



May 9, 2025

The Honorable Marc Duchen
Attn: Laura Subrin Yeager
Councilmember, District 10
301 W. 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Councilmember Duchen:

The Clarksville Community Development Corporation expresses our wholehearted support for the renaming of Westenfield Park to honor Don Baylor.

Don Baylor was born and grew up in Clarksville at a time when the City of Austin, the banks, and the power elite conspired to destroy that historic Freedmen's community. Don's superior athletic abilities enabled him to become the first African American to play football and baseball at Austin High School. Turning down a scholarship offer to become the first African American to play football at the University of Texas, Don signed a contract to play professional baseball.

In his major league career, Don played in over 2000 games in 19 big league seasons, and in 1979 he was named the American League's most valuable player. After his retirement as a player, Don was hired as a coach and later became the manager of the expansion Colorado Rockies where in 1995 he was named American League Manager of the Year, becoming only the 4th person to be selected Manager of the Year and MVP.

Don's greatest sports achievement may have occurred in 1985, when playing for the Yankees, the fans and the media selected him for the Roberto Clemente Award, given to the player "who best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team."

The Clarksville Community Development Corporation was established in part to preserve Clarksville's history. The CCDC believes that there is no better way to preserve that history than by honoring Don Baylor, a Clarksville legend, and renaming Westenfield Park in his honor.

Respectfully,

The Clarksville Community Corporation Board of Directors

Chris Thomas, President, Aubrey Carter, Amanda Cox, Billy Edwards, BJ Friedman,
Malcolm Greenstein, Paula Hern, Felecia Miller, Kim O'Brien

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