



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE:**

Joint City Council Housing Authority Successor Agency Oversight Board

March 13, 2018

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Consideration of Naming a Public-Right-of-Way for the Republic of Artsakh

1) Motion providing direction on the naming of a public right-of-way for the Republic of Artsakh

COUNCIL ACTION

Public Hearing <input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	Action Item <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Report Only <input type="checkbox"/>
Approved for <u>3/13/18</u> calendar				

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

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Signature

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends City Council provide direction regarding naming a public-right-of-way for the Republic of Artsakh.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On February 2, 2018, the City of Glendale received a letter (see Exhibit 1) from the non-profit organization Unified Young Armenians (“UYA”) seeking City Council consideration of changing the name of Sanchez Drive to Artsakh Drive. On February 20, 2018, a second request was made by UYA during the Community Event Announcements portion of the City Council meeting, whereby staff was instructed by the Glendale City Council to prepare and present a report describing the process for street renaming, analyzing that process as it relates to UYA’s request, and presenting options.

STREET RENAMING PROCESS & CRITERIA

On August 8, 2017, the Glendale City Council adopted a process and criteria for street name changes, as outlined below:

Process

1. A letter of request, along with a location map identifying the street to be renamed, must be received with the required filing fees (\$11,500). The filing fee shall have been paid along with a deposit required for the processing time that will be incurred by various City Departments responsible for changing all records, maps, files, computer data bases, etc.
2. Requests for comments are sent to various City Departments and outside agencies including the US Postal Service, LA County Department of Public Works, LA County Fire Department, LA County Assessor, LA County Tax Collector, LA County Registrar of Voters, Glendale Unified School District, Glendale Community College District, SoCal Gas/Sempra, AT&T, Charter Communications, local safety response agencies, among others. Further, depending on where the street is located, the Planning Department may also notify other agencies such as the Crescenta Valley Water District, City of Los Angeles, City of Burbank, City of La Canada-Flintridge, Los Angeles County Regional Planning, Cal Trans, and numerous other applicable organizations.
3. A public hearing notice is prepared and includes the dates and times of both the Planning Commission and City Council hearing dates. The Planning Commission subsequently makes a recommendation to the City Council.
4. The public notice is sent along with a location map to any property owners along the street proposed to be renamed at least 10 days prior to the public hearings.
5. The proposed street name change must be in compliance with Section 16.08.150 of the Glendale Municipal Code. Specifically:
 - a. It must not duplicate another street name or be so close as to cause confusion.
 - b. It may not consist of any number unless it is spelled out and each compound word thereof shall be hyphenated.
 - c. It may not exceed 15 letters.
 - d. It may not change the name on only a portion of a longer street.
6. Any City Council approval of a street renaming request shall be by resolution.

Criteria

The following criteria is used in consideration of a street rename request and evaluated as a whole to determine whether a finding can be made that the street request is in the public interest of the City:

- **Number of Businesses/Residents Directly Affected**
 - (1) Directly affected: Consideration in this category would focus on the number of properties directly affected; the fewer properties the better.
 - (2) Indirectly affected: Properties indirectly affected by the renaming of street include those which take their address from a street that is accessed or served by the street under consideration. Consideration in this category would focus on the number of properties affected; however, the number of affected properties may be quite large due to the relationship of the street circulation grid.
- **Compatibility with Existing Street Naming System** - Consideration of this criterion would include compatibility with the City's existing street naming system.
- **Appropriateness Given Types of Uses along Subject Street** – Consideration of this criterion would insure reasonable compatibility between land use and street name.
- **Recognition of Community Diversity** - Consideration of this criterion would endorse evolving community diversity.
- **Recognition of Historical Significance** - Consideration of this criterion recognizes the historical significance of existing street names and the importance in recognizing the potential future historical importance to current events and developments.
- **Impacts on Emergency Services** - Consideration of this criterion will ensure that replacement names for existing streets will not result in confusion related to efficient access for emergency purposes.
- **Costs** - Consideration of this criterion will evaluate fiscal impacts to the City and affected community, and to consider which costs the applicant should bear.
- **Continuity and Stability** - Consideration of this criterion will evaluate the effect of a rename request on the public's general connection with the existing name.
- **Length of Street** - Consideration of this criterion will review the alternative of renaming sections of the proposed street (as opposed to renaming the entire street) and how the length of such street sections may affect the continuity of the street

