



Memorandum

**TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**FROM: Councilmember Tam Nguyen
Councilmember Lan Diep**

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 12, 2018

Approved:

San Diep

Date:

9/12/18

**SUBJECT: CHANGING THE NAME OF THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CENTER TO "VIETNAMESE AMERICAN CULTURAL
CENTER"**

RECOMMENDATION

Rename the Vietnamese American Community Center, currently located at the George Shirakawa Community Center, so that it will henceforth be known as the "Vietnamese American Cultural Center at the George Shirakawa Community Center".

BACKGROUND

There are over 100,000 Vietnamese Americans residing in San José, accounting for at least 10 percent of the population, and giving our city the distinction of being home to the largest Vietnamese population in any city outside Vietnam.

It has been a longstanding aspiration of the Vietnamese community to have its own community space. On February 2, 2016, the City Council directed Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services and the Department of Public Works to conduct a feasibility study for a Vietnamese American Cultural Center.

In the interim, the George Shirakawa Community Center was designated as the temporary Vietnamese American Community Center in October 2016. On January 9, 2018, the City Council accepted the results of the feasibility study and directed staff to 1) make physical improvements to the interim Vietnamese American Community Center and 2) seek funding opportunities to build a permanent Vietnamese American Cultural Center within Kelly Park, near the existing Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Garden. On June 12, 2018, the City Council adopted the Mayor's proposed budget, which allotted \$587,000 towards improvements of the interim Vietnamese American Community Center.

DISCUSSION

While this Council supports the building of a permanent Vietnamese American Cultural Center at Kelly Park, doing so will cost many millions of dollars that the City does not have at its disposal. Achieving this goal will require private donations, grants and city funds. There are funds available at the State to help build and preserve cultural centers. In order to qualify for such funds and to create continuity between the interim center at George Shirakawa Community Center and the permanent cultural center at Kelly Park, the Council should rename the Vietnamese American Community Center as the "Vietnamese American Cultural Center at the George Shirakawa Community Center".