
FW: Letters for posting for 12/9 Council

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 11/18/2025 2:11 PM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

 2 attachments (1 MB)

Fujimoto Park_Name Suggestion_Receiceved 12-9-24_Senter & Serenade.pdf; Letters from the Public 10125_PRC_10-1-2025.pdf;

From: Bowman, Marybeth <Marybeth.Bowman@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 1:37 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Letters for posting for 12/9 Council

Hello,

This is regarding the Senter and Serenade park naming item for the December 9th City Council hearing. We have a few letters and emails that were submitted for the 10/1/25 Parks and Recreation Commission hearing, that should also be included for the Council item.

Please post these as public comment documents. Please note, the item has not yet been agendized for the 12/9 meeting:

- Fujimoto Park Name Suggestion
- Email correspondences from Vic Lapari and Jean Leonard

Please feel free to reach out with any questions of comments.

Kind regards,
Marybeth

Marybeth Bowman

Part-Time Planner | Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

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SAN JOSE
**PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Building Community Through **Fun**



Suggested Name for New Park located on Senter Road at Serenade Way

FUJIMOTO PARK

Fujimoto Park. Many of us who worked for or knew Tsugio 'Tee' Fujimoto had respect for his knowledge and dedication to landscape maintenance . Mr Fujimoto resided two houses from the park on the south side of Senter Road.' Tee' embodied the idea that every park landscape should be well kept and attended to routinely by parks staff. He believed that if someone was not tired at the end of a work day they were not doing the job right. He encouraged hard work and learning plant maintenance on the job, through offered training, or by enrolling in junior college courses in the area. Tee was direct and emphatic to his new and older workers who followed his practices. If your parks were orderly and praised by others he would offer respect that helped his workers develop the right way. Though direct and contrite in his direction and tone he understood the nature of his workers and others . We who knew him appreciated his knowledge, respect, and attention to detail to help make park maintenance staff better. He was known to the Japanese community for his integral membership in the active Japanese Landscape Gardeners Association that was viable in the San Jose community in the 1950s,60s, and 70s.

Al Kowabata , the original Japanese Friendship Gardener, and Mr Fujimoto were highly regarded and referred to when the City of San Jose was expanding and refining its parks development from 1957 to 1985.

We who worked for or with Mr Fujimoto feel he best represents the spirit and integrity of the San Jose Parks Department. Tee was never given recognition for his important role influencing a viable department as it expanded. We feel it is befitting and deserved that this newly developed park bear his name as a memory and tribute to his important work for the City of San Jose Parks Department.

With reverence and respect,

Gary Zatkin, Gardener Happy Hollow Park and Zoo(1980-89) , Retired.

Dan Sommers, Gardener the Rosegarden(1978-86), Retired

Ed Flemate, Gardener Central San Jose Parks(1977-84) , Retired

John Leone, Gardener Guadalupe Gardens, (1979-86), Retired

Gary Zatkin

SJ, Ca 95111

San Jose Parks, Recreation, & Neighborhood Services - on Parks & Rec. Commission

Suggested New PARK NAME Proposal
at Senter Rd + Serrano Ave

FUJIMOTO PARK after Tsugio 'Tee' Fujimoto
Parks maintenance supervisor / preceptarian
of good work.

Refined Parks Grandeners
- Gary Zatkun
- Dan Sommers
- Ed Fleumate
- John Leone

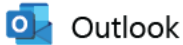
Re: New PARK NAME 9:14 AM
Hi John - 12-10-24

We met at
Animal Services
where I volunteered.

Can you read
this Proposal +
comment.

Hope you are
well.

GARY ZATKIN
PRNS, DOT, + PLW.
Refined



Fw: TEE'S LETTER FOR THE MEETING NEXT WEEK

From Victor Lipari [REDACTED]
Date Fri 9/26/2025 12:56 PM
To PRC Liaison <PRCLiaison@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc Bowman, Marybeth <Marybeth.Bowman@sanjoseca.gov>

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Victor Lipari [REDACTED]
Subject: TEE FUJIMOTO LETTER FOR THE PRC MEETING NEXT WEEK

Good afternoon PRC Liaison and Marybeth:

Below is the brief letter about Tee Fujimoto that I wanted to forward to you two.

If Gary Zatkin is able to read it at the meeting since I cannot be there in person, then I would really appreciate it and be honored since he and I go back over 50 years knowing each other in our city careers and we also worked with Mr. Fujimoto.

Thank you for your help!

Best Regards,

Victor Lipari

Tsugio "Tee" Fujimoto was my FIRST Maintenance Supervisor in my City of San Jose career when I worked at the Municipal Rose Garden beginning in April of 1975. He had a GREAT impact on my career in many ways.

He strived for me to learn as much as I could about my new job that I knew nothing about. His extensive horticultural knowledge really impressed me and gave me the motivation to not only learn about the care and maintenance of roses but also to learn how to be part of a team to enhance our rose garden beauty for the residents and tourists who visited the rose garden.

Tee was a man who trusted his workers to do excellent work and we strived to do that. He took his job very seriously and wanted his workers to do the same, not only in the horticultural work that the job demanded but also in public relations with everyone who came to the rose garden and all our city parks.

It would be a GREAT honor if the City of San Jose would name a park after Tee Fujimoto. He gave so much to the city and his workers in his career and inspired all of us to be the BEST city workers we could be. We owe him much thanks for inspiring us in many ways and his memory would continue to shine on in a park named after him.

Thank you very much Tee!

**Victor Lipari
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

City of San Jose Employee from 1975 to 2007

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Outlook

(No subject)

From Jean Leonard [REDACTED]
Date Tue 9/23/2025 1:32 PM
To PRCLiaison <PRCLiaison@sanjoseca.gov>

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Tee Fujimoto Park Naming

I would love to see the park named in honor of Tee Fujimoto. I had the privilege of working with Tee for many years and there was never any question about him doing his work in an outstanding manner. On the days that he had to come into the office to interact with staff for whatever reasons, he was always extremely nice and courteous to everyone. He encountered. His maintenance skills at the park was outstanding and he was the type of guy that just kept his head down and did his work. I really believe that this would be an outstanding and wonderful honor for someone who gave so much of himself to the citizens of San Jose.

Jean Leonard

Retired from SJP&R after 30 years and will be retired 33 years in two days.

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