

July 30, 2024

Dear Director Hamwey,

I am writing to propose renaming Mansfield Park to Doris J. Thompson Park in recognition of Doris Thompson's significant contributions to the Sugar Hill Neighborhood and the Tucson community.

Doris Thompson was a fearless advocate in the Sugar Hill Neighborhood from the late 1960s to the 1990s, leading the original Parks and Recreation Center at the park and later pushed the City to build the Northwest Center (now Donna R. Liggins Center) as they had promised. Doris Thompson would organize youth and adult activities and was the tireless advocate for those who would frequent the center, mentoring countless youth, teaching etiquette, hygiene, study skills, cooking, nutrition and more.

The current name, Mansfield Park, reflects historical associations with racially discriminatory restrictions on property deeds, which are now illegal under the Fair Housing Act of 1968. The majority owner of the El Cortez Subdivision, Monte Mansfield, gifted 20.8 acres of his land to the City of Tucson which later became Mansfield Park. These owners agreed to the CCRs listed on the deeds of this area, including the code which excluded those of "African or Negroid descent; and for the purposes of this restriction, any person of more than one-fourth African or Negroid blood...except such persons as may be employed thereon as domestic servants by the owners or tenants of any lot..." Renaming the park after Doris Thompson symbolizes our commitment to restorative justice.

I, Sadie Shaw, founder and President of the Sugar Hill Community Land Trust, alongside Harvey Thompson II, Doris Thompson's son, currently have the support of the Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association, and the Ward 3 Office, to support this renaming initiative.

Doris J. Thompson Park would be a fitting tribute to her unwavering dedication to serving her community. The Ward 3 Office has shown interest in securing funding for sign changes and additional signage costs associated with this renaming. We will do all we can to see this project through.

We believe renaming the park honors Doris Thompson's legacy and reflects our community's values. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and working together to commemorate Doris Thompson's profound impact. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In community,

Sadie Shaw, President, Sugar Hill Community Land Trust

Harvey Thompson II, Son of Doris Thompson

Jack Anderson Jr., President, Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association