

BOARD REPORT

NO. 23-057

DATE March 16, 2023

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRAPE STREET POCKET PARK – RENAMING OF PARK AS “BETTY F. DAY PARK” – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(5) [SIGNS LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY A CITY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS A SIGN POLICY ADOPTED BY THE ITS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15301(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

B. Aguirre	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
		<i>fu</i> C. Santo Domingo	<i>DF</i> _____
B. Jackson	_____	N. Williams	_____



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park as “Betty F. Day Park” as more fully set forth in this Report;
2. Authorize the installation of appropriate wooden park signage;
3. Determine that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by the its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(a) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP Staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
4. Direct the Department of Recreation and Parks’ (RAP) Chief Financial Officer or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) in order to file a NOE with the County of Los Angeles; and,
5. Authorize RAP’s Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

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SUMMARY

Grape Street Pocket Park

Grape Street Pocket Park is located at 10726 Grape Street in the South Los Angeles area of the City. This 0.12-acre facility provides picnic tables, benches and water fountains. Approximately 8,335 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Grape Street Pocket Park. Due to the amenities this park provides, it is classified as a Neighborhood Park.

On February 6, 2002, RAP acquired the property parcel for Grape Street Pocket Park through a non-financial transfer of jurisdiction from the City of Los Angeles Department of General Services. Grape Street Pocket Park is currently named geographically, in accordance with RAP's Naming Policy, as it is located on Grape Street. A map of the location and boundaries of Grape Street Pocket Park is attached to this Report as Attachment 1.

Naming Request

On May 11, 2022, the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion requesting that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (Board) rename Grape Street Pocket Park as "Betty F. Day Park" in honor of Betty F. Day. (CF# 22-0396) (Attachment 2).

On February 1, 2023, the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion requesting that RAP report back on the status of this naming request (CF# 22-0396-S1) (Attachment 2).

RAP staff conducted a preliminary review of Grape Street Pocket Park and determined that there are no grant deed restrictions or other restrictions that would prevent the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park.

RAP staff has reviewed the proposed name and determined that it is within the RAP Naming Policy as the proposed naming would be after individuals who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the community within which the park is located.

The proposed renaming was presented to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force on February 16, 2023. The task force gave approval to move the proposed naming forward to the full RAP Board for consideration.

The Council Office of Council District 15 has expressed support for the proposed name change.

In addition, various organizations have sent RAP letters in support of the proposed renaming (Attachment 3).

The Council Office of Council District 15 also conducted public outreach to gauge support for the proposed renaming at various community meetings, including the following:

1/10/2023 - Sisters of Watts community meeting

1/16/2023 - Watts Gang Task Force (mentioned at the group's weekly meetings)

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1/28/2023 - Jordan Downs - Community Renaming Meeting
1/31/2023 - Jordan Downs - first in-person Resident Advisory Council meeting

Participants at these community meetings were supportive of the proposed renaming.

Background on Betty F. Day

Betty F. Day was born on February 2, 1940. During the "Second Great Migration," her parents moved from Texas to California with hopes of creating a better life for her family and generations to come. In 1955, Ms. Day married her husband Arthur and settled in the Watts community, where she would continue to live for over 70 years. After raising her eight children along with her husband, they provided love, care, and support to numerous children as foster parents.

Ms. Day lived a life of service, dedicated to the betterment and advancement of her beloved Watts community. Since her early 20s, Ms. Day ran the Watts Towers Teen Post, affiliated with the Watts Towers Art Center. This space provided a safe place for children after school, promoted community love and pride, and supported the growth of the music and arts culture.

Years later after its closure, Ms. Day continued to work locally for the community based non-profit Watts Labor Community Action Committee and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Upon retirement from LAUSD, Ms. Day became the Board President and Founder of the Watts Gang Task Force. She was also part of the LAPD Southeast Division community advisory board, where she played an instrumental role in helping improve relations between the Watts community and the LAPD. Additional information about Betty F. Day can be found in Attachment 4.

Betty Day passed away at the age of 82 on March 17, 2022.

BOARD NAMING POLICY

On June 5, 2013 the RAP adopted a Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities (Policy) for the naming of parks, recreation facilities, park amenities, landmarks and other park assets (Report No. 13-161). This Policy enumerates the criteria and guidelines for use when evaluating proposed park names (Attachment 5). Several of the adopted guidelines applicable to this application are as follows:

- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.

RAP staff has determined that the criteria and guidelines of the Policy have been met.

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CONCLUSION

For all the reasons stated in this Report, RAP staff recommends the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park to "Betty F. Day Park" and installing appropriate signage.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed Project consists of signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on February 24, 2023, this area does not reside in a liquefaction zone, coastal zone, or methane zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of February 24, 2023, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based in this information, RAP Staff recommends that the Board determines that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP Staff will file a NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The approval of this Report will have no impact of RAP's General Fund. The new signage will be paid for by funds provided by the Office of Council District 15.

