



Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission  
Submitted by: Claudia Kawczynska, Chairperson  
Subject: Official Naming of the Concrete Planter at the Southeast Corner of Adeline St and Alcatraz Ave as the “Ms. Richie and Friends of Adeline Native Garden”

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution officially naming the concrete planter at the southeast corner of Adeline St and Alcatraz Ave as the “Ms. Richie and Friends of Adeline Native Garden”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Over 12 years ago, BART construction damaged the water line and irrigation system in the area around the concrete planter at the southeast corner of Adeline St and Alcatraz Ave. In 2024, the City restored the water line and irrigation system, which would not have been possible without the significant community leadership provided over several years by Ms. Richie. The City also installed soil, plants, wrought-iron protective fencing, an irrigation system, and new signage at the planter. On Saturday, 14, 2024, the City will hold a dedication ceremony to celebrate the renovation of the planter, at which time Ms. Richie will be recognized for her significant community leadership efforts.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Richie, a long-time Berkeley resident, Berkeley High School Class of '53, and founding Friends of Adeline Member and Berkeley Community Leader, has worked tirelessly to maintain and uplift the South Berkeley streets, neighborhoods and communities. Ms. Richie Brook-Cole Smith relocated from Oklahoma to South Berkeley during the Great Migration in 1949 and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1953. She later became an educator at Head Start, where she significantly impacted the lives of young children through her guidance and care.

Ms. Richie has been a dedicated community leader. In 2004, she co-founded "Take a Stand Against Elder Abuse" and is currently an active member of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Beta Mu Chapter in Oakland, Echoes Down the Corridor, Friends of Adeline, the Homeless Encampment Support Group of South Berkeley, the Berkeley NAACP,

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the South Berkeley and North Oakland Senior Center, and the African-American Holistic Resource Center steering committee. Moreover, she served with distinction on Berkeley's Commission on Aging from 2005 to 2013, holding the position of Vice Chair from 2006 to 2007.

Among her numerous accolades, Ms. Richie was honored by the Commission on the Status of Women at the 17th Annual Ceremony recognizing outstanding women in Berkeley. In 2009, she was named a California Senior Leader by UC Berkeley's School of Public Health and is prominently featured in the "Music on Our Minds" mural, painted in 2009 by Edythe Boone in collaboration with Youth Spirit Artworks, which celebrates her many contributions as the unofficial "mayor" of South Berkeley's Adeline Corridor.

Ms. Richie's unwavering commitment to the betterment of our city is evident through her involvement in various civic affairs, including advocating for affordable housing, regularly attending city council meetings, and daily street clean-ups in her neighborhood. Her tireless dedication to the Berkeley community and her numerous accomplishments deserve our recognition and gratitude.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, Ms. Richie was honored with a proclamation by City of Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin in recognition of her service as a Berkeley Activist and volunteer. Over many years, she has dedicated her time to the maintenance and beautification of South Berkeley, which has involved countless hours picking up trash, reporting neighborhood issues, welcoming the influence of officers providing a traffic-calming presence, and overall embodying the community spirit of South Berkeley.

#### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the recommendation contained in this report.

#### COMMISSION

At a regular meeting on July 10, 2024, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission M/S/C to recommend that Council officially name the planter bed at the Adeline Alcatraz Plaza in honor of Richie Brook-Cole Smith ("Ms. Richie"). Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none; Absent: Cox; Kawczynska.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative environmental impacts were identified as a result of this recommendation.

#### RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

See body of report.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

#### CONTACT PERSON

Claudia Kawczynska, Chairperson, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission  
Roger Miller, Secretary, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission, 510-981-6704

RESOLUTION NO. ##,### -N.S.

OFFICIALLY NAME THE CONCRETE PLANTER BED AT ADELINE ST AND ALCATRAZ AVE THE “MS. RICHIE AND FRIENDS OF ADELINE NATIVE GARDEN”

WHEREAS, in July of 2024, the City completed the renovation of the longtime damaged irrigation line at the planter at Adeline Street and Alcatraz Ave in South Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, this work would not have been possible without the significant community leadership of Ms. Richie over several years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Richie has been a significant community leader and has mobilize many efforts to improve the community in South Berkeley for over five decades; and

WHEREAS, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, Ms. Richie was honored with a proclamation by City of Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin in recognition of her service as a Berkeley activist and volunteer; and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting on July 10, 2024, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission M/S/C to recommend that Council officially name the planter bed at the Adeline Alcatraz Plaza in honor of Richie Brook-Cole Smith (“Ms. Richie”). Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none; Absent: Cox; Kawczynska; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the concrete planter at the southeast corner of Adeline St and Alcatraz Ave is officially named the “Ms. Richie and Friends of Adeline Native Garden”.

