



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA
COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 25, 2016
TO: Mayor Kevin Faulconer
FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria
SUBJECT: Sale of Truax House

Pursuant to my comments at the February 10, 2016 Smart Growth and Land Use Committee regarding the potential sale of the Truax House, this memo clarifies my objectives regarding the disposition of the property and related issues.

The proposed sale of the home has generated public discussion in the community, as well as suggestions focused on various community goals. Some see the property as a potential site for a park or improved public access to nearby Maple Canyon. Some see historic value in the edifice and want the house preserved and restored. Others want to ensure the City continues to recognize and honor Dr. Truax and the many San Diegans we have lost to AIDS. I believe there is a way that we can satisfy many of the interests expressed by community members.

First, a condition should be placed on the sale of the property requiring a historic survey to determine if the site should be designated as a historic resource. This action will ensure that proper consideration is given to the historic value of the house prior to any modifications by a new owner.

Second, I am requesting that sale proceeds be kept in the Uptown community for the construction of additional park space. City staff has determined that the Truax House property is not suitable for a public park as it does not provide direct access to Maple Canyon, it has a number of topographical challenges, and its lack of visibility from the street presents public safety concerns. According to staff, however, up to five parks in the immediate area have been identified that may benefit from funding from the sale of the parcel. One of these future parks, located at West Maple and Albatross Streets, could provide much needed direct access to Maple Canyon.

In accordance with the Park and Recreation Board Policy 1001, *Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities*, I am requesting that Olive Street Park be named in honor of Dr.

Brad Truax. Additionally, I am requesting that a portion of the park space there be set aside for the San Diego AIDS Memorial as part of the General Development Plan.

Consistent with Park and Recreation Board Policy 1001, the legacy of Dr. Truax is of tremendous historical significance to the local area. Dr. Truax was a trailblazing leader for San Diego's LGBT community. His hard work advanced the fight for LGBT equality. As a medical doctor he played a key role in the early days of the AIDS epidemic in advocating for resources to combat the crisis up until his own death from the disease in 1988. The Truax House served as a hospice for AIDS patients for several years and was one of the few locations people with the disease could get the care they needed. It would be a fitting tribute to our community's history to name the soon-to-be developed park at 3rd and Olive Street "Dr. Brad Truax Park."

Apportioning part of Dr. Brad Truax Park to be the home of the San Diego AIDS Memorial would create a community asset that would provide a place for reflection and be capable of hosting annual events like World AIDS Day. With the help of a local task force that is already raising money for an AIDS memorial, we could ensure that this 21st century tribute to Dr. Truax and more than 7,600 San Diegans who have died of AIDS will be maintained in perpetuity.

I hope you will give these requests your utmost consideration. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

cc: Katherine Johnston, Director of Budget and Infrastructure Policy
Herman Parker, Park and Recreation Department Director
Andy Field, Park and Recreation Department Deputy Director
Jeff Murphy, Planning Director
James Nagelvoort, Public Works Director
Yovanna Lewis, Associate Engineer, Public Works
Uptown Planners Chair