



Historic Preservation Nomination Removed; McKay Avenue Wellness Center Moves Forward



City of Alameda



City of Alameda via www.ianewatts.org

The current altered condition of Building 2 where the three wings (2E, 2F, 2G) on the south elevation were demolished.

An original image of the US Maritime Service Officers School with buildings on both sides of McKay Avenue. The majority of buildings to the right have been demolished.

Ekene Ikeme

The McKay Avenue Wellness Center will move forward after the California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) declined to include the property that would house the facility on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

At the Aug. 5 OHP meeting, State Historic Preservation Officer Julianne Polanco decided to remove the United States Maritime Service Officers' School NRHP inclusion nomination from the agenda altogether. "I determine that the nomination is adequately documented, however, the property does not appear to meet the national register criteria for evaluation," said Polanco during her report before hearing the agenda items.

Polanco acknowledged the historic importance of the district and its role in World War II.

"The fact that this training center was specifically designed for already enlisted sailors to ready them for war and the brave service for which they gave to our country is without question," she said. "These men who faithfully discharged their duties are deserving of commemoration."

However, Polanco determined the site itself did not meet the standard to be included on the list.

"As this nomination is for a district and not individual buildings, the remaining integrity on an accumulative basis is important," said Polanco. "I do not believe there remains sufficient integrity for the proposed historic district to convey the significance for which it is being nominated."

Polanco said she made her decision after conducting a thorough review of the nomination, reading numerous public comments and documentation and visiting the site at 1251 McKay Ave.

The district's inclusion on the NRHP list would have halted the city's plan to build a wellness center at the site ("Historic Preservation Application Might Jeopardize Wellness Facility," June 21). At the June 13 Planning Board meeting, City of Alameda Planning, Building and Transportation Director Andrew Thomas said the site's placement on this list would "raise questions about the economic feasibility of the [wellness] project."

The McKay site was put on the nomination agenda by Alameda

resident Carmen Reid. In Reid's draft application, dated March 31, she states the site deserves inclusion in the NRHP under Criteria A for its "association with Maritime, Military, and Education history as a training center for Merchant Marine officers established during the Second World War and continuing through the Korean War." She also says it meets Criteria C "as an example of Second Bay Tradition architecture as executed by architect Fred J. Early and Joseph Escherick. The period of significance is 1943-1953, and the property is nominated at the local level of significance."

Reid's filing placed the nomination on the OHP Aug. 5 meeting agenda. As a result, the City of Alameda and Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft submitted rebuttals. The city's report, released last month, said the nomination should not move forward because the district lost its initial integrity for several reasons including the fact that 18 of the 27 original buildings and

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"...the property does not appear to meet the national register criteria for evaluation."

— Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer



Richard Bangert

Crane operator lowers preassembled top section of Beken sculpture in Seaplane Lagoon Park at Alameda Point on Monday, August 8. Lagoon is in the background.

A Beacon of Art Rises at Seaplane Lagoon Park

Richard Bangert

A nearly 40-foot-tall steel sculpture has been erected at the Seaplane Lagoon Park at Alameda Point. The highly visible landmark will serve to orient park-goers, as well as visitors and residents embarking and returning by ferry. Artist DeWitt Godfrey was on hand the past several days to supervise and assist in making his sculpture come to life. On Monday, August 8, the top section was lowered into place by a crane. Finishing touches, such as grinding down rough edges, was still in process on Tuesday, August 9.

Godfrey's art proposal was selected by Site A developer Alameda Point Partners in March 2020 after reviewing numerous applications. Installation of public art is one of the requirements of the development agreement with the city for the 68-acre residential and commercial project. The project was approved by the Public

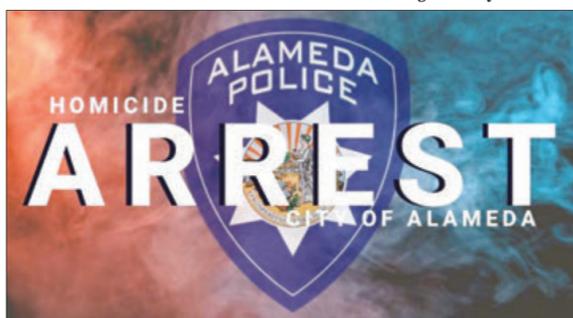
Art Commission in July 2020 after the artist modified the height of the bottom sections to make them taller and more difficult to climb.

