

## ACTION ITEM

Vote to change the name of Grape St. Park to:

“Tonahill – Ruopp Park” with dedication ceremony on September 14, 2024

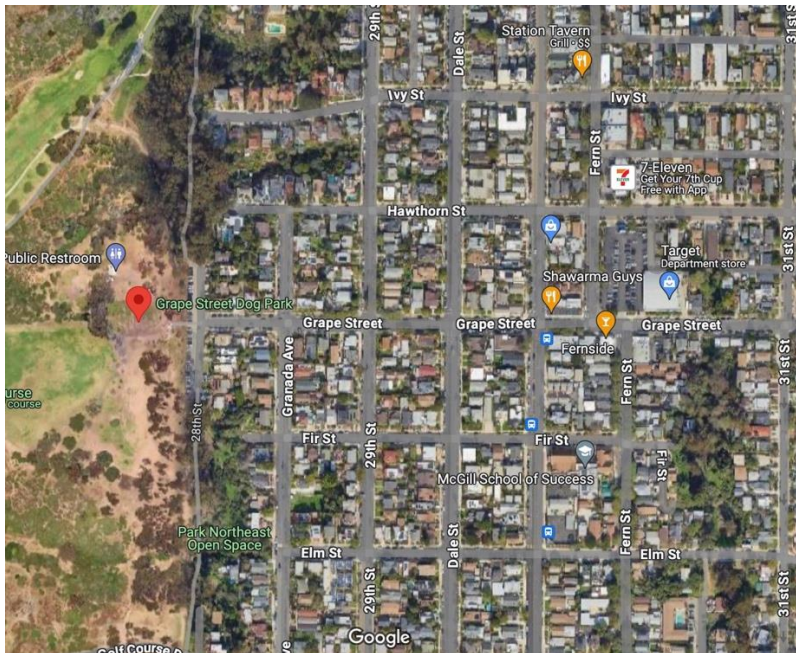
## NAMING OF CITY ASSETS

### RENAMING OF GRAPE ST. PARK

- Location
- Significant Events, People and Places
- Outstanding Individuals

## LOCATION

Grape St. Park in South Park



28<sup>th</sup> Street parking at Grape St.

Streets nearby – Grape St., 30<sup>th</sup> St., Fern St.

## Schools nearby

School	Type	Grades	Distance
<a href="#">Golden Hill K-8</a>	Public - Serves this home	K to 8	0.6 mi
<a href="#">Garfield High School</a>	Public - Choice school	9 to 12	1.4 mi
<a href="#">Roosevelt International Middle School</a>	Public - Serves this home	6 to 8	1.6 mi
<a href="#">Mcjill School Of Success</a>	Charter - Choice school	K to 5	0.1 mi
<a href="#">Albert Einstein Academy Charter Elementary</a>	Charter - Nearby school	K to 5	0.5 mi
<a href="#">King-Chavez Preparatory Academy</a>	Charter - Choice school	6 to 8	1.1 mi
<a href="#">St. Augustine High School</a>	Private - Nearby school	9 to 12	0.7 mi
<a href="#">Sisu Academy</a>	Private - Nearby school	8 to 10	0.8 mi

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, PEOPLE AND PLACES**

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 where alcohol present. Officer Ruopp requested back up and Officer Kimberly Tonahill responded. As Officer Tonahill was patting down one of the suspects he opened fired, shooting her 4 times. The suspect then walked up and execution style, shot Officer Ruopp. Office 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 24yrs old. Officer Ruopp was 31yrs 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.

## **OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS**

Kimberly S. Tonahill, Timothy J. Ruopp, Gary Mitrovich, along with all the brave men and women San Diego Police Officers who risked their lives looking the armed suspect.

Would like to have the park renamed “Tonahill – Ruopp Park” along with information pertaining to the events which occurred at the park on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1984, to include Officer Gary Mitrovich’s name.

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

The following is why we 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 I 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.

Don Casey, President Dog Owners of Grape Street (858)414-1793 - The Dog Owners of Grape Street (D.O.G.S) nonprofit 501c3 (EIN 47-2098292) would like to lend our full support for the consideration of renaming and or memorializing Grape Street Dog Park in honor of the fallen officers Tonahill and Ruopp. We hope, that by renaming the park it will help tell the history of this tragic event and lend closure to the families, friends, fellow officers and to the South Park Community in general. Please reach out to me directly if I can lend additional support to this cause.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS WHICH HAVE SHOWN INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THE RENAMING OF THE PARK**

<https://youtu.be/jHWkQUmjRUs>

NBC San Diego-

[https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/tribute-fallen-sdpd-officers-south-park/3452071/?branch\\_match\\_id=1286318337854028048&utm\\_medium=share&branch\\_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXz0tKLk7MS8lMTc%2FXSywo0MvJzMvWd0yvTMr1DYkI90gCAFyaeGUoAAAA](https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/tribute-fallen-sdpd-officers-south-park/3452071/?branch_match_id=1286318337854028048&utm_medium=share&branch_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXz0tKLk7MS8lMTc%2FXSywo0MvJzMvWd0yvTMr1DYkI90gCAFyaeGUoAAAA)

CBS 8 San Diego -

<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/push-to-memorialize-san-diego-police-officers-killed-while-on-duty-1984/509-7ce97029-9c43-468b-9d1b-8c8d04b017c7>

San Diego Police Department – Chief Nisleit

San Diego Police Officers Association

Community Area / Community Group - Dog Owners of Grape St. Park – Don Casey;  
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San Diego local media

