TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Pamela Sloan, Parks and Recreation Director
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION: NAMING OF THE NEW CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IN LOUIS PARK

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the naming of the new children's playground in Louis Park after Michael Vega, the Army National Guard Lieutenant who died as a result of injuries sustained in the Iraq war. The Home Depot stores of Stockton are requesting to name the playground after Lt. Vega, who was an employee of the Home Depot store on Hammer Lane before he was sent to Iraq. The local Home Depot stores in Stockton donated materials, supplies, and manpower to build the playground.

Background

In June a much needed children's playground was installed at Louis Park through a joint project involving the Parks and Recreation Department, local Home Depot stores and a non-profit organization called KaBOOM. The playground was installed in one day by approximately 250 volunteers, primarily individuals associated with Home Depot.

It is estimated that the City saved in excess of $80,000 through the generous financial and volunteer support provided by local Home Depot stores. The playground building event was dedicated in memory of National Guard Lieutenant Michael Vega, who died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty in Iraq earlier this year. Lt. Vega was an employee of The Home Depot store located on Hammer Lane.

Throughout the event and the weeks that followed, requests to name the playground after Lt. Vega were received by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Present Situation

City Council Policy No. 400-1 governs the naming of City parks, and buildings and facilities located within parks. There are two primary procedures followed within the policy; (1) is the public information process, when the public is asked to submit names and justifications, and; (2) bypassing the public information process when the City Council determines that a significant financial contribution has been made toward the project.

On August 18, 2004, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved a recommendation that the City Council authorize the naming of the new children's playground in Louis Park after Lt. Michael Vega.
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In discussing the issue, the Commission concluded that it would be appropriate to bypass the public information process since the playground would not have been built without the financial contributions of Home Depot. Additionally, the Commission recommended that the name of Lt. Vega be selected at the request of Home Depot stores in the greater Stockton area.

Respectfully submitted,

PAMELA SLOAN
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

PS:PW:pb

Approved by City Manager

MARK LEWIS, CITY MANAGER