

MOTION

In 1983, a gay man was shot and killed outside a gay bar in Highland Park. Realtor Gus DiClauro, owner of Uptown Properties, was a friend of the slain man and called his friends together for a meeting to protest the relative inaction of the Los Angeles Police Department in the case. From that meeting, Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance was born.

Bobby Brown, 24, a well-known young gay man, was twice assaulted and finally killed the evening of Wednesday, March 31, 1983, as he was leaving our local gay bar, The Bon Mot, at Avenue 41 and Figueroa Street. This attack represented the second murder in the gay community within the last two years. The first murder victim was Richard Lee, who was assaulted and killed at the corner of Avenue 43 and Figueroa on November 14, 1981.

Bobby was first attacked by two men thought to be members of a local gang. During the first attack, witnesses described Bobby as being on the ground with a shotgun pointed at his mouth. These witnesses, Tom Walters and his lover David, were shot at when they walked onto Avenue 41. Bobby escaped, robbed of his money, jewelry and keys. Tom and his lover had to crawl back into the bar to avoid being shot. The police were called, who arrived, took the report, and, according to witnesses, made no investigation. Witnesses also reported the police as questioning whether or not the victims had come out of "that fag bar." Bobby stayed in the bar to phone his lover, to inform him what had occurred, and to calm down. He was offered a ride by David Maxwell. Shortly after midnight, the two men left the bar. When they turned onto Avenue 41, they were met by one of the gang members, who opened fire. Bobby was shot twice, once in the chest and once in the thigh. He was pronounced dead at the scene. David was wounded in the leg and is in stable condition at County USC Medical Center.

Outraged, Gus put out an alert to the neighborhood demanding a meeting with the LAPD over its conduct of the murder investigation and with the help of the Los Angeles Human Rights Commission, a meeting ensued. Unfortunately, the investigation went nowhere and the murder has never been solved. Its lasting legacy is UGLA, a non-profit that has maintained adherence to its mission statement: "The Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance is a charitable and educational non-profit service organization. Primary goals are to provide a support system for lesbians and gay men and education for individuals and the community-at-large on the true nature of homosexuality." UGLA encompasses the communities of Cypress Park, Eagle Rock, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Montecito Heights, Monterey Hills, and Mt. Washington. However, members also reside in Atwater Village, Echo Park, Elysian Heights, Glendale, Lincoln Heights, Pasadena, San Fernando Valley, Silver Lake, South Pasadena, and other neighboring communities.

I THEREFORE MOVE, at the request of the organization and in commemoration of a tragedy that resulted in the creation of UGLA, that the City Council designate the intersection of Avenue 41 and Figueroa in Council District 1 as the "Bobby Brown Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to fabricate and install appropriate ceremonial signs to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY: 
GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY: 

AUG - 2 2017



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