



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: **August 4, 2020**

DEPARTMENT: **CITY COUNCIL**

FROM: **CHRISTOPHER A. CALLIHAN, CITY ATTORNEY**

TITLE: **FACILITY NAMING IN HONOR OF MAYOR JOE GUNTER**

RECOMMENDATION MOTION:

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction on whether to name a City facility in honor of Mayor Joe Gunter. If the City Council determines that a City facility should be named in Mayor Joe Gunter's honor, the City Council should approve a motion to begin the process consistent with the City's Policy for the Naming of City Buildings, Facilities and Property (December 6, 2011).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction on whether to name a City facility in honor of Mayor Joe Gunter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On June 29, 2020, Mayor Joe Gunter suddenly and unexpectedly passed away after more than fifty years of public service, including the last nearly eight years as Salinas' Mayor. Following his passing, Council member and members of the community have suggested and have requested that a City facility be named in honor of the Mayor. Among the suggestions are the El Gabilan Library, the Police Service Headquarters, and the community room within the Police Service Headquarters building. The City Council is now asked whether it will name a City facility after the Mayor and if so which facility.

DISCUSSION:

In December 2011, the City Council approved and implemented a Policy for the Naming of City Buildings, Facilities and Property. A copy of the Policy is included with this Report as reference. The Policy vests in the City Council the authority to name or to rename City buildings, facilities, and property. Facility names should generally have some historical, individual, or other significance including when an individual is recognized and known throughout the area. The

Policy includes a list of factors that should be considered when the City Council names a building, facility, or property including the appropriateness of the name to the building, facility, or property. The naming of a public facility, or any parts thereof, in recognition of an individual posthumously may only be considered if the individual had a recognized positive effect on the community and has been deceased for more than two (2) years.

The Policy also provides for a thirty (30) day public review and comment period for requests made to the City Council for naming of a building, facility, or property. Such requests would normally be considered by the appropriate City Commission for a thirty (30) day public review and comment period, with the public comments and Commission recommendation forward to the City Council for consideration. This situation differs in that it is not being solely community generated; the naming request is, at least in part, coming directly from the City Council.

The Council has authority to deviate from the general guidelines and processes set out in the Policy, with such deviations based on the City Council's initiation of the action and appropriate findings and considerations. For example, the City Council could find that even though Mayor Joe Gunter's passing was less than two years ago, given his long career with the Salinas Police Department, his subsequent tenure as Mayor of Salinas, and his commitment to serving the whole community it would be appropriate and consistent with the Policy to name the community room at the Police Service Headquarters building in his honor. The City Council could also determine that as the City Council itself is initiating the naming request, the thirty (30) day public review and comment period before a City Commission is not necessary.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The proposed naming of a City building, facility, or property is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This proposed action is not directly related to any of the City Council's Goals (2020-2023 Goals).

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The proposed action will result in a one-time expenditure associated with construction and installation of a memorial sign but will not result in a long-term fiscal impact to the City's General Fund, Measure E, or Measure G fund.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

The City's Administration and City Attorney's Departments coordinated with the Mayor Pro Tem on the presentation of this Report to the city Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy for the Naming of City Buildings, Facilities and Property (December 6, 2011)