



**MANDY TOLINO**

**Director**

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To: Mike Hanlon, City Clerk

We would like to make a request to rename the Dixon Street Dog Park to "Judge Memorial Dog Park" at Dixon Street.

Judge is a 14-year-old, yellow Labrador retriever. He was in service from early 2011 until 2018. Judge is a well-rounded K-9 who thrives in three major areas: investigation, deterrence, and education. As an investigator, Judge has worked more than 275 fire scenes and during that time, evidence he has found has led to multiple criminal arrests and civil penalties for insurance fraud cases. As a deterrent, the numbers speak for themselves – the number of arson fires has dropped 52.7 percent since Judge has been in service with the City of Allentown! As an educator, Judge has been in more than 500 fire safety programs and demonstrations for crime watch groups, specialty dog shows, elementary and high school programs, and everything in between.

Judge was one of just three working dogs in Pennsylvania back in 2016 and was also the first arson dog in the Lehigh Valley. Judge and Lee have started something good, and they have a great foundation for the future.

Judge and his handler, Lee, was the 2016 Arson Dog of the Year during the annual American Humane Hero Dog Awards and is a nationally recognized Arson dog that retired from the city a few years ago.

His handler, Lee Laubach, former Fire Chief and current EMA leader for the City of Allentown and his wife Melissa cared for Judge during his career and now continue to care for him in his retirement.

It was recommended by Clancy Kistler, Mailroom Specialist here at the city and he states he "can't think of a better way to honor the most decorated and well-known dog in Allentown by naming the Dog Park after him".

Sincerely,

Mandy Tolino, Director  
Department of Parks, Recreation & Trails  
City of Allentown