



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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DATE ISSUED: July 12, 2024

REPORT NO.: 103

ATTENTION: Parks and Recreation Board  
Agenda of July 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Renaming of Grape St. Dog Park

### SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Parks and Recreation Board recommend approval of the Renaming of Grape St. Dog Park to be named “Tonahill – Ruopp Park”

Department Recommendation – Recommend approval of Renaming of Grape St. Dog Park to be named “Tonahill – Ruopp Park”

Other Recommendations – The following groups have reviewed and considered the proposed project. Actions taken and recommendations made by these groups are listed under Discussion below.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Balboa Park Committee approved the renaming of Grape St. Dog Park to be named “Tonahill – Ruopp Park”, along with a dedication ceremony on September 14, 2024, with the condition upon sharing the information with the Golden Hill Community Planning Committee.

Support has been verbally given to presenter, Sarita Flaming, by San Diego Police Department – Chief Nisleit (prior to his retiring).

Support has been verbally given to presenter, Sarita Flaming, by San Diego Police Officers Association.

Support has been given by Dog Owners of Grape St. Park.

Fiscal Impact – None- The presenter, Sarita Flaming will raise the funds needed for signage.

Water and Energy Conservation Status – The proposed Renaming of Grape St. Dog Park will comply with all water and energy conservation guidelines contained in Council Policy 200-14.

Strategic/Tactical Equity Plan Impact – None

Environmental – None

## BACKGROUND

On September 14, 1984, three San Diego Police officers were shot at Grape St. Park. Officer Timothy Ruopp encountered two adults, with two underage girls, with alcohol present. Officer Ruopp requested back up and Officer Kimberly Tonahill responded. As Officer Tonahill was patting down one of the suspects, the suspect opened fired, shooting her 4 times. The suspect then walked up and in execution style, shot Officer Ruopp. Officer Gary Mitrovich was on his way to the park when he heard gunshots, he was seriously wounded, having been shot in the shoulder. Officer Tonahill died that night, Officer Ruopp died two days later. Officer Mitrovich survived. Officer Tonahill was a rookie officer with eight months on the job. She was 24 yrs. old. Officer Ruopp was 31 yrs. old, married with four young children. A community effort is underway to erect a Fallen Officers' Memorial in honor of Officers Ruopp and Tonahill. After an extensive overnight search, the suspect who had been hiding in the brush nearby, was found, apprehended & taken into custody.

## DISCUSSION

### OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

Kimberly S. Tonahill, Timothy J. Ruopp, Gary Mitrovich, were among the brave San Diego Police Officers who risked their lives looking for the armed suspect.

The presenter, Sarita Flaming and other members of the community, would like to have the park renamed to be called "Tonahill – Ruopp Park" along with a sign displaying information pertaining to the events which occurred at the park on September 14th, 1984.

### HONORING THE FALLEN OFFICERS - WHY DO WE WANT THE PARK RENAMED

The following is why the presenter and members of the community feel so strongly about renaming the Park to "Tonahill-Ruopp Park"

Kathleen Ruopp, widow of Officer Tim Ruopp – Tim wanted to become a K-9 officer, so the dog park is appropriate. Tim and Kathleen fell in love in Balboa Park, and he had a little apartment there near Grape Street.

Tamee Tonahill, sister of Officer Kimberly Tonahill – Kim aimed to make San Diego a safer place for EVERYONE, no matter their race, gender, or socio-economic

background. She strived to make a positive difference in the lives of all who are lucky enough to call this beautiful city home. Kim's family, friends, as well as those of Officer Ruopp, and all who loved them want to make sure Kim and Timothy are remembered in a positive light. We want people to remember their names and remember the sacrifices they made for this city and all who reside. What better way to honor the two brave souls who gave their lives protecting the people of San Diego than to rename the park.

Gary Mitrovich, surviving SDPD Officer - It's important that Tim and Kim be recognized, so the citizens of San Diego can appreciate and honor their loss and their sacrifice. The officers' unselfish commitment to the people and city in which they served requires they be remembered. Tim and Kim made a selfless choice to become police officers and do the job required of them - to help people and the community. They knew the risks but did their jobs in a professional and humanistic manner.

ALTERNATIVES

(List alternatives here, e.g.)

1. Recommend approval of the proposed \_\_\_\_\_ with conditions;
2. Do not recommend approval of the proposed \_\_\_\_\_ .

Respectfully submitted,

*Jon Richards*

Jon Richards  
Deputy Director, Balboa Park Division

JR/JR

*Jon Richards*

Prepared by: Jon Richards

Attachment(s): Renaming of Grape St Dog Park- July 2024

cc: Council District 3 Office