

WALK ON #1

BCC

Lee County Board Of County Commissioners  
Agenda Item Summary

Blue Sheet No. 20060066

1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE:

Consider renaming the "Lee County Transportation Center" in downtown Fort Myers to the "Rosa Parks Transportation Center" in honor of Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks; and send a letter requesting the name change to Florida Department of Transportation's Transit Programs Administrator. The name change has the support of the District 1 FDOT Office.

2. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: Renames the Intermodal Transportation Facility. The City of Fort Myers donated the land and the county built the facility in 2000, primarily with funds from the Florida Department of Transportation.

3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

4. Departmental Category:

WO #1

5. Meeting Date:

01-24-2006

6. Agenda:

- Consent
- Administrative
- Appeals
- Public
- Walk-On

7. Requirement/Purpose: (specify)

- Statute
- Ordinance
- Admin. Code
- Other

8. Request Initiated:

Commissioner St. Cerny, District #2  
 Department \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Background: In November, the City of Fort Myers contacted Lee County suggesting that the Lee County Transportation Center at Hendry and Peck streets in downtown Fort Myers be renamed the "Rosa Parks Transportation Center" in honor of Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks (attached biography) who died October 24, 2005. The City is expected to pass a resolution (attached) Monday, January 23 requesting the name change and a February 4 ceremony to unveil the new name on Rosa Parks' birthday. The City and County also will formally request the change from the Florida Department of Transportation, which funded most of the construction cost of the facility.

10. Review for Scheduling:

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Budget Services			County Manager/P.W. Director
					Analyst	Risk	Grants	
Jesse Myers #8				Andrea Lake	1/19/06	1/19/06	1/19/06	WS 1/19/06

11. Commission Action:

- Approved
- Deferred
- Denied
- Other

Rec. by CoAtty  
 Date: 1/19/06  
 Time: 4:35pm  
 Forwarded To: Budget  
 1/19/06 4:35pm

**DeSalvo, Richard A.**

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**From:** Schwartz, Holly A.  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2006 9:23 AM  
**To:** DeSalvo, Richard A.  
**Cc:** Bates, Antionette L.; Winton, Peter ; Myers, Steve L.  
**Subject:** reason for Rosa Parks walk-on

Dick,

The reason for the walk-on for the naming of the Rosa Parks Transportation Center is that it was requested by Commissioner St. Cerny and the City of Fort Myers to be presented in time for her birthday in early February.

Holly Schwartz  
Assistant County Manager  
Lee County Administration  
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**RESOLUTION NO.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY TO RENAME THE LEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION CENTER TO THE ROSA PARKS TRANSPORTATION CENTER, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS:** It was December 1, 1955, when an unknown seamstress, Rosa Parks, at the age of forty-two (42), made a very brave move by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, and

**WHEREAS:** This brave woman was arrested and fined for violating a Montgomery, Alabama, ordinance; and

**WHEREAS:** Her act of defiance began a movement that made her an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere; and

**WHEREAS:** One of those she inspired was a young preacher who in 1954 had finished his dissertation at Boston University and through a family friend learned of a vacant position as a pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS:** The young pastor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., after the arrest of Mrs. Parks, formed the Montgomery Improvement Association who called for a boycott of the city-owned bus company which lasted 382 days and brought Mrs. Parks, Dr. King and their cause to the attention of the world; and

**WHEREAS:** The Supreme Court struck down the Montgomery ordinance under which Mrs. Parks had been fined and most importantly outlawed racial segregation on public transportation; and

**WHEREAS:** Mrs. Parks was a great and brave lady that led the

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**THE CITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA,** that:

1. The City Council, by unanimous vote, request the Lee County Commissioners name the Lee County Transportation Center located on City-owned property at the southeast corner of Hendry Street and Peck Street in downtown Fort Myers be renamed in memory of Rosa Parks.

2. The City Council believes it most fitting that the place where the Greyhound Bus Service and the Lee County Transit System have their base of operation be named **“THE ROSA PARKS TRANSPORTATION CENTER”**.

3. The City Council requests the ceremony be held on Saturday, February 4, 2006, at Lee County Transportation Center.

4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

ACADEMY OF  ACHIEVEMENT  
 ★ ★ ★ ESTABLISHED 1961 — A MUSEUM OF LIVING HISTORY — WASHINGTON D.C. ★ ★ ★



PIONEER OF  
CIVIL RIGHTS

"THE only thing that bothered me was that we waited so long to make this protest."

- Inducted: 1995 -

**Biography: Rosa Parks  
Pioneer of Civil Rights**

Rosa Parks Date of birth: February 4, 1913

Rosa Parks Date of death: October 24, 2005

[Back to Rosa Parks Biography](#)

Most historians date the beginning of the modern civil rights movement in the United States to December 1, 1955. That was the day when an unknown seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. This brave woman, Rosa Parks, was arrested and fined for violating a city ordinance, but her lonely act of defiance began a movement that ended legal segregation in America, and made her an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere.

Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama to James McCauley, a carpenter, and Leona McCauley, a teacher. At the age of two she moved to her grandparents' farm in Pine Level, Alabama with her mother and younger brother, Sylvester. At the age of 11 she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls, a private school founded by liberal-minded women from the northern United States. The school's philosophy of self-worth was consistent with Leona McCauley's advice to "take advantage of the opportunities, no matter how few they were."



Opportunities were few indeed. "Back then," Mrs. Parks recalled in an interview, "we didn't have any civil rights. It was just a matter of survival, of existing from one day to the next. I remember going to sleep as a girl hearing the

Klan ride at night and hearing a lynching and being afraid the house would burn down." In the same interview, she cited her lifelong acquaintance with fear as the reason for her relative fearlessness in deciding to appeal her conviction during the bus boycott. "I didn't have any special fear," she said. "It was more of a relief to know that I wasn't alone."

After attending Alabama State Teachers College, the young Rosa settled in Montgomery, with her husband, Raymond Parks. The couple joined the local chapter of the NAACP and worked quietly for many years to improve the lot of African-Americans in the segregated south.

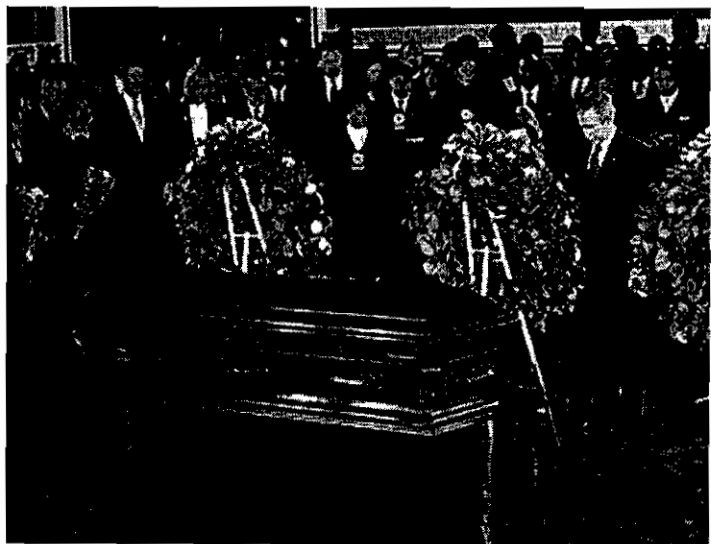
"I worked on numerous cases with the NAACP," Mrs. Parks recalled, "but we did not get the publicity. There were cases of flogging, peonage, murder, and rape. We didn't seem to have too many successes. It was more a matter of trying to challenge the powers that be, and to let it be known that we did not wish to continue being second-class citizens."



The bus incident led to the formation of the Montgomery Improvement Association, led by the young pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The association called for a boycott of the city-owned bus company. The boycott lasted 382 days and brought Mrs. Parks, Dr. King, and their cause to the attention of the world. A Supreme Court Decision struck down the Montgomery ordinance under which Mrs. Parks had been fined, and outlawed racial segregation on public transportation.

In 1957, Mrs. Parks and her husband moved to Detroit, Michigan where Mrs. Parks served on the staff of U.S. Representative John Conyers. The Southern Christian Leadership Council established an annual Rosa Parks Freedom Award in her honor.

After the death of her husband in 1977, Mrs. Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. The Institute sponsors an annual summer program for teenagers called Pathways to Freedom. The young people tour the country in buses, under adult supervision, learning the history of their country and of the civil rights movement. President Clinton presented Rosa Parks with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. She received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.



When asked if she was happy living in retirement, Rosa Parks replied, "I do the very best I can to look upon life with optimism and hope and looking forward to a better day, but I don't think there is any such thing as complete happiness. It pains me that there is still a lot of Klan activity and racism. I think when you say

you're happy, you have everything that you need and everything that you want, and nothing more to wish for. I haven't reached that stage yet."

Mrs. Parks spent her last years living quietly in Detroit, where she died in 2005 at the age of 92. After her death, her casket was placed in the rotunda of the United States Capitol for two days, so the nation could pay its respects to the woman whose courage had changed the lives of so many. She was the first woman in American history to lie in state at the Capitol, an honor usually reserved for Presidents of the United States.

*This page last revised on Nov 02, 2005 13:18 PST*