

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: February 17, 2009
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Consider renaming Terrace Park to “Jewel’s Terrace Park” in honor of former Councilmember Jewel Okawahi.

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #09-4 –A Resolution of the Albany City Council Renaming Terrace Park to “Jewel’s Terrace Park” in honor of former Councilmember Jewel Okawachi.

BACKGROUND

At the October 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted to recommend to Council that Terrace Park be renamed in honor of Councilmember Jewel Okawachi. Attached is a summary of Jewel’s involvement and volunteerism with a number of organizations, boards, Commissions, and City Council. Also attached is a resolution passed by the Parks and Recreation Commission on October 7, 2008, recommending to Council that Terrace Park be renamed “Jewel’s Terrace Park”.

At the February 2, 2009 Council meeting, Council considered renaming Terrace Park and voted to directed staff to send notices neighbors surrounding the park so that they would have an opportunity to respond to renaming the park at tonight’s Council meeting. Staff noticed the neighbors within 300 feet of the park.

DISCUSSION

Jewel Okawachi has been a lifelong resident of Albany and a City Council member whose second term on the City Council will end in December 2008. Albany has not only been Jewel’s lifelong home but her place of work where for 27 years she ran a small business. Jewel was elected to four-year terms on the City Council in 2000 and 2004, serving as Mayor in 2002. Jewel has also served on the City’s Pension Board, served as Council liaison to the Library Board, served on the Waterfront Committee, served on the Parks & Recreation Commission, and served on the Waste Management Authority Board.

Jewel has been a longtime volunteer for Albany, committing her time to the Albany Education Foundation, the Police Activities League, the City’s Youth Task Force, the Prevention Council, the Drug & Alcohol Task Force, Albany Little League, the Boy Scouts, the first Teen Center, Albany High School Track & Field, Albany High Athletic

Boosters, the Albany Community Foundation, the Albany Chamber of Commerce, the Solano Avenue Association, the Albany Historical Society, the Friends of the Albany Library, the Friends of the Albany Seniors, and Soroptimist International.

Among all her other work on behalf of Albany, Jewel has been dedicated to Albany's Parks and green space. Jewel's longtime daily routine includes a walk through her neighborhood park, Terrace Park. By renaming Terrace Park to "Jewel's Terrace Park", the Commission agreed that there is no better way to honor such a special person who has given so much of her time and energy to the City of Albany for many, many years.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to replace the sign is \$4,000.

Attachments

1. Summary of Accomplishments
2. Park and Recreation Commission Resolution