



---

# Board of Supervisors Memorandum

---

October 20, 2020

**Renaming the Mission Library to the Richard Elías-Mission Library in Honor of the Late Board of Supervisors Chairman, Richard Elías**

**Background**

The Pima County library system was created with the merger of the City of Tucson library system in 2006. A number of City owned libraries continue to be used by the Pima County Library District to provide library services through Pima County's library system. In the Intergovernmental Agreement authorizing the merger of the library system, it was indicated that any library branch where the County Library District made improvements that equaled or exceeded 50 percent of the value of the library, the library and land would then be transferred from the City to the County Library District.

While the County has continuously made capital improvements to various libraries in the community and constructed new libraries, the most recent with new libraries in Vail and Sahuarita, two rapidly growing portions of eastern Pima County. It is now appropriate, given the age of a number of library branches transferred from the City, to begin significant rehabilitation, repair and expansion of older libraries. The first such major rehabilitation and expansion will be for the Mission Library located at 3770 S. Mission Road.

The County, through Library District, plans to spend approximately \$6 million to expand and rehabilitate the Mission Library. It will increase in size by nearly 50 percent of its present size from 10,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet. In addition, the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems of this older library will be replaced and significant remodeling of the existing facilities will take place.

**City of Tucson will Transfer the Mission Library to the County Library District**

On October 6, 2020, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council agreed to transfer the Mission Library to the Pima County Library District for the purpose of major rehabilitation and expansion with the knowledge that the County planned to request the Board of Supervisors rename the Mission Library in honor of former Board Chairman, Richard Elías.

**Public Art Requirement**

As the Board knows, the County has an established policy that any major capital expenditure, including major rehabilitation and expansion, requires one percent of the construction value to be spent on public art. In this case, the public art will be a tile mural within the Library representing the various public service interests and activities of Chairman Elías, including human rights, affordable housing, the Sonoran Desert, literacy and his activities as a tireless champion for those less fortunate.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Renaming the Mission Library to the Richard Elías-Mission Library in Honor of the Late  
Board of Supervisors Chairman, Richard Elías**

October 8, 2020

Page 2

**City Invited to Naming Action**

Chairman Ramón Valadez has invited the Mayor and Council to attend the renaming in a letter dated October 7, 2020 to the Mayor Romero. (Attachment 1) The Chairman has directed that a Resolution naming the Library after Supervisors Elías be placed on the October 20, 2020 Agenda for the Board's consideration. Chairman Valadez has indicated a renaming ceremony will occur on Tuesday, October, 20, 2020, which is the next Board meeting at 10:00 am in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room.

**Recommendation**

I recommend the Board of Supervisors pass and adopt the Resolution (Attachment 2) naming the Mission Library at 3770 S. Mission Road as the Richard Elías-Mission Library in memory of former Board of Supervisors Chairman and District 5 Supervisor Richard Elías and allocate in a future capital improvement program budget \$6 million for the renovation, restoration and expansion of the Richard Elías-Mission Library and dedicate one percent of the construction cost to public art within the Library honoring Richard Elías.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/anc – October 8, 2020

**Attachments**

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
Amber Mathewson, Director, Pima County Library District  
Lisa Josker, Director, Facilities Management

# ATTACHMENT 1



**PIMA COUNTY**

**RAMÓN VALADEZ • DISTRICT 2**

130 W. Congress, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
520-724-8492  
dist2@pima.gov

October 7, 2020

The Honorable Regina Romero, Mayor  
City of Tucson  
255 W. Alameda  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Re: **Renaming of the Mission Library in Memory of Former Pima County Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard Elías**

*Regina*  
Dear Mayor Romero:

We were all devastated by the sudden loss of Chairman Richard Elías in March 2020. The Chairman leaves a legacy of community service and helping those less fortunate. Richard was a staunch supporter of the public library system and never missed an opportunity to read to the children of Pima County. He will be forever missed.

In his honor, the Board of Supervisors will rename the Mission Library, an important urban library in Supervisorial District 5, to the Richard Elías Mission Library. The County will invest nearly \$6 million in renovation and expansion of the Library.

The renaming ceremony will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room. You are cordially invited to attend this event in honor of the late Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Richard Elías.

Sincerely,

*Ramón*

Ramón Valadez, Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

# ATTACHMENT 2

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-\_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NAMING THE RICHARD ELIAS MISSION LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, Supervisor Richard Elías served admirably on the Pima County Board of Supervisors from 2002 until his death in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Richard Elías was a proud fifth-generation Tucsonan and true public servant who was a tireless champion for those less fortunate and was always a voice for those who weren't able to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Richard Elías was a long-time advocate for human rights, affordable housing and the Sonoran Desert; and

WHEREAS, Richard Elías understood the importance of education and the value of literacy and reading; and

WHEREAS, Richard Elías was an ardent supporter of the Pima County Public Library system; and

WHEREAS, Richard Elías was a familiar face to those graduating from Pima County Library's Career Online High School Program, offering opening remarks for the last time in January of this year; and

WHEREAS, Richard Elías' lifelong love of books and music began in a public library;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pima County Supervisors appropriately honors in perpetuity the legacy of Supervisor Richard Elías by renaming the Mission Library, located at 3770 S. Mission Rd., the Richard Elías Mission Library.

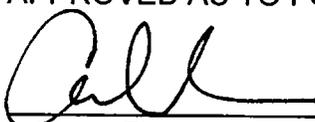
**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ramón Valadez  
Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Castañeda  
Clerk of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Flagg  
Deputy County Attorney