

ORDINANCE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: June 17, 2021

CALENDAR NO. 33,373

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS GISLESON PALMER, GIARRUSSO, BANKS, BROSSETT, NGUYEN, MORENO AND GLAPION

AN ORDINANCE to change the name of McDonough Playground to Harold DeVore Playground, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, McDonough Playground, located at 1500 Teche Street, was named for John McDonogh, a wealthy slaveholder from Baltimore who moved to Louisiana, establishing a plantation in the area that is now Algiers and Gretna; and

WHEREAS, McDonough Playground, overseen by the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD), historically served as a whites-only playground in Algiers; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, the City of New Orleans established a new, separate playground in Algiers for African-American families, located at Nunez Street between Lawrence and Bringier Streets; and

WHEREAS, this playground was named for Harold Gene DeVore, who was born in 1932 in Algiers and went on to graduate L.B. Landry High School and serve in the United States Air Force before his untimely death in 1951, at the age of 18 years old; and

WHEREAS, DeVore Playground sparked Citywide controversy, as it was established by NORD to preserve segregation, after African-American families began to use the whites-only McDonough Playground; and

WHEREAS, another new playground for African-Americans, located at Brooklyn and Diana Streets in Algiers, was rededicated as Harold DeVore Playground in 1956, when the original DeVore Playground appears to have closed; and

WHEREAS, this DeVore Playground also closed in or around 1973, after its condition deteriorated and the City exchanged the property with a private owner; and

WHEREAS, despite McDonough Playground's legacy of segregation and the ties of its namesake to slavery, the playground continues operating today in Algiers under its original name; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, and to honor the legacy of Harold Gene DeVore and the previous Harold DeVore Playground, the NORD Commission voted at its September 22, 2020 meeting to change the name of McDonough Playground to Harold DeVore Playground; **NOW THEREFORE**

1 **SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY**
2 **ORDAINS**, That the McDonough Playground, located at 1500 Teche Street in Algiers, be
3 officially dedicated and signed as the "Harold DeVore Playground".

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS _____

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:

DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED: