

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 348

Approved June 10, 1999

CASB TRIP  
JUN 10 1999  
PROVIDENCE

RESOLVED, That the Board of Park Commissioners is requested to name the Park located at Grove and Bell Streets "Franciscan Park".

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUN 3 1999  
READ AND PASSED

*John J. Sabarel*

*Michael R. Clement*  
CLERK

**APPROVED**  
JUN 10 1999  
*Vincent A. Lima*  
MAYOR

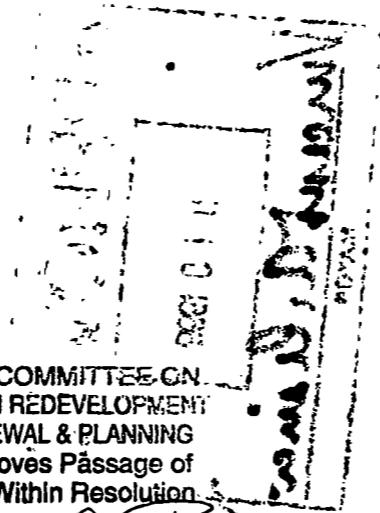
IN CITY COUNCIL  
DEC 17 1998  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING

*Michael R. Clement* CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
RENEWAL & PLANNING  
Approves Passage of  
The Within Resolution

*Balson A. Fairer*  
Clerk

5/26/99



*Councilman Lombardi, By Request*

535 Broadway  
Providence, R.I. 02909  
December 2, 1998

Councilman John Lombardi  
48 Grove Street  
Providence, R.I. 02909

Dear Councilman Lombardi: *John*

As you know, those of us who have lived in the neighborhood for many years would like the park, located at Grove and Bell Streets, to be named "Franciscan Park". It is the site where the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary served the poor and working-class members of the community for more than 50 years, from 1923-1977. The order, which established the first Montessori school in the country, operated St. Raphael's Industrial Home and School on the property. They also provided day care for the working-class women of the neighborhood and taught embroidery to young immigrant women.

I want to keep you posted on all the steps that the neighborhood has taken in its effort to have the park be named "Franciscan Park". To date, we have gathered more than 100 signatures of Federal Hill residents on a petition. Mr. Angelo Grande and I have written a letter to the Mayor with the neighborhood's request that the park be named "Franciscan Park". In addition, Sister Rosemarie Higgins has sent me a beautiful two-page history entitled "Our Lady of Charity - Bell St.". It outlines the charitable work performed by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at the site. I have enclosed a copy of all of these items.

If you foresee any problems in obtaining City Council approval, our neighbors and I can obtain many more signatures and letters of support.

Please submit the neighborhood's request, that the park be named "Franciscan Park", to the City Council for approval. Thank you.

At this time, I am also asking that, if possible, you let me know when you plan to present this request to the Council so that some of our neighbors and I may be present.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

*Filomena*

Filomena Lupo

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be officially named **Franciscan Park**.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
<i>Angelo M. Grande</i>	ANGELO M GRANDE	165 GROVE ST PROV
<i>Maria M. Costantino</i>	MARIA M. COSTANTINO	41 Army St. Prov
<i>Elia Viti</i>	ELIA VITI	41 Army St Prov
<i>Margaret Krupa</i>	MARGARET Krupa	39 Army St Prov
<i>Virginia Tremblay</i>	Virginia Tremblay	1 Valley St. Prov
<i>Alba Caruso</i>	ALBA CARUSO	315 Broadway Prov.
<i>Esther Cashman</i>	Esther Cashman	517 Broadway - Prov.
<i>Alexander Vitale</i>	ALEXANDER Vitale	555 BROADWAY - PROV.
<i>Barbara A. Badway</i>	Barbara A. Badway	549 Broadway, Prov.
<i>Karam M. Badway</i>	KARAM M. BADWAY	549 Broadway. Prov.

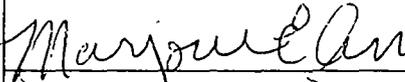
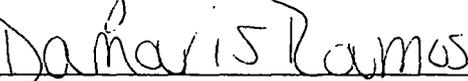
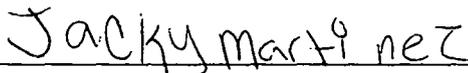
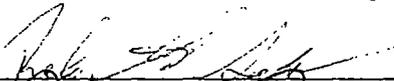
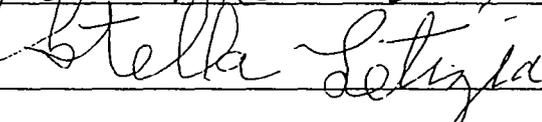
I swear and attest that I, \_\_\_\_\_, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named Franciscan Park.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
	Pedro Paiva	25 TOBY ST
	William Mercedes	"
	Marjorie Anderson	25 Tobey St
	Damaris Ramos	104 Ridge
	Jacky Martinez	104 Ridge
	Victoria Madrid	" "
	Victoria Martinez	" "
	Roberto Sosa	56 Yale Ave
	PAUL V. BASSO	25 TOBEY ST APT. 408
	STELLA LETIZIA	of 5 Tobey St

