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## 272-2023

Communication

### Requested Agenda Type

Communications

### Request of Brian Borrello to address Council regarding Rosa Parks Commemorative Artwork and Commemorative Marker for the Willamette Greenway

### Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date

April 12, 2023

Placed on File

A brief description of Communication: Representatives of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association would like to address the council pursuant to Resolution #36445 for the Rosa Parks Commemorative Artwork and for the Rosa Parks Commemorative Marker for the Willamette Greenway, to present a brief synopsis of the resolution and its intents to the mayor and commissioners, and with a request for an action plan to ensue.

### Agenda Items

272 Communications in [April 12, 2023 Council Agenda](#)

Placed on File

**From:** [brian.borrello](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Council testimony 4/12/23 re: resolution #36445/Rosa Parks Public Art  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 9:36:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [RosaPks resolution.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[PNA council address 4-12-23.pdf](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

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Hello Council Clerk,  
Encl: is the testimony that I (Brian Borrello) will provide on behalf of the Piedmont  
Neighborhood Assn,  
on 4/12/23, re: the resolution #36445 (from 2007/approved) re: a Public Art in honor of civil  
rights activist and hero Rosa Parks:  
thank you,  
Brian B

Brian Borrello  
Piedmont Neighborhood Association  
Land Use and Livability Chair  
(503)754-5595

**RESOLUTION No. 36445**

Rename Portland Boulevard as Rosa Parks Way (Resolution)

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks's courage and exceptional commitment to Civil Rights struggles have bequeathed for a generation of Portland citizens what the power of one person's conduct and conviction can achieve; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks became a symbol and torch bearer in our Nation's quest for racial equality and clarified for people everywhere the cruelty and humiliation inherent in the laws and customs of segregation; and

WHEREAS, Portland has routinely demonstrated and displayed its concern for justice and equality for all; through its Council actions; and

WHEREAS, Portland has an opportunity to honor a national icon who fought for the cause of freedom, justice, equality and liberty for all; by directing the Bureau of Parks & Recreation and the Regional Art Council to expend appropriate or reasonable amount to install a quality work of Art at the Peninsula Park Bench to celebrate Rosa Parks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Council declares Portland Boulevard as Rosa Parks Way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council, directs Portland Parks & Recreation, in collaboration with the Regional Arts and Culture Council, to use general fund discretionary dollars in the FY 2006 Fall BuMP not to exceed \$12,000, to fund an art project in honor of Rosa Parks at the bench at the NW corner of Peninsula Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will fund a marker honoring Rosa Parks to be located on the new greenway trail near Willamette Blvd at Rosa Parks Way when the Willamette Greenway trail is near completion; and

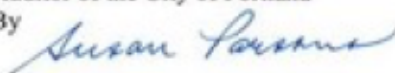
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland supports the Albina Ministerial Alliance with its statue project at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Rosa Parks Way.

Adopted by the Council: OCT 18 2006

**GARY BLACKMER**

Auditor of the City of Portland

By



Deputy

Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Prepared by: Promise King  
October 18, 2006

Good morning.

I'm Brian Borrello. Our board chair is Shaun Sullens, who had work commitments...

I represent as a board members of the Piedmont Neighborhood Association, comprised of households and businesses within a north Portland community of 2500 neighbors.

In 2006, within the Piedmont, Arbor Lodge, and Woodlawn neighborhoods, the city renamed N Portland Blvd to N Rosa Parks Way. In conjunction with this honorific name change, with new traffic signage and new mapping, board chair Shaun Sullens and I appeared before City Council that year to request authorization and funding for a physical embodied acknowledgement of the courage and contributions of a heroic civil rights activist- in the form of a commemorative public art work to honor Mrs. Parks.

(VISUAL) Resolution #36445 For a Rosa Parks Commemorative Artwork

16 years later, we appear before you again, to appeal for your support - not money - in finally making a vibrant and respectful artwork happen.

The \$12K has already been allocated and sitting in the coffers of the Regional Arts and Culture Council (... since 2006)

Although PNA initiated this project, there was never a clearly defined path forward to implementation, nor much enthusiasm or assistance from any city agencies to realize the artwork. So we were left to our own volunteer efforts to do outreach, develop community partnerships, and work with potential artists.

On a completely volunteer basis, we have tried over years to work with RACC (the Regional Arts and Culture Council), PPR (Portland Parks & Rec), as well as PCRI, NPNS, PBOT, June Key Delta House Sorority, Ockley Green Elementary School, Portland Community College, Tom Walsh Development, and several local artists (Sam Morgan, Matt Cartwright, Lisa Bates, Sharita Towne, Arvie Smith) in order to realize the public art work.

We have together donated hundreds of hours of unpaid volunteer work, dedicated to see this to reality, so we are here again.

We acknowledge that this artwork project should align with the city's developing policies for monuments and commemorative works of art, as well as giving a voice to artists from Portland's underserved populations.

We set this project in motion a long time ago, and wish to let those who will steward this project to its successful installation know that we will remain available if needed for any further assistance, and as a courtesy to keep us abreast of its progress. This commemorative artwork should be much more than a historical marker or a commemorative plaque- and we enthusiastically look forward *to the production of a highly visible piece of public art to honor Rosa Parks.*

We want to see this project done right, and for the artwork to make a real statement. So to augment the modest budget, PNA could likely apply for a grant from the (newly reinstated) neighborhood small grants program, and from METRO's community placemaking grants program.

We'd like to thank Mary Jaron Kelly of North Portland Neighborhood Services, who has been a tremendous liaison and advocate for us, as well as Jeff Hawthorn, the Arts Program Manager for the City of Portland, RACC's public art managers, and thanks to Councilman Dan Ryan and his staff, particularly Darion Jones and TJ McHugh, who have been very helpful in moving this forward.

*Thank you for your attention.*