




Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Jim Gray  
Mayor

Sally Hamilton  
Commissioner, General Services

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jim Gray  
Urban County Council Members

From: Jerry Hancock, Director Parks and Recreation 

Subj: Naming Valley Park building after Jesse Higginbotham

Date: July 30, 2012

This Memorandum recommends the Urban County Council approve a resolution naming the Valley Park neighborhood building the Jesse Higginbotham Community Center.

CM Peggy Henson and the Cardinal Valley Neighborhood Association recommended this change to the Parks Advisory Board in February of 2012. The Division of Parks and Recreation reviewed the request, and recommended approval to the Parks Advisory Board, which reviewed and approved it on two occasions, according to the Council approved Naming Rights Policy.

Mr. Higginbotham was a very active participant and contributor to his community for a number of years, before his untimely death in April 2007. Jesse took part in various Parks and Recreation programs at Valley Park, including t-ball, football, basketball and baseball. Jesse ran the concessions stand and helped deliver the Cardinal Valley Neighborhood Association newsletter and openly shared his well-known computer expertise with his neighbors. He was president of the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Student Council, member of various school activities, and winner of science prizes, and academic excellence awards.

At 17 Jesse was involved in a fatal auto accident that left his friends and parents devastated but determined to continue his generous ways. The creation of the Jesse Higginbotham Technology Trust, aspires to promote work in keeping with Jesse's spirit of giving. One of the Trusts' primary endeavors is the "Mindtriggerz Project" in which donated computers are refurbished and provided to children who could not otherwise afford them. The Project is one of the primary activities held at the Cardinal Valley park shelter where a training lab is open every Saturday from October to May. Children are referred from Cardinal Valley Elementary School, Community Action Council and others. After completing four, one-hour sessions these children are given a 'new computer'. To date over 75 'Mindtriggerz' computers have been delivered. Parks and Recreation and the Valley Park community recommend Council approval to rename the Valley Park Community building as the Jesse Higginbotham Community Center.

Please feel free to call me with any questions on this issue.