

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Michael Gongora
DATE: July 28, 2021

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND QUALITY OF LIFE
COMMITTEE - DISCUSSION REGARDING NAMING THE NORTH SHORE
BASEBALL FIELDS AFTER MANNY LAFONT, A VICTIM OF THE
SURFSIDE CONDO COLLAPSE.

ANALYSIS

Please place on the July 28 Commission meeting a referral to Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee regarding a discussion of naming the North Shore Baseball Fields after Manny Lafont, a victim of the Surfside Condo Collapse. Manny LaFont was the proud father of Santi (10) and Mia (13) who attended St. Patrick Grade School in Miami Beach. A petition which was started on June 28 has already 1, 713 signatures to petition for the City to name the North Shore Baseball Fields after Manny Lafont. Please find below the wording from the petition:

"The tragic events in Surfside have affected many and have reached across numerous communities. From families and friends, neighbors and visitors, parents, sons and daughters and even coaches. Our own Miami Beach baseball community lost a great friend and coach in Manny LaFont.

Manny was a fixture at the park, always ready with a heartfelt hello, and generously giving of his time and knowledge to anyone who asked or needed a little help or encouragement. Myself, and many others, coached with Manny as our boys and girls developed and grew through the years. We shared many a laugh, tear and moments of pride as the kids played, all the while with a smile on his face and a gleam in his eye.

On more occasions than I can remember, Manny would bring Santi for some father and son practice only to be inundated with questions and pleas for help from other parents. He never waived and always gave freely of his time, even if it meant having to stay longer with Santi for their own time. He touched so many lives, created a joy and love for our sport, and selflessly gave all whenever ask.

Although Manny has thrown his last baseball, there could be no better way to help preserve our memories of him and his legacy by dedicating North Shore park baseball fields in his memory. In loving memory of Manny Lafont, please help make this happen."

Please feel free to contact Diana Fontani should you need any addition information.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

Applicable Area

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right
to Know" item, pursuant to
City Code Section 2-14?**

Yes

**Does this item utilize G.O.
Bond Funds?**

No

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner Michael Gongora