO [nickname for Roberto]) was born the Fourth of July 1947 in EL PASO, TEXAS, to EMILIO and MARIA DE JESUS VASQUEZ. He was from a large family by today's standards with a total of six siblings, the oldest being Beatriz Maria Vasquez, followed by Jesus Roberto Vasquez, Ricardo Emilio Vasquez, Agustin Vasquez, Maria Ofelia Vasquez-Escarcega, and Juan Francisco Vasquez.

He attended San Juan Catholic Church and served as an altar boy for many years. Father Manuel Maruffo, C.M.F now, was the one in charge of the altar boys when BETO was an altar boy; Father Manuel Maruffo remains a good friend of the family.

His father passed away December 04, 1988, at age 79; his mother passed away last year January 13, 2009, at age 94; and his brother Ricardo Emilio passed away March 18, 2001, at age 51. Sisters Beatriz Maria and Maria Ofelia; and Brothers Agustin and Juan Francisco are still living.

He went to San Juan Elementary School (now Hawkins Elementary School) then on to Henderson Middle School and Jefferson High School where he graduated in May 25, 1965. During his four years at Jefferson High School he participated in ROTC, where he was on the Rifle Team. He also liked to play baseball.

He worked at Gunning Casteel Drug Store after school and on weekends. When he got off work from time to time he would stop at Chico's Tacos on Alameda and bring us all some tacos, which was a treat for us. While he was working at Gunning Casteel Drug Store he met his girl friend Delia Escarsega and this is what she said "When I first saw Robert at Jefferson High School my heart would go flip flop, but I never talked to him because I always thought he was too good looking for me. My biggest surprise was when I started working at Gunning Casteel Drug stores and he started training me as a soda jerk, (that is what they use to call us at that time). Robert was a very kind and gentle young man with high values. He had great respect for everybody he met. He taught me how to make a grilled cheese sandwich, which I had never seen or heard of. I made it with lettuce and tomato and melted the cheese on the grill, the customer told me it was the funniest looking grilled cheese sandwich she had ever seen. The next day I asked Robert what was a grilled cheese sandwich and he showed me the picture and taught me how to make them. He was a good guy. We did not go night clubbing or drinking since I

was not of age and neither was he, but he did go to Juarez where it was legal. We always ended up at Ascarate Park and when I pass by there I look for the spot where we used to park. They always used to play a Lover's Concerto on the radio and that song always reminds me of him. I sometimes wonder how things would be if he had lived and where would we be."

He introduced his three brothers (Ricardo Emilio, Agustin and Juan Francisco Vasquez) to golf, having made friends with Benjamin Perez, who was caddy master at the Coronado Golf Club. They met and caddied for UTEP coach Don Haskins, among the many high profile people he encountered.

BETO liked to work on his car and the first car he got was a 1955 Chevy, metallic green in color. He was so proud of his car, and the very same car he left behind when he left for the Marine Corp. He earned extra money for gas for his car by helping Mom with the ironing and doing extra chores around the house

He would go to Cd. Juarez and surprise his baptismal Godparents Alejandro and Francisca Gardea, and would take them out to lunch. Mom and Dad were not aware of BETO taking his Godparents to lunch until after his death, that's when his godparents told my mother what he used to do.

BETO was very respectful of his parents, making sure not to say offensive words or offend them in any way. I remember one Sunday summer morning when we lived on Avenida de Las Americas, over by the Coliseum, a bunch of partiers were driving by, headed home from Juarez, when all of a sudden several people got out of their cars and started fighting amongst themselves and a neighbor. The noise woke everybody up and my brother ran out to try and help our neighbor, but our parents held him back - what a day that was. That was typical of BETO, always willing and ready to help whoever needed help, a trait he learned at home, especially from our Mom. I remember we had a little gathering at the house with friends and family to celebrate with him before he left before heading out to Quantico, VA for further training in munitions and heavy artillery, then eventually getting sent to Vietnam; what a great time we had. He loved being with his family, especially with Mom. We had such a short time to know BETO, but in that time he was always there when you needed him. He was a wonderful son and brother to all his brothers (RICARDO EMILIO, AGUSTIN AND JUAN FRANCISCO VASQUEZ) and his sisters (BEATRIZ MARIA VASQUEZ AND MARIA OFELIA VASQUEZ-ESCARCEGA).

My brother was very gentle yet firm, and that is why he joined the Marines. He wanted to make a Career in the Marines and be a Drill Instructor. He was very talented and I do believe he had a mission in life; a life cut short in Vietnam on January 30, 1968, which happened to be my sister Ofelia's sixteenth birthday. He received the NAVY CROSS (the second highest medal), the PURPLE HEART, and THREE Vietnam Campaign medals and TWO patches. All four brothers were Marines – after his death they followed in his footsteps. His father Emilio Vasquez, served in WWII and participated in the D-day invasion of Europe; receiving a PURPLE HEART and campaign medals.



PARK NAMING/CHANGING



Supporting Documentation

Suggested Name: SGT JESUS ROBERTO VASQUEZ PARK

Please provide a written narrative that supports the nomination for consideration. If proposing to name a park or facility after an outstanding person, a biography must also be attached and include material that identifies the individual's significance and notable reputation in the City of El Paso.

SEE ATTACHMENT

Attach additional pages if needed. Supporting documentation is encouraged for all applications to help justify why this name should be chosen.