I swear and attest that I, \_\_\_\_\_, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: 10/28/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named **Franciscan Park**.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
<i>Orlando Whittren</i>	ORLANDA WHITTREN	25 Tobey St
<i>Marie Wheelock</i>	MARIE WHEELOCK	25 Tobey St
<i>Alfredo Heredia</i>	ALFREDO HEREDIA	25 TOBEY ST
<i>Norman Cabral</i>	NORMAN CABRAL 25 TOBEY ST	25 TOBEY ST
<i>Ruth P. Virgadamo</i>	Ruth P. VIRGADAMO	25 Tobey St
<i>Ronald Spikes</i>	Ronald Spikes	25 Tobey St
<i>Roberta Randall</i>	Roberta Randall	25 Tobey St
<i>Eduardo Lebron</i>	Eduardo Lebron	25 Tobey St
<i>Angel Vesta</i>	ANGEL VESTA	25 TOBEY ST
<i>Jorge Gomez</i>	JORGE GOMEZ	" " "

I swear and attest that I, *Richard Quinn*, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: 10/28/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named Franciscan Park.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Angelo Marzilli	ANGELO MARZILLI	25 TOBEY ST
Aurelio J. Cill	AURELIO J. CILL	25 TOBEY - ST.
Shila Belouch	Shila Belouch	25 TOBEY - ST.
Peter J. Burson Jr	Peter J. Burson Jr	25 TOBEY - ST
Karen Gillean	KAREN Gillean	25 Tobey St.
Demetris Terrell	DEMETRIAS TERRELL	25 TOBEY ST.
Demetris Terrell	DEMETRIAS TERRELL	25 TOBEY ST.
Michael Tabishsky	MICHAEL TABISHSKY	25 TOBEY ST.
Beverly Fama	BEVERLY FAMA	25 Tobey ST.
Peggy Wood	PEGGY WOOD	25 Tobey ST.

I swear and attest that I, Richard P. [Signature], have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: 10/28/88

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named Franciscan Park.

Signature	Printed Name	Address
<i>Amirica Figueroa</i>	AMIRICA FIGUEROA	25 Tobey St. Pro. R.I.
<i>Theresa Joseph</i>	Theresa Joseph	25 Tobey St. apt. 312
<i>L Hopkins</i>	L Hopkins	25 Tobey St. Apt 1005
<i>Pedro Figueroa</i>	PEDRO FIGUEROA	25 TOBEY ST. APT 806
<i>Tris Sanchez</i>	TRIS SANCHEZ	25 TOBEY ST. APT 702
<i>Ann Lavigne</i>	ANN LAVIGNE	" " 709
<i>Betty Ortiz</i>	Betty ORTIZ	25 "TOBEY" ST 1412
<i>Zenaida Mateo</i>	Zenaida Mateo	25 ... TOBEY ST
<i>WILFREDO VECA</i>	WILFREDO VECA	25 TOBEY ST
<i>Joseph Zoglio</i>	Joseph Zoglio	25 TOBEY ST

I swear and attest that I, Richard [Signature], have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: 10/28/88

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named Franciscan Park.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
<i>Richard Dupuis</i>	RICHARD DUPUIS	25 TOBEY ST. APT 513
<i>William Wignans</i>	WILLIAM WIGNANS	25 TOBEY ST APT 1823
<i>Joan Gardner</i>	JOAN GARDNER	25 Tobey St. # 313
<i>Adalgisa Mende</i>	Adalgisa Mende	25, Tobey St 310
<i>Belfa Berreondo</i>	BELFA BERREONDO	25 Tobey St 504
<i>Margaret Mazzanti</i>	MARGARET MAZZANTI	25 TOBEY ST 0409
<i>Amelia Cascella</i>	AMELIA CASCELLA	25 Tobey ST. APT. 910
<i>James M. Mulvaney</i>	JAMES M. MULVANEY	25 TOBEY ST APT 1408
<i>John Desautel</i>	JOHN DESAUTEL	25 TOBEY ST. APT 906
<i>Ray Terrell</i>	RAY TERRELL	25 TOBEY ST APT 1106

