



COUNCIL AGENDA: 05-15-07

ITEM: 5.4

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** LEE PRICE, MMC  
CITY CLERK

**SUBJECT:** RECOMMENDATION TO  
NAME A NEW PARK

**DATE:** April 24, 2007

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## RECOMMENDATION

As recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission, name a new park at the intersection of Lenzen Avenue and Stockton Avenue as Theodore Lenzen Park.

## BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Council Policy 7-5 the City Clerk receives nominations for naming of public facilities, which are forwarded to the appropriate Commission(s) for review and recommendation. The process calls for the Commission(s) to hold a public hearing on nominations prior to forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

## ANALYSIS

On April 4, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing to consider nominations for the naming of a new park in Council District 6 located at the intersection of Lenzen and Stockton Avenue. At this meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the park be named Theodore Lenzen Park.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Parks and Recreation Commission held the Public Hearing on April 4, 2007.

## COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department.

LEE PRICE, MMC  
CITY CLERK



*Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services*

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

April 16, 2007

Lee Price, City Clerk  
Office of the City Clerk  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

Dear Lee Price:

Re: Recommendation to the City Council to name a new park located at the intersection of Lenzen Avenue and Stockton Avenue as **Theodore Lenzen Park**.

On April 4, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission (hereafter, Commission) held a public hearing to consider the nominations for the naming of a new park in Council District 6 located at the intersection of Lenzen Avenue and Stockton Avenue. At this meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the park be named Theodore Lenzen Park.

Therefore, I am requesting that this item be agendized for Council consideration at the May 8, 2007 (evening) Council meeting.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please call Cristin James at 408-793-5553.

Sincerely,

Helen Chapman, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

cc: Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, Council District 6  
Albert Balagso, PRNS  
Julie Mark, PRNS  
Mike Will

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San Jose City Clerk  
2007 APR 23 3:26 PM



# Memorandum

**TO:** Albert Balagso, Interim Director  
Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services

**FROM:** Lee Price, MMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** NAMING OF CITY-OWNED  
FACILITIES

**DATE:** 10-05-06

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**PROPOSAL:** City-Owned Facility Nomination for Theodore Lenzen Park located at the Southwest corner of Lenzen Avenue and Stockton Avenue. Submitted by David D. Barry on October 3, 2006.

Council Policy No. 7-5 entitled "Naming of City-Owned Land and Facilities" calls for a Nomination Form to be submitted to the City Clerk, who will then forward the information to the appropriate Commission for review. The Policy calls for a Public Hearing to be held to solicit public comment on the proposal after which the Commission's recommendation is submitted to the City Clerk who then forwards the recommendation to the City council for consideration.

Please initiate the process to consider the naming of this site by forwarding the attached information to the Parks and Recreation Commission and scheduling the matter for a public hearing. As soon as I receive the Commission's recommendation, I will forward it to the City Council for consideration.

Thank you in advance for your review of this Nomination and please let me know if you have any questions.

LEE PRICE, MMC  
CITY CLERK



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San Jose City Clerk

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**Naming of City-Owned Facilities** 10: 56  
**NOMINATION FORM**

Person Submitting Nomination: David D. Barry

Address: 777 Lenzen Avenue, SJ, 95126 Daytime Phone: 408.795.1864

Name Proposed for Facility: Theodore Lenzen Park

Location of Facility: Southwest corner of Lenzen Avenue and Stockton Avenue  
(Include street address, cross street)

Nature of Facility to be Named: (Describe use, clientele and any special geographic or historic characteristics)

Neighborhood park (approx. 0.40 acres) adjacent to Cinnabar Commons affordable housing complex

Is this site/structure of potential historic significance? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please submit parcel number and a summary of bibliographical resources.

See History San Jose website: [www.historysanjose.org/labellegacy/index.html](http://www.historysanjose.org/labellegacy/index.html)

Appropriateness of Name to Facility: (Briefly characterize the nominated individual, group, event or feature. Describe why naming would be appropriate. If the facility is proposed to be named after an individual, attach no more than one page outlining a brief biography and significant contributions to the community.)

See attachments

Submit Nomination to: City Clerk, San José City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

**FOR CITY CLERK'S USE ONLY**

Referred to the following Commission or Committee:

Airport \_\_\_ Arts \_\_\_ Child Care \_\_\_ Disability Advisory \_\_\_ Historic Landmarks \_\_\_  
Library \_\_\_ Parking Advisory \_\_\_ Parks & Recreation \_\_\_ Senior Citizens \_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Theodore Lenzen Park

Biography of Theodor Lenzen  
Written by Dolores Mellon

Theodore Lenzen, born in Prussia in 1833, studied architecture there before immigrating to the United States in 1854. After working in Chicago and San Francisco, Lenzen opened his San Jose office in 1863. According to the San Jose Mercury News in 1895, “no one firm has more largely contributed to the appearance of [San Jose’s] dwellings and business houses than Theodore Lenzen, the architect.” Among Lenzen’s most notable work were his designs for St. Ignatius College in San Francisco, Santa Clara College, San Jose’s Auzeais House, the first State Normal School (destroyed by fire in 1880), O’Connor Sanitarium, the College of Notre Dame, the Fredericksburg Brewery (located down the street from the proposed park site location) and the 1880s San Jose City Hall. Prior to Lenzen’s death in 1912, he was joined in his firm by his son, Louis T.

### REFERENCES:

Foote, H.S. ed., *Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World, or Santa Clara County (Illustrated)*. (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1888), 621.

*Santa Clara County and Its Resources: A Souvenir of the San Jose Mercury*. (San Jose: San Jose Mercury Publishing and Printing Co., 1895), 265; *Metropolitan Publishing, Commercial History of San Jose*. (Oakland: Pacific Press, 1892), 18; *San Jose Mercury News*, October 12, 1912, 1.

Why “Theodore Lenzen Park” would be an appropriate name:

Lenzen Avenue is named for Theodore Lenzen, the San Jose architect who subdivided 25 acres east of The Alameda in 1868, near where his home stood until razed in 1965. Over the years, however, Theodore Lenzen’s importance to this neighborhood has all but been forgotten. Naming this park after Lenzen would acknowledge the fact that at one time Mr. Lenzen was San Jose’s only major architect. In addition, a park that shares its name with the adjacent “Lenzen” Avenue ensures that people will be able to locate the park easily. A park named for Theodore Lenzen would also help to connect this neighborhood—an area that is dramatically reinventing itself—to its past, while providing a basis for a future identity. I am aware that the site of the proposed park (temporarily called Cinnabar Commons Park) was formerly the location of the Muirson Label Company (1916 to 1970s). While it is important to identify the Muirson Company, I believe it is more important to recognize a local historical figure who, when he died in 1912 it was said that “on nearly every street in San Jose could be found some business house or residence designed by Theodor Lenzen.”



This site is sponsored by:

**Cinnabar Commons, LP**

Affordable Housing for San Jose

## Muirson Label Company San José, California

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The Muirson Label Company operated in San José from 1916 until 1970 as the only label printing company in the Santa Clara Valley. The Muirson Company and its talented artists created some of the most striking labels for the products of the Valley of Heart's Delight. Discover the history of the Muirson Label Company by exploring the place and its workings, meeting the people who founded and grew the company, and seeing the things that made Muirson a nationally recognized leader in the industry. Click on one of the topics below to start that section of the exhibit. Glossary entries and image captions give you more details.



WEBSITE:

<http://www.historysanjose.org/labellegacy/index.html>

10/3/2006