This report was prepared by Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

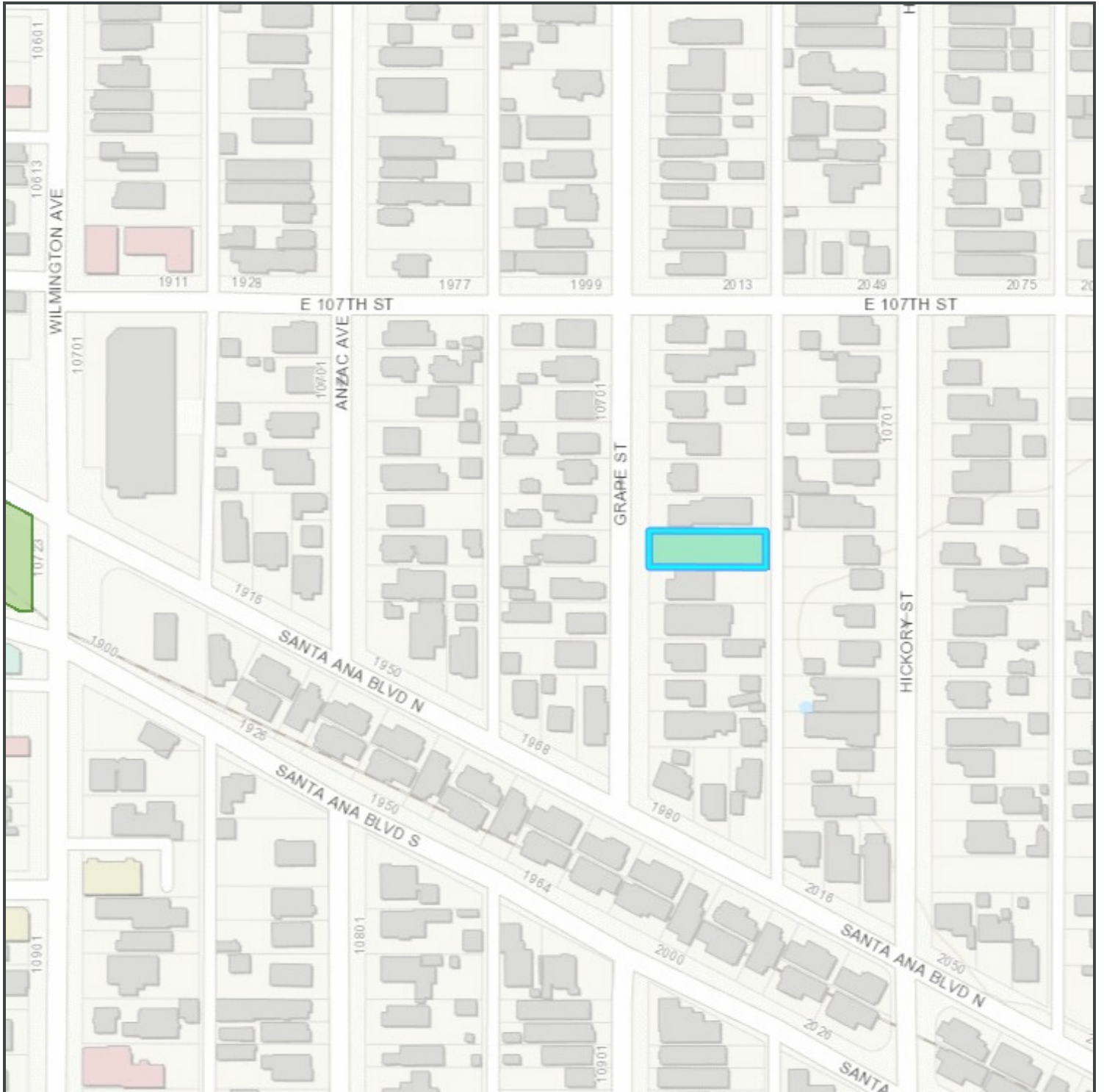
LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attachment 1 - Map and Boundaries of Grape Street Pocket Park
- 2) Attachment 2 - City Council Motions Proposing "Betty F. Day Park"
- 3) Attachment 3 - Letters of Support from Various Organizations
- 4) Attachment 4 - Articles about Betty F. Day
- 5) Attachment 5 - RAP Naming Policy and Guidelines



EQUITABLE PARKS & AMENITIES
DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

E-PADSS Map Output

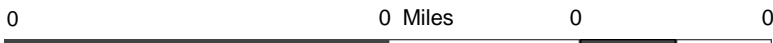


Disclaimer: This map is for informational purposes only and relies on data from a variety of sources, which may or may not be accurate or current. The City of Los Angeles assumes no responsibility arising from the use of this map. The map and associated data are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind.

