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City of Downey

Press Release

City Council thanks participants in park naming contest

City Council unanimously names new park “Discovery Sports Complex”

Downey, CA, June 25, 2007: The Downey City Council selects “Discovery” from the list of over 400 submissions received in the park naming contest. With a unanimous vote, the Downey City Council named the first new park in thirty years, “**Discovery Sports Complex.**” Although several other names had merit, the Council decided on a name that reinforces the learning aspects of the vast history and future of the site. “The park and adjacent Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center are places where the youth of our community can discover. Whether on the sports field or in the Challenger Learning Simulator, the goal is to educate and facilitate discovery in the youth of our community,” said Mayor Trejo.

With the inclusion of “Discovery,” the site now commemorates half the shuttle fleet, which were built on the site in the late 70s and early 80s. The “Challenger” shuttle program is memorialized in a living simulator, which is the cornerstone of the memorial to the “Columbia” program, the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center. “Naming the park Discovery once again reinforces the impact Downey has made in the space program,” Trejo adds.

Downey resident, Carmen M. Herrera, made the “Discovery” entry at the encouragement of her children. Mrs. Herrera attended Downey schools and graduated from Warren High. She received her teaching credential from Cal State Dominguez Hills and a counseling degree from the University of La Verne. Carmen currently teaches kindergarten and is a school counselor in the Montebello School District. She was encouraged to submit an entry after talking about names with her children. She submitted “Discovery” because she “wants kids to discover the world and discover their surroundings.” A second entry for “Discovery” was submitted, however, no contact information was provided along with the name.

For Immediate Release