

MOTION

George Sander Wolfberg was born April 22, 1938 in Los Angeles. As a civic leader, he dedicated his career to the City of Los Angeles. As an environmentalist, an athlete, and as patriarch to a wonderful family, George's accomplishments are legion and his legacy immense.

At his retirement, Mr. Wolfberg was the Chief Administrative Analyst in the City Administrative Office. Mr. Wolfberg's career highlights include his oversight of Los Angeles' successful divestment from South Africa under apartheid, for which Nelson Mandela came to the City to specifically thank the City.

His other significant accomplishments include that he prepared Los Angeles City's bid to win the 1984 Olympics. He contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to make that event a success and secured many infrastructure upgrades in the City to prepare for the event. He actually created the women's Olympic cycling event by writing it into the City's bid with the IOOC that the City would present it as an exhibition sport.

Beyond these contributions, in 1992, he was appointed by the City as commissioner of the Watts Friendship Sports League following the 1992 riots, the first youth sports league sponsored by the City. In this role, he noticed children coming to play sports who had not had breakfast, and created a program to serve free breakfast to all participants.

George Wolfberg was also an exemplary community leader. While on the City Charter Commission, he helped pass the Charter, adopted in 2000, that created a citywide system of Neighborhood Councils to promote public participation in City governance. He served on the board of the Pacific Palisades Community Council for 16 years, chairing the Council twice from 2002 to 2004 and again from 2018 to 2019. He also served on the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association for 20 years.

Mr. Wolfberg's commitment to parks and our environment was unmatched. In 2004, Mr. Wolfberg became the Chair of the Potrero Canyon Community Advisory Committee and led the community discussion and analysis of the proposed park. He crafted the Report on the community's consensus for the design and recommended uses for the new 46 acre, mile-long, passive park, including trails through the restored riparian canyon, from the existing Recreation Center to the curb of Pacific Coast Highway. He consistently offered advice and guidance to the Bureau of Engineering and the Department of Recreation and Parks in subsequent years to ensure that the park would not only meet the desires and needs of the Palisades community, but would also be a park for all Angelenos for decades to come.

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Mr. Wolfberg further advocated for a bridge over the Pacific Coast Highway to link the bike path to the park for pedestrians and cyclists. He also worked with Santa Monica Canyon and Rustic Canyon residents to restore the historic Uplifters Ranch Eucalyptus grove.

Mr. Wolfberg's legacy of accomplishment and dedication to the community will continue to live on for generations to come. Given his substantial contributions to the City of Los Angeles, especially in the creation of Potrero Canyon, it is appropriate that the park be named in his honor.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners name Potrero Canyon Park "George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon."

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL