



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember
Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO NAME
SOCCER BOWL

DATE: May 11, 2007

APPROVED:

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the naming of a new Soccer Bowl at Watson Park as the **Umberto Abronzino Soccer Bowl at Watson Park**.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to name the soccer bowl the **Umberto Abronzino Soccer Bowl at Watson Park**, because of the late Umberto Abronzino's many contributions to youth soccer in the United States, and because of the widespread support from neighbors and the local soccer community. I urge my colleagues to support its recommendation.

A beloved figure in the Northside, Abronzino supported soccer in Watson Park for decades, helping to establish the sport locally through the development of a league in the 1950's. Abronzino's contributions to the sport have achieved recognition well beyond local community: he has been named to the California Soccer Hall of Fame, the California Youth Soccer Association Hall of Fame, and the United States Soccer Hall of Fame.

As indicated in the letter from The Northside Neighborhood Association, the community broadly supports linking the name of Umberto Abronzino with the Watson Soccer Bowl in perpetuity. Credited with establishing recreational soccer in Santa Clara Valley, Abronzino's memory lives on because of the many hours he spent in the Watson soccer bowl, never failing to offer support and guidance to all players, young and old.

The City will close the soccer bowl when remediation activity begins in Watson Park, and it will remain closed until it is completed. Let's make the re-opening of the soccer bowl an even more memorable occasion.

cc:
Mayor and City Council
City Clerk