

ORDINANCE NO.

**APPROVE AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF CITY
CODE CHAPTER 14-1, ARTICLE 4 (APPROVAL OF A NAME FOR A PUBLIC
FACILITY OR PROPERTY) AND RENAMING WESTENFIELD
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TO DON BAYLOR PARK.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. FINDINGS.

1. Westenfield Neighborhood Park marks the northern terminus of the Johnson Creek Hike and Bike Trail. It covers almost five acres of land at 2008 Enfield Road, Austin, TX 78703, and is bounded on the east by Winsted Lane and on the northwest by Bridle Path.
2. Don Edward Baylor's contributions to the City of Austin were deeply meaningful, inspirational, and worthy of high-profile recognition. He was a proud Austinite who overcame segregation and went on to become a World Series Champion and a renowned Major League Baseball player, coach, and manager. Speaking of the West Austin park near his home, he recalled, "I knew there was a better life. I only needed to walk the four blocks to see the paved streets, kids playing on tennis and basketball courts, in playgrounds, on immaculately kept football fields and baseball diamonds. But I could not play on those fields or playgrounds. They were in West Austin." The naming of this once-segregated park in his honor pays tribute to Don Baylor's indomitable spirit and love of his community and celebrates the societal advancements that ultimately prevailed.
3. Don Baylor was born in Austin on June 28, 1949, and grew up in the historic neighborhood of Clarksville where he and his family were life-long members and leaders of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, where Don served as deacon and his family remains involved in the congregation. He walked past Westenfield Park every day but was denied access because of the color of his skin and the segregationist policies of the time. He was one of three African Americans to integrate O. Henry Junior High School in the 1961-62 school year. In 1965, he became the first African American baseball player at Austin High, and eventually team captain, while also lettering in basketball and football. He was recruited by several colleges, including the University of Texas.

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4. Don Baylor signed with the Baltimore Orioles Baseball Club out of high school and went on to spend 19 years as a Major League Baseball player, in addition to another 25 years as a Major League coach and manager. He was the recipient of many high honors, including American League Most Valuable Player (1979), Roberto Clemente Award Winner (1985), and National League Manager of the Year (1995), and was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame.
 5. Don Baylor's achievements extended beyond sports into philanthropic leadership. He became a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Ambassador and Fundraiser, hosting an annual golf tournament event over nearly 40 years to raise funds to defeat cystic fibrosis. He founded the original 65 Roses Sports Club that spread to every Major League Baseball team and generated tens of millions of dollars for life-saving medical programs.
 6. Don Baylor was known as a fierce competitor, leader, professional, and proud Texan and Austinite. Upon his death on August 7, 2017, he was laid to rest at the Texas State Cemetery alongside governors, senators, legislators, congressional leaders, judges and other legendary Texans.
 7. Westenfield Park was initially developed by the Westenfield Corporation in 1932. The City of Austin acquired the park in 1937 and it was officially named Westenfield Neighborhood Park by Austin City Council ordinance in 1983. It is a community park on the border of Clarksville and Tarrytown known for its family-friendly amenities and recreational facilities.

63 **PART 2.** The City Council waives the requirements of City Code Chapter 14-1, Article
64 4 (*Approval of a Name for a Public Facility or Property*).

65 **PART 3.** Westenfield Park is renamed as Don Baylor Park.
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