

Honorable Buenaflor Nicolas
400 Grand Avenue
So. San Francisco, Ca. 94080

March 17, 2021

RE: Renaming Westborough Recreation Center

Dear Council Member Nicolas:

I hope you are doing well and staying healthy. I saw an article on Saturday 3/13/21 newspaper San Mateo Daily Journal that lead to this writing. The article mentioned that Alice Pena Bulos' name would be placed at the Westborough Recreation Center in Westborough Park, by the SSF City Council Naming Committee. As a long term member of this community, I ask that the committee consider Ann B. Waters instead for her accomplishments. Here is a brief history of the area.

The Callan family acquired the east section of South San Francisco which would be the future subdivision of the Westborough Park District that Mr. Callan planned to call, "Callan Park". South San Francisco's (SSF) Westborough District was formed when the Callan Family asked the So. San Francisco City Council to annex this division to build 15,000 homes.

In 1969, a junior high school in Westborough was completed and donated to the City.

The SSF City Council voted to acquire the subdivision for annexation on the condition it was renamed to satisfy the City Council to Westborough Park at its current location in 1980. Ann and Al Waters moved to So. City during that time and bought a home and settled on Sherwood Drive. Al was a grocery clerk for QFI where today sits Pan Pacific Market . Ann worked for the federal government. They had no children. Ann had a Cadillac with a convertible top with red interior which she used to take to the car wash where now is a development of condos.

Westborough was an integrated new neighborhood and slowly stores and pharmacies began to fill open spaces, however, there was no library, recreation center or a swimming pool at that time. Ann decided to conduct a study of the area to determine the needs in this growing new community of diverse families.

In 1985 she presented her report to the City Council. Her investigation and interviews with the local residents revealed that the local youth had to travel approximately 3 miles to a swimming pool or recreational center. Seniors had no meeting places in the area or a place to relax for a swim. The study determined there was a need for a recreation center, a swimming pool in this new neighborhood.

The City Council hesitated, but her careful analysis of the area and its citizens, convinced them and approved a recreation center, which is where today sits the Westborough Recreation Center, built by the City in 1988.

Although the City agreed there was a need for a swimming pool, they left it to Ann to raise \$1M and City would maintain the pool if the committee raised the funds to build it. It was a tall order. There were several fund raisers and the Westborough Swimming Pool Fund Raising and Advisory Committee (WSPFR&AC) was formed ; however, the fund raising effort never

reached \$1M.

In 2010 the committee members were unable to continue the fund raising efforts and decided to donate funds to build a childcare center playground (approx.\$100K) to the City at the Westborough Recreation Center. In 2012 an acknowledgment of the donation was made to the WSPFR&AC members: Ann B Waters, Chairperson, Frances Luster, Eloise Kee, Treasurer, Mina Richardson, Carol; & Gary Chin, Gerald and Connie Simotas, Mary Jean Vail, Barbara Sperring.

Ann Waters was a community activist in the non traditional sense. Her quiet wisdom and polite demeanor belied her extraordinary resolve. When She passed away in 2014, Council Member and former Mayor, Karyl Matsumoto closed the city council meeting on 1/14/15, acknowledging she was an "icon in our community".

She is a local hero among women who left their mark in So. San Francisco and deserving of the honor by placing her name in the building she lobbied the City council to build. It would be a fitting tribute to recognize her efforts. Please consider her work in the community, she served as commissioner at the Westborough Water District, for lobbying, fundraising efforts and deserves to be remembered as a uniter who reached across town to encourage citizens to seek public service.

She is a role model that her name may be placed where it is remembered for her pioneer spirit, and contribution to the Westborough District and across the City. On behalf of the WSPFR&AC we unpretentiously suggest to please rename the Westborough Recreation Center after Ann B Waters who will likely be the first African-American to, make local history and in San Mateo County. We dutifully and respectfully ask the South San Francisco City Council Naming Committee where she may join an Asian, a Caucasian, and as an African-American for your consideration. It will be a proud moment for our diverse City.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Luster
Westborough Resident