

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Terry O. Gregory, Councilmember  
Ron Gonzales, Mayor

**SUBJECT:** Naming of the New Branch  
Library on Tully Road

**DATE:** April 19, 2004

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Approved /Signed/

Date

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**Council District:** 7  
**SNI AREA:** N/A

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Amend the recommendation of the Library Commission to name the new branch library currently being constructed on Tully Road from the “Tully-New Saigon Branch Library” to the “Tully Community Branch Library.”
2. Through the office of Councilmember Gregory, work with District 7 community leaders & leaders from the Vietnamese-American community to explore alternatives to recognize the valuable contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the City of San José.

## BACKGROUND

At the December, 2003 Library Commission meeting, City staff recommended the new branch library on Tully Road to be named the “Tully Branch Library.” At that meeting, three residents proposed two other names: the Edward G. Keeble Jr. Branch Library and the Saigon Branch Library. The Commission directed staff to conduct further research regarding the original ownership of the site and continued the discussion at its February 11, 2004 meeting. After hearing public testimony on the alternative names, by a 6-2 vote the Commission recommended the new facility be named the “Tully-New Saigon Branch Library.”

The naming of this new library has generated a great deal of interest and many opinions, pro and con, within the community. For the past two months, I have been working closely with City staff, leaders from the Vietnamese-American community and other community leaders within District 7 to determine how our community can move forward on this issue together.

It is clear, from the feedback I have received from District 7 residents and leaders, that the Vietnamese-American community is considered a very important part of the fabric of our city. There is a general consensus throughout District 7 to recognize the Vietnamese-American community presence and to honor their contributions to the City.

However, I have also heard that what's best for all of District 7 is that the name of the new library be one that honors our entire community and reflects the geographic location of the library instead of focusing on any single specific group within the community. I agree with these perspectives. It is for those reasons that I am recommending the new library be named the "Tully Community Branch Library."

I ask for the Council's support of this recommendation for the following reasons:

- It is an easy name to remember.
- It is easier to determine the location of the facility.
- It is consistent with how other branch libraries are named throughout the City.
- Most importantly, it highlights the "community" aspect of the Tully neighborhoods and promotes a sense of belonging and pride among *all* the residents in the surrounding area.

My office will continue to work closely with the Vietnamese-American community to explore alternative ways to honor their presence and valuable contributions to the City of San Jose. If our effort is successful, it is my intent to bring forth a proposal to the City Council for review and consideration.

I urge the Council's support of these recommendations.