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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
CITY OF CULVER CITY

The Honorable Micheal O'Leary, Mayor of Culver City
And Members of the Culver City Council
City of Culver City – City Hall
9770 Culver Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Dear Mayor O'Leary and Members of the City Council,

I have lived in Culver City for the past 30 years and it is an honor to say that Rick Hudson was my closest friend. One of the very first people I met when I moved here was Rick. What struck me about him, other than his easy going manner and his infectious laugh, was his passion for his family, baseball, and for any child who resides in Culver City to be able to participate in our "great American past time". He was always involved in youth sports for both boys and girls, even when his own children became adults. If you ask his wife Terri, Rick's second home was Bill Botts Field. Rick, until his untimely death in 2014, continued to give his time to the children of this city and it is only fitting that he have a field named after him at the Culver City Little League fields to honor him for the volunteer work he so loved doing.

We met of course playing ball, and he and I played on both baseball and softball teams together. It was at this time that he and his wife Terri became involved with the Culver City National Little League ("CCNLL") as volunteers. Not only did Rick coach all three of his children, he probably coached many of your children or grandchildren at one time or another. As our friendship grew, he encouraged me to become involved with the CCNLL. Nothing could bring a smile to Rick's face like a five year old hitting the ball for the first time and running to first base or making that first catch in the field. He loved the game as he loved the kids who played it.

I began my time with CCNLL by first coaching with Rick on his oldest daughter's softball team. While most of the volunteers only worked in one area, Rick juggled many different hats for many years. He was a coach, manager, groundskeeper, snack bar volunteer, umpire, board member, fund raiser, president; you name it and he did it for the little league. He was honest, sincere, and committed to all children being able to participate and have fun either playing baseball or softball.

As his children grew older, he continued to coach kids by being involved with the high school football and girls' softball teams. Rick not only inspired so many of our kids to dream and to get involved in sports as they grew up, but he also inspired those kids to do well in school first and he inspired so many volunteers over the years to join him in making Culver City a better

place to live. His many years on the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission also demonstrated his continued passion for this purpose.

The number of people that Rick touched was evident at his memorial service, which was held at Field #2 at Bill Botts Field. Among his friends and family there were several hundred people there to honor Rick for everything he did for them as children or for their children either through the little league or through the high school. Rick left his heart and soul on the fields of Culver City and his memory should be a lasting inspiration to other coaches, players, and volunteers of youth sports in Culver City for years to come. One of our news organizations called that day "one of the most remarkable memorial services in the modern history of Culver City".

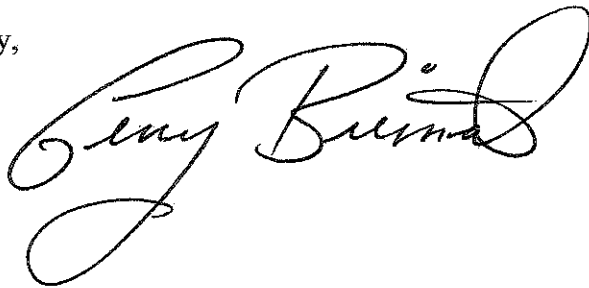
Rick set the bar so high as a youth sports volunteer and he was loved by many. We will probably never see a man of his stature again in this lifetime. When Rick was made, God broke the mold. Rick Hudson most definitely meets the criteria for such a small honor as a field to be named after him to recognize him for all of the selfless years he gave to the children of our city.

In closing, I hope that you will do the right thing in naming a Culver City ball field after Rick Hudson. Culver City and its children meant so much to him. Although Rick is not with us physically, his field at that ball park up on that hill will be for all to see, to remember, and to inspire others.

It really is a field of dreams up there, and Rick was and will always be a part of those dreams for many generations to come.

Thank you all for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary Burnett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".