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TO: Matthew Quinones, President, Board of Representatives

FROM: Michael Toma, Assistant Corporation Counsel *MST*

DATE: June 26, 2020

RE: Process for Changing the Name of Columbus Park

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You have asked what the process is for considering a name change to Columbus Park. The process is set forth in Code Section 21-1(a), which provides:

Sec. 21-1. - Submission of proposals.

- (a) Proposals to change the name of existing city-owned streets, parks and facilities or portions thereof and newly-acquired city-owned streets, parks and facilities or portions thereof shall be submitted for final approval to the Board of Representatives by the board, commission or department or other entity occupying or having jurisdiction over such street, park or facility or portion thereof.

The Parks and Recreation Commission exercises jurisdiction over City parks, and has exercised jurisdiction over the naming of a park in the past. This exercise of jurisdiction is consistent with the powers granted to the Commission by the Charter, and is also consistent with the Commission's own policies. The Commission's powers are as provided in the following Charter section:

Sec. C6-120-2. - Powers and Duties of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Subject to the approval of the Mayor and except as may be otherwise determined by the Board of Representatives by ordinance, to establish policies and procedures for providing public park facilities and public recreation programs for the effective, balanced utilization of such areas, facilities and equipment for active and passive recreation;
- (2) To develop such plans as it deems necessary and useful for the preservation and expansion of natural resources and passive recreation areas in the City;
- (3) To make all rules and regulations for the use and conduct of all parks and all public recreation

areas.

Additionally, the Commission has adopted Section 4.9, Gifts and Naming, as one of its policies, indicating that the Commission is affirmatively exercising its authority with respect to the naming of parks.

The Commission has previously voted on a name change to a park. In 2011, the park formerly named Southfield Park was renamed Boccuzzi Park. Prior to the Board of Representatives passing a resolution to change the name of this park, the Parks and Recreation Commission had voted in favor of the name change. The minutes of the Board of Representatives from 2011 indicate that the name change of this park was processed pursuant to Code Section 21-1, cited above.

Given the power vested in the Parks and Recreation Commission by the Charter, the presence of naming provisions in said Commission's policies, and past precedent as discussed above, the Commission is authorized to submit a proposal to the Board of Representatives to change the name of Columbus Park.