UYA'S REQUEST TO RENAME SANCHEZ DRIVE TO ARTSAKH DRIVE

UYA expressed in its request letter that it would like a prominent street named after the Artsakh Republic in honor of the heritage and culture of Glendale's Armenian-American residents, and that it sought to do so with minimal disruption to businesses and residents and minimal costs to the City. UYA identified Sanchez Drive as a potential street. The following text provides a historical background of Artsakh:

History of Artsakh

The Republic of Artsakh, more commonly known by its former name Nagorno-Karabakh, is a disputed territory between Azerbaijan and Armenia. After the end of World War I and the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, the new Soviet rulers, as part of their divide-and-rule policy in the region, established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, with an ethnic Armenian majority within the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan.

Artsakh is internationally considered to be part of Azerbaijan due to its location in the country. However, the majority of people residing in that territory are ethnic Armenian and the region is under the control of Armenian separatists. The Armenians living in the area often refer to Nagorno-Karabakh as Artsakh, using the name of the 10th province of the ancient Kingdom of Armenia.

Artsakh controls most of the territory of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and some of the surrounding areas, giving it a border with Armenia to the west, Iran to the south, and the uncontested territory of Azerbaijan to the north and east. The population is predominantly Christian, most being affiliated with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

As Soviet control loosened toward the end of the 1980s, increasing Armenian-Azeri frictions exploded into violence when the region's parliament voted to join Armenia. In 1988, Azerbaijani troops and Armenian secessionists began a war, and in late 1991, Artsakh declared itself an independent republic. The remnants of the war left the de facto independent state in the hands of ethnic Armenians when a truce was signed in 1994.

Since the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1994, representatives of the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been holding peace talks mediated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe ("OSCE") Minsk Group on the region's disputed status. Most recently, Artsakh's Foreign Minister Masis Mayilian said they are in support of initiatives aimed at strengthening the ceasefire between the region and Azerbaijan.

OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:

As outlined below, staff conducted an initial analysis of potential options of public rights-of-way that could be named or renamed to meet UYA's request. While we do not think Sanchez Drive is a good candidate for renaming (Option 1), we have identified several options that would meet UYA's goals without removing a street name that is already commemorative in nature. Should Council recommend moving forward with one of these options, further research will need to be conducted to verify suitability.

Option 1: Rename Sanchez Drive as Artsakh Drive

The portion of road proposed by UYA to be renamed is a block-long street, between Central Avenue and Brand Boulevard and to the immediate south of the 134 Freeway, which functions as an extension of the eastbound off-ramp that serves both thoroughfares. The impact to residents or businesses by changing the name of this road would be minimized due to the lack of addresses along this stretch of roadway.

In considering renaming this street, it is important to note the origins of its name. When the freeway was built in the 1970s, Sanchez Drive (on the south) and Goode Avenue (on the north) were created to serve as off-ramp extensions in each direction. Both streets appear to be named after people significant to the history of the city and the region. Sanchez is almost certainly named after Tomas Avila Sanchez, who was the ninth Los Angeles County Sheriff and first to be born in the county. He served as a County Supervisor and was a member of the Los

Angeles Common Council (pre-cursor to the City Council); his grandfather was also a Mayor of Los Angeles in the late 1800s. Sanchez married Maria Sepulveda, who was the step daughter of Rafael Verdugo de Sepulveda and together they built the now City-owned Casa Adobe de San Rafael (aka Sanchez Adobe) in 1865 in the Verdugo-Viejo Neighborhood of Glendale. The building is a historical landmark and central feature of the associated 1.6 acre public park. Goode Avenue appears to be named after E.D. Goode, one of Glendale's founders who played important roles in many of the city's early enterprises; thus both streets were likely chosen to honor significant figures in Glendale's history.

