

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Naming Proposal for Ballfield at Pan Am Neighborhood Park *Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran*



Kimberly McNeeley, Director
October 26, 2021

Pan American Neighborhood Park

- Sometimes referenced as the A.B. Cantu/Pan American Neighborhood Park
- Located at 307 Chicon St., Austin, Texas 78702
- 5.235 Acres
- District 3



Neighborhood Park History

- Park established in 1955-1956
- Home of the Oswald A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center
- Park Amenities playground, community garden and Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- Home of the Hillside Theater
 - Concert Series
 - Political Rally's
 - Smaller Special Events

History of Nominee Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran

- Described as “...pillar of decency, leadership and service to his family, community and the city he loved”
- First Hispanic individual to play on the Austin High School football team (where he earned his nick name “Rabbit”)
- Korean War Veteran – served in U.S. Navy on aircraft carrier USS Oriskany
- Owned Rabbit’s Lounge (East 6th and Chicon) which allowed him to generously donate to the East Austin Community
 - Youth Sports Sponsor
 - Adult Sports Sponsor
 - Cultural and political hub
 - Hosted fundraisers for families, friends, teams and causes

Community Support

- Naming application and application fee submitted to Parks and Recreation Department.
- Petition with 932 Individuals signed a petition in support of naming ball field in honor of Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran
- The Cantu Family submitted letter of support
- Senator Gonzalo Barrientos submitted the application
- Council Member Renteria’s Office expressed support

Requested PARB Action

Make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Director regarding the naming of the ballfield at Pan American Neighborhood Park in honor of Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran.

Questions