



City of San Leandro

Meeting Date: June 7, 2021

Staff Report

File Number: 21-346

Agenda Section: ACTION ITEMS

Agenda Number: 10.A.

TO: City Council

FROM: Fran Robustelli
City Manager

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FINANCE REVIEW: Susan Hsieh
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TITLE: Staff Report for the San Leandro City Council to Approve the Naming of the Existing Police Administration Building to the "Robert J. P. Maginnis Police Administration Building" According to the Guidelines Outlined in Title 1 Chapter 10 of the San Leandro Administrative Code

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Council directed staff to facilitate a discussion at the City Council Rules Committee regarding the naming of the existing Police Administration Building to the "Robert J. P. Maginnis Police Administration Building" in recognition of former Police Chief Maginnis' (Chief Maginnis) service to the San Leandro community including 32 years with the City of San Leandro Police Department and over 30 years of service with Girls Inc. of San Leandro. That discussion occurred on February 24, 2021.

On May 18, 2021, the Library Historical Commission discussed the matter and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the naming.

On May 26, 2021, by consensus, the City Council Rules Committee agreed to forward this item to the City Council.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 10 of the San Leandro Administrative Code (Code) provides the procedures for naming/renaming properties and facilities such as buildings, structures, parks, etc. to celebrate those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the City. The Code specifies that the City Council Rules Committee shall review the requested name change and then forward the matter to the appropriate Board or Commission for further review and recommendation to the City Council. In this case, that Commission is the Library Historical Commission (LHC).

As outlined in the Code, the following rules apply:

- The individual for whom a facility is to be named must be deceased at least one hundred eighty (180) days (Chief Maginnis is still alive);

- The individual for whom a facility is to be named (or renamed) must have been one of the following:
 - Long-term resident of the community or owner of a business in the community who has made significant, notable, and tangible contributions to the facility or property in question or to the San Leandro community at large.
 - Elected official or employee of the City whose accomplishments and contributions to the community clearly demonstrate a commitment over and beyond that which would otherwise be normally associated with the performance of their work;
- There must be a well-defined connection between the contributions of the individual and the property or facility; and
- In the case of a request involving renaming a facility, the next of kin of the individual for whom the facility is currently named (provided that the person was a local resident) should be notified of the proposed change and given an opportunity for input before the City Council acts upon the request (does not apply).

Other Structures/Facilities named after Notable Citizens

There are many facilities or structures named after former councilmembers, employees, or distinguished San Leandro citizens.

Named structures or facilities include: the Surlene Grant Community Room in the South Offices Facility, Luster Knight Memorial, Wes McClure Boat Launch Ramp, and Burrell Field, just to name a few. Each of these facilities or structures was named after an individual who made significant, notable, and tangible contributions to the facility in question or to the San Leandro community at large.

As prescribed by the Administrative Code, the City Council Rules Committee is responsible for review of any name change based on the criteria outlined above. If the criteria are met and they feel the request is warranted, the matter is forwarded to the appropriate Board or Commission, in this case the Library Historical Commission, with a final determination to be made by the full City Council.

Analysis

Robert J. P. Maginnis

Chief Maginnis was hired by the San Leandro Police Department in 1967 and after 32 years of service retired in 1999. He was born and raised in Oakland and attended Saint Ignatius High School. He enlisted in the Army and served as Military Police for 3 years during the Vietnam War. In 1966 he finished his service and shortly thereafter was asked to join the San Leandro Police Department Reserves. One year later, in the fall of 1967, he was hired as a San Leandro Police Officer.

Chief Maginnis attended and graduated from Chabot College, and later graduated from U.C. Berkeley, with a degree in criminology. He worked the midnight shift so that he could attend college during the day. He went to Golden Gate University and obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Governmental Affairs in 1973. Shortly thereafter, he began teaching Criminal Justice at San Leandro High School.

Chief Maginnis was promoted through the ranks and as a Lieutenant he graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy in March 1986. That same year, he became the San Leandro Chief of Police. While teaching Criminal Justice at San Leandro High, he saw the demographics of the community change, and knew the Police Department needed to reflect that change. From there, he committed to do what he could to ensure that the San Leandro Police Department not only included but welcomed

people of color, especially those from the community itself.

