



Mental Health Commission

ACTION CALENDAR  
July 19, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Mental Health Commission  
Submitted by: Carol Patterson, Secretary, Mental Health Commission  
Subject: Designation of the Howard King Welcoming Room

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution designating the Berkeley Mental Health Adult Clinic waiting room as the "THE HOWARD KING WELCOMING ROOM" by placing clear, large, durable lettering in a visible area at the head of the waiting room so that consumers, staff, and visitors alike may clearly see the lettering.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Costs associated with this recommendation are minimal. If fiscal thresholds exceed internal purchasing limitations, the City may, through its contractual procedures, acquire bids for the placement of the clear, large, durable lettering at the head of the waiting room of the Berkeley Mental Health Center.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Howard King passed away during his term on the Mental Health Commission. The Commission would like the City of Berkeley to recognize and honor his contribution to City.

BACKGROUND

Howard King, a remarkable man, passed away on March 31, 2011, leaving behind a gap in the lives of those who knew him, as well as his kind, supportive, joyous, healing demeanor.

Howard King was a mental health provider and a member of the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission, having served as both Chair and Vice-Chair during his tenure. Mr. King dedicated himself to the wellness and recovery of mental health consumers. He took this advocacy beyond any established role into acting as a guardian angel for the vulnerable.

Mr. King lacked a large ego which was substituted by a big heart. He acted selflessly doing what came naturally, showing kindness and compassion towards others. He

spoke openly of his own foibles and past transgressions with humor to support others struggling with life's challenges. While soft-spoken, flexible, and even-tempered, Mr. King's advocacy was consistent, vigorous and active. These qualities made him a unique human being who collaborated equally and fairly with all persons regardless of status or position.

At its April 21, 2011 meeting, the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

M/S/C (Diehl, Posey) We approve the statement above [included in the attached resolution] to be included in a Council Report.

Ayes: Davis, Diehl, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: Arreguin.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Mr. King, in all respects, was a welcoming, generous, and supportive man. It is only fitting that this man who so tirelessly took the initiative in proposing wellness and recovery issues and placed those ideas into action should have a City of Berkeley welcoming space named after him. Mr. King's contributions towards wellness and recovery should be honored through the renaming of the Berkeley Mental Health Adult Clinic waiting room, the HOWARD KING WELCOMING ROOM.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the Commission that Mr. King's contributions to Berkeley were remarkable and that his passing is a great loss to the entire community.

The City Manager also notes that the City Council has not yet established a policy regarding naming of City facilities. If the City Council would first like to establish a set of procedures and a policy for the naming of City facilities prior to taking the action recommended in this item, staff suggests an alternative approach to honoring Mr. King. A temporary memorial plaque and related signage regarding Mr. King could be installed at the Adult Mental Health Clinic waiting or welcoming room, until such time as the naming procedures and a policy are implemented.

#### CONTACT PERSON:

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Carole Marasovic, Chair, City of Berkeley Mental Health Commission, (510)225-5060

RESOLUTION NO. --N.S.

DESIGNATION OF THE HOWARD KING WELCOMING ROOM

WHEREAS, Howard King dedicated himself for decades towards supporting the recovery and wellness of mental health consumers; and

WHEREAS, Howard King served beyond his obligations when employed in the mental health field as well as in his volunteer capacity as a member of the City of Berkeley and Albany Mental Health Commission for several years including his terms as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Howard King was a consistently vigorous and active, although soft-spoken and even-tempered, advocate for mental health consumers; and

WHEREAS, Howard King tirelessly took the initiative in proposing multiple wellness and recovery issues and placed those ideas into action, never failing to prepare his ideas with precision as well as demonstrating flexibility and respect for mental health consumers, individually and as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Howard King collaborated equally and fairly with all persons regardless of their status and position; and

WHEREAS, Howard King, in his generosity, never sought self-promotion but rather, acted selflessly doing what came naturally to him, showing compassion and kindness towards others; and

WHEREAS, Howard King, lacked a large ego, substituted by a big heart and often acting as a guardian angel for persons needing assistance and support; and

WHEREAS, Howard King spoke openly of his own foibles and past transgressions with humor to support persons struggling with life's challenges; and

WHEREAS, Howard King has left behind a piece of his remarkable character with all who had contact with him; and

WHEREAS, Howard King welcomed all persons with a kind, supportive, joyous, healing demeanor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley, that we, the Mayor and City Council of Berkeley, hereby recognize Howard's vast contributions towards wellness and recovery for mental health consumers and the joy that he brought to peoples' lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley proclaims that the Berkeley Mental Health Center waiting room be designated as the HOWARD KING WELCOMING ROOM and that clear, large lettering be placed in a visible area at the head of the waiting room, identifying the waiting room as the HOWARD KING WELCOMING ROOM so that consumers, staff and visitors alike can clearly see the

lettering. A record signature copy of this Resolution to be on file in the office of the City Clerk.