



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MAYOR MICHAEL B. HANCOCK, CITY COUNCILMEMBERS  
**FROM:** ALLEGRA "HAPPY" HAYNES  
**SUBJECT:** NAMING OF UNNAMED PARK AT E. 42<sup>ND</sup> AVE. & N. LISBON IN GREEN VALLEY RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD (BETWEEN N. LISBON ST., N. KIRK ST., E. 40<sup>TH</sup> AVE., E. 42<sup>ND</sup> AVE.) TO WILLIAM H. WHITSELL PARK  
**DATE:** APRIL 7, 2023  
**CC:** SCOTT GILMORE, COUNCILWOMAN STACIE GILMORE

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I am pleased to present that the Unnamed Park at 4000 North Kirk St. (Unnamed 42nd & Lisbon Park) be named William H. Whitsell Park, a name that would honor William Henry Whitsell, a gentleman who is believed to be the first African American male born in Central City, Gilpin County in what was then known as the Territory of Colorado.

Mr. William Whitsell grew up in Denver, attending Denver's public schools. He later became a brick molder and mason for the A.J. Baker Company. In this role he helped in the construction of many buildings in downtown Denver. An active community member, Mr. Whitsell was a member of the Cammel's African Methodist Episcopal, the Masonic Lodge, The Fraternal Order of Elks, and the Odd Fellows.

Community members and the living relatives of Mr. Whitsell requested this naming as way to celebrate the history and impact of African Americans in Denver, Colorado and the United States.

- Over 500 complete signatures in support (500 are required).
- Seven letters or emails of support, including letters from community business, local churches and leaders. The letters focused on the importance of honoring African American impact of Mr. Whitsell's family has had in the Denver Community.
- DPR received no letters in opposition to the naming.

The proposal was presented on the January 11, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting by the applicant, Julian Carey. There were 7 speakers at the public hearing, all spoke in favor of the motion. Following the public hearing the Denver Parks & Recreation Advisory Board unanimously voted to recommend that the park be named William H. Whitsell Park.