



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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2015 MAR 30 PM 2:16

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8 & Councilman Mike Gallagher, District 10

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Addition of the Honorary Name "Bob Dickson Way" to portion of North New Braunfels Avenue

DATE: March 20, 2015

Issue Proposed for Consideration

We ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest Governance Committee meeting:

We respectfully request City Staff to prepare available options and costs associated with assigning the honorary name "Bob Dickson Way" to North New Braunfels, from Loop 410 north to Ceegee Street.

Brief Background

Robert "Bob" Dickson was born in San Antonio on September 27, 1938. A Jefferson High School graduate, he founded Olympic Gym in 1977, eventually opening two locations: one on the north side and the other on the south side. Bob earned the distinction of being the first business owner to be offered a World Gym franchise by founder Joe Gold, an international legend and pioneer of strength sports. Bob declined, in favor of building his Olympic Gym into the South Texas destination gym for serious athletes. By 1986, it was moved to its single current location south of the San Antonio International Airport at 8611 N. New Braunfels, and it was listed as one of the top ten bodybuilding gyms in the United States. Through its history, Olympic Gym became known affectionately as one of the most "hardcore" gyms in the United States and the best-equipped gym in Texas, featuring a clientele of top professional athletes locally and nationally in multiple sports, including Mr. Olympia champions Lou Ferrigno, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Ronnie Coleman, Olympian Josh Davis, Spurs legend David Robinson, World's Strongest Woman Jill Mills, international powerlifting star Gene Bell, and many others.

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As a youth, Bob Dixon was a successful boxer at amateur and pro levels through the 1960s. He served proudly in the Coast Guard Reserves and then returned to San Antonio to work with the City of San Antonio Recreation Department, teaching fitness classes and boxing to underprivileged kids, amateurs, and professionals. As a gym owner and operator, Bob became known for his wry sense of humor and the care for which he showed all of the people who entered Olympic Gym, whether they were international celebrities or neighborhood kids. With his wife of 40 years Mary, Bob tended the counter nearly every day, up until his battle with cancer ended on Oct. 19, 2012. During his funeral service, friends, family, and clients from around the country attended and recalled their beloved “founder, mentor, inspiration, and friend.” Among those paying tribute was J.D. Wennermark, current Olympic Gym owner.

New Braunfels Avenue, one of San Antonio’s longest contiguous city streets, extends from north of North Loop 410 to south of Southeast Military Drive. On the north end, approximately two city blocks – the portion subject of this request – are disconnected from the rest of New Braunfels Avenue, divided by North Loop 410 from the highway to Ceegee Street. An honorary street name designation does not require formal postal address changes, rather, provides an additional address and commemoration option. This memorandum makes a request for that alternative and directs City staff to produce the appropriate commemorative signage.

Submitted for Council consideration  
by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman Mike Gallagher, District 10

Supporting Councilmember’s Signatures (3 only)	District No.
1. 	1
2. 	4
3. 	2