

December 12, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Dear Members of the Board,

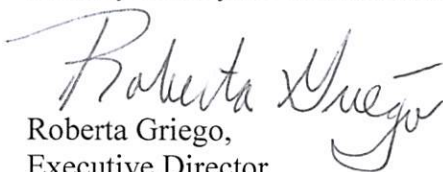
On behalf of NAMI Ventura County Board of Directors and myself, it is with great enthusiasm that we offer this letter of support to name the Lewis Road Park located in front of the Growing Works Nursery in Camarillo in honor of retiring County Supervisor Linda Parks. She has been a champion for parks since her tenure on the Thousand Oak City Council where she sponsored the "Parks Initiative" that preserves open space and parkland in Thousand Oaks. She has also been a longtime advocate for mental health issues, having served on the Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board for fifteen years and working to establish many vital programs within the County that address the needs of those with mental health challenges.

Supervisor Parks has been a champion and strong supporter of NAMI Ventura County for 20 years. We were pleased to select her as our Honorary Chair NAMI Ventura County NAMIWalks, and she has been the "Team Captain" for many strong "NAMIWalks Teams – 'The Might Oaks'" and "Growing Works" for years raising awareness to break the Stigma around Mental Illness. Both teams have brought in donation dollars to help support, educate and advocate for families and loved one with a Mental Illness.

Furthermore, Supervisor Parks supported a working group that reduced jail recidivism for people with mental illness and encouraged greater options for treatment including Horizon View and a Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit. In the wake of the Borderline Bar and Grill mass shooting, Supervisor Parks created the Mental Health and Safety Task Force, and appointed NAMI Ventura County as one of the stakeholders for the Task Force to find opportunities to strengthen crisis services and public safety which has become a blueprint for enhanced services. I personally served with Supervisor Parks, as a staff member with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office, and as Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board for 10 years and have seen firsthand how Supervisor Parks has been a Champion to make change to better serve the citizens of Ventura County, protect environmental, public health and safety needs, fight for the underserved, and so much more.

One such program is the Growing Works Nursery, a non-profit nursery that provides horticultural therapy and job training for people with mental health challenges. She was instrumental in creating public and private partnerships and coordinating the development of the County's Lewis Road property for Growing Works that includes a mental health rehabilitation center, housing for vulnerable populations including older adults with mental health challenges, and the 2-acre park. By naming this park in her honor, the County would preserve and celebrate her legacy as a strong advocate for both open space and mental health.

Thank you for your consideration.



Roberta Griego,
Executive Director
NAMI Ventura County

