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Updated 11:36 a.m. Thu, July 13

City of Alexandria Seeks Public Comment on Proposal to Rename Cora Kelly Recreation Center to Honor Leonard “Chick” Armstrong

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City of Alexandria Seeks Public Comment on Proposal to Rename Cora Kelly Recreation Center to Honor Leonard “Chick” Armstrong

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2017

Update - Cora Lee Webster Kelly

The City of Alexandria is seeking public comment on a proposal to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 West Reed Ave., the “Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center” to honor his

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commitment to Alexandria youth. Councilman Willie F. Bailey, Sr. forwarded the proposal.

Leonard "Chick" Armstrong served as a youth football and basketball coach with the City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities for more than 35 years. Mr. Armstrong was more than a coach, he spent countless hours mentoring and counseling youth on values of getting an education, avoiding drugs and other negative behaviors, and being a positive role model to other young men and women in the community. Many of the youth Mr. Armstrong coached and mentored went on to be productive citizens in Alexandria and throughout the metropolitan area. For eight years, Mr. Armstrong served as the Commissioner of the Johnson-Siebert Summer Adult Basketball League that served hundreds of young adults. In addition, his commitment to building youth through athletics earned Mr. Armstrong the 2005 Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks' Sports Alliance's Sportsmanship Award.

"Cora Kelly Recreation Center was named for its proximity to the Cora Kelly School, rather than named directly for Cora Lee Webster Kelly, a beloved Alexandria teacher. The City Council Naming Committee will consider whether to name the recreation center after a person for the first time. The name of the school would remain unchanged."

The public is invited to provide comment on the proposal to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center through Friday, June 16, 2017. Those interested in providing comments will be able to record their comments by email to jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, subject line: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center, or by mail to Recreation and Parks, Attn: Jack Browand, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria VA 22314. The City Council Naming Committee will review all comments received or postmarked by Friday, June 16, 2017.

For additional information, contact Jack Browand, Division Chief, at 703.746.5504 or by email at jack.browand@alexandriava.gov.

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Alexandria, VA
22314*

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Jack Browand

From: Anne W <awwashburn@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 08, 2017 11:06 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center

Good Evening Mr. Browand,

I deeply apologize for the belated nature of this email. I realize that it is after the June 16th deadline but I hope that you will consider its contents.

I am the President of the Lynhaven Citizen Association and I would like to write on behalf of the Association to fully support the renaming of the Cora Kelly Recreation Center to the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. Many residents of our neighborhood benefited from Mr. Armstrong's work in the community.

If you have any updates on the renaming, I would love to provide them to the community.

Thank you,

Anne Washburn

Jack Browand

From: JOYCE ARMSTRONG <JOYCE.ARMSTRONG@Longandfoster.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:06 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Re: Cora Kelly Name Change

To whom it may concern,

I am casting my vote to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center to Leonard Chick Armstrong. He was a native of Alexandria Virginia who donated thousands of hours mentoring and coaching young boys on a consistent basis. Chick was extremely hard working and a great man of wisdom and knowledge. He truly cared about his hometown. There are many men walking the streets of Alexandria today, who still lives the legacy that Chick left.

I hope this letter will serve well in renaming the recreation center to "Leonard Chick Armstrong Recreation Center".

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at the below listed address provided.

Thanks a million,

*Joyce Armstrong
Long and Foster Realtors
cell : 703-309-2909
ofc: 703-451-9400
Joyce.Armstrong@LNF.com
7202 Old Keene Mill Rd.
Springfield, VA 22152
Proudly Serving Northern Virginia Area*

Jack Browand

From: Markeda Jones <markeda13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:29 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Voting On a School Name Change

Good Evening,
I vote that Cora Kelly Magnet School be changed to Leonard Chick Armstrong!

Sent from my iPhone

Jack Browand

From: Eliza Jones <elizaj071@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:26 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: TO HONOR LEONARD ARMSTRONG

I think that is its a good ideal to Honor Mr Armstrong to rename Cora kelly he was a good great person that u can call on. Look up to when it got to do with sports an anything else great great great guy.

Jack Browand

From: George Washington <shugg.gw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 11, 2017 4:06 PM
To: Jack Browand

Just want to vote to Kelly to Leonard Chick Armstrong. Thanks

Jack Browand

From: rosa byrd <rebyrd@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2017 4:57 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong

Good Afternoon,

My name is Rosa Byrd of 203 Wesmond Drive, Alexandria, VA 22305. This email is to strongly support renaming the Cora Kelly Recreation Center to the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. Mr. Armstrong was definitely a strong, positive influence on the lives of the youth of Alexandria, especially the Hume Springs and Lynhaven neighborhoods. For many years, he spent countless volunteer hours teaching our boys life lessons through the sports of football and basketball.

While I cannot remember the date, many of these young men sponsored an Appreciation Day for Chick Armstrong. It brought tears to my eyes to witness these grown men who paused in their busy lives to say "THANK YOU" to someone who was such guided them to many victories.

Jack Browand

From: mellenie@truly-life.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center

Hello Jack Browand,

I hope all is well at the Lee Center.

I am not in favor of Alexandria renaming the Cora Kelly Recreation Center for the following reasons: The honor that is placed in naming something after a person should not be taken away simply because we've run out of structures to name or because we've not done a good job of making people aware of the significance of the name sake.

It's disappointing that our "Eco City" can't think of naming a newly planted grove of trees or acquire a former concrete parcel and preserve it for wild flowers. Create a living plant wall, just do something that would help protect our environment. We don't need to rob a former name sake and eliminate history to honor modern additions. The honor would be completely lost if Leonard Armstrong knew Cora Kelly was being stripped, just for his benefit. Thank you.

Mellenie Runion



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Jack Browand

From: Cathy <lencathy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 03, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center

Mr. Browand,

What an honor this would be to the entire Armstrong family. Mr. Armstrong unselfishly gave of himself to a community he loved and cherished until his death.

Granddaddy Chick, as he was lovingly called by myself, his daughter-in-law and his 2 grandchildren, Paris & Trey (Leonard Armstrong, III), is gone but never forgotten. His dedication to his community was the same as to his family.

This would be a well deserved honor to memorialize Mr. Armstrong in this way. A remembrance of all who knew him and those that will come to know about him.

Thank you,

Cathy, Paris & Trey Armstrong

Jack Browand

From: Sharon Green <sharon.green31@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 7:57 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Cora Kelly Renamed to Chick Armstrong recreation center is a very good idea, well known, positive role model for our youth and will never be forgotten for the work he did in Alexandria 🍷

Sent from my iPhone

Jack Browand

From: Jennifer Reichert <jennifer_reichert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 9:18 AM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center

I have the pleasure of living close enough to the Cora Kelly center to vote there every election.

My reaction to this renaming proposal is that its name already honors someone, and would do dishonor to her by renaming it for someone else. I appreciate the correction that there are actually two named entities at this site, both named Cora Kelly. However, I still prefer to keep the names in place. The two entities are already colocated, it would be confusing to have two names for the same location. Further, it does smack of writing over the existing honoree, and replacing a woman's name with a man's name when women honorees are already underrepresented does not advance Alexandria values.

Leonard Armstrong deserves honor and recognition; perhaps the Mount Vernon center can be renamed, or the next rec center that Alexandria builds can bear his name.

Thank you,
Jennifer Reichert

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Alexandria eNews <conf-1375902311@everbridge.net>
To: jennifer_reichert@yahoo.com <jennifer_reichert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017, 4:54:35 PM EDT
Subject: Alexandria Seeks Public Comment to Rename Cora Kelly Recreation Center Update

You are subscribed to the free Alexandria eNews service. Replies to this message will not be received. For correspondence, please use the contact information in the body of the message.

City of Alexandria Seeks Public Comment on Proposal to Rename Cora Kelly Recreation Center to Honor Leonard "Chick" Armstrong

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2017

Update - Cora Lee Webster Kelly

The City of Alexandria is seeking public comment on a proposal to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 West Reed Ave., the "Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center" to honor his commitment to Alexandria youth. Councilman Willie F. Bailey, Sr. forwarded the proposal.