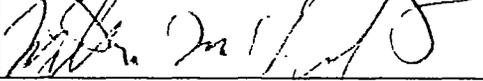
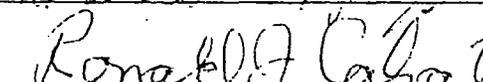
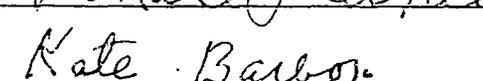
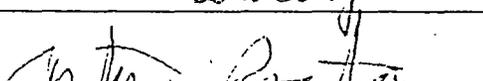
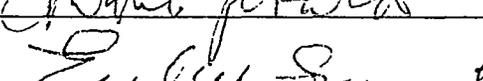
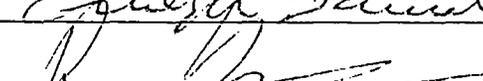
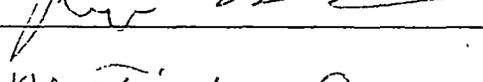
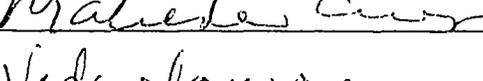
I swear and attest that I, \_\_\_\_\_, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named **Franciscan Park**.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
	Lydia Brasley	25 Tobey St. Prov
	Bill M'Donogh	25 Tobey St. Prov.
	L. M. P. P. P.	25 Tobey St. Prov.
	Ronald Cahrol	25 Tobey St. Prov.
	Kate Barboza	25 Tobey St. Prov.
	Antonio Caputo	25 Tobey St. Prov.
	Evelyn Gerwen	25 Tobey Street
	Rex Marsh	SAME PL
	Franchina	25 Tobey St
	Vada Savarone	102 Inwoodwood Ave

I swear and attest that I, , have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: 10/26/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named **Franciscan Park**.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Harriet Barrows	HARRIET BARROWS	25 Tobey ST
Hilda Marriani	HILDA MARRIANI	25 Tobey ST
America Dadomo	AMERICA DADOMO	25 Tobey ST
Ellen Dwyer	ELLEN DWYER	25 Tobey St
Frank Grella	FRANK GRELLA	25 TOBEY ST
Colleen Spooner	COLLEEN SPOONER	25 TOBEY ST
Richard Clegg	RICHARD CLEGG	25 Tobey St.
Agnes Tabiritsky		25 Tobey st.
Alice Wilde	ALICE WILDE	25 Tobey st.
Anthony Ricci Jr.	ANTHONY RICCI JR.	25 Tobey Street #104

I swear and attest that I, Richard Clegg, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: 10/26/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named Franciscan Park.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
<i>James P. Grande sr</i>	JAMES P GRANDE sr	167 Grove st
<i>Maria L. Minchew</i>	MARIA L. Minchew	165 GROVE ST
<i>Jesse J. Bryant</i>	JESSE J. BRYANT	167 GROVE ST
<i>Robert J. DeRiso</i>	ROBERT J. DeRiso	5 ENGLEWOOD C+ WARREN
<i>Kathleen DeRiso</i>	KATHLEEN DERISO	5 ENGLEWOOD ET. WARREN
<i>ASSUNTA MAGNELLI</i>	Assunta Magnelli	25 Tobey St.
<i>Rosemarie Magnelli</i>	Rosemarie Magnelli	25 Tobey Street
<i>Bristina Jones</i>	Bristina Jones	136 Tell St
<i>Stella Letizia</i>	STELLA LETIZIA	25 Tobey St
<i>Yvonne Pace</i>	YVONNE PACE	25 Tobey St

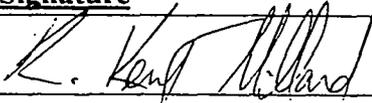
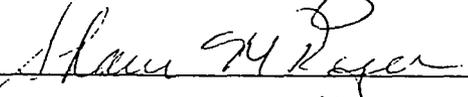
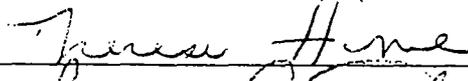
I swear and attest that I, *Richard Pappas*, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: *10/26/99*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named **Franciscan Park**.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
	R. KENT MILLARD	202 BROADWAY
	TINA REGAN	62 Baunbridge Av.
	GENE REGAN	62 Baunbridge Av.
	Shawn Regan	60 Baunbridge Ave
	Theresa Howe	272 Broadway
	Steven N. Costantino	120 Courtland St.

I swear and attest that I, \_\_\_\_\_, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

**We, the residents of Federal Hill in the City of Providence, hereby request that the park, located at Bell and Grove Streets, be named Franciscan Park.**

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mary Vitale	MARY VITALE	555 Broadway - Prov.
Donna Vitale	DONNA VITALE	557 BROADWAY PROV
Filomena P. Lupo	Filomena P. Lupo	535 Broadway

I swear and attest that I, \_\_\_\_\_, have witnessed these signatures.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My term expires on \_\_\_\_\_

Providence, R.I. 02909  
December 1, 1998

Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
Mayor  
City of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, R.I. 02903

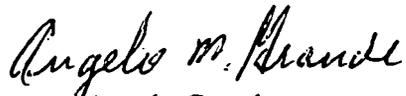
Dear Mayor Cianci:

Our neighbors and we want to thank you for creating a park at Grove and Bell Streets on the site where the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary served the poor and working-class members of the community for more than 50 years, from 1923 until 1977. The order, which established the first Montessori school in the country, operated St. Raphael's Industrial Home and School on the property. They also provided day care for the working-class women of the neighborhood and taught embroidery to young immigrant women. We have enclosed a beautiful two-page history prepared by one of the Sisters, entitled "Our Lady of Charity - Bell St."

