

MOTION

In 1946, the first official wheelchair basketball game was played at the Birmingham VA Hospital in Van Nuys, California. Conceived by paralyzed World War II veterans and developed by Birmingham P.E. instructor Bob Rynearson, this marked a pivotal moment in adaptive sports and disability rights by expanding the conception of what people with paraplegia could do. The sport quickly spread to other VA hospitals, and soon veterans across the nation formed teams to compete against each other, growing the popularity of the sport. Wheelchair Basketball became one of the sports in competition at the inaugural Paralympic Games in 1960, and has been integral to the Paralympic Movement ever since.

As a tribute to this historical milestone, the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Balboa Boulevard should be renamed "Wheelchair Basketball Square" in honor of the lasting impact made by those involved with the first wheelchair basketball game.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the intersection of Victory Boulevard and Balboa Boulevard Square be designated "Wheelchair Basketball Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:



IMELDA PADILLA  
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



JAN 27 2026