

# Agenda Report

August 19, 2024

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**SUBJECT: MACK AND JACKIE ROBINSON FAMILY HOME MEMORIAL AND HISTORICAL MARKER**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information only.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the request of the late Councilmember John Kennedy, staff was asked to develop a more visible memorial at the site of the Robinson family home where Mack and Jackie Robinson and their siblings grew up. Currently, the site is memorialized by a bronze plaque imbedded in the concrete parkway in front of the house at 123 Pepper Street. It is flush with the ground and difficult to find (See Attachment A). The current marker was installed by the City in 2019 and contains the following wording: "Jackie and Mack Robinson resided at this site with their family from 1922 to 1946." This plaque replaced another marker installed in the sidewalk that only noted Jackie Robinson lived at the site from 1922 to 1946. The original house at 121 Pepper Street was torn down in the 1970s. The current home was built on the same site in 1977 and is now 123 Pepper Street.

In developing this project, staff met and consulted with various community stakeholders and members of the Robinson family. The project is a culmination of the City's outreach efforts and reflects the community and family member's input. In addition, staff met with the current homeowners of 123 Pepper Street who are supportive of this project. On May 14, 2024, and July 9, 2024, this project was presented to the Northwest Commission and was well received by the Commission and public.

The proposed *Robinson Family Home Memorial and Historical Marker* will stand five feet tall and have three plaques with language that honors the entire Robinson family, not just Mack and Jackie. The scope of work for this project includes extending the concrete in the parkway to accommodate the new plaque installation; removing the existing plaque and concrete patching; painting the curb in front of the site red to create

a no parking zone; installing a metal pole to support the three 20" x 24" metal plaques; and removing and replacing the existing bush between the memorial and the driveway. The project is designed for ADA accessibility and to withstand the elements. A rendering of the proposed project site improvements is shown in Attachment B.

For the three new plaques, the language on the first was written by members of the Robinson family to honor family matriarch Mallie Robinson and all her five children – Edgar, Frank, Mack, Willa Mae and Jack. It is important to the family that this memorial remember and honor the entire Robinson Family along with the well-known brothers. This plaque will face north on the parkway towards the homes and will have a picture of the original home. The language on the second plaque will contain historical information which celebrates both Mack and Jackie's accomplishments. This plaque will face southeast towards the street. The third plaque will have pictures and quotes from both Mack and Jackie, which were selected by the family. Attachment C contains the language for each plaque.

It is anticipated this project will begin construction in November 2024 and be completed by the end of November.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

This project is in support of the City Council Strategic Planning Goal to support and promote the quality of life in Pasadena by memorializing historically significant sites throughout the City.


**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total estimated cost of this project is not expected to exceed \$18,000. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of General Fund appropriations in the Public Works operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

  
BRENDA HARVEY-WILLIAMS  
Assistant City Manager

Prepared by:

  
Phyllis Hallowell  
Management Analyst V

Approved by:

  
MIGUEL MARQUEZ  
City Manager

Attachment A – Existing Marker in Pavement  
Attachment B – Proposed Project  
Attachment C – Robinson Memorial Language