Leonard "Chick" Armstrong served as a youth football and basketball coach with the City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities for more than 35 years. Mr. Armstrong

Attachment 2

was more than a coach, he spent countless hours mentoring and counseling youth on values of getting an education, avoiding drugs and other negative behaviors, and being a positive role model to other young men and women in the community. Many of the youth Mr. Armstrong coached and mentored went on to be productive citizens in Alexandria and throughout the metropolitan area. For eight years, Mr. Armstrong served as the Commissioner of the Johnson-Siebert Summer Adult Basketball League that served hundreds of young adults. In addition, his commitment to building youth through athletics earned Mr. Armstrong the 2005 Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks' Sports Alliance's Sportsmanship Award.

“Cora Kelly Recreation Center was named for its proximity to the Cora Kelly School, rather than named directly for Cora Lee Webster Kelly, a beloved Alexandria teacher. The City Council Naming Committee will consider whether to name the recreation center after a person for the first time. The name of the school would remain unchanged.”

The public is invited to provide comment on the proposal to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center the Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center through Friday, June 16, 2017. Those interested in providing comments will be able to record their comments by email to jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, subject line: Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center, or by mail to Recreation and Parks, Attn: Jack Browand, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria VA 22314. The City Council Naming Committee will review all comments received or postmarked by Friday, June 16, 2017.

For additional information, contact Jack Browand, Division Chief, at 703.746.5504 or by email at jack.browand@alexandriava.gov.

To change your subscription choices, [click here to login](#). To request removal of your account, email enews@alexandriava.gov.

Jack Browand

From: Dionne Johnson
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center

I am writing to you concerning the proposal to change the name of the Cora Kelly Rec Center to the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center.

Leonard "Chick" Armstrong was an outstanding and valuable member of the Alexandria community, a mentor to many youths, as well as an outstanding parent. I was very fortunate to be related to him and grow up learning valuable lessons from him as well. Chick was known by everyone as a person who you could go to for advice and guidance. He was very honest, dependable and incredibly hard-working. Chick was highly respected by many and is truly still missed to this day.

I believe that changing the name of the recreation center would be a great honor to the memory and legacy of Mr. Leonard "Chick" Armstrong.

Dionne Johnson

**Revenue Analyst II
City of Alexandria
Finance/Revenue Division
(703)746-3938 – Office
(703)548-6065 – Fax**



Jack Browand

From: janedalex <janedalex@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 9:00 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: RE: Proposed name change

Thanks very much

I have no attachment or preference for the current name. I only wondered about her significance and now understand it's related specifically to education.

Jane

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Jack Browand <Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov>
Date: 5/15/17 4:35 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: janedalex@aol.com
Cc: Jack Browand <Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed name change

Ms. Malik,

The City is seeking public comment on the renaming of the Cora Kelly Recreation Center only. The recreation center's name was selected based on proximity, and not for Cora Kelly's association with public recreation. Cora Kelly was a well-respected and much beloved turn-of-the-century schoolteacher for Alexandria Public Schools. Attached is information provided to the City's Naming Committee on Cora Lee Webster Kelly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

jack

Jack Browand, Division Chief

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Park Planning, Design & Capital Development

1108 Jefferson St.

Alexandria VA 22314

703.746.5504 (O)

202.497.7452 (C)

www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation

www.alexandriava.gov/SocialMedia

From: janedalex@aol.com [mailto:janedalex@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 1:04 PM

To: Jack Browand <Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: Proposed name change

Hi Jack,

I just read about the proposed name change for Cora Kelly Rec Center. And I began to wonder who Cora Kelly was and what her significance to the City had been. Do you have something you could send me so I might have a better basis for determining which name I would "vote for."

Thanks,

Jane Davidson Malik

Jack Browand

From: janedalex <janedalex@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 9:00 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: RE: Proposed name change

Thanks very much

I have no attachment or preference for the current name. I only wondered about her significance and now understand it's related specifically to education.

