

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE RENAMING COLORADO RIVER PARK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TO DANIEL LLANES WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND WAIVING THE NOTICE, PARK NAMING POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR NAMING OR RENAMING A FACILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CITY CODE CHAPTER 14-1, ARTICLE 4 (APPROVAL OF A NAME FOR A PUBLIC FACILITY OR PROPERTY).

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

PART 1. FINDINGS:

1. The Colorado River Park Wildlife Sanctuary is a roughly 43-acre nature preserve purchased by the City of Austin in 1985 to protect the forest and habitats along the Colorado River in East Austin. This wildlife sanctuary's diverse ecosystem is home to an abundance of Texas wildlife, including bats, herons and turtles.
2. Daniel Llanes was instrumental in the environmental preservation of the Colorado River corridor (the corridor) in East Austin. Beginning in the 1980s, Mr. Llanes began his advocacy of this natural stretch of river and wooded floodplains after it was spared from development initiatives. He helped to develop the core rules of the Waterfront Overlay, which established limitations on urban development so the corridor could flourish. He advocated for the acquisition and stewardship of the parklands along the corridor, including what have become Roy G. Guerrero Metropolitan Park and the Colorado River Park Wildlife Sanctuary—two parks that provide critical urban habitat for wildlife and public access to the river. Consistently, Mr. Llanes fought against commercial development that threatened the corridor, while at the same time partnering with responsible developers to help river-friendly projects get approval. Even after his cancer diagnosis, he continued to lead group walks through the corridor, advocating for responsible stewardship from younger generations.
3. Born in San Antonio, Texas, Daniel Llanes lived in Austin from 1971 until his passing in 2025. Mr. Llanes was an environmentalist who actively engaged his community through his roles in the River Bluff Neighborhood Association, Govalle/Johnston Terrace Neighborhood Contact Team, Austin Neighborhoods Council, Austin Raza RoundTable, and People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources organizations. Mr. Llanes was also a father, a writer, a choreographer, a multi-instrumentalist, and a practitioner of traditional Mezo-American folk medicine. Mr. Llanes' achievements did not go unnoticed by the City of Austin, as August 6th, 2015 was proclaimed by the city to be "Daniel

Llanes Day” and he was a recipient of the 2025 Emma Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Lifetime Achievement Award.

- 4. Daniel Llanes’ dedication to preserving the ecosystem along the Colorado River and his contribution to the rich Mexican American music and arts scene in Austin are deserving of recognition and accolade.

PART 2. The City Council waives the requirements of City Code Sections 14-1-32 (Naming Policy), 14-1-33 (Procedure for Naming a Facility), 14-1-37 (Park Naming Policy), Section 14-1-37 (Park Naming Policy) , Title 14-1, Article 4 (Approval of a Name of a Public Facility or Property), and 14-1-39 (Procedure for Naming or Renaming a Facility).

PART 3. The Colorado River Park Wildlife Sanctuary is hereby named "Daniel Llanes Wildlife Sanctuary.”

PART 4. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2026 §
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Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
Deborah Thomas
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Erika Brady
City Clerk