In the 1970s, Chief Maginnis became involved with San Leandro Girls Club (Club) after responding to a burglary at its facility. He arranged for an alarm system to be donated and installed, thus beginning his long relationship with the Club (later renamed Girls, Inc.)

By the late 1980s, when Girls Inc. had outgrown its facilities, Chief Maginnis had become a member of its Board of Directors. He was heavily involved in the effort to find a permanent home for the Club, which had been operating out of a trailer. Along with the Girls Inc. staff, Chief Maginnis traveled to promote and raise funds for the Club and its new facility.

In 1991, the club moved into a former manufacturing building across the street from San Leandro High School. The site needed repairs and renovation and the Board of Directors focused its attention on a \$1.7 million capital campaign. Again, Chief Maginnis personally became a major donor and helped promote the campaign.

In 1999, Chief Maginnis was elected as the President of the Board. During his tenure, the Club's annual budget grew from \$1 million to \$6 million.

As quoted by those who know him, "Bob was a great leader, bringing people along in support of the work of Girls Inc. He possessed an amazing work ethic and believed in contributing to his community and helping those less fortunate. He was a mentor and was always there when needed."

Chief Maginnis was also an active member of the San Leandro Rotary Club and served on the Board of Directors of the San Leandro Employee Credit Union. He served on the Chamber of Commerce Board and was instrumental in assuring school bonds passed during his off time. He was also a member of the NAACP, and maintained a close relationship with Freddie Davis, the President of the local chapter. In 1988, Chief Maginnis was recruited to serve on a blue-ribbon committee to look at the future of DNA and the impact it would have on jurisprudence in California and the United States. He was a strong advocate of force multiplying technologies like computers and software to assist employees in doing their jobs and envisioned a time when Police Officers could take a police report using their phone or a tablet (before the word "tablet" existed). He was also a champion of the concept of Community Policing.

In 1999, Chief Maginnis retired from the San Leandro Police Department and was recruited by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department to be an Assistant Sheriff. He was sought for his ideas around recruiting the best people for the job and ran the Management Services Section of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. While in this role, he had a direct impact on the Regional Training Center, by expanding the scope of training, and partnering with the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Chief Maginnis is 79 years old, and still lives in San Leandro with his wife, Arlene. In retirement he continues to serve his community in various roles and is a mentor to all who ask. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Alameda County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of the renaming is associated with the lettering that will be placed on the building. It is estimated that this will cost approximately \$7,500.

Current Agency Policies

Title 1 Chapter 10 of the San Leandro Administrative Code

Committee Review and Actions

In February of this year, the City Council Rules Committee discussed the renaming of the Police Administration Building and asked staff to do additional research on Chief Maginnis' background, in light of the local and national spotlight on Police Departments. San Leandro Library staff conducted extensive research on Chief Maginnis and provided information that was presented to the City Council Rules Committee on May 26, 2021. Details of this research are included in the attached Power Point Presentation.

Board/Commission Review and Actions

On May 18, 2021, the Library-Historical Commission voted unanimously to recommend the naming of the Police Administration Building to the "*Robert J.P. Maginnis Police Administration Building*".

PREPARED BY: Liz Warmerdam, Assistant City Manager



City Council
6/7/21

Recognizing Robert J.P. Maginnis

Proposal

Name the existing
Police Administration
Building:

*The Robert J.P.
Maginnis
Administrative
Building*



City Council Direction

- September 8, 2020 - Council directed staff to bring an item to the Rules Committee regarding naming the existing Police Department's Administrative Building in honor of former Police Chief Robert Maginnis (Chief Maginnis)
- January 27, 2021 - the Rules Committee discussed the item and asked staff to do additional research on Chief Maginnis
- May 18, 2021, Library Historical Commission reviewed the proposal and voted unanimously to recommend the naming to the City Council
- May 26, 2021, consensus among all Rules Committee Members to forward item to City Council

Robert J. P. Maginnis

- 1967 - Started his career as a reserve officer with the San Leandro Police Department after 3 years of military service during the Vietnam War.
- Taught Criminal Justice at San Leandro High School and at Chabot College District and Diablo Valley Community College
- 1986 - graduated from FBI National Academy and became the San Leandro Chief of Police that same year
- 1988 – was recruited to serve on a blue-ribbon committee to look at the future of DNA and its impact on the law in California and the United States.
- Advocated for “force multiplying” technologies like computers and software to assist employees in doing their jobs, long before it was common-place

