

**A JOINT ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION
TO REQUEST THE WICHITA-VALLEY CENTER FLOOD CONTROL
PROJECT TO BE RENAMED IN HONOR OF M.S. “MITCH” MITCHELL**

CITY OF WICHITA ORDINANCE NO. _____

Published on _____

SEDGWICK COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 088-2017

Published on _____

WHEREAS, from 1950 through 1959, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, was constructed, with funding and assistance from Sedgwick County, the City of Wichita, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project runs roughly north to south, beginning northwest of Valley Center and terminating just to the south of Wichita; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project is one of the largest flood diversion projects in the United States, and contains an extensive combination of channels, drainage canals, levees, connections to existing streams and rivers, and floodway easements; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and the corresponding reduction in floodwaters within much of Sedgwick County has saved lives, prevented several millions of dollars of property damage, and allowed for expanded growth and opportunities within the region; and

WHEREAS, M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell was instrumental to the development and implementation of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, including the vision to construct the project and his exemplary work involving the design, surveying, construction, and maintenance of the project; and

WHEREAS, despite numerous contentious encounters and steady opposition, M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell undertook the steps necessary to support, defend, construct, and maintain a flood control project that he believed was essential to protect people and their property from damaging floodwaters; and

WHEREAS, Mitch Mitchell passed away on March 11, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and the various component projects that comprise it are known by numerous additional names, including but not limited to: (1) the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway; (2) the Big Ditch; (3) the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway, Lower Reach; (4) the Big Slough – Cowskin Creek Floodway; (5) the Big Slough; (6) the Little Arkansas Floodway; and (7) the Chisholm Creek Diversion; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County and the City Council for the City of Wichita wish to honor the memory of Mitch Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies for Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita request Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Jerry Moran, and Representative Ron Estes to support the enactment of federal legislation to honor the accomplishments of Mitch Mitchell and rename the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project as follows:

The M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell Floodway

WHEREAS, Section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act (“WRRDA”) of 2014 requires that the Secretary of the Army annually submit to Congress a report that identifies, for potential congressional authorization, proposed modifications to authorized projects, which could include the naming or renaming of projects; and

WHEREAS, Section 7001 of the WRRDA requires that proposals be submitted for potential modifications to authorized projects so that such items can be considered for inclusion in the annual report that the Secretary of the Army submits to Congress; and

WHEREAS, for any non-federal interest, which would include both the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County, it must be demonstrated that local support exists for the proposed modification.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1.

To honor the memory and accomplishments of Mitch Mitchell, the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita City Council request that the flood control project commonly referred to as the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project be renamed as follows:

The M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell Floodway

SECTION 2.

The Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita City Council request that federal legislation be enacted so that the renaming of “The M.S. ‘Mitch’ Mitchell Floodway” would apply to any future references to the aforementioned flood control project in all laws, maps, regulations, signs, documents, papers, and other records.

SECTION 3.

Upon approval by both governing bodies, a copy of this Joint Ordinance and Resolution shall be sent to Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Jerry Moran, and Representative Ron Estes.

SECTION 4.

This Joint Ordinance and Resolution is intended to serve as an indication that local support exists for the proposed renaming.

SECTION 5.

Pursuant to Section 7001 of the WRRDA, both governing bodies authorize their respective legal counsel to submit this Joint Ordinance and Resolution and any other necessary materials to the Secretary of the Army as a proposal to request the proposed renaming of what is currently referred to as the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project.

SECTION 6.

Upon approval by both governing bodies, a copy of this Joint Ordinance and Resolution shall be published once in the official County and City newspapers.

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Commissioners present and voting were:

DAVID M. UNRUH	<u>Aye</u>
MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL, II	<u>Aye</u>
DAVID T. DENNIS	<u>Aye</u>
RICHARD RANZAU	<u>Aye</u>
JAMES M. HOWELL	<u>Aye</u>

Dated this 17 day of May, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

ATTEST:

KELLY B. ARNOLD, County Clerk

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
Commissioner, First District

MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL, II, Chair Pro Tem
Commissioner, Second District

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JUSTIN M. WAGGONER,
Assistant County Counselor

DAVID T. DENNIS
Commissioner, Third District

RICHARD RANZAU
Commissioner, Fourth District

JAMES M. HOWELL
Commissioner, Fifth District

PASSED by the governing body of the City of Wichita, Kansas, this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Jeff Longwell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Sublett, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Jennifer Magana, City Attorney and
Director of Law