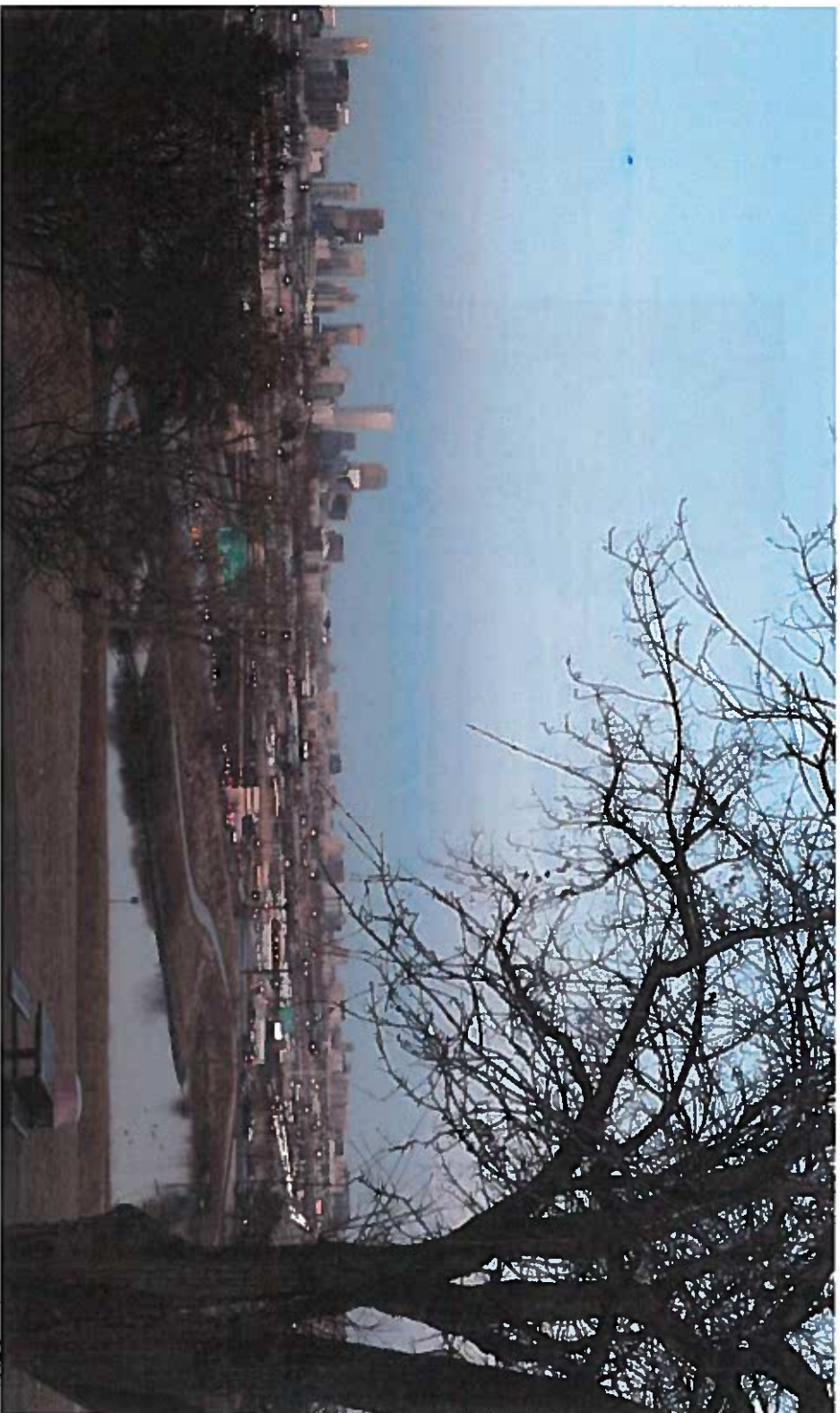


CB16-0474

# **Presentation for Renaming Barnum North Park to "M.L. "Sam" Sandos Park**



*Photo Courtesy of Denver Public Library*

**Denver City Council**

**July 25, 2016**

# Who was M.L. “Sam” Sandos and why is he deserving of this park naming?



*Photo Courtesy of Denver Public Library*

**Manual Lee (M.L.) “Sam” Sandos was born in Denver, Colorado on June 16th, 1927, the son of a Greek coal miner and a Hispanic mother. He was a lifelong resident and community leader in Denver’s West side.**

