

Communication from Public

Name: VGF St Boyle Heights
Date Submitted: 02/01/2022 11:03 AM
Council File No: 22-0050
Comments for Public Posting: attached

January 28, 2021

To whom it may concern,

With great news we have heard from Kevin De Leon, Candidate for Los Angeles Mayor the proposal for the name change on Bailey Street after Vicente Fernandez. Boyle Heights will be very prideful to be allowed to have a street named after such great legend. The Plaza del Mariachi is a great location for the rename of the street as this is where all the local mariachis meet, and they call home. It will also help for new generations to continue to know his music and influence them to learn music and keep young kids off the streets. We also feel honored to be the community chosen to have a street with the name of Vicente Fernandez. Boyle Heights is it also a community where a number of immigrants reside, having a street name after a singer we idolize it would be a great wait to remember our culture and hometowns of Mexico.

As a resident of Boyle Heights for over three decades my family and I would love to see the street being renamed as it would bring a joy to our families in Boyle Heights.

Thank you,

Vanessa Murillo
Boyle Heights, CA 90033

Communication from Public

Name: David Silvas
Date Submitted: 02/07/2022 07:32 PM
Council File No: 22-0050
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter.

February 7, 2022

To: The Public Works Committee
The Los Angeles City Council

RE: Council File 22-0050 Bailey Street / 1st Street / Pennsylvania Avenue / Vicente Fernandez Street / Street Name Change

I am Vice-President of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council and Chairperson of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council's Planning and Land Use Committee, and I write this letter in the capacity of a concerned stakeholder.

On January 12, 2022, Los Angeles City Councilmember Kevin de Leon made the motion to rename a portion of Bailey Street (which was created in 1876 and named after Boyle Heights resident F.L. Bailey) between 1st Street and Pennsylvania Ave to "Vicente Fernandez Street."

At no time did Councilmember Kevin de Leon consult with the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council on this proposed renaming before he unilaterally made the motion. Similarly, on December 17, 2021, Councilmember Kevin de Leon made a motion to install a public square sign in honor of living artist Robert Vargas (Council File: 21-1442) and again, at no time was this discussed with the Neighborhood Council. On both occasions, I, and others, discovered these proposed motions when they came out in the media.

However, in early December 2021, the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to request a council motion to dedicate a public square honor of Julius Levitt (1885-1953) who was the founder of the Boyle Heights based Jewish Labor Committee which helped defend labor rights for all, including Chicano and Japanese community members. As to date, nothing has been done to honor the request for a motion.

Why was Robert Vargas and Vicente Fernandez expediently being pushed through?

Most concerning, however, are statements and actions made by the late singer Vicente Fernandez himself. They are as follows:

1. In 2012, doctors found a cancerous lump on the liver Vicente Fernandez. ""They wanted to put another bastard's liver in me and I told them 'I'm not going to sleep with my wife with another man's liver,' and I don't know if he was homosexual or a drug addict," said the Jalisco- born singer. He then proceeded to walk out of the hospital. This occurred in a Spanish language media interview and the link to the video interview is below. It can also be found on many reputable international media sites.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh4h0ghD2yU>

2. There are published incidents of Mr. Fernandez inappropriately touching women. Most recently as December 2021 – the year and month of his death – it was reported that he had inappropriately touched young women during a 2017 meet and greet. She has not provided her name to media sources. In this instance, it was photographed. The victim stated “I felt violated, angry with the man and everyone is defending him. I handle my traumas with humor and sarcasm, each one has their defense mechanisms, but I make it feel like it was a bad thing. I don’t care if it’s Vicente Fernández, he shouldn’t have touched my body without my permission, especially in that area. I’m sure many women have experienced the same.” A month later the news broke that Fernández was accused of sexual assault by a singer named Lupita Castro nearly forty years previously when she was still a minor at age 17. That case ultimately went away as Castro refused to take Fernández to court. There is a photograph and citations attached to this letter showing Vicente Fernandez grabbing this young woman’s breast.

Based on all of the above, I believe it would be a serious error to name a street after Vicente Fernandez in the Boyle Heights Community.

Naming a street after Vicente Fernandez would be insulting and denigrating to the LGBTQ+ community and anyone facing the struggles of addiction (there is an Alcoholics Anonymous just yards away from the proposed street) and a literal punch in the gut for any victim of sexual abuse – especially during the era of the “Me Too” movement.

In conclusion, I urge you please make this decision on facts and not emotion. DO NOT support the renaming of Bailey Street to Vicente Fernandez Street.

In Greatest Sincerity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Silvas', with a stylized, cursive script.

David A. Silvas



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