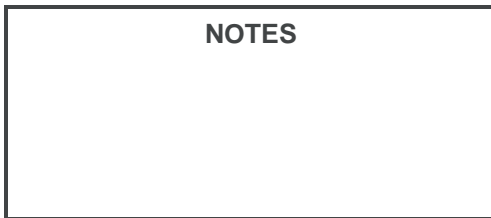
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SCALE 1: 2,257



NOTES



TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #51

MOTION

Betty F. Day was born on February 2, 1940. During the "Second Great Migration," her parents moved from Texas to California with hopes of creating a better life for her family and generations to come. In 1955, Ms. Day married her husband Arthur and settled in the Watts community, where she would continue to live for over 70 years. After raising her eight children along with her husband, they provided love, care, and support to numerous children as foster parents.

Ms. Day lived a life of service, dedicated to the betterment and advancement of her beloved Watts community. Since her early 20s, Ms. Day ran the Watts Towers Teen Post, affiliated with the Watts Towers Art Center. This space provided a safe place for children after school, promoted community love and pride, and supported the growth of the music and arts culture. Years later after its closure, Ms. Day continued to work locally for the community based non-profit Watts Labor Community Action Committee and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Upon retirement from LAUSD, Ms. Day became the Board President and Founder of the Watts Gang Task Force.

I **THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to rename Grape Street Pocket Park, located at 10726 Grape Street, 90059, to Betty F. Day Park, in memory of Betty F. Day and in recognition of her advocacy for the Watts community.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

ORIGINAL

xr
[Signature]

APR 06 2022

MOTION

Betty F. Day was born on February 2, 1940. During the "Second Great Migration," her parents moved from Texas to California with hopes of creating a better life for her family and generations to come. In 1955, Ms. Day married her husband Arthur and settled in the Watts community, where she would continue to live for over 70 years. After raising her eight children along with her husband, they provided love, care, and support to numerous children as foster parents.

Ms. Day lived a life of service, dedicated to the betterment and advancement of her beloved Watts community. Since her early 20s, Ms. Day ran the Watts Towers Teen Post, affiliated with the Watts Towers Art Center. This space provided a safe place for children after school, promoted community love and pride, and supported the growth of the music and arts culture. Years later after its closure, Ms. Day continued to work locally for the community based non-profit Watts Labor Community Action Committee and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Upon retirement from LAUSD, Ms. Day became the Board President and Founder of the Watts Gang Task Force.

On May 11, 2022 the City Council requested the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners rename Grape Street Pocket Park, located at 10726 Grape Street, 90059, to Betty F. Day Park, in memory of Betty F. Day and in recognition of her advocacy for the Watts community (CF 22-0396).

The request is still pending and has not been placed before the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners for consideration and dispensation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be directed to report back on the status of the City Council's request to rename Grape Street Pocket Park, located at 10726 Grape Street, 90059, to Betty F. Day Park, in memory of Betty F. Day and in recognition of her advocacy for the Watts community.

PRESENTED BY: _____



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: _____



ORIGINAL



DEC 13 2022

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

Department of Social Welfare

Creating Knowledge and Opportunity for a Better Society

January 24, 2023

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
 Department of Recreation and Parks
 221 N. Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Grape Street Pocket Park renaming to Betty F. Day Park (CF 22-0396)

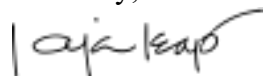
Dear Recreation & Parks Commissioners:

It is an honor for the both the UCLA Watts Leadership Institute and the UCLA Social Justice Research Partnership to stand in support with Councilmember Tim McOsker in the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park to Betty F. Day Park in the Watts community of Los Angeles.

Betty Day was many things – all of them with great meaning for the Watts community. She was a fierce advocate, a devoted organizer, and a beloved surrogate mother to so many. I still can't believe I won't hear her voice saying, "Hello, this is your mommy calling." But she was so much more than a personal inspiration. For over 70 years, she played multiple roles in Watts – running the Watts Towers Teen Post and always aligning her efforts with the Towers Art Center. Miss Day – as so many called her -- was deeply committed to the children and youth in Watts, working with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. Most notably, when Watts was viewed as the epicenter of gang violence, Miss Day stepped in and said, "Enough!" With her deep belief in community strengths, she became founder and Board President of the Watts Gang Task Force and held everyone, from the LAPD to the local residents, accountable for community safety. She donated money to the WGTF and when the Grape Street Pocket Park was created, she supported it, rain or shine. So much so that during budget crises, she spent her own money on park maintenance. I fondly remember a day not long before her death when she asked me to accompany her to "her" park to see if the gardener was doing a good job.

When so many receive perfunctory recognition, it is crucial that the City of Los Angeles recognize the myriad contributions Ms. Betty F. Day has made. We strongly urge the commission vote to support the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park to Betty F. Day Park.

Sincerely,



Jorja Leap, Ph.D.

Professor

Executive Director, Social Justice Research Partnership

Co-Director, Watts Leadership Institute

Cc: Councilmember Tim McOsker



*Reducing Gang Violence and
Improving the Quality of Life in Watts*

Watts Gang Task Force Council
Donny Joubert, President



Councilman Tim McOsker
Council District 15 – Watts Field Office

January 31, 2023

Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Grape Street Pocket Park renaming to Betty F. Day Park (CF 22-0396)

Dear Recreation & Parks Commissioners:

On behalf of the Board of the Watts Gang Task Force it is both our honor and our responsibility to stand in support with Councilmember Tim McOsker in the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park to Betty F. Day Park in the Watts community of Los Angeles.

