

Agenda Report

May 2, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY HALL COURTYARD DESIGNATION FOR MR. & MRS. BILL & CLAIRE BOGAARD

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council consider designating the City Hall courtyard in honor of Bill & Claire Bogaard.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This staff report provides background information regarding the legacy and lasting impact of Mr. Bill and Claire Bogaard, as well as why a recognition of their contributions to Pasadena are befitting a designation on the grounds of Pasadena City Hall.

Opportunities to Recognize Bill & Claire Bogaard within the Civic Center

At the September 27, 2021 City Council meeting, Councilmember Steve Madison requested that the City Council consider renaming Centennial Square in honor of Bill & Claire Bogaard. Centennial Square was formally given its name on April 12, 1986 when the Pasadena Board of Directors unanimously approved its establishment in the midst of the City's Centennial Celebration. The Pasadena Centennial Celebration Committee, convened by then Mayor Bill Bogaard, recommended the renaming of Centennial Square as a lasting gift to the City commemorating the City's centennial.

Alternatively, it has been suggested that the City Hall courtyard be renamed to honor the legacy of two of Pasadena's most civic-minded residents, who together have played an important role in guiding Pasadena towards prosperity. In 1980, Pasadena City Hall was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Within City Hall, the courtyard space does not bear an official name or designation. Should the Council wish to dedicate this space in recognition of Bill & Claire Bogaard, it could do so by directing staff to identify a prominent place within the courtyard to commemorate the new designation which would be in the form of a bronze plaque with appropriate language.

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena is fortunate to have ties to a number of individuals who have made their mark on a wide variety of industries and professions. The community celebrates those accomplishments as a source of hometown pride. Looking inward, there exists an opportunity to recognize two civic-minded individuals who have dedicated their life's work to the betterment of Pasadena.

Bill & Claire Bogaard moved to Pasadena in the early 1970s. Shortly after their arrival to the city, Bill launched a successful bid to represent the city's 6th District on the Pasadena Board of Directors. Bill Bogaard served on the Pasadena Board of Directors from 1978-1986, during which time he served as rotating Mayor from 1984-1986. In 1999, Bill Bogaard became the city's first directly elected Mayor and served in that role until 2015. During his tenure, the city ushered in the arrival of the Gold Line Light Rail Transit System, made significant new investment in housing, completed the construction of the new convention center, and invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the city's neighborhoods to create better roads, bridges, schools, parks and city services which enriched the lives of Pasadenans. Bill Bogaard's official public service spanned a total of 24 years, 18 of which were served as Mayor, and has continued to support the community since leaving office through a number of appointments to advisory boards, task forces, and non-profits.

Claire Bogaard, the former First Lady of Pasadena, equally made her mark on the city given her passion for historic preservation. Ms. Bogaard helped to shape and preserve the Pasadena that exists today. A founding member of Pasadena Heritage, a community based historic preservation association, Claire and her colleagues were instrumental in preserving Pasadena's historic downtown at a time when it was contemplated that it be raised and replaced with high-rise development. In addition to her work with Pasadena Heritage, Claire Bogaard has served on the board of the City's oldest and largest neighborhood association, West Pasadena Residents Association, as well as an advisor to the National Trust of Historic Preservation, California State Historic Commission, and other City commissions and advisory committees, including the Committee for the Restoration of Pasadena City Hall.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Bill & Claire Bogaard are widely admired for their tremendous contributions to the citizens of Pasadena. Their work in support of improving the quality of life and ensuring the historic preservation of Pasadena have helped to define Pasadena as it is known today. Over the course of 40+ years, the Bogaards have helped to shape Pasadena as one of the nation's leading cities, a city that is internationally recognized for its culture, arts, education, science, jobs and economic opportunity. A recognition of Bill & Claire Bogaard should be considered in the heart of the Civic Center, and more precisely by the renaming of the courtyard of City Hall.

FISCAL IMPACT:


Costs related to the design, construction and installation of a physical plaque will depend on the size and placement of the plaque.

Respectfully submitted,



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