

ORDINANCE NO. 20220127-052

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF CITY CODE TITLE 14, CHAPTER 14-1, ARTICLE 4; RENAMING LAMAR BEACH AT TOWN LAKE METRO PARK AS "VOLMA OVERTON, SR. SHORES AT TOWN LAKE METRO PARK"; AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE LAMAR BEACH VISION PLAN TO REFLECT THE NEW NAME OF THE PARK.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. FINDINGS

1. Lamar Beach at Town Lake Metro Park is bounded by Lady Bird Lake to the South, Lamar Boulevard to the East, MoPac to the West, and the railroad tracks to the North.
2. Volma Overton, Sr. was born in Southeast Travis County and served in the Marines during World War II, where he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. Soon after his service to our country concluded, he enrolled in Huston-Tillotson University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, with a minor in Math.
3. Volma Overton, Sr.'s contributions to the City of Austin were critical and transformational. He was a lifelong champion and advocate for civil rights and racial equality. Such advocacy is captured in his leadership role at the National Alliance of Postal Workers, a union comprised of primarily African American maintenance and janitorial workers, where he served as president. During this time, he advocated for racial equality and fairness in the postal system.
4. In 1962, he became president of the Austin chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). During his tenure, he organized numerous demonstrations and actions to combat racial inequality, systemic racism, and institutional inequities.
5. In 1964, he led successful advocacy efforts for the Austin City Council to sponsor an anti-discrimination ordinance and the constitution of the Human Rights Commission, which was tasked with reviewing discrimination complaints.
6. In 1965, Volma Overton, Sr. marched alongside Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Selma to Montgomery March.

7. Volma Overton, Sr.'s commitment to justice included reforming Austin and Central Texas' local institutions. One of his many other accomplishments included desegregating the Austin Independent School District through a lawsuit he filed in 1970, which named his daughter, DeDra, as the lead plaintiff. Additionally, he fought alongside Boy Scout Troop #70 to integrate the swimming pool at Bastrop State Park in 1963.
8. Volma Overton's, Sr.'s philanthropic efforts included a mentoring program for youth at Oak Springs Elementary, as well as the conversion of the Overton House into a community center for African Americans in Austin.
9. Volma Overton, Sr. joined First Baptist Church in 1963 and became the congregation's first black deacon in 1967. Volma Overton, Sr. was a Christian Lay Leader and was deeply committed to supporting missions and ensuring the church's involvement in social ministries throughout the Austin community. Many of the initiatives Volma Overton, Sr. created with the church exist to this day. His involvement with First Baptist Church is one example of how he helped to bridge the gap between East and West Austin. Volma Overton, Sr. was a member of First Baptist Church until his passing in 2005.
10. Volma Overton, Sr. was laid to rest with Military Honors at the Texas State Cemetery alongside governors, senators, legislators, congressional leaders, judges and other legendary Texans. His epitaph reads: "Civil Rights Activist, Humanitarian, Servant to all Mankind, Fighter for Justice for All."
11. Volma Overton, Sr. received numerous accolades and awards for his pioneering civil rights work, including the NAACP Arthur B. DeWitty Award in 1967, *The Villager* newspaper's Austin Living Legends award, and the LBJ Award for Leadership in Civil Rights by the University of Texas at Austin. An elementary school in northeast Austin is named in honor of his life and legacy.
12. Volma Overton, Sr.'s contributions to Austin and Central Texas have been invaluable. He is an integral part of Austin's history and worthy of high-profile recognition.
13. Lamar Beach at Town Lake Metro Park is a highly visible tract of centrally located land frequented by many Austinites every day. It is an ideal location to highlight and amplify Volma Overton, Sr.'s commitment to a better and more just Austin. Its location also serves as a prominent space to remind the broader community of the additional work and restorative actions that must be done to honor Volma Overton, Sr.'s legacy and vision for a more equitable and inclusive Austin for all.

PART 2. The City Council waives the requirements of City Code Title 14, Chapter 14-1, Article 4 (*Approval of a Name for a Public Facility or Property*).

PART 3. Lamar Beach at Town Lake Metro Park is renamed as Volma Overton, Sr. Shores at Town Lake Metro Park.

PART 4. The City Council directs the City Manager to amend the Lamar Beach Vision Plan to reflect the new name of the park.

PART 5. This ordinance takes effect on February 7, 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, January 27, 2022 §
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APPROVED: Anne L. Morgan **ATTEST:** Myrna Rios
Anne L. Morgan Myrna Rios
City Attorney City Clerk