



Chandler · Arizona
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MEMORANDUM **Community Services Department – Memo No. CS14-109**

DATE: April 9, 2014

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THRU: RICH DLUGAS, CITY MANAGER *RD*
 NACHIE MARQUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER *NM*
 MARK M. EYNATTEN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR *ME*

FROM: MICKEY OHLAND, PARK DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS *MO*
 MANAGER
 JEAN REYNOLDS, PUBLIC HISTORY COORDINATOR *JR*

SUBJECT: 2013 CELEBRATION PLAZA HONOREE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION: The Chandler Parks and Recreation Board recommends the approval of the following Celebration Plaza honorees:

- **Chandler Lions Club** – The Chandler Lions Club has been dedicated to serving the Chandler community through humanitarian service programs that improve the health and well-being of fellow community members. The group has provided thousands of free eye exams and eyeglasses to needy K-12 students, helped build the first hospital in Chandler, provided for disabled individuals to attend Camp Tatiyee, and collected and recycled thousands of used eyeglasses for missions to third world countries. The group also furnished a major picnic ramada at Arrowhead Park and has co-sponsored and produced the annual Fourth of July Festivals at Tumbleweed Park. Lions Club volunteers have given of their time, talents and efforts to support the disabled and the needy, and to make the community a better place.
- **Former Mayor Coy Payne** –As a long-time resident, former teacher and administrator, former City Councilmember and Mayor, Coy Payne has been a community leader for many years. Coy grew up as part of a poor, farm worker family in the historic “south Chandler” neighborhood, experiencing racial segregation for many years. Coy graduated from Phoenix’s all-black George Washington Carver High School (the only school he could attend) at the top of his class in 1949. He attended ASU briefly then served in the Korean War, in the Army’s combat infantry. By 1954 he had married a Chandler girl (Willie Woods Payne) and re-entered ASU using the G.I. Bill. Coy earned a Bachelor’s degree in Education and began teaching at Chandler’s Winn Elementary School. He continued with the Chandler Unified School District and eventually served as Chandler Junior High’s Assistant Principal.

While a teacher, Coy became involved in civic service by joining the first Human Relations Commission in the early 1960s. He also helped create and head Chandler's Housing Authority, which developed and oversaw the first public housing in the city. He then served on the Parks and Recreation Board and was instrumental in establishing the swimming pool and other amenities at Folley Park. Coy then joined the Chandler City Council in 1982. He served on the Council until 1990, when he completed a successful campaign for mayor. This election placed him in the history books as the first African American mayor in Chandler and in the state of Arizona. He served as mayor until 1994. During his time in office he led the Council in the development of City infrastructure; expanding park spaces, recreational facilities and cultural amenities; and piloted the first recycling program. He led the City in developing regional transportation and a regional mall. As mayor, Coy was known for his strong role as facilitator and consensus builder, allowing the City to develop in a positive direction during the early 1990s. One submission states, "Born in the difficult times of pre-Civil Rights and segregation, Coy Payne never allowed the shallow ideas of others to prevent him from achieving his goals. As the first African American mayor, he served all the people. Chandler and all of Arizona is better because of Coy Payne."

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: Each year the City of Chandler accepts nominations from the public for inductees to Celebration Plaza, a permanent monument at Tumbleweed Park.

Constructed in 2006, Celebration Plaza features a fountain and a decorative wall with brass plaques honoring Chandler residents, living or deceased, who have displayed outstanding civic commitment, leadership, innovation, public outreach and service to the City. Individuals holding an elected City of Chandler office or serving on the Parks and Recreation Board are not eligible for nomination.

Staff received two nominations during this year's nomination process. The subcommittee evaluated the nominations based on the following criteria:

- Community leader(s) whose outstanding personal service has resulted in significant and enduring contributions to the community.
- An individual or individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the City of Chandler.
- An individual or individuals who have added to the quality of life for Chandler residents through their involvement or financial contribution to short- or long-term City projects or activities.
- An individual who has demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity, which have made Chandler a better place to live and work.
- City of Chandler employees killed in the line of duty and local heroes.

The 2013 nominees will be honored at an induction ceremony this fall.

Past inductions include:

2007 - Lenford C. Calley, Officer Robert J. Nielsen, Henry Salinas

2008 - Chandler Service Club

2009 - Eddie Basha

2010 - Patti Bruno, Marty Wright, Officer Carlos Ledesma, Dave McDowell, Lowell Huggins

2011 - Najeeby Basha, Jerry Brooks

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2012- Chandler Compadres, John Dick

The subcommittee recommendations for 2013 were presented to the Parks and Recreation Board at their March 4, 2014 meeting. The Board endorsed the recommendations and unanimously voted to recommend them to the City Council for approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: Move to approve the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board that the following individuals be recognized with plaques in Celebration Plaza at Tumbleweed Park in the fall of 2014:

Chandler Lions Club

Coy Payne