



## LOCAL NEWS

### Crenshaw Blvd. to Keep Its Name -- for Now

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LOS ANGELES — To the cheers of a packed chamber, the City Council bowed to the will of the people Friday, voting to delay consideration of a motion to rename Crenshaw Boulevard for the late Mayor Tom Bradley in a move which the motion's chief proponent acknowledged was tantamount to killing the idea.

The council voted 12-0 on a motion by Councilwoman Jan Perry to send the name-changing matter back to committee for further public discussion.

Councilman Nate Holden, who authored the motion to rename Crenshaw and pressed to make it a fait accompli before his term ended Monday, was distraught by Friday's outcome.

"You've killed it," he screamed at his colleagues. "You know this council will never get eight votes to pass the [renaming] motion later on. You have to do it now."

The vote came hard on the heels of three days of protest from the Crenshaw Community Action Council, the Congress of Racial Equality, neighborhood councils, homeowners' associations, business groups, community organizations and individual residents who did not want Crenshaw's name changed.

The groups argued that they had not been consulted about the pending name change and they decried the speed and secrecy with which it was being done.

Councilwoman Janice Hahn, who seconded the delaying motion, countered Holden's plea for immediate passage of his proposal.

"This motion is what I've always wanted," she said. "We must allow plenty of time for community input on this issue. If renaming the street is a good idea today, then it will be a good idea a month from now or six months from now."

Councilman Bernard Parks, co-author of the renaming motion, grudgingly supported Perry's call for more hearings on the issue because it became obvious as the meeting went on that council sentiment had decidedly turned against changing Crenshaw Boulevard's name.

Councilman Dennis Zine indicated that Parks and ultimately Holden had no choice but to support the passage of Perry's motion because if they didn't and their renaming proposal was put to a vote, it would have been soundly defeated.

The council's action of refusing to accede to the wishes of Holden and Parks is rare, since members habitually function on a notorious system of reciprocity: If you give me what I want, I'll give you what you want.

In fact, Holden reminded his colleagues of that tradition when they first tried to hold a public hearing on the issue on June 18. "This is what I want for my district and you're supposed to give it to me," he told his colleagues.

Zine repudiated the tradition and declared: "This is another council. We want to hear what the people have to say. What would be the point of going to all that trouble to establish neighborhood councils and encourage citizen participation in government and then ignore what the people have to say?"

Perry said she was anxious to turn the whole experience "from the negative one it is today, to the harmoniously agreed upon tribute to Bradley it ought to be." Added Hahn, "I hope our actions are never opposed because we refused to listen to the people."

Perry's motion, which was seconded by Wendy Greuel, among others, reads as follows:

"I move that the matter of the continued consideration of joint Public Works and Education and Neighborhoods committees' report and ordinance first consideration relative to changing the name of a portion of Crenshaw Boulevard between Wilshire Boulevard and 79th Street to Tom Bradley Boulevard ... be amended to approve in concept the naming of a city street as Tom Bradley Boulevard, and to refer the matter to Public Works Committee for further hearing and input from business, residential and community groups and individuals."

Making note of the motion's operative words, "the naming of a city street as Tom Bradley Boulevard," Zine said, "There is a lot of emotion attached to Crenshaw, and I want to get a street named for Bradley without controversy. He deserves that, and the people need time to decide what street that should be."

Conceding defeat in his last meeting as a city councilman, Holden voted for Perry's motion, thus permitting its unanimous passage.