Option 2: Rename Maryland Avenue between Wilson Street and Harvard Street

This option would rename the stretch of Maryland Avenue that has recently been referred to as the Maryland Paseo. The specific stretch of road would consist of two blocks starting at Wilson Street and terminating at the North entrance of Central Library at Harvard Street. These blocks form the spine of the Maryland Arts & Entertainment District, a name that is codified in the Downtown Specific Plan and which is frequently used in planning documents that reference the area. Glendale Municipal Code Section 16.08.150 prohibits the renaming of a street along a portion of a longer street. Maryland Avenue is, however, somewhat unique because the north and south stretches of the road possess a 5 ½ block break between them; further, the road jogs and is not continuous from north to south, so the discontinuity of street names would not be as obvious. Renaming this specific stretch of roadway to Artsakh would result in the removal of the 100 North Maryland and 100 South Maryland addresses, resulting in the North Maryland addresses starting with 200 and South Maryland addresses starting with 700 (South Maryland addresses currently exclude 200-700). The number of addresses that would be changed due to a renaming is 104.

Option 3: Rename Lexington Drive between Central Avenue and Brand Boulevard

Currently, the Armenian Consulate in Glendale is located at the corner of Lexington Drive and Central Avenue. Unlike Maryland Avenue, Lexington Drive maintains a contiguous path of travel from Chester Street to North Verdugo Road; however, similar to Maryland Avenue, there is a West and East designation. This proposed location is at the midpoint between Central Avenue and Brand Boulevard; thus, changing the name would result in removing the 100 and 200 West Lexington addresses, resulting in West Lexington Drive addresses beginning with 300. The number of addresses that would be impacted is 190 (48 existing plus 142 new addresses created by the proposed 489-unit Citibank project located at 201 West Lexington).

Option 4: Name the alley to the west of the Central Library and the proposed Armenian American Museum

During the August 8, 2017 City Council meeting, a brief conversation ensued regarding potential locations suitable for a street name change. One such location identified was the existing alley from Harvard Street to Colorado Street, along the western boundary of Central Library and the current Central Park. Historically, there is a precedent for naming alleys in Glendale. These "named" alleys include, but are not limited to: Sherman Lane, Montrose Lane, Gardner Lane, Pepper Way, Faircourt Lane, and Emerald Terrace.

This location is currently utilized as a metered parking lot (City Parking Lot #10), but may undergo further improvements pending the advancement of the proposed Armenian American Museum. This option would not require any address changes, but the look and feel of the street will always be that of an alley, faced with the backs of Brand Boulevard buildings and the loading docks of both the library and proposed museum.

Option 5: Rename the proposed open space at the Central Library and proposed Armenian American Museum

As part of the proposed Armenian American Museum, the existing open space to the north is envisioned as being redistributed in and around the Museum and Library complexes and an open space created between the Central Library and proposed Museum. This renovation effort, and the interplay with the Armenian American Museum, could provide an opportunity to rename the revamped open space community asset recognizing Artsakh, while eliminating the cost and logistical impacts associated with the renaming of a public street since there are no addresses associated with the open space.

Option 6: Rename a meaningful intersection as “Artsakh Square”

The City of Los Angeles has created a process through which significant people, and in some cases businesses, are honored by designating prominent and/or appropriate intersections after their honor. Council may consider creating a similar program in Glendale as it would provide additional naming opportunities over time to commemorate people and places of importance, with Artsakh Square being the first example. The Los Angeles “squares” feature signage seen by drivers, bikers, and pedestrians travelling in all four directions, which would provide more visibility than renaming a street such as Sanchez. That city’s process involves its City Council approving the naming of the intersection, which is acknowledged with a special sign and ceremony commemorating the recognition.

In Glendale, this could be done at virtually any intersection without disruption of businesses or residents in terms of addressing. Several possible locations with symbolic significance to the Armenian community exist, including Lexington and Central (adjacent to the Armenian Consulate) and Colorado and Louise (adjacent to the proposed Armenian American Museum).

Option 7: Create an Honorary Street Name program

Cities such as New York and Chicago have created honorary street name programs through which people important to the community can be honored. In both cases, the cities place an additional street sign, marked as “honorary” in Chicago’s case, above or below the existing street sign. This allows the existing street name to remain and therefore does not require residents or businesses to change their mailing address. As with the “square” concept in Option 6, honorary streets could be located anywhere in the city with minimal disruption, providing great flexibility in finding locations that are meaningful to the honoree.

