

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: June 16, 2017

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon M. Tso* C.F. No.: 17-0002-S93
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No.: 17-06-0656

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 9 (Portantino) "President Barack H. Obama Highway."

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Huizar - Price) to include in the City's 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SCR 9 (Portantino) that would designate a segment of State Highway 134 in Los Angeles County between State Highway 2 and Interstate 210 as the President Barack H. Obama Highway.

SUMMARY

The 44th President of the United States, President Obama began his college education in California, attending Occidental College in Eagle Rock from 1979 to 1981. While a student, President Obama began his political career by making a speech on February 18, 1981 as part of a movement to persuade the Occidental Board of Trustees to divest the college of its investments in South Africa.

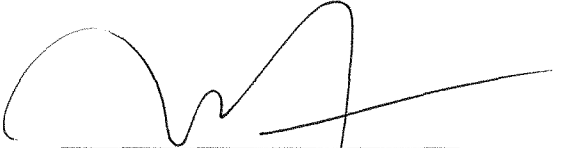
On December 20, 2016, Senator Portantino introduced a resolution that would name an approximately four-mile portion of Highway 134 in Eagle Rock and Pasadena the "President Barack H. Obama Freeway." The legislation waives the usual practice of waiting until an honoree is deceased before a highway designation is bestowed. According to Senator Portantino, President Obama drove along this segment of Highway 134 from his apartment to the Occidental campus. Senator Portantino has stated that it is appropriate to honor President Obama with a highway naming as a recognition of his contributions as a community activist, educator, and public servant. Road signs to mark the freeway's name must be purchased with private funds.

California has a long tradition of naming freeways and other landmarks in memory of notable residents. Although the designations typically do not occur until the honoree dies, there have been some exceptions. For example, the Simi Valley-San Fernando Valley Freeway, a segment of Highway 118, was renamed the Ronald Reagan Freeway a decade before the late president and governor died in 2004. Additionally, the California Legislature passed a resolution to call the western span of the San Francisco Bay Bridge the Willie L. Brown Jr. Bridge in 2013. Brown, the longest serving Assembly speaker in state history and former mayor of San Francisco, is not deceased at 83 years old.

BILL STATUS

6/12/17 Referred to the Assembly Committee on Transportation
5/15/17 Passed and ordered to the Assembly

4/26/2017 Approved and referred to the Committee on Appropriations
1/12/2017 Referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing
12/20/2016 Introduced



Maria Souza Rountree
Analyst

Attachments:

1.SCR 9 (Portantino)

SMT:msr

Introduced by Senator Portantino
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Gomez)

December 20, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to the President Barack H. Obama Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 8, as introduced, Portantino. President Barack H. Obama Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway 134 in Los Angeles County between State Highway 2 and Interstate 210 as the President Barack H. Obama Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, With a father from Kenya and a mother from
2 Kansas, President Barack Hussein Obama was born in Hawaii on
3 August 4, 1961. He was raised with help from his grandfather,
4 who served in Patton's army, and his grandmother, who worked
5 her way up from the secretarial pool to middle management at a
6 bank; and
7 WHEREAS, President Obama came from a middle-class
8 upbringing in a strong family, where hard work and education
9 were the means of getting ahead, and where the conviction that a
10 life so blessed should be lived in service to others; and
11 WHEREAS, President Obama obtained his early education in
12 Jakarta, Indonesia, and Hawaii and spent two years at Occidental

1 College in Los Angeles from 1979 to 1981, inclusive, which played
2 a major role in determining his future. He made his first political
3 speech there on February 18, 1981, as part of a movement to
4 persuade the Occidental Board of Trustees to divest the college of
5 its investments in South Africa; and

6 WHEREAS, After working his way through college with the
7 help of scholarships and student loans, President Obama moved
8 to Chicago, where he worked with a group of churches to help
9 rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local steel plants;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, He received a B.A. in 1983 from Columbia
12 University, New York City and worked as a community organizer
13 in Chicago, Illinois. He later studied law at Harvard University,
14 where he became the first African American president of the
15 Harvard Law Review, and received his J.D. in 1991. Upon
16 graduation from Harvard Law School, he returned to Chicago to
17 help lead a voter registration drive, teach constitutional law at the
18 University of Chicago, and continue his community service; and

19 WHEREAS, President Obama became a State Senator from
20 Illinois from 1997 to 2004, inclusive, and was elected as a
21 Democrat to the United States Senate in 2004, and served from
22 January 3, 2005, to November 16, 2008, inclusive. He was elected
23 the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008. After
24 being reelected in 2012, President Obama is currently serving his
25 second and final term, which will end on January 20, 2017; and

26 WHEREAS, President Obama and his wife, Michelle, are the
27 proud parents of two daughters, Malia and Sasha; and

28 WHEREAS, His story is the American story — values from the
29 heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work
30 and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction
31 that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others; and

32 WHEREAS, In recognition of President Barack Hussein
33 Obama's more than two decades of dedicated public service to the
34 citizens of the United States and the State of California, it is fitting
35 to designate a portion of State Highway 134 in his honor; now,
36 therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
39 portion of State Highway 134 from State Highway 2 to Interstate

1 210 in Los Angeles County as the President Barack H. Obama
2 Highway; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
4 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
5 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
6 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
7 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
8 further

9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
11 for appropriate distribution.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, President Obama served two terms as the 44th President of the United States, which concluded on January 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's personal story includes true American values, strong family ties, hard work, the value of education, and the conviction that life should be lived in service to others; and

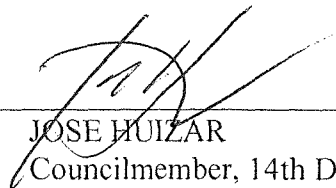
WHEREAS, President Obama began his college education in California, attending Occidental College from 1979 to 1981, and made his first political speech there on February 18, 1981, as part of a movement to persuade the Occidental Board of Trustees to divest the college of its investments in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, throughout the nation, schools, streets, and other facilities have been named after President Obama in honor of his contributions as a community activist, educator, and public servant; and

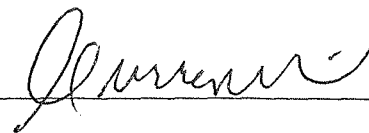
WHEREAS, in recognition of President Obama's more than two decades of public service to the citizens of the United States and the State of California, the California Senate introduced a resolution that designates the portion of State Highway 134 from State Highway 2 to Interstate 210 in Los Angeles County as the President Barack H. Obama Highway;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Concurrent Resolution 8 (Portantino) that would designate the portion of State Highway 134 between State Highway 2 and Interstate 210 as the President Barack H. Obama Highway.

PRESENTED BY:


 JOSE HUIZAR
 Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



msr

JUN 14 2017