



COUNTY OF VENTURA

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Fifth District

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July 25, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Lopez to Name the Family Justice Center Oxnard, in Honor of the Late Chair of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, Carmen Ramirez, subject to 4/5ths approval by the Board of Supervisors.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the naming of the recently purchased county building located at 545-555 South A Street in Oxnard the "Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center," in honor of former County Supervisor and Board Chair, Carmen Ramirez, subject to 4/5ths vote of the Board of Supervisors.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

Mandatory: No [X] Yes []
Source of Funding: None
Funding Match Required: No
Impact on other Departments: None

There is no fiscal impact to the recommendation of authorizing the naming of this building.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

A trailblazing leader and beloved friend, Carmen Ramirez began her career in Ventura County in 1978 as a legal aid attorney in La Colonia in Oxnard where she worked to protect the health and economic well-being of individuals and families as they went before the courts and government. For 16 years she served as Executive Director of Channel Counties Legal Services Association, serving the legal needs of the poor in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. She then became coordinator of the Superior Court of Ventura County Self-Help Legal Center in the Colonia neighborhood, serving the Spanish-speaking community in this capacity for 9 years.

Carmen Ramirez spent her life in dedicated service to her community, championing sustainability, mobility, and equity, while tirelessly supporting numerous local civic

organizations including the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Community Foundation, and the Center for Civic Education, just to name a few.

Carmen made history as the first Latina elected to the Oxnard City Council in 2010 where she served for ten years, never once missing a meeting. She broke barriers once more when she became the first Latina elected to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 2020, and again in January 2022 as the first Latina to serve as Chair of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors until her passing in August 2022.

At our June 6, 2023 meeting, our Board unanimously approved the purchase of the building located at 545-555 South A Street in Oxnard for the purpose of establishing a second Family Justice Center (FJC) in our County.

The first FJC was opened in the city of Ventura in 2019, serving about 2,500 victims of crime per year with wrap around services. According to data from our District Attorney's office, the largest proportion of victims, approximately 33%, served at the FJC in Ventura are residents of Oxnard. Many of these victims currently served are Latinas and nearly 23% of the victims are Mixteco or mono-lingual Spanish speakers.

Per the County Building/Facility Naming Policy, set forth in County Administrative Policy Manual Chapter IV (A)-5, facility naming requires at least two letters of endorsement. Included in the exhibits, you will find the County Building/Facility Naming Policy, and letters of endorsement from City of Oxnard Mayor John Zaragoza, Maria Ramirez, and Roy Prince. A four-fifths vote is required under the County Building/Facility Naming Policy when the nominee is a deceased elected official.

In memory of Carmen's exemplary legacy of leadership, integrity, and service to all residents of Ventura County especially those underserved, I respectfully request your support in naming the FJC in Oxnard as the "Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center."

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact my office at 805-654-2613.

Sincerely,



Vianey Lopez
Supervisor, Fifth District

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – County Building/Facility Naming Policy
- Exhibit 2 – 545-555 South A Street Building Location Map
- Exhibit 3 – Letter of Endorsement: Oxnard Mayor John Zaragoza
- Exhibit 4 – Letter of Endorsement: Maria Ramirez
- Exhibit 5 – Letter of Endorsement: Roy Prince