

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-17-194 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa J. Peña

1 RESOLUTION

2 RENAMING THE WELLS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER THE “JOHNNY TAPIA
3 COMMUNITY CENTER AT WELLS PARK;” DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES TO PLACE THE SCULPTURE OF JOHNNY
5 TAPIA ENTITLED “BOXING VICTORY CELEBRATION,” CREATED BY STEVE
6 WEEMS, IN AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

7 WHEREAS, Johnny Tapia was raised in the Wells Park Neighborhood of
8 Albuquerque; and

9 WHEREAS, against odds, Johnny won the 1983 National Golden Gloves
10 light flyweight and the 1985 National Golden Gloves flyweight amateur
11 championships; and

12 WHEREAS, Johnny went on to become a professional boxer, winning fifty-
13 nine of his sixty-six fights and earning five titles: World Boxing Organization’s
14 Super Flyweight Champion, International Boxing Federation’s Super Flyweight
15 and Featherweight’s Champion, and World Boxing Association’s
16 Bantamweight Champion (twice); and

17 WHEREAS, Johnny would be the first to admit that he was not perfect: he
18 struggled throughout his life to overcome substance abuse addictions as well
19 as ADHD and bi-polar disorder; and

20 WHEREAS, when Johnny wrote his autobiography “Mi Vida Loca,” which
21 detailed his many struggles both professionally and personally, his intent was
22 to help those who were suffering from the same afflictions and to share his
23 personal testimony in the hopes that it would inspire others to seek the help
24 that they need; and

25 WHEREAS, Johnny was married to his loving wife Theresa with whom he
26 was raising three sons; and

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1 WHEREAS, Johnny opened Team Tapia Gym in March 2011 and worked
2 tirelessly to give back to his community; and

3 WHEREAS, anyone who met Johnny felt as though they had met a new
4 best friend; and

5 WHEREAS, Johnny tragically died on May 27, 2012 at the age of 45; and

6 WHEREAS, in June of 2017 Johnny will be inducted into the International
7 Boxing Hall of Fame, in a class that includes Evander Holyfield and Marco
8 Antonio Barrera; and

9 WHEREAS, Johnny will be enshrined along with the greatest boxers in
10 history, including Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Mike Tyson,
11 Rocky Marciano, Oscar de la Hoya, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Albuquerque’s
12 own Bobby Foster; and

13 WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to honor Johnny Tapia’s world class
14 achievements in the sport of boxing and pay tribute to a native son.

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
16 ALBUQUERQUE:

17 Section 1. That the Wells Park Community Center is hereby renamed the
18 “Johnny Tapia Community Center at Wells Park” to commemorate his many
19 contributions to the boxing world and the City of Albuquerque.

20 Section 2. That the Department of Family & Community Services is hereby
21 directed to place the statue of Johnny Tapia entitled “Boxing Victory
22 Celebration,” created by artist Steve Weems, in an appropriate location at the
23 community center.

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