## Military Service



*Photo and History Courtesy of Denver Public Library;  
Drawing created by Carlota Espinosa*

In 1941 he lied about his age and joined the Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne as a paratrooper. He sustained crippling injuries at the "Battle of the Bulge", resulting in several decorations for valor including the

"Purple Heart" and "Silver Star."

# Sandos Family



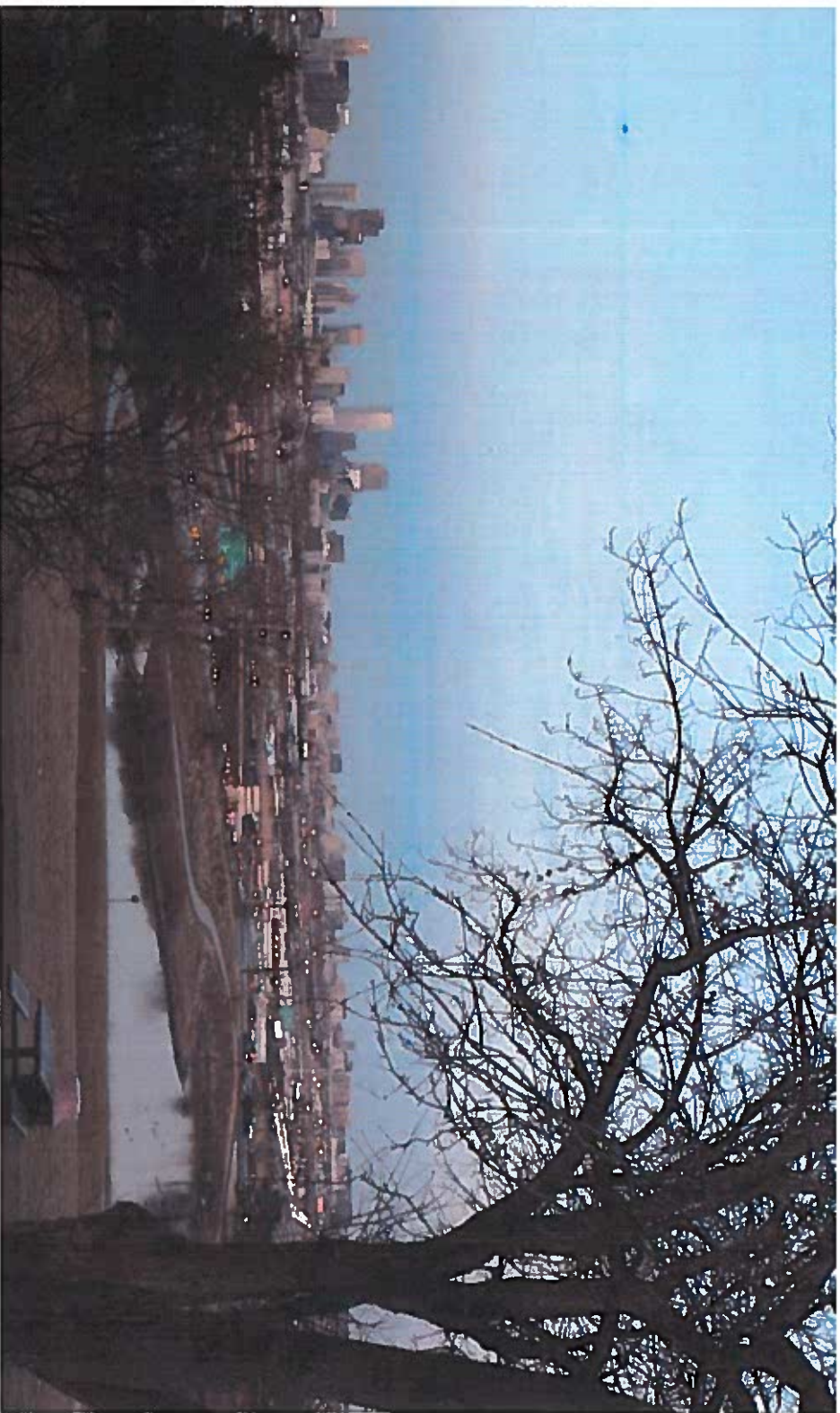
**While recuperating, he met and Married Ethel Mae McCance and they raised 9 children in the Villa Park and Barrnum Park neighborhoods. They built a home in Villa Park where they raised their children and sheltered fourteen foster children over the course of forty years.**

