SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Lena Gonzalez, Chair 2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No: SCR 26 Hearing Date: 4/27/2021

Author: Gonzalez

Version: 4/19/21 Amended

Urgency: No Fiscal: Yes

Consultant: Katie Bonin

SUBJECT: Detective Raul Vasquez Gama Memorial Highway

DIGEST: This resolution designates a portion of Interstate 710 in the County of Los Angeles as the Detective Raul Vasquez Gama Memorial Highway.

ANALYSIS:

The committee has adopted a policy regarding the naming of state highways or structures. Under the policy, the committee will consider only those resolutions that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) The person being honored must have provided extraordinary public service or some exemplary contribution to the public good and have a connection to the community where the highway or structure is located.
- 2) The person being honored must be deceased.
- 3) The naming must be done without cost to the state. Costs for signs and plaques must be paid by local or private sources.
- 4) The author or co-author of the resolution must represent the district in which the facility is located, and the resolution must identify the specific highway segment or structure being named.
- 5) The segment of highway being named must not exceed five miles in length.
- 6) The proposed designation must reflect a community consensus and be without local opposition.

7) The proposed designation may not supersede an existing designation unless the sponsor can document that a good faith effort has uncovered no opposition to rescinding the prior designation.

This resolution designates the portion of Interstate 710 from post mile 19.730 to post mile 24.466 in the County of Los Angeles as the Detective Raul Vasquez Gama Memorial Highway. The Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signage showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, erect those signs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) *Purpose*. The purpose of this resolution is to memorialize the life and service of Detective Raul Vasquez Gama.
- 2) *Background*. Detective Raul Vasquez Gama began his career as a deputy with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in 1987 and served for more than 20 years. While serving he became the team leader for the City of Cudahy in which he introduced the "Meet a Deputy" program, a model of community policing now utilized by all Los Angeles County Sheriff stations to improve community relations.

Detective Gama was awarded a Medal of Valor in 2004 for rescuing four children and their parents after a runaway Union Pacific freight train crashed into the family's home. He further received more than 52 commendations in his career with the Sheriff's Department.

Detective Gama is survived by his wife Sandra, four children Monica, Crystal, Anita, and Marco Antonio, mother Ruth V. Gama, sister Hilda (Lance) Severson, and nieces Natalie Stone and Emily Severson.

3) *Consistent with committee policy*. This resolution is consistent with the provisions of the committee's policy on highway designation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April 21.)

SUPPORT:

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

OPPOSITION:

None received.

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