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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND

4

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
9:25 a.m.

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PRESENT:

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COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., VICE-CHAIR

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE

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COUNCILMAN WILLIAM GREENLEE

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COUNCILWOMAN MARIA QUINONES-SANCHEZ

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COUNCILMAN DARRELL CLARKE

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BILL 080166 - An ordinance naming and
designating the Department of Recreation owned
field located at Fourth and York Streets as
the "Eric N. Casiano Field."

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BILL 080245 - An ordinance naming and
designating the "Robin Hood Dell East" located
at Ridge Avenue and Huntingdon Drive as the
"Georgie Woods Entertainment Center."

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V A R A L L O Incorporated

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Litigation Support Services

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Eleven Penn Center

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1835 Market Street, Suite 600

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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215.561.2220 215.567.2670

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COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

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morning. This is the Committee on Parks,

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Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I am

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Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr., Vice-Chair

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of the Committee. Please note also in

7

attendance are Councilwoman

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Quinones-Sanchez and a drafted member of

9

the Committee, Councilman Greenlee, who

10

has been kind enough to come down so that

11

we can have a quorum.

12

So we may begin. We're dealing

13

with Bill 080245, which is being held at

14

the request of the sponsor.

15

Will the Clerk read the title

16

of the next bill.

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THE CLERK: Bill No. 080166, an

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ordinance naming and designating the

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Department of Recreation-owned field

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located at 4th and York Streets as the

21

"Eric N. Casiano Field."

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COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

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I would like to call William

24

Carapucci, Commissioner of Recreation.

25

(Witness approached witness

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166

2 table.)

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

4 morning. Please state your name for the
5 record and proceed with your testimony.

6 COMMISSIONER CARAPUCCI:

7 William Carapucci, Acting Commissioner of
8 the Recreation Department.

9 Good morning, Chairman Curtis
10 Jones and members of the Committee on
11 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.
12 My name is William Carapucci. I am the
13 Commissioner of the Department of
14 Recreation. I am here today to testify
15 in support of Bill 080166, an ordinance
16 designating the field at 4th and York
17 Streets as the Eric Casiano Recreation
18 Field.

19 The Department of Recreation
20 supports this measure and, accordingly, I
21 respectfully ask the City Council to
22 approve Bill No. 080166.

23 I respectfully request that
24 this Committee vote Bill No. 080166 out
25 of Committee with a favorable

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166
2 recommendation and that the rules be
3 suspended to permit first reading at the
4 next Council session.

5 Thank you. I'll be happy to
6 answer any questions you may have.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are there
8 any questions for the witness?

9 And also joining us is
10 Councilman Darrell Clarke.

11 Thank you, Councilman.

12 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: You're
13 welcome, Mr. Chairman.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do we have
15 any questions for the witness?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hearing
18 none, I'd like to call Lieutenant George
19 Perez from the Philadelphia Fire
20 Department to testify on behalf of this
21 bill.

22 LIEUTENANT PEREZ: Good
23 morning.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
25 morning.

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2 LIEUTENANT PEREZ: Good

3 morning, Chairman Jones and Chairpersons

4 on the Board. My name is George Perez.

5 I'm a Lieutenant with the Philadelphia

6 Fire Department and I am the President of

7 the Spanish-American Professional

8 Firefighters Association.

9 On May 3, 1999, Firefighter

10 Eric Casiano made the supreme sacrifice

11 and succumbed to injuries sustained while

12 battling a fire. Firefighter Casiano

13 became the first Latino firefighter to

14 die in the line of duty.

15 Firefighter Casiano joined the

16 Department in 1992 and was assigned to

17 Engine 2, B Platoon at 2426 North 2nd

18 Street. Eric was proud of the fact that

19 he could serve the neighborhood in which

20 he grew up in.

21 On May 3, 1999, at 4:31 hours,

22 Engine 2 and Ladder 3, B Platoon

23 responded to an alarm of fire on Box 726.

24 The address of fire was 2240 Orianna

25 Street.

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166

2 While battling the fire,
3 Firefighter Casiano fell through the
4 floor and, unbeknownst to him, suffered
5 internal injuries. After the fire
6 companies returned to the station and
7 Firefighter Casiano restored his gear, he
8 decided to get some rest.

9 At approximately 6:29 that
10 morning, the lights and bells at the
11 station alerted the firefighters of
12 another alarm, but at this time, Eric did
13 not respond, and after members of the
14 station, along with the responding
15 medical unit and doctors at Episcopal
16 Hospital, exhausted all life-saving
17 efforts, Eric succumbed to his injury.

18 For this reason, the
19 Spanish-American Professional
20 Firefighters Association, along with the
21 members of Engine 2, Ladder 3 and the
22 Philadelphia Fire Department, feel that
23 it would not only be appropriate, but an
24 honor to name the park at 4th and Dauphin
25 after the first Latino to die in the line

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166
2 of duty. And as such, we would
3 appreciate and would thank the Chair if
4 he could help in having Bill 080166
5 passed for this measure that I have just
6 read into the record.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
8 Are there any questions for the
9 witness?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hearing
12 none, is there anyone else who wishes to
13 testify on this bill?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hearing
16 none, then -- would you like to make a
17 comment, Councilwoman?

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yes, I
19 do.

20 Just for the record for my
21 colleagues, the Spanish-American
22 Firefighters have been working for the
23 last few years and they've established a
24 scholarship on behalf of the fallen
25 Hispanic firefighters. The Engine 2,

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166

2 which is located a block away from this
3 park, approached our Council office
4 because they wanted, in memory of Mr.
5 Casiano, to adopt the park.

6 Recent publications, both the
7 Daily News cover story yesterday and last
8 week, has talked about some of the work
9 that we're doing on this ball field on
10 4th and York. I want to publicly thank
11 Commissioner Carapucci, who has worked
12 with us in that. As a result of some of
13 the attention that's gotten, in addition
14 to the resources that the Recreation
15 Department has brought forward and the
16 work of the many volunteers at the park,
17 we've gotten many items donated, and the
18 field will be up and running. And at
19 this point, I think it's appropriate to
20 then honor Firefighter Casiano with this
21 recognition of renaming the park.

22 This is the community where he
23 grew up in and, when he had an
24 opportunity to work, requested to be
25 assigned to. So I think this is

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166

2 appropriate and fitting, and I would ask
3 my colleagues to support this.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Councilwoman.

7 Are there any other comments on
8 Bill 080166?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Then this
11 will conclude our public hearing, and we
12 will now move into our public meeting.

13 We are now in our public
14 meeting, and the Chair recognizes
15 Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez for a
16 motion on Bill 080166.

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: I move
18 that Bill 080166 be moved out of
19 Committee with acceptable recommendations
20 and that the rules of Council be
21 suspended to allow first reading at our
22 next public meeting.

23 (Duly seconded.)

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: It has been
25 moved and seconded that Bill 080166 be

1 4/9/08 - PARKS - BILL 080166
2 reported out of Committee with a
3 favorable recommendation and further
4 moved that the rules of Council be
5 suspended to permit first reading of this
6 bill at the next Council session.

7 All in favor signify by saying
8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Those
11 opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: The ayes
14 have it.

15 This concludes our public
16 meeting, and I would like to thank
17 everyone for their attendance and
18 testimony. Thank you very much.

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
20 you.

21 (Committee on Parks, Recreation
22 and Cultural Affairs adjourned at 9:35
23 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the

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proceedings, evidence and objections are

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contained fully and accurately in the

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stenographic notes taken by me upon the

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foregoing matter on April 9, 2008, and that

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this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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MICHELE L. MURPHY

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RPR-Notary Public

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