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.
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 Elias-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 Elias-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 Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
   Amber Mathewson, Director, Pima County Library District
   Lisa Josker, Director, Facilities Management
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

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 Valadez, Chairman
Pima County Board of Supervisors
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-_____

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Richard Elias 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 Elias' 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 Elias by renaming the Mission Library, located at 3770 S. Mission Rd., the Richard Elias Mission Library.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 20th day of October 2020.

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Ramón Valadez
Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

__________________________
Julie Castañeda
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Andrew Flagg
Deputy County Attorney