## Community activist & Commitment to Children and Families



As a community activist, Sam Sandos and his wife were deeply involved in community development and neighborhood stability. Their early work concentrated on community organizing in churches and community groups in Denver's Westside, with a particular commitment to creating a better quality of life for children and families in the community.

## Denver City Councilman – 1975 to 1987

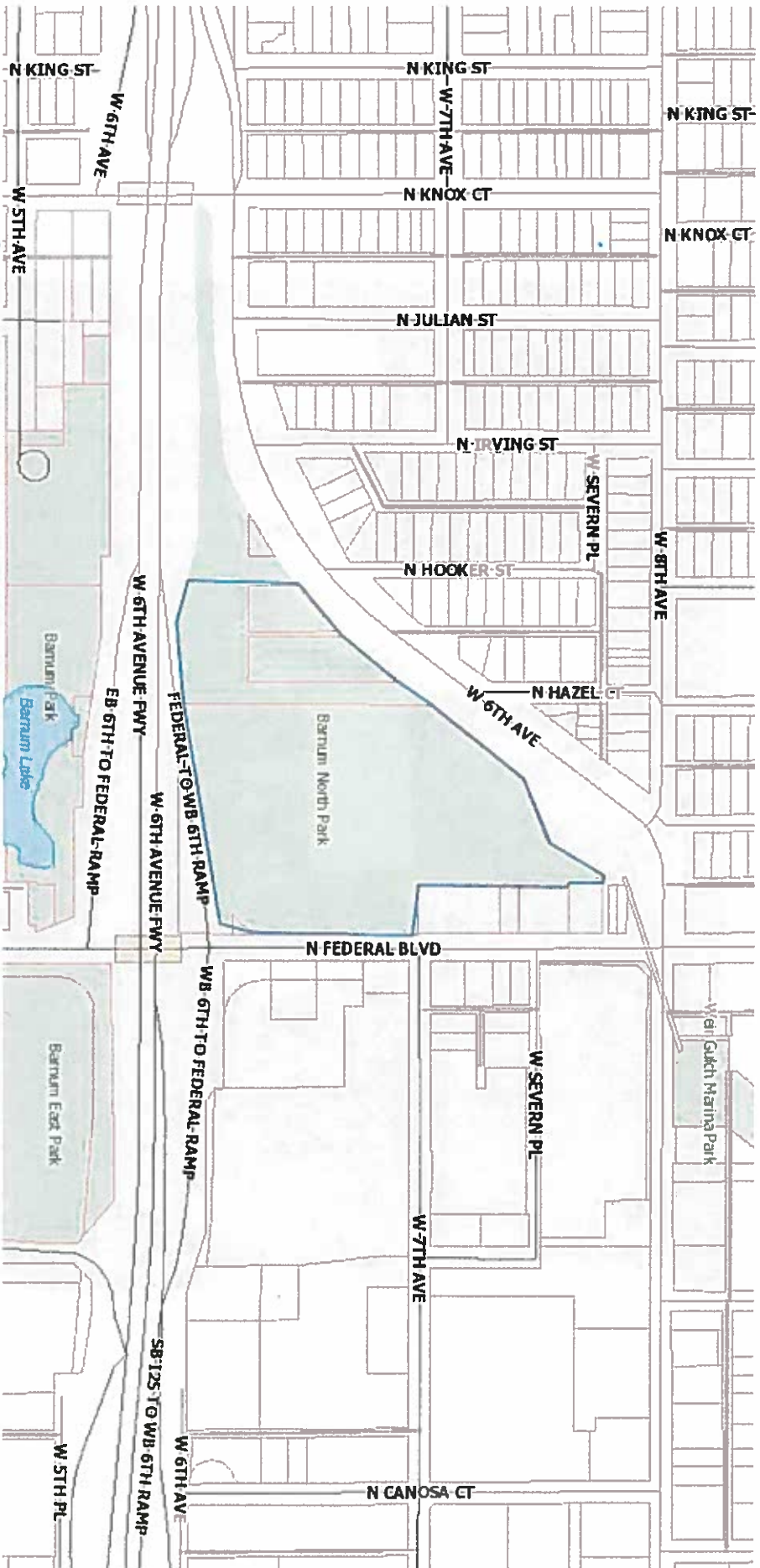


Barnum features a heavy Hispanic influence in both business and residency. Denver's first Hispanic City Council representative, Sam Sandos was elected in 1975 representing District 3 which includes Barnum and Barnum West. He served for three terms (12 years) and was a pre-eminent leader in building relations between the white and Hispanic communities.

Courtesy- 9 News-Denver Public Library Archives



# Building a Place for Kids and Families Converting "The Gully" / Barnum North Park



Slide courtesy of Denver Parks and Recreation

An early project converted a large field into Ball Parks so kids from the community would have a place to play baseball and soccer. Known at the time as "The Gully," the field was designated as a park in the 1960's by the City of Denver and renamed "Barnum North Park." Funding for the parks development came as a result of Denver's 1989 bond election.