The name of the sculpture is Beken. "It's old English for beacon," said Godfrey. "The site seemed to want something like a lighthouse, or an air pylon, or an air tower."

The structure is composed of about 120 separate elements that range in size from 10 inches in diameter to almost 10 feet in diameter. "The whole thing weighs about 15,000 pounds," said Godfrey. "It was all fabricated at our studio in upstate New York, assembled, and then broken down into pieces that would fit on two flatbed trailers that left New York a little over 10 days ago."

The whole structure is designed on the computer. The software then "unrolls" these

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Arrest Made in Homicide Investigation

Nandini Sharma

On Thursday, August 4, Alameda Police Department (APD) announced on their Facebook page that an arrest had been made in the homicide of an Alameda woman.

Donovann Sanders, 19, of Tracy, was arraigned in an Alameda County courtroom Monday, Aug. 8, for allegedly killing Alameda resident Kalilah Winford, 19. According to a police report, APD officers responded to an assault with a deadly weapon report on the 1800 block of Everett Street at 8:51 p.m. on July 31. Upon arrival at the

apartment complex, officers found Winford suffering from a gunshot wound and they rendered medical aid. Winford was transported to a local hospital where she later succumbed to her injuries two days later.

According to court documents, which were first reported on KTVU, Sanders shot Winford in the head from outside her bedroom window. APD officers were able to view surveillance footage of the apartment complex. APD officer Alyssa Schlitt wrote in the probable cause statement that in the video Sanders is

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Thirty-Year Cold Case Homicide of Alameda Resident Closed

Sun Staff Reports

A 30-year cold case murder of an Alameda woman was closed by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office (SMSO) on August 2 after the suspect's whereabouts were discovered.

According to an SMSO press release, fingerprint analysis confirmed the identity and location of Gregory Marc Rivera, the lone suspect in the murder of Alameda resident Juliette Rivera, 25, who was killed in 1992—Juliette and Gregory were acquaintances and not related.

On July 7, 1992, Juliette was reported missing in Alameda. Alameda Police Department (APD) investigators questioned Gregory, who was also an Alameda resident at the time. APD investigators believed Gregory was a suspect after he provided them with inconsistent information during ques-

tioning, according to the press release.

On July 17, 1992, a farm worker in an unincorporated area of the San Mateo County South Coast area found a decomposing body of a woman near an irrigation pond. The body was identified as Juliette and an autopsy showed she died of blunt force trauma. The SMSO issued an arrest warrant for Gregory on August 7, 1992. However, Gregory had already left his Alameda residence. Gregory evaded law enforcement for almost 30 years.

On May 12, Merced County Coroner's Office (MCCO) notified they were in possession of the deceased body of Gregory. According to the MCCO, Gregory died on January 29. When MCCO discovered the deceased body all they knew was that the man was a transient. To locate his next of kin,

they conducted a fingerprint analysis. The MCCO learned the body was Gregory and that he had a still active arrest warrant for Juliette's murder out of San Mateo.

After contacting SMSO, the two agencies worked to confirm the body was Gregory. They learned that Gregory used aliases: Abraham Rivera and John Paul Rivera, the name of his brother. SMSO spoke with John Paul's daughter who told them her father was still alive. She also told them the brothers would use each other's identity to elude law enforcement.

"The closure of this 30-year-old cold case homicide could not have been possible with the assistance of the Alameda Police Department, Merced County Sheriff's Office and Coroner Bureau, and the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office," stated the SMSO press release.

Alameda Police and Fire Personnel Joins Community for National Event

Sun Staff Reports



City of Alameda

Alameda Police Chief Nishant Joshi, center, listens to a resident during National Night Out festivities.

Alameda police and fire department personnel traveled to different Alameda neighborhoods to interact with Alameda residents during National Night Out festivities on Tuesday, August 2. Officers spent the evening chatting with residents, handing out goodies, and answering questions.

"Thank you to all of the neighborhoods that hosted events," wrote APD on its Facebook page. "It was wonderful to see our community come together for an evening filled with fun and camaraderie."

National Night Out is a nationwide event that connects the police and community to combat crime, drug, and violence within the city while promoting safety and neighborhood unity. The annual National Night Out brings out community members across the nation.

The National Night Out takes place every year on the first Tuesday of August. Festivities usually include block parties, BBQ, musical performances, and street festivals.

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