

**Report of the Historic Preservation Section and  
Advisory Recommendation of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission**

**TO:** Council Secretary, Jacksonville City Council

**THROUGH:** Chairman and Members  
Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

**FROM:** Arimus Wells, City Planner Supervisor – Planning and Development

**RE:** **Proposed Renaming of Mandarin Park – Ordinance No. 2022-724**

**DATE:** October 26, 2022

On September 27, 2022, Ordinance 2022-724 was introduced to propose renaming “Mandarin Park” as “Thomas L. ‘Tommy’ Hazouri, Sr. Park.” Consistent with Chapter 122.105 of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code the naming and renaming of public buildings, public facilities and public parks, requires a Report from the Historic Preservation Section and an advisory recommendation on the renaming proposal from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission. The Report is required to address the following criteria:

1. The origin of the existing public building, public facility, or public park name, if applicable;
2. Any historical significance of the existing public building, public facility or public park;
3. Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject property
4. Whether the existing building name, name of public facility, or public park name is part of a common theme of names throughout the community where such building, park or facility is located;
5. The age of the public building, public facility or public park name
6. Whether there are other public buildings, public facilities, or public parks with the same or similar name; and
7. Whether the person (or persons) to whom the public building, public facility or public park is proposed to be named or renamed has contributed to the development of, or is a reminder of the history and/or culture of the City, State, or Nation.

**Location:** 14780 Mandarin Road, RE# 159656-0000

**Reason for Change:** At the request of City Council to honor the legacy of Thomas L. ‘Tommy’ Hazouri, Sr and his dedication to the City of Jacksonville and Mandarin community by renaming Mandarin Park as the “Thomas L. ‘Tommy’ Hazouri, Sr. Park.”

**Criteria:**

1. The origin of the existing public building, public facility, or public park name, if applicable:

Mandarin Park is located adjacent to Julington Creek in the Mandarin section of southeast Jacksonville. A leading producer of oranges in North America for most of the 1800s, the community acquired its name from the locally cultivated Mandarin orange. After the Buckman Bridge opened in 1970, development in Mandarin greatly accelerated. The booming population eventually needed additional recreational facilities. As such, the City purchased the park site in 1989 and sought considerable input from the area's residents. This would lead to the future development of the picnic area and nature trails in 1992, the pier in 1993, and the boat ramp in 2006.

2. Any historical significance of the existing public building, public facility or public park:

The park property was acquired by the City in September of 1992 with financial assistance provided by the Florida Department of Natural Resources. Per the grant agreement, the property must be dedicated for recreational use. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Planning and Development Department that the public park (Mandarin Park) do not have any historical significance.

3. Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject property:

No historical structures or landmarks are located on the subject property.

4. Whether the existing building name, name of public facility, or public park name is part of a common theme of names throughout the community where such building, park or facility is located:

The existing name of the park is not part of a common theme of names throughout the community where such building, park or facility is located.

5. The age of the public building, public facility or public park name:

The existing public park name, Mandarin Park, occurred in 1987 via Resolution 1987-1516, with the City acquiring the park in 1989.

6. Whether there are other public buildings, public facilities, or public parks with the same or similar name:

There are no other public buildings, public facilities, or public parks with the same or similar name.

7. Whether the person (or persons) to whom the public building, public facility or public park is proposed to be named or renamed has contributed to the development of, or is a reminder of the history and/or culture of the City, State, or Nation:

Thomas L. “Tommy” Hazouri, Sr., a Jacksonville native, graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and earned his bachelor’s degree in history and government from Jacksonville University. Mr. Hazouri’s career in public service began in 1974, when he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. During his six terms in the Legislature, Hazouri would serve at the Chair of various committees such as the House Committee on Education, K-12, and the Duval Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Hazouri’s service in the Legislature lead to him becoming elected as the Mayor of Jacksonville in 1987, the School Board in 2004, and City Council in 2015. During his tenure as Mayor, Hazouri successfully enacted regulations that drastically reduced the odors emitted from manufacturing and processing plants, recruited several major corporations to locate and expand offices in Jacksonville, and worked to establish a Minority Business Enterprise Program. As a council member, Mr. Hazouri would contribute to the development of several infrastructure projects, the broadening of a Human Rights Ordinance, and laying the early foundation for the Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business (JSEB).

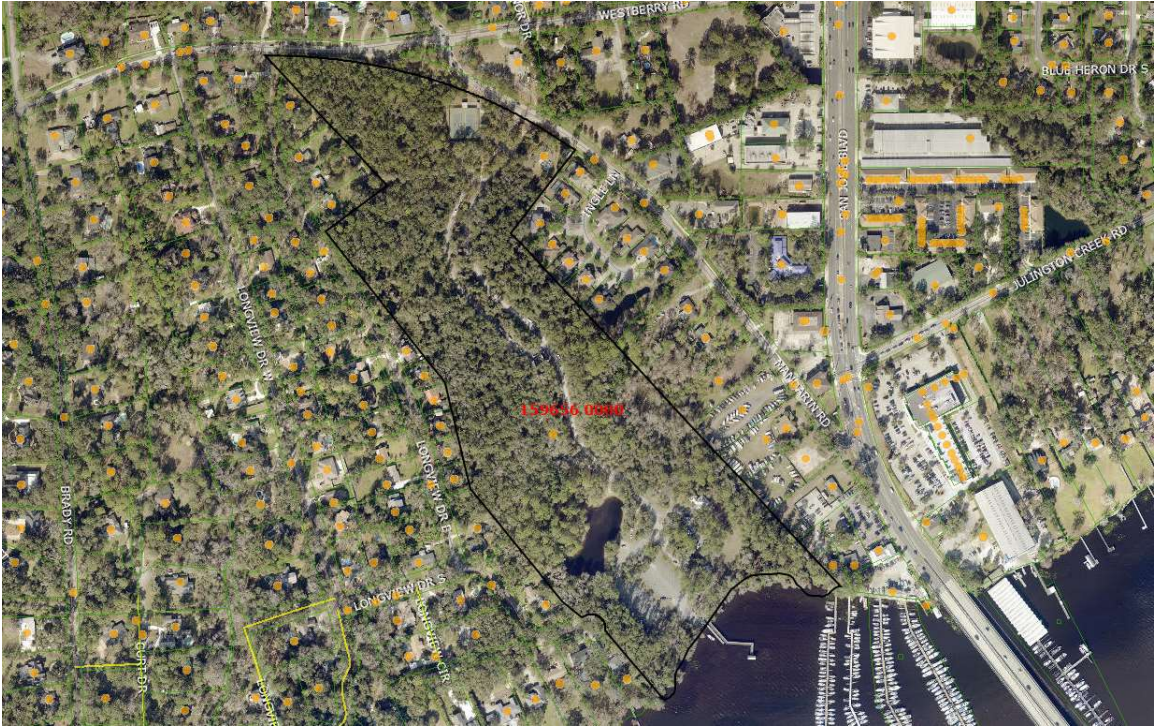
**PDD Recommendation:**

It is the opinion of the Planning and Development Department (PDD) that the proposed renaming of Mandarin Park as the “Thomas L. ‘Tommy’ Hazouri, Sr. Park” will be named after a person that has made significant contributions to the development of the city as outlined in Ordinance 2022-724.

**JHPC Advisory Recommendation:**

Based on the best evidence available, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval of the proposed renaming of “Mandarin Park” to “Thomas L. ‘Tommy’ Hazouri, Sr. Park” on October 26, 2022.





**Aerial view of park**



**Entrance to the park**