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CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

REPORT

July 7, 2004

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Members of the Common Council

Re: **Christopher Columbus Memorial**

The Common Council Committee appointed to review a Christopher Columbus Memorial met on June 23, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the Third Floor Caucus Room in City Hall. In attendance were committee members Nolan, Saracino and Esposito. Also in attendance were Michael McLachlan, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, Tony Iapuluccio, Evo Butera, Frank Serra, Louis DePaul, Tony Sacco and Tony Verella from the Vespucci Lodge.

Mr. Serra stated that almost every city in the Country has a memorial to Christopher Columbus. They would like to know what is available for them to look at. Mr. McLachlan said that renaming streets is a recent occurrence. Even schools are not after people. The Mayor has set up a committee to look at the naming of bridges. Mr. McLachlan stating that renaming West Kenosia Avenue to Christopher Columbus Avenue may be the way to go since there are only three businesses on that street, two of which are going to relocate. He pointed out that entire parks have not been named for individuals, but small pocket parks have. Mr. DePaul asked if it would be a big task to rename Kenosia Park. Mr. McLachlan said it is not a big task, but it has never been done before.

Mr. Esposito said Kenosia Park would be an ideal location. As you drive into Kenosia Park there is a small circle now decorated with flowers. A monument or stone with a flag could be placed there and it could be called Christopher Columbus Circle. Mr. DePaul said he spoke with Hugo Greco and he suggested a monument about three and a half feet tall with a picture of Columbus. How would make a medal and they would work on the inscription together.

Mr. Serra said he would like to rename Kenosia Park to be changed to Christopher Columbus Park. Mr. Nolan would like it to be some place where there could be a monument. He sees no problem with renaming the park, but a title search would have to be done to insure there are no restrictions on this and perhaps a public hearing would also be necessary. Ms. Saracino said the only reference she could find regarding the name of Kenosia Park was that the name first appeared around the turn of the

century. She could not find any reason for the name. Mr. Esposito said the best bet would be to name something that does not already have a name. Mr. Nolan said the ideal situation would be to wrap this up by October so there can be a dedication on Columbus Day.

Mr. McLachlan suggested renaming West Kenosia Avenue to Christopher Columbus Avenue and also erecting a monument at the entrance to Kenosia Park. Ms. Saracino asked who would maintain the memorial? Mr. Esposito suggested that the City maintain it.

Ms. Saracino made a motion to recommend that West Kenosia Avenue be renamed Christopher Columbus Avenue and designate the circle at the front of Kenosia Park as Christopher Columbus Circle. The Vespucci Lodge will design the Circle and raise the funds for it. A dedication will be held on Columbus Day. Seconded by Mr. Esposito. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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VINCENT NOLAN, Chairman

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MARY SARACINO

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JOHN ESPOSITO