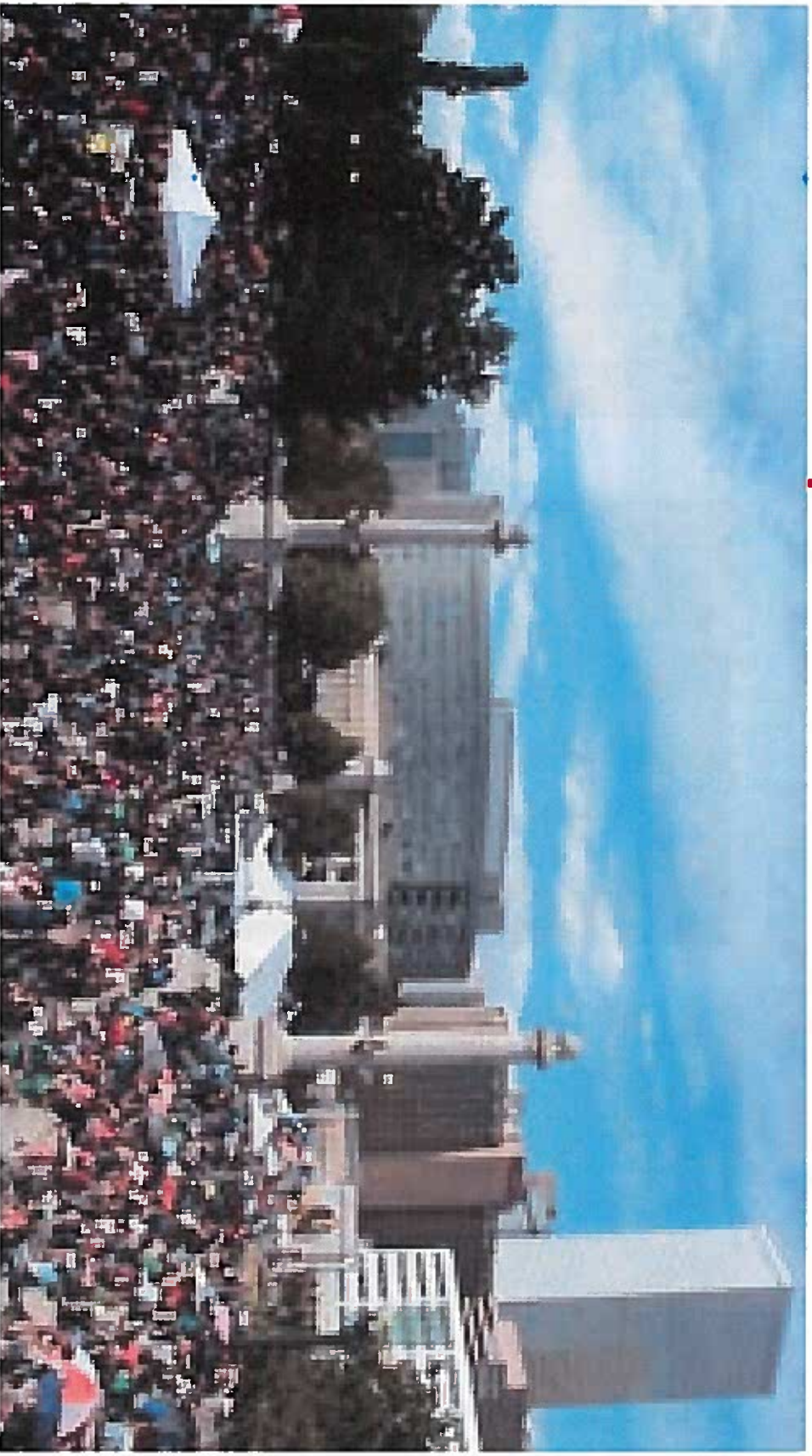
## **Westside Community Health Center**



**The Sandos Westside Health Center is now the most often used clinic in the Denver Health system providing comprehensive primary and preventive care for both acute and chronic diseases, regardless of ability to pay**



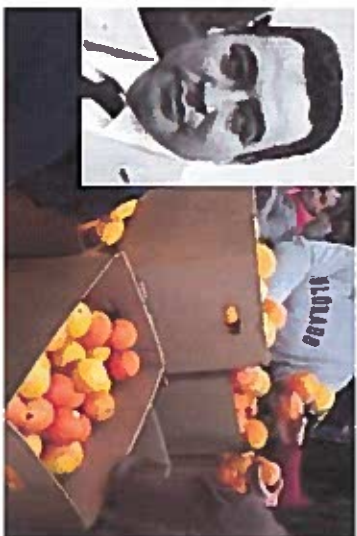
# Hispanic Annual Salute



*In partnership with Entravision Communications, the Hispanic Annual Salute proudly presents Colorado's annual Fiestas Patrias Celebration. Hispanic Annual Salute's volunteer Board of Directors and volunteers staff the beverage booths to raise awareness and funding for their scholarship program.*

