



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Jessica Carpenter, Director of Community Experiences

**Date:** February 24, 2026

**Reference:** **Renaming of MacArthur Park Playground to Sheehan Family Playground**

**2040:** **Foster an Inclusive Community Fabric**

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### **Introduction:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider approval of a resolution renaming MacArthur Park Playground to Sheehan Family Playground.

### **Background:**

For several years, the Parks and Recreation Board has identified an Inclusive Playground as a top priority on their Project Priority List. With the planned replacement of the play structure at MacArthur Park in FY 2024–2025, the Board supported transitioning the existing playground into the City’s first fully inclusive playground designed to ensure children of all abilities can play together.

During the design phase, the Board also expressed interest in renaming the playground to reflect its broader purpose and community significance. In accordance with Parks and Recreation Code 9-11-9, the Board appointed a subcommittee to research and recommend a proposed name.

At its December 2025 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board formally voted to recommend the name “Sheehan Family Playground” to the City Council. The proposed name honors the Sheehan Family, including former Mayor Candy Sheehan, for their longstanding dedication to the Coppell community and their advocacy for disability rights and inclusion.

### **Benefit to the Community:**

Renaming the playground to “Sheehan Family Playground” honors the service of Candy Sheehan and her husband, Thomas, for their advocacy and community involvement over the last 30 years.

### **Legal Review:**

The proposed renaming resolution has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

**Fiscal Impact:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

The Community Experiences Department recommends approval of this item.