



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND
STRATEGIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

FROM: Edgardo Garcia

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: October 3, 2018

Approved

Date

10-9-18

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 2

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED RENAMING OF THE POLICE SUBSTATION LOCATED AT
6087 GREAT OAKS PARKWAY TO THE CHAPLAIN DAVE BRIDGEN
SOUTHERN POLICE STATION**

RECOMMENDATION

Hold a public hearing and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the Police Department's request to rename the Police Substation (6087 Great Oaks Parkway) in honor of the late Police Chaplain Dave Bridgen.

BACKGROUND

The Administration is requesting consideration of renaming the Police Substation to the *Chaplain Dave Bridgen Southern Police Station*.

Chaplain Dave Bridgen served as a volunteer to the Police Department faithfully for more than 30 years and retired in 2014. He passed away in 2017, leaving a legacy of service to the San José Police Department and broader community. The Chaplain was known for always assisting any member, family member or retired member of the San José Police Department, as well as members of the community. This report provides information about Chaplain Bridgen and an overview of the community outreach that the Police Department has done. Accompanying this report is an application to the City Clerk requesting initiation of the renaming process.

The San José Police Substation sits on a 10.5-acre site at 6087 Great Oaks Parkway, a major public arterial that runs parallel to the Monterey Corridor, and is located within the Great Oaks Technology Park near the crossroads of Highways 85 and 101.

The Substation currently houses the City's Community Service Officers, Police Academy, Division of Cannabis Regulation, School Safety Program, and the Training and Recruiting units.

The long-term plan is for the Substation to serve as a fully functional police station, combining operations, administration, investigations, and pre-processing within a multi-story building.

On September 19, 2018, the Rules and Open Government Committee reviewed the Police Department's request and referred it to the Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee to hold a public hearing on the proposed renaming of the Substation. Council Policy 7-5, Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities, requires that a Council Committee or City Commission hold a public hearing and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the proposed naming.

ANALYSIS

Following the death of Chaplain Dave Bridgen in late 2017, the Police Department sought ways to honor his memory. The idea of naming a significant civic facility in his honor has met with overwhelming support from staff, as well as from the San José Police Chaplaincy and Chaplain Dave Bridgen's wife.

The Police Department has only a few physical buildings. The Substation is the newest of the police facilities, and no other proposals have been made for naming it since it was constructed.

Chaplain Bridgen and the Police Chaplaincy

The San José Police Chaplaincy program was founded in 1977 by three police officers: Lieutenant Larry Thannisch, Lieutenant Bill Erfurth, and Sergeant Fred Reid. They wanted to provide a service for members and families of the San José Police Department. The objective has grown over the years to also provide services for the residents of the City of San José. The program operates with the approval and support of the San José Police Department's Administration and the San José Police Officer's Association. The chaplains take part in many departmental functions such as:

- Promotions, graduation ceremonies, and training
- Assisting during times of crisis, providing counsel and support to the San José community
- Assisting families with funeral arrangements and providing grief counseling
- Conducting Critical Incident Management services
- Providing emotional support to police personnel and their families
- The two chaplains are on call 24-7 and respond to any situation.

Chaplain Dave Bridgen was instrumental in the establishment of the modern police chaplaincy program in San José. While serving as a pastor at a local community church, members of the San José Police Chaplaincy approached and asked him to consider serving as a San José Police Chaplain. Chaplain Bridgen volunteered his time to the Police Chaplaincy, and after about five years as a volunteer, became the full-time Department chaplain.

Chaplain Bridgen quickly became a resource for other law enforcement agencies across the nation in establishing chaplaincies in their own departments. Locally, he also served as Chaplain for the San José Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and taught at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Chaplain Bridgen was critical in implementing several programs that benefitted the health and welfare of members of the San José Police Department. These programs include:

- The Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Program, for officers and civilian staff involved in critical incidents.
- The Family Academy, a program run by the Chaplaincy Program for spouses, significant others, and family of newly hired police officers.
- The Community Chaplain Program, where other Chaplains from throughout the San José community are trained to respond at all hours to major incidents to be a resource to families and officers in need.

The Department collaborated with the San José Police Chaplaincy Board of Directors to compile Chaplain Bridgen's biography in support of the proposed naming of the Substation. The biography written for his memorial (Attachment A) describes Chaplain Bridgen's role with the Police Department and the impact he had on the police officers and larger San José community.

The City Council has recognized the importance of the Police Chaplaincy program to benefit the health and well-being of officers, civilian staff, families, and spouses. As part of the 2011-2012 Adopted Operating Budget, Council approved a one-time funding commitment of \$20,000 to assist the volunteer-based Police Chaplaincy program. This funding commitment was approved as an ongoing augmentation with the adoption of the 2012-2013 Operating Budget.