This land has many fond memories for those of us who have lived in the neighborhood for many years. There are more than one hundred of us who would like the park to be named "Franciscan Park" to keep the warm memories of the area alive.

Please name the park "Franciscan Park". Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Angelo Grande  
165 Grove Street

  
Filomena Lupo  
535 Broadway

cc: ✓ Councilman John Lombardi  
Representative Steven Costantino  
Senator Frank Caprio

## **Our Lady of Charity- Bell St..**

When they had established the convent of Our Lady of Charity on 148 Penn St. in Providence, RI in 1909, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary began visiting homes in the Federal Hill area. They perceived that there was a need for catechetical instructions for the youth of the area. The then Bishop of Providence, Matthew Harkins, invited the sisters to help his people by visiting the sick, teaching religion and by establishing an industrial (vocational) school for girls.

Before their chapel was blessed, the sisters had attended mass at Holy Ghost Church where Fr. Dominico Belliotti was the pastor. He encouraged his parishioners to look to the sisters as counselors, friends, and mothers and to send their children for catechism and sewing, etc. From the first, the classes only, were put under the patronage of St. Raphael in honor of the Rev. Fr. Raphael D'Aurellac, OFM , (spiritual director of Mother Mary of the Passion, foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary).

Two hundred persons received catechetical instructions and participated in the parish's 40 Hours Adoration. Meanwhile sisters visited the sick at RI Hospital and taught simple lessons to adults on hygiene.

On May 25, 1912 the Sisters moved to 485 Broadway. The Spanish Flu epidemic ravaged many families in 1918 and the sisters helped where needed in the hospital. At this time, they realized the need for day care for pre-schoolers left alone by their working mothers. The Sisters transformed their garage into a room and accepted children from 7:30AM-5:00PM. This was the beginning of St. Raphael's Day Nursery. It was under the direction of Sr. Isabella, a young Italian nun, who had studied under Dr. Maria Montessori. This Montessori school was the first established in the United States.

In 1923 the former Eddy estate at 4 Bell St. which consisted of twenty-seven rooms, a barn a garage and four acres of land was acquired to accommodate the great amount of children that was attending the school on Broadway. The children were admitted as young as two years and continued to attend until they were old enough for school. On January 11, 1924, Bishop W. A. Hickey had the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel at the new house.

An abundance of trees and grass made it possible to establish a summer day camp for the children of the city.

A daily Bread Line formed at the convent doorstep and increased tremendously during the Depression. The food needed to be distributed twice daily to an average of 80-100 unemployed people was obtained by the sisters who went door to door begging.

In 1930 the Franciscan Missionary Circle was formed and ladies met each week at the convent to make vestments and altar linens for the missions. Three other groups also met at the convent, the Franciscan Missionary of Mary Juniorate, the Franciscan Third Order and the League of Adoration.

Because of the increase of enrollment at the nursery it was decided to utilize the lower floors of the convent. This made it possible to teach 150 children with ease. The sisters not only taught at the Montessori school but also taught religion classes at Holy Ghost, St. Bartholomew's, St. Rocco's, Our Lady of Loretto's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Holy Cross Mission churches. As years passed the parishes developed other religious communities were brought in to help which alleviated the sisters for their work at Bell Street.

Thousands of children benefited from the Montessori Method of training taught at St. Raphael's. Parents helped improve the facility by adding playground equipment for the children.

Because of the lack of personnel, the deterioration of the surrounding area, and the danger of vandalism the decision was made to close the Day Care facility. St. Raphael's closed on August 4, 1972 after years of service to children and their parents.

The huge house with few sisters in residence became an attractive target to vandalism and burning. With sadness the convent of Our Lady of Charity was vacated by the sisters on August 12, 1977.

Revised

October 1, 1998

City of Providence



Rhode Island

Department of City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 1999

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

SUBJECT: **NAME THE PARK LOCATED AT GROVE AND BELL STREETS "FRANCISCAN PARK".**

CONSIDERED BY: Councilwoman Balbina A. Young, First Named Member

DISPOSITION: The accompanying resolution is referred to you for study, report and recommendation and report back in writing to the above-named committee as soon as practical.

*Barbara A. Garcia*  
Deputy City Clerk