Robert J. P. Maginnis

- While teaching at San Leandro High, saw the community makeup changing, and became the first Chief of Police to actively hire Persons of Color to more closely represent the diversity of San Leandro
- Was an early adopter of the best practice of “Community Policing”
- 1999 - Retired as Chief of Police after 32 Years of Service (1967 – 1999)
- After retirement was recruited by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department to be an Assistant Sheriff
- Was sought for his progressive ideas around recruiting and training
- Helped shape the Regional Training Center by expanding the scope of training and partnering with the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Robert J. P. Maginnis and Girls Inc.

- 1970s – began relationship with Girls Inc. after responding to a burglary at its facility
- 1980s - become a member of its Board of Directors
- Instrumental in finding a permanent home for the Club (had been operating out a trailer) including promoting and raising funds for new facility
- 1991- the club moved into a former manufacturing building and needed renovation. Again, he personally became a major donor and helped promote the campaign
- 1999 - was elected as the President of the Board. During his tenure Girls Inc.'s annual budget grew from \$1 million to \$6 million.



Robert J. P. Maginnis

- Was a member of the NAACP and friend of Ms. Freddye Davis, President of the local chapter
- Active member of the San Leandro Rotary Club
- Served on the Board of Directors of the San Leandro Employee Credit Union for 22 years including President for 13 years (now Bay Cities Credit Union)
- Served on the Chamber of Commerce Board
- Volunteered his time to ensure local school bonds passed
- Currently serves as the Executive Director of the Alameda County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association
- Chief Maginnis still lives in San Leandro with his wife, and continues to serve his community in various roles including mentoring all those who ask

Further Research

- Library staff research topics (1986-1999):
 - State Fair Employment and Housing Commission panel that was formed after the October 1990 riot at San Leandro High School and any results;
 - Police racism;
 - Police brutality;
 - Police harassment
 - Police discrimination; and
 - Police complaints.

Further Research - Chronology

1967	Chief Maginnis (Maginnis) joins SLPD
1973-1983	Maginnis teaches at San Leandro High School and characterizes this time as best in his career. Begins his long-standing relationship with Girls Inc.
1986	Maginnis becomes Chief of Police
9/1989	Hate crimes spike across the U.S. In San Leandro, there is a cross burning on the front lawn of an African American family that lived on the 1200 block of 139 th Avenue. Maginnis is quoted "This community is not one that tolerates cross burnings. This community does not want to be burdened with a reputation that San Leandro had 20 or 30 years ago. Things have changed. We're going to solve this thing and it's going to be through a partnership between the community and the Police Department." Rather than wait for a break or allow the crime to go unsolved, Maginnis asks City Council to appropriate funds for a reward for anyone leading to the arrest and prosecution of the individual(s). Shortly thereafter, a witness steps forward with information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of the individual. (The Daily Review 9/1989)

Further Research

7/6/ 1990	Maginnis issues <u>Hate-Motivated Crime and Incident Investigations Policy</u> . The policy states that it is “the policy of SLPD to ensure the rights guaranteed by law are protected for all people, regardless of race, color religion, ancestry, national origin, or sexual orientation. When such rights are infringed upon by violence, threats or other harassment, the Department will use every necessary resource to rapidly and decisively identify the perpetrators, arrest them and bring them before the court. All acts of hate-motivated violence or threats will be viewed as serious, and the investigations will be given priority attention.” (SLPD Policy)
Fall/1990	As President of the Alameda County Chief’s Association, Maginnis successfully lobbies for joint implementation of SLPD’s Hate Crime Policy and training for all agencies in the County. Maginnis organizes a task force of Chiefs and Community representatives to work together and address areas of mutual concern. Successfully lobbies the state for funding for Hate Crimes Data Collection Bill. (California Commission on Peace Officer Standard and Training, and the U.S. Department of Justice/National Institute of Justice)

