

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, TO NAME THE PARK TO BE
LOCATED AT S. MLK JR BOULEVARD AND E. CHURCH
AVENUE "LES KIMBER PARK"

WHEREAS, the City is in the process of constructing a new park on the southwest corner of S. MLK Jr. Boulevard and E. Church Avenue; and

WHEREAS, this new park will become a neighborhood hub bringing together families, pets, and residents of Southwest Fresno; and

WHEREAS, Les Kimber was a strong activist for racial equality and the second African American to be elected into the Fresno City Council as the councilmember for District 3; and

WHEREAS, Les Kimber co-founded a newspaper called "The California Advocate" and sponsored the Drum Major for Justice Awards for several years; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Les Kimber and wife Pauline Kimber, Co-founder of the California Advocate, were awarded the third American Civil Liberties Union Award of Northern California for newspaper coverage exposing racism and injustice in Fresno and the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, among the many policies Les Kimber initiated while on the City Council was the establishment of Enterprise Zones for West Fresno which set land aside for West Fresno's first shopping center; and

WHEREAS, Les Kimber founded the non-profit United Black Men of Fresno to combat gang violence by mentoring young Black men, and the West Fresno Ministerial

Alliance, while also participating in the KFSN TV-30 Minority Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Les Kimber was instrumental in establishing the Human Relations Committee and recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a City holiday; and

WHEREAS, among the many policies Les Kimber initiated while on the City Council was the annual free garbage pick-up for City residents, a service still in place today; and

WHEREAS, during his campaign for councilmember his longtime friend, activist Cesar Chavez remarked, "We know that in supporting you, the voters of Fresno will be backing a man of proven ability and concern for poor and working peoples;" and

WHEREAS, Les Kimber is survived by his two successful children Terri Kimber-Edwards, who currently serves as a member of the MLK Committee started by her father, and Mark Kimber, who is now the publisher of the California Advocate, which is in its 58th year of publication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The Council of the City of Fresno finds this action is necessary and appropriate in light of Les Kimber's contributions.
2. The future park located at S. MLK Jr. Boulevard and E. Church Avenue shall hereafter be named "Les Kimber Park".
3. This Resolution is adopted in accordance with Section 8 of Administrative Order-6-2, and the provisions of Resolution No. 2020-272 shall be waived with respect to this Resolution.
4. This resolution shall be effective upon final approval.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, TODD STERMER, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2024.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2024
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2024
Mayor Veto: _____, 2024
Council Override Vote: _____, 2024

TODD STERMER, CMC
City Clerk

By: _____ Date
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREW JANZ
City Attorney

By: _____ Date
Darcy Brown
Deputy City Attorney