There are many things we will write to explain why the Park should be renamed but the single most significant reason is that there would be no Watts Gang Task Force without Betty Day. Even though this community-based organization fulfilled a desperate need and has flourished in the years following its establishment, from the beginning Betty Day was the driving force behind all the goals it met and the things WGTF accomplished. She was the woman who declared, “Enough” and started gathering residents, elected officials and law enforcement to bring down what was an epidemic level of gang violence and pain in the Watts community.

Betty Day played many roles things – all of them with great meaning for the Watts community. She was a forceful political advocate, an adept community organizer, and a devoted mother and grandmother to so many. Even when she could barely stand, as her health began to deteriorate, she would admonish everyone gathered at the WGTF Community Meetings, “We have to remember the children! We have to do things for the children!” Everyone was aware of Miss Day’s long marriage, large family, children and grandchildren, but her true love was the Watts community. It is still difficult to imagine the WGTF meetings without her tiny and fierce presence. And it is not hyperbole to say, everyone who met Betty Day will remember her.

For over 70 years, she worked in so many parts of Watts – running the Watts Towers Teen Post and the Watts Towers Art Center. She alternately supported and hectored multiple mayors, County supervisors, city councilmembers and visiting politicians. “I do it all for the children” she would explain, working with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. As described above, she became founder and Board President of the Watts Gang Task Force and held everyone, from the LAPD to the local residents, accountable for public safety and community peace.

There is no one who worked harder for her community. For this and so many other reasons, it is imperative that the City of Los Angeles recognize the myriad contributions Ms. Betty F. Day has made. We strongly urge the commission vote to support the renaming of Grape Street Pocket Park to Betty F. Day Park.

Sincerely,

Donny Joubert

Donny Joubert
President
Watts Gang Task Force Council



BREAKING NEWS

Chinese spy balloon spotted over western U.S., Pentagon says

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‘Why Target Us? Why Destroy Us?’

BY JOHN L. MITCHELL

MAY 18, 1996 12 AM PT



TIMES STAFF WRITER

Betty Day unlocks the metal security door of the Watts house where FBI agents and police officers conducted a dramatic raid on Wednesday, seeking to arrest her son. She points to the peeling paneling, the tattered leather furniture, the aging water bed and asks bitterly:

“Is this the home of a godfather, a drug kingpin who made millions? Where are the millions? They are not here. He needs upholstery, he needs drapes, he needs a new carpet. If he made millions, I don’t see it.”

Day, 56, paints a vastly different picture of Wayne Alfred Day than the one offered by the officers who unsuccessfully raided his Grape Street house and her home across the street. They say he is an “Original Gangster” suspected of running a massive national drug empire from Watts; he had yet to be taken into custody as of Friday. His sister, another suspect, was also on the lam. Tonight Wayne, 39, will be a star on the “America’s Most Wanted” TV show.

ADVERTISEMENT

For the parents, the TV program will be the most public reminder yet of the contradiction between their upright image and their son’s wayward existence.

Betty Day is the block captain of her Neighborhood Watch and serves as a member of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Southeast Division community advisory board.

“She has been involved in the betterment of the community,” Sgt. Ted Maillet said.

On Grape Street, no stranger to families in which parents are stained by the sins of their children, Betty Day and her husband, Arthur, have lived for years with Wayne’s reputation. Betty Day in particular walks a tightrope, acknowledging her son’s past misdeeds but arguing that they are being blown out of proportion.

The Days have been married 41 years, have lived in the same house for a quarter-century, raised six other children and are considered part of the stable fabric of the neighborhood. Arthur, a heavily muscled, barrel-chested man, runs a trucking business. Betty takes care of three foster children.

Authorities have long described Wayne Day as the head of the Grape Street Crips, which dominates the neighborhood's Jordan Downs housing project.

But sitting on the porch of their neat wood-frame house with rosebushes in the front lawn, the parents denied the allegations and criticized the FBI for raiding their house.

"I have always cooperated with the police, worked with them on projects. Why target us? Why destroy us?" Betty Day asked.

Yes, Arthur Day said, his son did have a gang past but he ended that years ago. The father produced a handful of shipping receipts with his son's signature, proof, he said, that Wayne was working with him, hauling tomatoes by truck.

As for any criminal activity these days, Arthur said: "I haven't seen that side of him."

The parents said they purchased and have maintained their home and Wayne's. Suspicious eyes might see the two Corvettes and two lowrider Cadillacs outside the two homes as the possible fruits of drug money; the parents say the cars were purchased cheaply at auctions and restored by Arthur and Wayne, who are hobbyists. Wayne, they say, is president of the neighborhood's car club.

