

MOTION

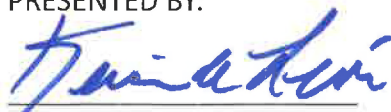
Cooper Do-nuts, formerly located at 215 S Main Street in Downtown LA, distinguished itself as a safe space for the LGBTQIA+ community. Despite the neighboring businesses, a strip of bars known as "The Run", catering to gay men, gender non-conforming individuals were often excluded from these establishments for fear of the bars losing their licenses as a result of LA Municipal Ordinance No. 5022, a city-wide ban on cross dressing between 6pm and 6am. Cooper Do-nuts, however, remained a safe haven for all members of the queer community regardless of gender presentation. Many also claim Cooper Do-nuts was the site of the first LGBT uprising, occurring in May 1959 after Los Angeles Police Department officers reportedly attempted to arrest two drag queens and two gay men suspected of sex work and were met with a barrage of spoons, coffee cups, donuts, and coffee thrown by Cooper Do-nuts patrons, forcing the officers to flee without making the arrests. News of the incident spread throughout "The Run", prompting angry Angelenos to fill the streets to protest this particular injustice and the ongoing discrimination endured by the queer community in LA.

Contemporaneously, Nancy Valverde and her friends Audrey Black and Delores Newton were students at Moler's Barber College at 265 S. Main Street a few doors down from Cooper Do-nuts which quickly became Nancy and her friends' regular spot. As a masculine presenting woman, Nancy was routinely arrested for violating Ordinance No. 5022 and thrown into Lincoln Heights jail in a section known derisively as the "Daddy Tank", reserved for women suspected of being lesbians. Determined to address this discrimination, Nancy, with the help of a clerk at the LA County Law Library, found rulings that supported her defense that wearing men's clothing was not a crime. Nancy informed her lawyer, Arthur Black, of what she learned and he was able to use these findings in her defense. Nancy's tenacity and perseverance led the way to ending laws targeting LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly gender non-conforming persons, in LA.

We are grateful to the brave leadership of Nancy Valverde and Cooper Do-nuts and recognize the significance of their actions in the ongoing work to make Los Angeles a more inclusive place.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection of 2nd and Main Streets, in the Historic Core neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles, be named as "Cooper Do-nuts / Nancy Valverde Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:



KEVIN DE LEÓN

Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

PK

MAY 03 2023