



## **REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

**To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**From: Grant Yates, City Manager**

**Prepared by: Johnathan O. Skinner, Director of Community Services**

**Date: August 14, 2018**

**Subject: Naming of the Square and Parking Lot on Main Street between Heald Avenue and Peck Street**

### **Recommendation**

adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE NAMING OF THE SQUARE AT THE PARKING LOT TO GEDIMAN SQUARE PER CITY COUNCIL POLICY NO. 400-10 NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

Discuss and approve a name for the new parking lot located on Main Street between Heald Avenue and Peck Street.

### **Background**

In the last few years, Downtown Lake Elsinore has experienced a revitalization with the opening of several new restaurants and businesses that attract hundreds of new visitors each day. As a result, available public parking has become increasingly limited and a City owned, unimproved lot at the corner of Heald Avenue and Main Street was regularly used for additional parking.

Earlier this year, the City was granted the continued ownership and use of this lot by the State of California as part of the Redevelopment Agency dissolution. On May 21, the City started construction to fully improve the parking lot. As part of the new parking lot, a downtown "Square" was included in the design for a living Christmas Tree to be placed across from the Cultural Center.

Currently, the outdoor dining area of Guadalajara Restaurant on Main Street is zoned as a public park. This park was formally named Judge Arthur M. Gediman Park on April 8, 1974 by a resolution of the City Council. This designation is noted by a sign within the outdoor area.

Judge Gediman was an influential leader and community member in the City. He was admitted to the State of California Bar in 1927 and served as the Deputy City Attorney and Justice of the

Peace in the 1940s and 1950s. Amongst his notable accomplishments, Judge Gediman was instrumental in the incorporation of the Jewish Cemetery in 1953.

### **Discussion**

Per Council Policy No. 400-10 regarding Naming of Public Facilities, the City's new parking lot and Square provide opportunities to name them after someone influential in the City.

#### **The Square**

The Square on Main Street will be a new gathering place for community activities such as the lighting of the Christmas Tree for Winterfest and other special event programming planned in or near the parking lot.

Recognizing that Gediman Park is currently used by a local restaurant for business activities and that this new Square is a more visible and appropriate way to recognize someone, staff is recommending that the Square be named "Gediman Square" in honor of Judge Arthur M. Gediman rather than this mini-park.

With the relocation of the Gediman name to the new square at the Parking Lot on Main Street and Heald Avenue, Judge Gediman's legacy of community service will receive greater notoriety. To commemorate the new name, a small approximately 12" by 18" plaque would be placed into the ground in front of the City's new living Christmas Tree. See attached Exhibit B.

#### **Parking Lot Naming**

Per the Council policy, the naming of a parking lot does not fall under the policy guidelines and does not require a resolution to name this new location unless it is to be named after a person. The completion of the parking lot on Main Street and Heald Avenue will be the culmination of a much needed paved, lit and multi-use parking lot to a thriving downtown. This new lot will include 171 well-lit parking stalls, landscaping, artistic light sculptures and electrical outlets for expansion of special events in the downtown area. Staff has developed the following names for consideration as a starting point of discussion by the City Council:

- Downtown Parking Lot
- Downtown LE Parking Lot
- Main Street Parking Lot
- Cultural Center Parking Lot
- Historic Main Street Parking Lot

The parking lot is planned for completion in September and upon selection of a name staff will proceed with ordering and placing our traditional monument and plaque in the parking lot. See attached Exhibit B.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funds have been allocated for these plaques in the FY 18/19 Capital Improvement Budget.

### **Exhibits**

- A – Resolution Naming Gediman Square
- B – Proposed Location of Plaques