The Wayne Alfred Day that federal agents are looking for was known as "Honcho" on the streets. The federal indictment that led agents to his door Wednesday charges him not with typical street gang activity but with crime on a grander scale: trafficking in stolen merchandise and conspiring to sell cocaine and crack cocaine, with sales of those drugs to confidential informants.

All told, FBI agents seized more than \$500,000 in cash and confiscated more than 40 kilograms of crack and powdered cocaine in sweeps seeking 49 suspects, including 11 who were arrested in Los Angeles and others in Oklahoma City, Minneapolis and Jackson, Miss. All of those arrested were linked to the Grape Street Crips, authorities said.

No one was arrested and no drugs were seized at the Day houses.

Among those still being sought on drug charges is Day's younger sister, Bridgette-- another part of the harassment, the parents say.

Wayne Day "was one of the legends" of Los Angeles street gangs and the drug business gang leaders spawned in the 1980s, said Jim Galipeau, a veteran South-Central county probation officer. "He became part of the folklore."

It is often typical of gangsters to maintain low profiles in their home communities, stashing their riches elsewhere. Federal agents raided four homes in Watts and Compton looking for Day. Galipeau suggested that agents "would be better off checking out Encino, Palos Verdes" for Wayne Day. "He has places all over."

Federal agents say Wayne Day has managed to distance himself from street-level violence while still managing the drug enterprise.

Wayne Day's attorney, Kirt Hopson, condemned the government for refusing to accept the notion that his client has turned his life around.

"They were never able to put him behind bars after they labeled him a kingpin," Hopson said. "They have to prove a point. Some of those arrested may be friends of his, they may be kids he grew up with."

On Grape Street late this week, neighbors called and streamed into Betty Day's house, offering comfort.

"She is a good person very well respected in Watts," said El Dora Winston, who serves on the Southeast LAPD community advisory board with Betty Day. "If there was something bad on her, they would have never let her on the committee."

The neighbors talked about the Days with appreciation: How Betty organized neighbors and police to paint the house of a needy friend. How Wayne Day got neighborhood men to clean a vacant lot for children to play in.

Betty Day said she has not heard from her son but that she hoped he would give himself up to clear his name.

As for herself, she wondered what effect the fallout from the raid would have on her ability to remain licensed as a foster care provider--and on her standing with the police advisory board.

"They haven't called me yet," she said.





LA PEOPLE 2009: SALT AND SPICE — BETTY DAY, THE GODMOTHER OF JORDAN DOWNS AND BEYOND



MICHAEL KRİKORIAN (HTTPS://WWW.LAWEEKLY.COM/GUEST-AUTHOR/MICHAEL-KRIKORIAN/), x APRIL 22, 2009 (.)



(HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE.php?U=HTTPS://WWW.LAWEEKLY.COM/WEB-BODY-BETTY.COM/WA.LAWEEKLY.COM/LA-

PEOPLE-2009- SALT-AND- SPICE-BETTY- DAY-THE- GODMOTHER- OF-JORDAN- DOWNS-AND- BEYOND/)

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Betty Day doesn't take shit from anyone. She'd tell off Obama if he pissed her off. Hell, she'd cuss out Putin in a heartbeat while walking the streets of Moscow at midnight. That's Betty Day, the godmother of the Jordan Downs.

At a weekly Monday-morning meeting of the Watts Gang Task Force at Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office on Compton Avenue, Day, president of the community group, storms out to confront Father Peter, the priest of the nearby St. Lawrence of Brindisi church across the street. Day has heard that Father Peter is leaving the pulpit, and she is having none of it. Someone from the church puts a hand on Day's shoulder; she shrugs it off. She turns to Father Peter and says, "You're not going anywhere. If I have to go all the way to the Pope, you're staying in Watts."

Father Peter responds by turning to an onlooker and saying, "Betty is wonderful. She loves the people. She loves the poor." He's known Day for 20 years.

Just then, Day gets word via cell phone that there has been an overnight break-in at Jordan High School. At least 12 of the school's already scant number of computers have been stolen. She gathers some of her people and they head to the parking lot where she waits as other members of her group jog two blocks to get a car to take them to the high school a half-mile away.

"Why don't they call the LAPD?" she says. "They got lots of cars around there. But, no, they call me instead. What does that tell you?"

Earlier in the Gang Task Force meeting, a white man put his hand on Day's shoulder, apparently a popular place. "I was gonna punch that motherfucker," she says. "I'm not playing games."

That's Betty Day, too. Age 69.

As she waits for the car, Day talks about how Jordan Downs, one of the most notorious housing projects in the United States, has had only one homicide so far this year, a stat backed up by the LAPD.

"The people themselves are just tired of the violence. It's been going on for so long. I just do what I do best. I am a people person. I understand and I listen. Most people, they don't listen. If people would listen, things would be much better.

Day says she works all "four corners of Watts," referring to not only Jordan Downs but the Nickerson Gardens, Imperial Courts and Gonzac Village projects as well. The car finally arrives to take her to Jordan High.

Forty-five minutes later, back at the task force meeting, LAPD Sgt. James Linder of Southeast Division's Community Relations gets a phone call telling him that 12 computers have been stolen from Jordan High School. Day is already at the school dealing with the situation, but this is the first word the sergeant is getting. He tells his captain. It's news to him, too.

"Betty's got a big heart," Linder says. "She has helped bridge the gap between the community and the LAPD. She's been instrumental there. Some of our officers have had trouble accepting her because of the past," he admits, "but, in my eyes, she is golden."

That "past" is mainly due to those officers' feelings toward her son, the former infamous leader of Grape Street Crips, Wayne "Honcho" Day, whom the FBI once described as the "Godfather of Watts." Honcho served more than 11 years in federal prison on drug charges and was released last year.

Even the commander of the Southeast Division has good things to say about Betty Day. Like Linder, Capt. Phil Tingiridessays she has helped the relationship between Jordan Downs and the LAPD, a place that traditionally has had a poorer relationship with the LAPD than the Taliban has with the Green Berets. "Helping the relationship is much appreciated," he says. "She seems to be genuine."

James Phillip Smith, president of Youth Employment Solutions, says Day "gets things done. She's connected politically and she's connected on the street, which allows for her to get the proper resources. She is always trying to help someone. People respect her."

"Betty brings a lot to the community," says Donnie Joubert, a peace activist based in Nickerson Gardens. "She is serious about the peace. She is a strong activist for Watts."

When told Day was to be the subject of a small profile, Councilwoman Hahn looks surprised. "Small profile? You could write a book about Betty Day. Betty is the heart and soul of the Watts community. She is the salt of the Earth. She provides the spice, too. She also provides some stability from the history of Watts to the future of Watts. She is the core."

[Click here for a complete list of L.A. People 2009. \(https://www.laweekly.com/columns/view/530959/\)](https://www.laweekly.com/columns/view/530959/)

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, THE FORTUNATE FRITTATA

THE MAGNIFICENT FAREWELL OF BETTY DAY, GODMOTHER OF JORDAN DOWNS, QUEEN OF WATTS

April 12, 2022

There was the city equivalent of a state funeral here in town over the past weekend as Royalty was memorialized and laid to rest. The local television news didn't cover it, nor did the Los Angeles Times. To their credit, PBS did try to film the memorial service, but were turned away.

KRIKORIAN WRITES

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Hello, World!

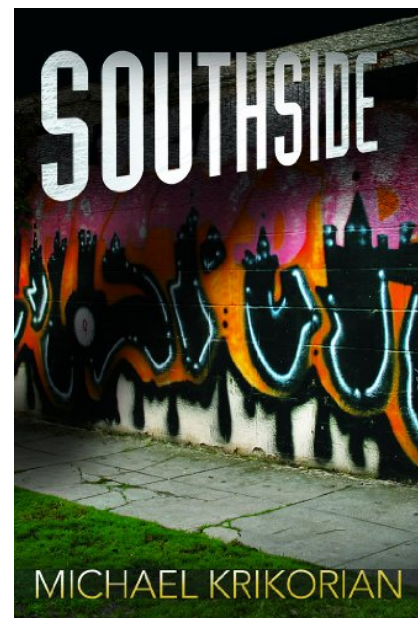
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LATEST NOVEL

Still, none of the over 1,000 people in attendance – other perhaps than myself - cared the media wasn't out in force.

These folks - from the proudest neighborhood in Los Angeles - are accustomed to being left alone and all they wanted to do was honor their Queen.

That queen was Betty Day, 82, long known as the “Godmother of Jordan Downs”, and more recently promoted by her peers Queen of Watts. The person that announced her Queen title at the memorial says much about the woman who was referred to by men who have spent 12 years at Folsom as “Ms. Day”. It was announced by no more appropriate authority than activist Big Donny Joubert, from Nickerson Gardens, the once frequent deadly enemy of Jordan Downs. Joubert, like many, talked about



Southside

By Michael Krikorian

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Betty's toughness, compassion and desperate pursuit to bring peace and end to the maddening gang violence in Watts.

I will say here this is an op-ed piece even if much of what follows might be more like an obituary or a news story about a dead person and not an op-ed. But my opinion - and why I am writing this - is everyone in this city and even the entire county should know about Betty Day and honor the Bettys Days of the communities still out there.

Betty was born 1940 in Kilgore, Texas but came to Watts not long after. At 15 she met and married Arthur Day and they were together 65 years until his death in 2020. I met Betty, all five feet, 100 pounds of her, in 2005 when she was 65. After more than a decade of relative peace in the Watts community between the Grape Street Crips of Jordan Downs,

Big Cat
Bob Dylan
Bobby Silverstein
Boozefighters
Bottura
Brando
Bugatti
Capri
Carl Betts
Cheval Blanc
Chi Spacca
Chicago
Chris Barling
Claudio Corallo
Coliseum
Crenn
D type Jaguar
Det. Connie White
Double Delight
Emily Corlis
Ernie Banks
Escobar
Faith Willinger
Fallujah
Family travels
Fangio
Ferrari
Florence
Franco Pepe
Frank Capra
Fredy Girardet
Fresno
Girardet
Go Go
Grape Street
Green Meadows
Hastngs
Hector
Helen
Highland Ave.
Hoover Street
Hulk
Imperial Courts

the Bounty Hunter Bloods from Nickerson Gardens and the PJ Crips form Imperial Courts, the killings were back.

