

CORRESPONDENCE

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Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 10:53 AM
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Subject: Eddie Van Halen Tribute - Upcoming City Council Agenda Item

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Good morning.

I writing each of you in response to an article that appeared in Pasadena Now on Oct. 21, 2020, regarding a tribute for Eddie Van Halen. It's my understanding the city council will address the issue on Monday, October 26th. I submit the following:

First, as a former Pasadena High student, I and many of my fellow alumni, are familiar with Mr. Van Halen and his contributions to music. So, while I support this endeavor, I believe that the city must first decide how it will honor the legacies of all of its hometown legends, not only Mr. Van Halen. I explain further below.

As President of the Pasadena Sports Hall of Fame (PASHOF) I understand the challenges of deciding or selecting who, or what organization, will be honored. Since 2001 we have inducted nearly 100 individuals. Our alumni cover a wide spectrum i.e. NFL, the Olympics, NBA, U.S Open, MLB, etc. You name it, in sports, someone from Pasadena has done it. The same could be true for other disciplines such as the arts, literature, etc. Mr. Van Halen is one of many, from Pasadena, that fall into this category, obviously.

Honoring our legends regardless of discipline, from and by the city, must be intentional and based upon a constructive plan that takes into account all the above disciplines. The simple paying of a fee and a vote by this city council to erect a monument, street or alley sign, etc., falls short of the aforementioned criteria; especially today were the topic of diversity and systemic racism is center point.

In the chamber of the Council, there is a plaque...it's from Pasadena's very own "Nobel Prize". As each of you are aware, it was created to represent the city's highest honor to its residents in Arts, Business, Civics, Government, etc. The Award has been dormant, for unknown reasons, for nearly 3 decades.

I believe that the Nobel Award presents the city a perfect opportunity for the city to renew its effort, intentionally and constructively, to honor all of Pasadena's hometown legends, which includes Mr. Van Halen, and alumnus from the following Hall of Fames in the city: PASHOF, PCC, John Muir High School, Rose Bowl Hall, and CalTech.

Obviously, the Nobel Award is just one example, but considering the historical impact that such an honor proposed for Mr. Van Halen will have on the city, it must be seen as a viable option. Honoring Mr. Van Halen must not be a haste decision. Adequate time, research and community input must be factored into whatever options the city decides to implement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Go, Pasadena.

Laurence Todd
President
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