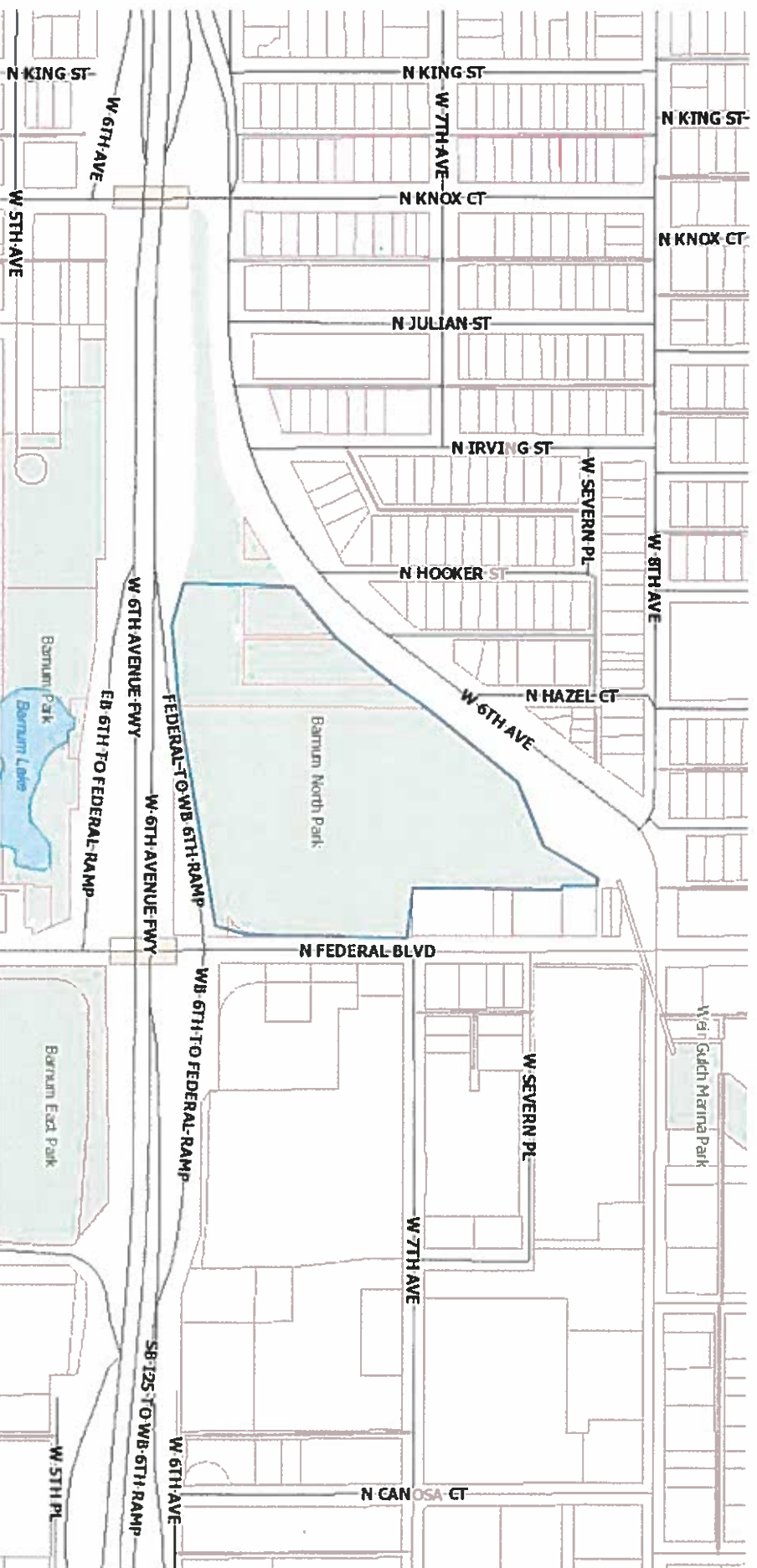
Founded by the late M.L. Sam Sandos, the "Hispanic Annual Salute" continues to promote volunteerism, supports post secondary education and fosters unity among Colorado's Hispanic population. Since its inception in 1980, the "Hispanic Annual Salute" has provided more than \$1 Million to its student and adult honorees.

# Sam Sandos Christmas Baskets



A West Denver tradition for nearly 40 years, over 500 volunteers now gather to assemble more than 2,500 food baskets each year for needy families in the Denver Metro Area

**We respectfully request the renaming of Barnum  
North Park to M.L. "Sam" Sandos Park**



**The Sandos Family respectfully requests your support of for the renaming of  
"Barnum Park North" to  
"M.L. "SAM" Sandos Park"**

**Thank you for your kind attention and great work for our community!**