Based on the preceding options, staff is seeking direction from the City Council regarding which alternative(s) it would like to pursue. Following Council direction and per the City’s recently adopted policy, staff will present the selected alternative to City Departments and interested outside agencies for comment before presenting to the Planning Commission for consideration. Following the Commission’s recommendation, staff will once again return to the City Council for a final Public Hearing before a decision can be finalized.

FISCAL IMPACT

The application fee for a street name change is \$11,500, of which \$6,987 is refundable if the request is not approved. However, since the street name change request was directed by action of the City Council, the fiscal impact will be the costs of research and coordination with outside agencies, public hearings with the Planning Commission and City Council, community outreach, clerical administration, and other logistical requirements to effectuate a street name. If a street name change is implemented, other costs will include updating city street signs, city street maps, Geographic Information Systems Databases, Building Permit Records, GWP Billing

Records, other digital databases, and all published materials that make reference to the previous street name. Property owners, businesses and tenants residing on these blocks will also incur an undetermined amount of financial and practical impact based on the need to update legal documents such as insurance, tax bills, mortgages, grant deeds, etc. and other administrative documents.

ALTERNATIVES

Council has the following alternatives to consider with respect to this staff report:

Alternative 1: Direct staff to move forward with one or more of the options presented in this report.

Alternative 2: Direct staff to explore an option not presented in this report.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Not applicable as no contract with an entity or individual subject to the Campaign Finance Disclosure requirement is being considered in this staff report.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Letter from Unified Young Armenians

Exhibit 2: Map of Options

MOTION

Moved by Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, that, with respect to consideration of naming a public right-of-way for the Republic of Artsakh, the Council hereby directs staff to proceed with Option _____, as further outlined in the March 13, 2018, staff report from the Director of Community Development and subject to any Council Member comments thereon.

Vote as follows:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
SR. ASST. CITY ATTORNEY
DATE 3-8-18



Unified Young Armenians

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY: VGHarpetian@GlendaleCA.GOV;
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Mayor Vartan Gharpetian
City of Glendale
Management Services - Room 200
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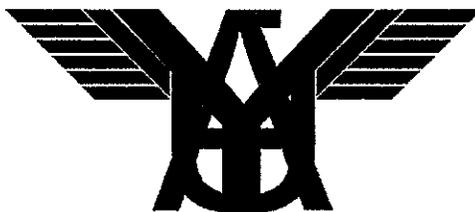
Honorable Mayor Gharpetian:

The purpose of this letter is to cordially ask the City of Glendale to officially change the name of **Sanchez Street**, to **Artsakh Street**. In addition, we are cordially asking the City to **waive the fees** associated with such a name change.

It goes without saying, the City of Glendale is home to the largest Armenian-American constituents, who maintain strong cultural and social links to Republic of Armenia, and the Artsakh Republic. The same constituency is an active participant in the City's vibrant life, contributing tremendously to City's social, cultural, and political fabric.

In addition, it is noteworthy that for over a decade, Unified Young Armenians (UYA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has proudly called Glendale home and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of its residents, especially its youth.

We believe that it is time for the City to finally have a significant and highly visible street honoring the heritage and culture of its Armenian-American residents, as well as their contributions to the City's life. And with this aim in mind, no other name comes close to Artsakh in meaningfully capturing the essence of the Armenian history and culture. The proposed location is also significant, as it is in the heart of the City, connects two major streets, and is heavily travelled due to its proximity to the 134 Freeway. This belief is shared by the thousands and thousands of City's Armenian-American voters.



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Being cognizant of the potential impact that such a change may have, we have worked tirelessly to locate the street with the least footprint and cost on the City, local businesses, and most importantly on City's residents. This search has led us to one and only one option, Sanchez Street. There are no businesses or residential buildings on that street, thereby a change would not bring about pains associated with changing business stationary, billing addresses, or other requirements typically associated with street name changes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a positive response from your office within the upcoming days which will garner an equally warm and positive welcome from the Armenian-American constituents and our friends.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aroutin Hartounian'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aroutin Hartounian, Esq.
Unified Young Armenians (UYA)

Map of Options

Map of Options