Further Research

10/24/1990	SL High School riot involving 300 students, after a minority student is cited for jaywalking by a white police officer. Student who was told to walk in the cross walk was not black . The teenager shouts an obscenity, and someone hits an officer in the head with a bottle. Another teenager punches the officer in the face, and several students kick him while he is on the ground. Other officers fight back with batons. Four students were arrested (1- white, 1 Hispanic and 2 black). Complaints were lodged against SLPD, Hayward Police, the Sheriffs Dept, and CHP. Parents and NAACP want investigation by Grand Jury or US Attorney General including SL Unified. Mayor Karp asks for US Department of Justice to assist in the investigation. (SL Times 10/31/90)
11/1990	San Leandro Advisory Committee for Social Justice (SLACSJ) is founded in response to the riot at SLUSD. Proponent of a civilian review board for police conduct. Its mission is dedicated to "addressing ethnic prejudice, racism, and sexual and religious intolerance in the community and in the institutions that serve the community." (Noted in SL Times 3/21/92)
11/1990	In response to the spike in hate crimes, a POST Panel consisting of Law Enforcement (including Maginnis), State Fair Employment and Housing Commission, the State Attorney General's Office, and the Associate Editor of the Tribune is formed to develop strategies to respond to Hate Crimes. (Report is filed with California Commission on Peace Officer Standard and Training, and the U.S. Department of Justice/National Institute of Justice.)

Further Research

1991	Persian Gulf War intensifies hate crimes especially against Arab Americans
3/1991	Rodney King is beaten by LAPD officers. Local man films the incident which was covered by news media around the world causing a public outrage.
10/2/1991	In response to an increase in violent crimes against citizens based on their race, religious, and sexual orientation, State Fair Employment and Housing Commission panel issues a report on Hate Crimes in South Alameda County, and across the State. Report commends Maginnis for his response to parents following riot involving SL High School students and SLPD. Mayor Karp is criticized. (SL Times 10/9/91)
10/12/1991	FBI Investigates SL High melee and found no wrongdoing by city employees. (SL Times 10/12/91)
10/12/1991	State panel suggest that the formation of Citizens Review Panel in local communities would give victims more confidence to speak out. Report states that a number of members of minority communities have been harassed and some have been assaulted by local enforcement officers. These incidents have left them feeling distrustful of law enforcement and this has resulted in underreporting or not reporting at all the occurrence of hate crimes. In San Leandro in particular, the report found that minority residents, while trustful of Maginnis, were extremely distrustful of other members of the police force. Maginnis says he is not opposed to such a panel. Captain of SLPD says report is a good blueprint for the future. Mayor Karp is

Further Research

3/1992	SLACSJ advocates for a Civilian Review Board for police conduct. Members meet with Chief Maginnis to explore ways to foster better community relationship with Police Department. Maginnis offers to set up an office in a neutral location to receive complaints. Maginnis is quoted that he is “ tickled that people have taken an interest (in the police), regardless of their agenda ” and that he would “ welcome a Civilian Review Board if that is what the people want. ” (SL Times 3/21/1992)
5/15/1992	SLACSJ asks City Council to set up a Human Services Commission to address Race Relations. Others want a Citizens Police Review Board. (SL Times) . Note it is unclear if this Commission is the same as the Human Services Commission that exists today.
12/1993	Maginnis testifies at the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding hate violence in California - State and Federal Responses to Hate Violence. Maginnis’ testimony focuses on victims' rights, prosecution of offenders, importance of state-wide data collection, and new recruit training on how to treat victims. (Golden Gate University School of Law, GGU Law Digital Commons California, Senate California Documents, Bill Lockyer, Chairman, 12/13/1993)

Further Research

1993-94	SLPD and SLUSD develop an education program for schools regarding hate crimes and community awareness called Police and Community Together (PACT). Adopt a Cop is implemented where volunteer officers work 2 hours per month in a classroom to address hate crime, cultural awareness, and sensitivity toward others.
1994-1997	As President of the Alameda County Chief's Association, continued to lobby the State for increased hate crime sanctions, including registration by convicted felony hate crime offenders. State implements in 1997.
1999	Maginnis retires and is interviewed by SL Times. Says, cops need to work with kids on the front-end so they don't need to deal with them on the back end . Says we should be spending money on education rather than prisons . (SL Times 7/22/99)

Proposal

Name the existing
Police Administration
Building:

*Robert J.P. Maginnis
Police Administration
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Questions