




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed., CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

**THROUGH:** Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** June 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Staff Response to the Naming of Vernon R. Wattinger Jr. Neighborhood Park  
(Ordinance No. 20230504-055)**

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This memo serves as staff's response to [Ordinance No. 20230504-055](#), which 1) shares the findings of City Council; 2) waives the requirements of City Code Title 14, Chapter 14-1, Article 4 (*Approval of a Name for a Public Facility or Property*); 3) directs the future park to be located at 1212 West Slaughter Lane be named "Vernon R. Wattinger Jr. Neighborhood Park", and; 4) directs the City Manager to update City applicable administrative policies when the proposed conditions to purchase property include the naming of City property.

PART 3 is complete, and the park at 1212 West Slaughter Lane is listed as "Vernon R. Wattinger Jr. Neighborhood Park" in the Parks and Recreation Department's database as of May 2023.

PART 4 states: The City Manager is directed to update City applicable administrative policies for when the proposed conditions to purchase property include naming of City property. This updated policy shall require notification of relevant City departments at the earliest opportunity and to the City Council before Council consideration of the purchase of the property by including such information within publicly posted agenda backup materials.

The Financial Services Department has updated its internal administrative procedures to require advance notification to relevant departments if the naming of a property is a contingent condition for purchase by the City and the inclusion of this information in all Council recommendations when seeking approval to purchase. For questions regarding this procedural change, please contact Michael Gates, Real Estate Officer at [Michael.Gates@austintexas.gov](mailto:Michael.Gates@austintexas.gov) or at (512) 974-5639.

For more information regarding PART 3, the naming of Vernon R. Wattinger Jr. Neighborhood Park, you may contact Ricardo Soliz, Park Planning Division Manager at (512) 974-9452 or via e-mail at [Ricardo.Soliz@austintexas.gov](mailto:Ricardo.Soliz@austintexas.gov).

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager  
Ed Van Eenoo, Chief Financial Officer