



WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

May 21, 2025

Organized 1973

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via email district10@autsintexas.gov

The Hon. Kirk Watson

Council Member Marc Duchen
Members of the Austin City Council
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Agenda Item 53

Approve an ordinance partially repealing Ordinance No. 831103-C as to the name of Westenfield Neighborhood Park; 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 Neighborhood Park.

Dear Mayor Watson and Austin City Council Members:

On behalf of the West Austin Neighborhood Group, I'm writing to support the proposal to rename Westenfield Park in honor of Don Baylor. Thank you to CM Duchen for bringing this opportunity to our attention. Renaming the park provides meaningful recognition; we therefore ask City Council approve the ordinance at your May 22 meeting.

Don Baylor's connection to Austin is well-documented. He grew up in Clarksville during the segregated Jim Crow era and experienced the inequalities of segregated parks and pools. Despite these challenges, Don went on to break barriers. He was one of the first Black students to attend O. Henry Junior High in 1961, the first Black baseball player at Austin High, and a standout in three sports. His professional baseball career lasted nearly two decades, playing with six different American League teams and earning the nickname, "Groove." He won the American League MVP in 1979, played in three straight World Series, and later became one of the first Black managers in Major League Baseball. In 2017, Don was interred at the Texas State Cemetery, a fit recognition of his achievements as well as his contributions to the State.

Renaming Westenfield Park for Don Baylor would recognize not only his athletic achievements, but also his role in the history of civil rights in Austin. It would connect the park to the story of the neighborhood and offer a reminder of how far the city has come, while still providing recognition of the continued need to work for racial equality.

*Mayor Watson
Austin City Council
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This effort has also received support from several other community organizations, including the Muny Conservancy, the Clarksville CDC, and other community members. West Austin Neighborhood Group is honored to join in the support of the proposed renaming

Thank you for your efforts in supporting the ordinance recognizing Don Baylor's achievements and contributions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Kyle, Interim President
West Austin Neighborhood Group
president@westaustinng.com