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**Board of County Commissioners**  
**Leon County, Florida**  
www.leoncountyfl.gov

**Agenda Item**  
**Executive Summary**

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

**Title:**

Consideration of the Renaming of Capital Park to Beasley-Nims-Tookes Park

**Staff:**

Parwez Alam, County Administrator  
Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator  
Tony Park, P.E., Public Works Director

**Issue Briefing:**

At the August 17, 2010 Board meeting, Mr. Delaitre J. Hollinger provided background data and information, citing reasons to rename Capital Park "Beasley-Nims-Tookes Park" in recognition of Dr. Nickie Beasley, Mr. Harry "Nick" Nims, and Mrs. Dorothy Nash Tookes (Attachment #1). A location map of Capital Park is included as Attachment #2

In accordance with Policy No. 97-3, "Naming of County Owned Facilities, Structures, Buildings, Geographical Areas, or Other Properties," proposed names for County-owned facilities, buildings, structures, geographical areas, or other property must be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for approval and official designation (Attachment #3).

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item has no fiscal impact.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Option #1: Approve the renaming of Capital Park to Beasley-Nims-Tookes Park.

**Report and Discussion****Background:**

At the August 17, 2010 Board meeting, Mr. Delaitre J. Hollinger provided background data and information, citing reasons to rename Capital Park "Beasley-Nims-Tookes Park" in recognition of Dr. Nickie Beasley, Mr. Harry "Nick" Nims, and Mrs. Dorothy Nash Tookes (Attachment #1). A location map of Capital Park is included as Attachment #2

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**Analysis:**

Dr. Nickie Beasley dedicated 33 years to the Leon County School District during which time she served as teacher and Principal in several schools. She was the first female Principal at the Secondary level in the Leon County School District when she was named Principal at Nims Middle School. She served on numerous organizations, such as the National Association of University, FAMU Ladies Art and Social Club and the National Hook Up of Black Women (Attachment #4).

Mr. Nick Nims spent his life acting in different capacities within the educational community. He was the first and only African-American in the state of Florida to have coached his (old Lincoln) High School basketball teams to 10 consecutive black state tournaments before the school closed in 1967. Other firsts include being the first Leon County male guidance counselor, the first African-American Administrator at Rickards High School, and the first African-American Principal of Fairview Middle School. Mr. Nims was recognized nationally when he was named the Florida Delegate to the President's White House Conference on Children and Youth and Coach of the Year in basketball. His contributions have made a lasting impression on Leon County (Attachment #5).

Mrs. Dorothy Nash Tookes was the founder and first Principal of Bond Elementary School and is believed to be the first state certified teacher in Leon County. Her grit and determination led her to open the first and only hotel in Leon County to offer lodging to African-Americans until the early 1970's. She received such guests as entertainer James Brown, writer James Baldwin, singer Lou Rawls and composer Duke Ellington. She also worked as a nurse at the Florida A&M University Hospital. As a volunteer, she was affiliated with the Leon County Teacher's Association. She was an innovator in Leon County and was recognized posthumously by the City of Tallahassee for her outstanding service in the community for nearly five decades. In 2000, the Tookes Hotel was added to the National Register of Historic Places (Attachment #6).

**Options:**

1. Approve the renaming of Capital Park to Beasley-Nims-Tookes Park.
2. Do not approve the renaming of Capital Park to Beasley-Nims-Tookes Park.
3. Board Direction.

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**Recommendation:**

Option # 1

**Attachments:**

1. Background Information Justifying the Renaming of Capital Park
2. Capital Park Map
3. Policy No. 97-3, "Naming of County Owned Facilities, Structures, Building, Geographical Areas or Other Property"
4. Bio-Dr. Nickie N. Bell Beasley
5. Bio-Mr. Harry "Nick" Nims
6. Bio-Mrs. Dorothy Ethel Nash Tookes

