

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	MARCH 21, 2018
Agenda Category:	CONSENT BUSINESS
Agenda Item Number:	10 F
Subject:	AUTHORIZING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RENAMING COCOA HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM AS "RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE STADIUM AT JOHN WILKINSON FIELD" (CITY MANAGER)

Attachments:	Letter of Support
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Staff Contact:	City Manager Fettrow
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Background:	Brevard Public Schools is considering renaming the stadium at Cocoa High School to the "Richard "Dick" Blake Stadium at John Wilkinson Field." After the City Manager obtained verbal approval from each individual member of Council, such a letter has been drafted to the superintendent of Brevard Public Schools, Dr. Desmond Blackburn, and signed by Mayor Price on behalf of Council.
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Reference:	
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Suggested Action:	Approve the letter of support for the renaming of Cocoa High School Stadium as the "Richard "Dick" Blake Stadium at John Wilkinson Field"
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CITY OF ROCKLEDGE

March 15, 2018

Dr. Desmond K. Blackburn, Superintendent
Brevard County Public Schools
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

On behalf of the Rockledge City Council, it is with great privilege that I write to you today in order to support and encourage the renaming of the Cocoa High School Stadium as "The Richard "Dick" Blake Stadium at John Wilkinson Field."

To quantify the countless accomplishments and achievements of lifelong Rockledge resident Dick Blake is challenging, to say the least. His passion and enthusiasm for educating and shaping the youth of Brevard County is clearly evident, as he spent more than four decades devoting his time and his talents to the Brevard County Public School System, more than 20 of which were dedicated to the students of Cocoa High School where he served as its esteemed principal.

But Dick Blake channeled his zeal for building character in his students beyond academics to an unparalleled level. He guided them as a mentor and an advisor, and propelled them as a leader and as a coach. No matter what the situation, Dick Blake was able to offer the guidance and direction that his students or athletes required.

Even though Dick Blake's commitment to the youth of Brevard County was incomparable, he was also extremely civic- and community-minded, having offered his service to the Board of Trustees at Wuesthoff Hospital (now Rockledge Regional Medical Center) and rising to the position of President of the FAMU Alumni Chapter of Brevard County. But one of Dick Blake's most remarkable success stories was the 40 years of service he offered to the citizens of Rockledge as a member of the Rockledge City Council, rendering him the longest serving Council member in the history of Rockledge. Mr. Blake's levity and wit made our Council meetings a true pleasure, and his sense of humor and magnanimous personality are greatly missed to this day.

Renaming the Cocoa High School Stadium as "The Richard "Dick" Blake Stadium at John Wilkinson Field" is a fitting tribute to this upstanding member of our community, who has served citizens of all ages in Brevard County faithfully and diligently in many different roles. This honor will ensure the continuation of Mr. Dick Blake's longstanding and exceptional legacy.

I thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I am able to provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Price, Mayor

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