Council Policy 7-5, Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities

Council Policy 7-5, Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities, revised November 23, 1993, establishes policy regarding how, when, and what types of names are to be given to City-owned land and facilities¹. Per the Policy, the City encourages naming that:

- Reflects the City's ethnic and cultural diversity;
- Recognizes distinct geographic, environmental or developmental features, or names of historical significance; and
- Recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the local, national, or global community.

The Policy furthermore states, "Potential names shall be considered if reflective of at least one of the following criteria:

- a. Geographic location

¹ Council Policy 7-5: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3900>

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- b. Prominent geographic feature or local reference point
- c. Adjoining subdivision/community
- d. Historical event
- e. A deceased individual (see criteria below)
- f. An individual via a donation or sponsorship agreement
- g. A group via a donation or sponsorship agreement

It is important to note that the Policy recommends that consideration of naming City-owned land or facilities in honor of an individual be done after the individual has been deceased for at least five years and for a person who has made significant contributions benefitting the residents of San José.

The Department is bringing the renaming forward in advance of the five-year period due to the extraordinary contributions Chaplain Bridgen made to the San José Police Department personnel, families, retirees, and the larger community. In addition to the contributions listed above, Chaplain Bridgen was recognized in 1999 as the International Police Chaplain of the Year.

On a day-to-day level, Chaplain Bridgen rode along with officers on the street and walked the halls of the Police Department, stopping by units and officers' desks to check in to see how they were doing and to ask if there was anything he could do for them; he would always leave his interactions by saying, "Thank you for what you do."

During the time Chaplain Bridgen served as the Department's Chaplain, six officers either died or were killed in the line of duty. Chaplain Bridgen either presided over or was instrumental in the fallen officers' funeral services. Furthermore, from the first Police Memorial Ceremony in 1994, he played a critical role, providing the Invocation and Benediction each year, until his illness was too severe to continue the public role.

For all officer-involved incidents, whether shootings, critical incidents, or officers injured in the line of duty, Chaplain Bridgen responded to the Police Department headquarters, the scene of the incident, or hospital to support Department members and their families. He also lent support and accompanied Department Administrative personnel when notifying family members when an officer was injured or died in the line of duty.

A true tribute to Chaplain Bridgen and his role as a friend, confidant, and resource to Department members and their families was the numbers of sworn and civilian members who asked him to perform their marriage ceremonies or preside over funerals.

Other than this five-year waiting period, the Police Department believes that the proposed police station name conforms with Council Policy No. 7-5. The five-year waiting period is a guideline, not a requirement of the policy; given the significant contributions Chaplain Bridgen made to the Police Department and the San José community, the Police Department requests that proposed renaming be considered now, rather than in 2022 when the five years will have passed.

The approval of the name *Chaplain Dave Bridgen Southern Police Station* would recognize his unique significant contribution and service to the San José Police Department and Community over a span of 30 years.

According to the Policy, a public hearing by the appropriate Commission or Council Committee shall be held in order for the proper body and responsible Department to develop a recommendation to the City Council. It is the Police Department's request that this matter be referred to the Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support Committee for review and recommendation to the full City Council.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The addition of this item to the PSFSS Committee work plan took place at the meeting of the Rules and Open Government Committee on September 19, 2018.

The Police Department has discussed this matter with sworn and civilian staff, the San José Police Officers Association, and the family of the late Chaplain Dave Bridgen.

The proposed name change was presented to the Chief's Community Advisory Board on July 19, 2018. The Chief's Community Advisory Board is comprised of selected community members and officers, including the division captains, patrol supervisors, and representatives from the POA. The members supported the name change.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Manager's Budget Office, the Public Works Department, the Office of the City Clerk, and the City Attorney's Office.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

The Public Works Department has determined that it will cost approximately \$17,000 to change the existing lettering on the building at the entrance to the main lobby of the Substation. These costs can be absorbed by the Police Department in its General Fund Capital Improvements appropriation.

Constructing and installing a lighted monument sign in front of the Substation is not recommended at this time as funds are not available. The estimated cost is approximately \$42,000. The Police Department is reviewing funding opportunities outside the General Fund.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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/s/

EDGARDO GARCIA

Chief of Police

For questions, please contact Captain Michael Kihmm, Bureau of Field Operations, Support Services Division at 408-537-1890.

Attachment A: Chaplain Dave Bridgen Biography

Attachment B: City of San José Naming City Owned Facilities Form (completed)