



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS REPORT**

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: KIM CARR, MAYOR AND BARBARA DELGLEIZE, MAYOR PRO TEM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

**SUBJECT: DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC MEMORIAL HONORING RICK “ROCKIN’ FIG” FIGNETTI**

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The unexpected loss of Rick “Rockin’ Fig” Fignetti on July 16, 2021 has left an indelible mark on Huntington Beach, and particularly among our surfing community. Rockin’ Fig was deeply involved in the art, culture, and sport of surfing, from providing the daily surf report on KROQ in the 1980’s to live commentary during the U.S. Open of Surfing. His involvement has helped cement Huntington Beach’s reputation as Surf City USA, and Rockin’ Fig Surf Headquarters in Downtown provided a home base for surfers who returned to our waves, time and time again.

Rockin’ Fig’s love of the ocean was infectious, and the outpouring of community support following his death is a testament to his influence, his character and outsized contributions to Huntington Beach surf culture. As such, we wish to recommend a public memorial to be established to honor Rockin’ Fig in Downtown Huntington Beach, where he spent countless hours at his store or on the waves.

To decide the exact location and method to memorialize Rockin’ Fig, we believe it would be most appropriate to engage the Community Services Commission and our partners at the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council, who have expressed strong interest in supporting this endeavor. Among the possibilities that should be considered is a bronze plaque installed at Tower Zero on the Huntington Beach Pier. Tower Zero is also the site of a memorial plaque for Father Christian Mondor and Pastor Blaine “Sumo” Sato, beloved watermen and respected religious leaders in the community.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Direct the Community Services Commission to work with the surfing community and the leadership of the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council to develop a proposal for a public memorial honoring Rick “Rockin’ Fig” Fignetti. Return to City Council within 120 days to present the proposal for consideration. Furthermore, staff will inform the Fignetti Family regarding the proposed memorial and seek their input throughout the process.