Betty was instrumental in founding the Watts Gang Task Force, an organization consisting of gang members, community activists and police officers that met at then-15th District Council member Janice Hahn's office. At the first 2005 meeting, when she became the first and still-only president of the task force, Betty famously yelled "Enough!"

LAPD Deputy Chief Emada Tingirides was at sergeant back then and spoke to the masses of that first Watt Gang Task Force meeting. "I saw her and thought 'Whose is you?' and she saw me and thought 'Whose is you?' Later, she took me aside and said 'Oh, girl, you are going to learn from me.' I did."

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[James Blake Miller](#)

[Jonathan Waxman](#)

[Jordan Downs](#)

[Josiah](#)

[Julius Caesar](#)

[Kartoon](#)

[Kim](#)

[Knuckles](#)

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[Lakers](#)

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[Luis Sinco](#)

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[Matt Michaelson](#)

[Matt Molina](#)

[McLaren](#)

[McLaren P1](#)

[Megan](#)

[Mickey Mantle](#)

[Mike Hawthorne](#)

[Ming Dynasty](#)

[Modena](#)

[Mouton](#)

[Murat](#)

[Neil Armstrong](#)

[New York](#)

[Newport Beach](#)

[Next](#)

[Oliver](#)

[Osteria Francescana](#)

[Osteria Mozza](#)

[Osteria Nico](#)

[PJs](#)

[Palladium](#)

[Pizzeria Mozza](#)

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Tingirides spoke fondly of being at a dining function and, at the end of it, Betty scooping up all the packets of ketchup. honey, mustard on the table and putting them into her purse.

Janice Hahn, now a L.A. County Supervisor, spoke next. Hahn didn't have a prepared speech and spoke from her heart. I've seen Hahn speak for close to 20 years, but I have never seen her so relaxed, so smiling as she talked and laughed at the memories. In Hahn's talk – an Tingirides' - the wonder of Betty Day came shining through. She was a human whose personality was such that you realized she was special. She was on a mission of great importance, and she wanted you along for the ride, Betty had that lovely quality to make you feel important. If I didn't go to the gang task force meeting for a few weeks, when she

Rucy
Ruth
San Diego Zoo
Sarah Vaughan
Seabiscuit
Sonny Barger
Southside
Stanley McChrystal
Twin
Vin Scully
Waldorf
Wine
Wino Willie
Wonderful
Zeus
carroll shelby
jerimiah henderson
Cleamon Johnson
Falluja
Folsom
Gangs
I'm Blessed Man
Main Street
Sal LaBarbera
Samuel Benton
Stalingrad
Watts
Dario
Michael Hastings
Swans
Nickerson Gardens
Big Evil
Nancy

saw me, she'd call out in her borderline raspy voice, "Krikorian! Where you been?" By the way, Hahn ended by raving about Betty's brisket and how it was the best she ever ate, and how Betty would not give up some secret ingredients. "Now I know," Hahn said smiling. "It was those packets of honey and ketchup she took."

Other spoke, but it all seemed opening acts for Betty Day's son Wayne to get up and address the crowd. He did. Anyone familiar with Watts might not know him as Wayne, but everyone knows who "Honcho" is. Honcho was the leader of the Grape Street Crips, the notorious gang that ran Jordan Downs. The federal authorities referred to him as the "Godfather of Watts" and he ended up doing 11 years in federal prison for drug-related offenses. He got out in 2007,

went straight and eventually worked for a law firm as a para legal.

“I want to thank everyone who came,” he said. Then he singled out a group. “I especially want to thank the LAPD for showing up.”

In the way back seats where I was, a man next to me mumbled, “Damn, Honch thanked the LAPD.” If someone had told me 15, 20 years ago Honcho would one day thank the LAPD for showing up anywhere, I woulda laughed. That’s like Al Capone thanking Elliot Ness and the FBI for showing up. But he did. And all because of his mother.

Wayne spoke of his mother’s passing. “I have no regrets about her life and that she’s gone. It wasn’t like she caught a stray. She went in the proper order.”

After the service, I didn't go to the burial, but instead drove through Jordan Downs. It was empty. I drove by Betty's home on Grape Street near 107th. Across the street from her house is tiny Grape Street Park. The state legislature announced at her service it would be changed to Betty Day Park.

I wrote an article about Betty in the LA Weekly 2009 "People" issue. I can't use all the colorful language the Weekly did back then. But the lede was basically this. *"Betty Day doesn't take shit from anyone. She'd tell off Obama if he upset her. Hell, she'd cuss out Putin in a heartbeat while walking the streets of Moscow at midnight. That's Betty Day, the godmother of the Jordan Downs."*

That was 13 years ago. Today I say, "Thank you, Queen Betty."



