



MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR MICHAEL B. HANCOCK, CITY COUNCILMEMBERS
FROM: ALLEGRA "HAPPY" HAYNES
SUBJECT: NAMING OF UNNAMED PARK AT BRYANT & ELLSWORTH IN VALVERDE NEIGHBORHOOD (BETWEEN S. BRYANT ST., W. CANOSA WY., W. ELLSWORTH.) TO ULIBARRI PARK
DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
CC: SCOTT GILMORE, COUNCILMAN JOLON CLARK

I am pleased to present that the Unnamed Park at 25 South Bryant St. (Unnamed Bryant & Ellsworth Park) be named Ulibarri Park, a name that would honor Elaine and Alfred Ulibarri, two longtime residents whose impact on the community and Valverde neighborhood are still felt today.

This area in West Denver has a strong Chicano and Latino population and was integral in the Chicano Movement in the 1960s and '70s. The Ulibarris would frequently use this park for meetings and community gatherings to strengthen the participation of neighbors.

Community members and the local Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO), Valverde Neighborhood Association, requested this naming as part of the larger *Valverde Movement Project*. As participants in the *West Area Planning Initiative* with Denver Community Planning and Development, they also recommended a stronger and more visible celebration of the neighborhood's history and Latino culture. As part of this effort, community members held listening sessions to understand what/who represents the neighborhood. Many of the residents in these sessions mentioned the Ulibarris as strong figures that are still important to this day.

- Nearly 350 complete signatures in support (300 are required).
- 45 letters or emails of support, including letters from Councilman Jolon Clark (also signed by Councilwoman Jamie Torres, Councilwoman Robin Kniech, and Councilwoman Debbie Ortega), Valverde Neighborhood Association, University of Denver, University of Colorado – Denver, local partners and Valverde residents. The letters focused on the impact the Ulibarri family has had on the neighborhood and the importance of celebrating underrepresented community members in naming city assets such as parks.
- DPR received no letters in opposition to the naming.

The proposal was presented on the July 13, 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting by the applicant, Evon Lopez. There were 11 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 Ulibarri Park.