

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX COUNTY**

ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-00009 AUTHORITY FOR ORDINANCE: N.J.S.A. 40A:41A-38(G)

PROPOSED BY: COUNTY EXECUTIVE **AUTHORITY FOR ACTION: E.C.A.C. 2-11(M)**
AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **E.C.A.C. 2-39I**

ORDINANCE NAMING THE SOCCER FIELD IN ESSEX COUNTY RIVERFRONT PARK IN NEWARK AS THE “ESSEX COUNTY ALBERT ‘AL’ COUTINHO SOCCER FIELD” IN HONOR OF THE LATE ALBERT COUTINHO

WHEREAS, The Essex County Board of County Commissioners is vested with the exclusive power to name county buildings, roads and other facilities by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Essex County purchased property for parkland at the intersection of Raymond Boulevard and Brill Street in Newark's Ironbound in 2010 and opened Essex County Riverfront Park in 2012. The park includes a soccer field, baseball field, playground, basketball courts, tennis courts and passive pasture areas; and

WHEREAS, The Essex County Executive has presented a proposal to name the soccer field in Essex County Riverfront Park as the “Essex County Albert ‘Al’ Coutinho Soccer Field” in honor of the late Albert Coutinho, a prominent businessman, co-founder of the Ironbound Soccer Club, organizer of the Newark Portugal Day Festival and former NJ State Assemblyman; and

WHEREAS, Albert “Al” Coutinho was born and raised in the Ironbound section of Newark and began working in his family’s bakery business at the age of 8. He worked on the bakery floor and in the front office and was knowledgeable about all aspects of the business, which became a landmark institution in the Ironbound and a hub for cultural and community activities; and

WHEREAS, Albert “Al” Coutinho was proud of his Portuguese heritage and he took a leadership role in organizing the Newark Portugal Day Festival, which has become the largest celebration of Portuguese heritage outside of Portugal and the largest ethnic celebration in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Albert “Al” Coutinho was passionate about the game of soccer. He was the co-founder and chairman of the Ironbound Soccer Club, which promoted youth, amateur and semi-professional soccer in the region. Generations of male and female athletes learned the game of soccer, teamwork and sportsmanship under the watchful eye of Mr. Coutinho and the ISC. He frequently served as a sports commentator on talk shows and panels and helped to establish F.C. Porto of New Jersey. The New Jersey Soccer Association inducted Mr. Coutinho into their Hall of Fame in 2021 to recognize him for his efforts to help grow the game of soccer in New Jersey and provide access to elite soccer.

WHEREAS, Albert “Al” Coutinho was proud of his hometown of Newark and twice represented the city in the NJ State Legislature as a State Assemblyman from 1997 to 1998 and 2008 to 2013. His initiatives included advocating for school repairs in Newark and criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, Naming the soccer field in Essex County Riverfront Park as the “Essex County Albert ‘Al’ Coutinho Soccer Field” in honor of Albert Coutinho will remind future generations about the positive influence that Mr. Coutinho had in the community and many people he helped. It will keep his memory alive, keep his memory close to the game that he loved and hopefully inspire future generations to follow in his footsteps in giving back to their neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX as follows:

1. That the soccer field in Essex County Riverfront Park in Newark be named as the “Essex County Albert ‘Al’ Coutinho Soccer Field” in honor of the late Albert Coutinho.
2. That a public hearing on this Ordinance shall be held on September 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall of Records, Room 506, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd., Newark.

3. That the Clerk of the Board shall publish and post notice of this Ordinance as required by N.J.S.A. 40:41A-142.
4. That this Ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
5. That upon adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to Commissioner President Carlos Pomares, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Administrator Robert Jackson, Essex County Parks and Recreation Director Dan Salvante, Essex County Public Works Director Sanjeev Varghese and Maria Coutinho.

Approved as to form and legality Jerome St. John
County Counsel

Record of Vote (X = Vote N.V. = Abstention ABS = Absent)

FIRST READING					SECOND READING				
MOVED BY COMMISSIONER					MOVED BY COMMISSIONER				
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER					SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER				
COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	N.V	ABS	COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	N.V	ABS
COOPER				x	COOPER				x
GILL				x	GILL	x			
LUCIANO	x				LUCIANO	x			
MERCADO	x				MERCADO	x			
MURRAY-THOMAS, V.P.	X				MURRAY-THOMAS, V.P.	X			
RICHARDSON	X				RICHARDSON	X			
SEBOLD	X				SEBOLD	X			
SERMONS				x	SERMONS				x
POMARES, PRES.	X				POMARES, PRES.	X			

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was (x) adopted ()defeated () tabled by a roll call vote at a Regular meeting of the Commissioner of the County of Essex, New Jersey, held on August 12, 2026

Carlos M. Pomares, President

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was (x) adopted ()defeated () tabled by a roll call vote at a Regular meeting of the Commissioner of the County of Essex, New Jersey, held on September 2, 2026

Carlos M. Pomares, President

The foregoing Ordinance has been duly presented to me on September 3, 2026 I hereby (X) approve () disapprove the same on September 8, 2026. Returned and filed September 8, 2026.

Kathy R. Brown, Deputy Clerk

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, County Executive

Initial Publication on Website: September 11, 2026