In Memory Of



City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Naming Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for
Parks and Recreational Facilities

The mission of the Department of Recreation and Parks (“RAP”) is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreational facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment.

One of RAP’s objectives under the Mission is to enhance and expand recreational programs, services, and significant financial support and contributions through public and private collaborations.

Policy:

RAP recognizes that parks and recreational facilities are an essential and integral part of the communities they serve, and that the names of parks and recreational facilities, and park amenities within them, play a significant role in fostering identities in the surrounding communities. This Naming Policy (“Policy”) establishes the criteria and requirements, and sets forth the guidelines and procedures, for the naming and renaming (collectively, “Naming”) of parks, recreational facilities, landmarks and any other assets determined appropriate by RAP (collectively referred to herein as “Park Assets”), which are owned, managed or controlled by RAP.

Pursuant to this Policy, the initial name of a new park or recreational facility, which may be temporary for purposes of administration and accounting, shall be administratively assigned by RAP staff in the traditional manner utilized prior to the establishment of this Policy, based on geographic features such as street and community names or prominent features. In addition, the Naming of existing Park Assets, pursuant to a RAP recommendation relevant to a Naming proposal received from a private or public entity, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (“Board”), as described herein. In accordance with this Policy and pursuant to RAP recommendations, the Board shall consider the following two types of Naming proposals. The first type encompasses situations in which RAP receives or is offered a donation, gift, sponsorship, and/or other contribution from an outside entity that presents a decisive benefit and shows a direct connection to a Park Asset and serves the interests of the City and its residents. This type of Naming proposal would require a Naming Agreement to summarize the terms and conditions necessary to effectuate the financial or other benefits connected to the Naming proposal with a term (time period) recommended by the GM and approved by the Board, depending on the scope or nature of the agreement, and value, visibility, and lifespan of the donation, gift, sponsorship and or other contribution. The second type comprises Naming proposals to use a major historic event and/or unique significance of a specific place or person, as the basis for the proposed Name; again with the requirement that there be compelling and impressive substantiation demonstrating how the interests of City and its residents were served or impacted. The key in both types of Naming proposals is the importance of demonstrating direct connections to the Park Asset and clear community benefits as a foundation for considering any Naming proposal.

For purposes of this Policy, and with the exception of the temporary Naming of new Park Assets, the authority to approve the Naming of existing Park Assets shall be solely with the Board. Any exceptions to this Policy shall be subject to the prior approval of the Board.

Criteria and Guidelines for Evaluating Park Asset Naming Proposals:

For purposes of this Policy, the following shall be considered when evaluating the appropriateness, feasibility, and implementation of Naming proposals:

- The Naming of parks after individuals shall be limited to those who are deceased and have made exceptional contributions to the park or community within which the park is located.
- Parks shall only be named after living persons under circumstances requiring such naming as a condition precedent of a grant deed or covenant.
- The Naming of a park after a major historic event must be based on a direct connection between the park and such event.
- The Naming engenders a positive public image which does not unduly commercialize the park or recreational facility.
- The proposed name for the park or recreational facility, and/or contributor, must be compatible with the Mission of RAP.
- Park Assets that are held by RAP through a lease or use agreement may be considered for Naming under this Policy, subject to any requirements or restrictions contained in such document.
- RAP reserves the right to limit the duration of time a Name will be in place and/or in effect.
- No specialized signage or advertisement containing a commercial message to purchase a good or service shall be authorized for use on park property.
- All forms of signage placed on or within a Park Asset shall meet RAP's graphic and sign standards.
- There shall be no religious symbols included on Naming signage.
- Park Assets not under the operation of RAP (shared or exclusive), although under the ownership or jurisdiction of RAP, shall not be subject to this Policy; such as for example, the Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park.
- Parks should not be subdivided for purposes of Naming, unless there are readily-identifiable physical divisions in the park (major roads, waterways, hillsides, etc.) which facilitate or warrant a subdivision; or there exist other compelling reasons for having more than one name connected to a park. This should not prevent independently Naming a recreational facility or amenity located within a park, as long as the selected name will not cause confusion for park patrons.
- RAP shall seek to inform the public with regard to the Naming of a park in their community.
- Any exception to the above shall be subject to the Naming criteria contained herein, and the Board's prior approval.

Procedures:

The Board retains the authority to name or rename Park Assets situated on park property. The following shall be the protocol for evaluating, considering and denying or approving Naming proposals:

1. A written proposal for the Naming of a Park Asset must be initially submitted to the RAP Board Office, to the attention of the Board Secretary. In accordance with this Policy, the Board Office shall forward the proposal to the RAP General Manager (“GM”) for consideration.
2. Prior to any form of Naming Policy being implemented, sponsorship proposals shall be evaluated by RAP staff, with recommendations to the GM for possible consideration.