

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee

FROM: Commissioner David Richardson

DATE: May 19, 2021

SUBJECT: **Referral to the May 19, 2021 Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee Proposal to co-name of 18th Street in Honor of late Harvey Milk**

In accordance with the City Code, the above-referenced item is to consider my specific proposal to co-name of 18th Street, located between Meridian Avenue and the Convention Center Drive/Mohamad Ali Way, and proximate to Pride Park, in honor of the late great Harvey Milk.

On May 12, 2021, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2021-4419, amending Section 82-503(c) of the City Code to provide additional criteria for the co-naming of streets in honor of deceased persons who are known for their role as a gay-rights pioneer and as one of the first openly LGBTQ people ever elected to public office in the U.S., such as Harvey Milk.

Whenever a request is made to co-name streets or portions thereof, Section 82-503(c)(2) of the City Code requires the sponsor to submit the proposal in writing to an appropriate committee (in this case, the NQLC), which shall include the following: (1) the street, or portion thereof, to be co-named; (2) the proposed co-name of the street, or portion thereof; (3) the reason for the request; and (4) a factual summary confirming that the proposed person falls under the specific criteria outlined in subsection 82-503(c)(1)(a) of the City Code.

Harvey Milk is best known for his role as a gay-rights pioneer and one of the first openly LGBTQ people ever elected to public office in the U.S. While his life was tragically cut short, Milk's legacy has continued to shine bright. In 2009, President Obama posthumously awarded Milk the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor a president can bestow. In April 2018, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved and signed legislation renaming Terminal 1 at San Francisco International Airport after Milk, making it the world's first airport terminal named after a leader of the LGBTQ community. In June 2018, the city council of Portland, Oregon voted to rename a thirteen-block southwestern section of Stark Street to Harvey Milk Street. In June 2019, Paris, France named a square Place Harvey-Milk in Le Marais.

Co-naming 18th Street, which is proximate to the City Hall and Pride Park in honor of one of the first openly gay public officials who was tragically murdered for being his authentic and

unapologetic self would be particularly symbolic and fitting, considering that Mr. Milk's unprecedented proclamation of his authenticity as an openly gay public official gave hope to LGBTQ people everywhere at that time.

As such, I propose to co-name 18th Street, located between Meridian Avenue, and the Convention Center Drive/Mohammed Ali Way, and proximate to Pride Park, as "Harvey Milk Way" and request the Committee to provide its advisory recommendation for the Mayor and City Commission's consideration and approval, subject to a public hearing and a 5/7 vote.

Should you have any questions or concerns about any of the foregoing, please don't hesitate to contact me or my aide Luis Callejas.

DR/RAP/FA/ag