

Agenda Report

July 14, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO NAME A PORTION OF THE 210 FREEWAY AS THE PASADENA POLICE AGENT RICHARD MORRIS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY (FROM ROSEMEAD BLVD ON THE EAST, TO ALLEN AVENUE ON THE WEST).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution requesting the State Legislature of the State of California to designate a portion of State Highway 210 as the Pasadena Police Agent Richard Morris Memorial Highway.

It is further recommended that the City Council find that the adoption of such a resolution is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena Police Agent Richard Morris was shot and killed on Thursday, March 13, 1969, when he and three other agents, working in an undercover capacity went to the home of a man to gather information about an earlier assault of a police officer. The four undercover agents, posing as members of a motorcycle gang, encountered the man's brother at the door. The suspect was armed with a .38 caliber handgun and ordered the men (officers) to leave. As three of the officers turned to leave, Agent Richard Morris began to struggle with the suspect and was shot twice. The injuries proved to be fatal. The suspect was arrested, but later acquitted at trial on grounds of self-defense.

Agent Richard Morris had been a member of the Pasadena Police Department for seven years and was survived by his wife, son, and daughter. Given the sacrifice paid by Agent Morris to the community, a fitting tribute would be the designation of a portion of the 210 Freeway (from Rosemead Blvd.; to Allen Ave.) in his honor.

Pursuant to state guidelines, the designation of portions of highway is accomplished by way of a resolution passed by the State Legislature. The following additional criteria are applied to such designations:

- Any person being honored must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway is located.
- The author or a co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.
- The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.
- When a resolution names a highway or structure in honor of an individual, the designee must have been deceased, except in the instance of elected officials, in which case they must be out of office.
- The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.

Source:

Consistent with these criteria, the Pasadena Police Department has been in communication with the Office of State Assemblymember Chris Holden, District 41 (Pasadena) who has indicated support of the designation and has committed to authoring the State Assembly Resolution with respect to the Pasadena Police Agent Richard Morris Memorial Highway. The Assemblymember has requested that the Pasadena City Council indicate its support for this action through the adoption of its own resolution.

Following adoption by City Council, the City's resolution would accompany the State Assembly resolution to the State Legislature.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The designation of the portion of State Highway Route 210 in the City of Pasadena, from Rosemead Blvd on the east to Allen Ave on the west, would honor Agent Richard Morris' memory and his courage and commitment to the citizens of Pasadena for whom he gave his life.

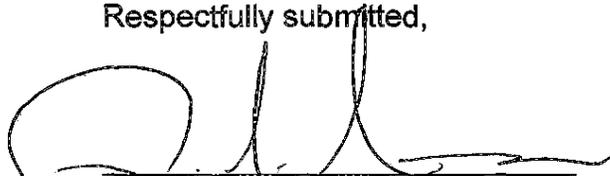
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The adoption of this resolution is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and will not have any indirect or support cost requirements. The cost of appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system showing this special designation will be paid through donations from non-City sources sufficient to cover the cost and to erect those signs.

Respectfully submitted,



PHILIP L. SANCHEZ
Chief of Police

Prepared by:



ED CALATAYUD, III
Lieutenant

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment: (1) Resolution