CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
Ashley J. Feeney, City Manager

FROM: Casey Kempenaar, Community Development Director
Regina Cave, General Services Director
Alison Bermudez, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: **Consideration of Renaming of Sayonara Drive**

Recommendation

Staff will present the results of the survey conducted with property owners and tenants along Sayonara Drive regarding a potential street name change. Based on the information presented, staff is requesting City Council direction on whether to proceed with the renaming effort.

The City Council may consider one of the following actions:

> **Option 1:** Select a replacement street name and adopt the attached resolution approving the renaming of Sayonara Drive.
>
> Motion for Option 1: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-____, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights, California, approving the renaming of Sayonara Drive to _____Drive and directing staff to take actions necessary to implement the street name change.
>
> **Option 2:** Maintain the existing street name and take no further action.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This item is in alignment with the following City Council priority:

> **Goal:** Enhance Community Vibrancy and Engagement

Background

At the December 10, 2025, City Council meeting, during Items Requested by Council Members, two members of the City Council expressed interest in exploring the potential renaming of Sayonara Drive in recognition of the significant neighborhood reinvestment and revitalization currently occurring within the area. The street is undergoing a notable transition marked by the development of new owner-occupied housing and broader community improvement efforts.

Prior to the City's incorporation in 1997, Sayonara Drive was widely known locally and regionally for longstanding social and physical challenges, including crime, overcrowding, traffic safety concerns, deferred building maintenance, and absentee property ownership. Following incorporation, the City initiated focused revitalization efforts within the corridor. These efforts included development of a Strategic Plan that guided public investments and improvements such as installation of street lighting, traffic and pedestrian safety enhancements, and the acquisition and demolition of uninhabitable structures.

The Strategic Plan established a framework for long-term neighborhood revitalization, including the development of replacement housing intended to promote stable, owner-occupied residences. Through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, construction is currently underway to deliver 26 new single-family homes on parcels previously occupied by substandard housing units.

As this new residential community continues to take shape, the City has the opportunity to consider actions that reflect and support the neighborhood's ongoing transformation. Renaming the street represents one potential step toward establishing a renewed identity distinct from historical conditions.

At the March 11, 2026, City Council meeting, staff presented information regarding the potential street renaming process. Following discussion, the City Council directed staff to conduct outreach and solicit input from property owners and tenants located along Sayonara Drive.

In response to that direction, staff initiated a mailed survey requesting feedback regarding whether property owners and tenants supported a potential street name change and, if so, soliciting possible street name suggestions and additional comments for Council consideration.

Government Code Section 34091.1 authorizes the City Council to change the name of any city street through adoption of a resolution. A copy of the Resolution must be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento as required by Government Code Section 34092.

Fiscal Impact

Should the renaming of Sayonara Drive proceed, costs would be incurred for staff time to administer the naming process, along with minor public outreach expenses (e.g., advertising, social media promotion, informational materials, or similar efforts). In addition, direct costs would be associated with the replacement of street signage. The estimated cost for replacement

of all Sayonara street name signs is approximately $10,700 total including installation. A total of eight signs would require replacement, including two large mast arm signs over Sunrise Boulevard, requiring traffic control.

Discussion

On March 12, 2026, surveys were mailed to all property owners and tenants along Sayonara Drive (Attachment 1) requesting input regarding the potential renaming of the street. While the overall response rate was relatively low, the results indicate that support for the name change was concentrated primarily among future homeowners associated with the Habitat for Humanity (HFH) project, while a majority of the remaining respondents expressed opposition to the change. Additional participation details and survey feedback are summarized below.

Survey Methodology & Participation

- Total Surveys Mailed: 174
- Vacant / Returned Undeliverable: 16
- Net Surveys Distributed: 158
- Completed Surveys Received: 37
- Response Rate: 23%

Results

The following table breaks down the responses from the 34 completed surveys:

Group	Support Change	Do not Support	Undecided
Property Owners	23 (82%)*	2 (7%)**	3 (11%)**
Tenants	2 (22%)	7 (78%)	0
TOTAL	25 (68%)	9 (24%)	3 (8%)

**Note: 21 of the 23 supportive owners are future homeowners within the HFH project.*

***Note: 1 respondent is affiliated with HFH.*

Community Feedback Highlights

The survey responses reflected differing perspectives regarding the identity and future of Sayonara Drive.

Support for Revitalization:

Respondents opposed to the name change generally viewed the proposal as symbolic and questioned whether it would result in meaningful neighborhood improvements. Several comments suggested that City efforts and resources would be better focused on infrastructure upgrades, maintenance, enforcement, and additional neighborhood improvements. Others noted that the street's historical reputation is not widely known today and expressed concern regarding the potential inconvenience or costs associated with a street name change.

Opposition & Practical Concerns:

Some respondents are hesitant about the name change, with many viewing it as more symbolic than impactful. Residents suggested prioritizing infrastructure, enforcement, and street improvements. Some noted the community's positive character and that the name's history isn't

widely known. Others raised questions about using public funds for a change they're unsure would make a meaningful difference.

Community Outreach
The City conducted public outreach through a mailed survey and direct notifications. The survey packet included an invitation to an informational community meeting held on April 15, 2026, at City Hall. This meeting offered residents and property owners a venue to ask questions, share feedback, and discuss the proposal. No members of the public attended the session. Additionally, the City mailed a subsequent notice to all stakeholder parties regarding tonight's public meeting.

Street Name Considerations
Survey respondents were also invited to provide potential replacement street names should the City Council choose to move forward with renaming Sayonara Drive. The submitted name suggestions are included in Attachment 2 for reference and consideration.

Summary
The survey results and community feedback reflect a range of perspectives regarding the proposed street name change. While many respondents associated with the Habitat for Humanity project expressed support for the proposal as part of the neighborhood's revitalization, other respondents expressed a preference for focusing City efforts on tangible neighborhood and infrastructure improvements rather than a symbolic change.

Direction Requested

Staff requests that the City Council review the information presented in this report and provide direction regarding the following options:

> Option 1: Select a street name and adopt a resolution renaming Sayonara Drive and direct staff to proceed with necessary actions to implement the change.
>
> Option 2: Maintain the existing street name and take no further action.

If Option 1 is selected, staff will proceed with implementation of the street name change, including ordering and installing new signage and notifying affected property owners and tenants of the upcoming change. The anticipated implementation timeline is approximately 8–12 weeks, depending on signage fabrication and coordination with relevant agencies. Staff notes that the names listed in Table 1 have been reviewed and meet the initial criteria for consideration. The City Council is requested to select a preferred street name for adoption. If the Council selects a name not included in the survey responses, the proposed name will be reviewed by staff for consistency with applicable street naming standards prior to implementation.

Table 1

Name	Theme
New Flower Drive	Botanical/growth
Family Drive	Community/unity
Revival Drive	Renewal/progress

Ascent Drive	Aspiration/success
Zest Drive	Energy/heritage
Astra Drive	Light/vision
Citrus Bloom Drive	Community/renewal

Attachments:

1. Mailed Survey
2. Recap and review off all suggested names
3. Resolution
4. Map of Sayonara Properties