Jane

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Jack Browand <Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov>
Date: 5/15/17 4:35 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: janedalex@aol.com
Cc: Jack Browand <Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed name change

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Jack Browand, Division Chief

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From: janedalex@aol.com [mailto:janedalex@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 1:04 PM

To: Jack Browand <Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: Proposed name change

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Thanks,

Jane Davidson Malik

Jack Browand

From: M. Junior Bridge <mjrbridge@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 7:55 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center

I strongly oppose renaming the Cora Kelly Rec Center to some guy's name. I appreciate his years of good service, but think you should find something else to name after him. Too few things are named after women, and too few women are given credit for their contributions to society. It's a flimsy excuse to say that the recreation center wasn't really named after a person, rather a nearby school. The center carries a woman's name, a woman who did good things. Don't dishonor her by taking away her name from the center.

M. J. Bridge
3230 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

793-822-1981

Sent from my iPhone

Jack Browand

From: Anne Rector <annebrector@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 5:21 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: renaming of Coral Kelly Recreation

I am concerned about the renaming of this center. From where did the information come that tells us the center was NOT actually named for Cora Kelly, simply named for its proximity to the school of the same name?? The person who is being suggested for a renaming sounds wonderful and I am not in any way suggesting that he does not deserve to have something named after him. I simply question the removal of Cora Kelly's name which has been on the center for a long time and replacing a much belovved female teacher's name with a man's name.

Sincerely,

Anne B Rector
115 Pommander Walk
Alexandria, VA 22314

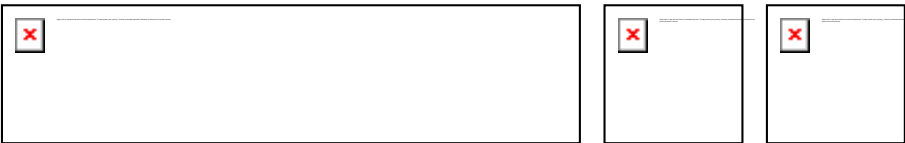
Jack Browand

From: Jeff Warner <jwarner@LindsayLexus.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: RE: Renaming Library

As an Alexandria resident, don't we have better things to spend our money on? Not taking anything away from Chick Armstrong but maybe something in the future would make more sense.

Jeff Warner
2919 King Street
Alexandria, Va. 22302
Jeffw778899@gmail.com

Jeff Warner
General Manager | Lindsay Lexus of Alexandria
3410 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22302
703-647-1295 Direct | 703-671-4662 Fax
jwarner@LindsayLexus.com | <http://www.lindsaylexus.com/>



Jack Browand

From: Arlene <arlhewitt@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 4:58 PM
To: Jack Browand
Subject: Cora Kelly Recreation Center

I am in full agreement to rename the Recreationj Center.
Arlene Hewitt

COLEP) please sent at hand of JTB ^{Attachment 2} over

10001 10th Avenue, N.E. Alexandria, VA 22301

at hand of hand I 8 May 18, 2012

please send I to all at hand of JTB

Dear Mr. Brown,

which will be the first of the

of the read in the Alexandria Times today

and not about the proposal by City Councilman

William H. Bailey to rename the Coa

with Kelly Recreation Center in the

of Leonard "Chuck" Armstrong, I

The article in the paper said you

were inviting the public to comment

on this proposal, so I am writing

You this letter. I am a 56-year old

lifelong Alexandrian. My family

2. I in the city go back to the early 1920s, Attachment 2

graduated from P.C. Williams High School

in the late 1970s. I have followed the

history of sports in the city. I am strongly

opposed to renaming the Corn Kelly Rec Center

after Mr. Armstrong, or anyone else for

employment. The Corn Kelly facility has been

at that location for a long time. The public

associates it with that name and location.

I don't like "George". I don't like renaming

things to honor people with political connections.

Councilman Bailey needs to stop pushing his personal

agenda. Please keep the same name - Corn Kelly

Recreation Center.

Sincerely,
Greg Pozzatti

Cell phone 703-899-3883