

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is one of the most diverse in the Country. Collectively, almost every culture is represented, and in some instances, woven directly into the identity of specific neighborhoods. Throughout the years, the City has accepted and placed statues, plaques and other symbolic honorifics, as well as naming of City buildings and facilities, without a clearly defined citywide policy. The City must take into consideration how symbolic honorifics may impact a community in relation to the subject's historical record. Equally as important, the City must also have a policy to deactivate (deaccession) pieces of art and rename facilities that no longer reflect the values of the City.

In 2018, Council District 13 requested the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue at Grand Park and was an active participant in the LA County Arts Commission process to deaccession the piece. This process included feedback from indigenous communities and the LA City / County Native American Commission, including arts advocates. After the process was followed, the statue was taken down and placed in storage.

Recently, another controversial statue was toppled from its pedestal at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles in an act of Civil Disobedience, outside of any existing process as no such process exists in the City of Los Angeles. The office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the support of the Department of Cultural Affairs, in coordination with El Pueblo, Recreation and Parks, should report on and make recommendations in order to create a City wide policy with respect to gifts, statues, plaques and honorifics for every department, including proprietary departments such as LADWP and LAWA, for gifts meant to be publicly displayed on city property or land, as well as renaming of buildings and facilities. Additionally, the Department of Cultural Affairs should develop a policy for deaccessioning items deemed necessary to be removed from the City Art collection, and a process for the renaming of City buildings and facilities. The final report should include recommendations that once finalized, could be adopted by proprietary departments.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council DIRECT the Chief Legislative Analyst to convene a working group made up of the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Recreation and Parks, El Pueblo and other departments as needed, in order to make recommendations on a citywide policy for accepting and placing statues, monuments, honorifics, and naming rights on city owned land, property and the public right of way.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of Cultural Affairs, with the assistance of other departments as needed, to report with an inventory from the City's Art collection of statues, plaques, monuments and other honorifics located on City land, property and the public right-of-way, as well as a list of City buildings and facilities that have been named after an individual, group or event.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of Cultural Affairs to create a deaccessioning policy for the removal of art pieces and a process for renaming City buildings and facilities that are deemed necessary for removal/renaming.

PRESENTED BY: _____
MITCH O'FARRELL (verbal)
Councilmember, 13th District

CURREN D. PRICE, JR. (verbal)
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: _____
DAVID E. RYU (verbal)
Councilmember, 4th District

HERB J. WESSON (verbal)
Councilmember, 10th District