




MEMORANDUM

Date: December 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress 
City Manager

From: John Wilkins
Parking Director

Subject: **Designating the Parking Area at Nelson English Park as “The Irving ‘Sonny’ Rivas Memorial Parking Area”.**

Introduction

Irving “Sonny” Bruce Rivas, (1948-2023) was affectionately referred to in the Key West Community as “Uncle Sonny”. His generosity and contributions to the Community for the past 75 years has led the City Commission to name the parking area adjacent to Nelson English Park in his memory.

Background

Sonny Rivas was born and raised in Key West to a large and close-knit family. He attended Douglass High School and graduated from Key West High School. He was a proud graduate of Florida A & M University. He always instilled the importance of education, independence, and perseverance in family and friends.

He served his country in the Vietnam War and was awarded several decorations for his service including an Army Commendation Medal and Expert Badge.

During his professional career he worked for Monroe County School District, the Department of Children and Families, and Comcast Corporation. After Retirement he was known for volunteering his time for local organizations and helping countless individuals in Key West.

He has been an essential part of the cultural and economic development of Key West in the past 75 years and as such the City Commission finds it fitting to recognize him by naming this area in his honor.

Financial Impact:

A sign in his honor will be placed in the Parking Area adjacent to Nelson English Park and the nominal cost of fabrication and installation will be absorbed from the approved Community Service's annual budget.

Recommendation

In recognition of his many contributions to Key West and its Citizens the City Manager recommends the City Commission approve the naming of the parking area adjacent to the Nelson English Park as the "Irving 'Sonny' Rivas Memorial Parking Area" and mark with appropriate signage.