

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 14-186

DATE July 9, 2014

JUL 23 2014
BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SPRING STREET PARK – INSTALLATION OF A MEMORIAL PLAQUE

<i>fur</i>	R. Adams	_____	V. Israel	_____
	*R. Barajas	<i>CBP</i>	K. Regan	_____
	H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

- Grant approval for the wording, placement, and installation of a memorial plaque at Spring Street Park, as described in the Summary of this Report; and,
- Authorize staff to issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry Permit.

SUMMARY:

Spring Street Park is a 0.80 acre pocket park located at 428 South Spring Street in the Downtown community. This facility includes a tot-lot, walking paths, unique furniture and benches, shade trees and native plantings, and a large grassy area. The facility is unstaffed. This proposal is for the installation of a plaque at Spring Street Park in memoriam of Marcello Vasquez.

On July 14, 2011, during a monthly Art Walk event, an unlicensed and uninsured motorist, traveling south on Spring Street between 4th and 5th Streets, attempted to parallel park. Tragically the driver lost control of the vehicle and drove onto the sidewalk knocking down a parking meter and killing a 2-month-old baby in a stroller being held by the infant's father.

The parents of the deceased infant brought suit against the City of Los Angeles (City), Art Walk, and the driver of the vehicle. At the recommendation of the City Attorney, the City settled the suit for a monetary amount and the installation of a memorial plaque. After consultation with Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) management, it was agreed that the proximity of the accident to Spring Street Park warrants the installation of a memorial plaque within Spring Street

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Park. The memorial plaque does not conform to adopted guidelines and has been designed to read:

An Eternal Memory of a Little Angel
Today it would be wonderful
to see you play or smile,
but heaven lent you to this world
for just a little while.
And in that short but precious time
you brought along much love,
and all that love is with you now
in heaven up above.
Your leaving caused so many tears
and such a lot of pain,
but God needed one more angel
so he took you back again.
Even the smallest of feet have the power
to leave everlasting footprints upon this world.

Marcello Vasquez
May 20 – 2011 – July 15

A visual representation of the plaque is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The proposed location for the plaque is attached hereto as Exhibit B with the numbers representing the hierarchy of preference for the placement of the plaque.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

Council District 14 and RAP management and staff support this project at Spring Street Park.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There should be minimal fiscal impact as the cost of plaque manufacture will be paid for by Art Walk under the terms of the settlement agreement. Minor costs to RAP will be for the installation and maintenance of the plaque by in-house construction forces.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch.



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Exhibit B



Proposed location of memorial plaque