Highland Park
Neighborhood Association

February 24, 2009

Highland Park Neighborhood Association
c/o Marcia J. Zach
867 Meigs St.
Rochester NY 14620

Dave Watson, Chair
City Planning Commission
Office of Zoning
City of Rochester
30 Church Street, #125 B
Rochester, NY 14614

RE: Application to Rename Park

Dear Mr. Watson:

The Highland Park Neighborhood Association would very much appreciate the City Planning Commission serving as the applicant for our request to officially rename the Linden and Meigs Playground, the **Ellwanger and Barry Park.**

The name "**Ellwanger and Barry Park**" reinforces the documented historical events of the site and the immediate surrounding neighborhood; acknowledges deceased persons whose actions have had a positive impact on the lives of Rochesterians; the relationship between Ellwanger and Barry and this specific location is well documented; and it recognizes the donors of property to support development of park and recreation space within the City of Rochester.

The land where the playground is located was owned by Ellwanger and Barry until the original Ellwanger and Barry School 24 was built in 1877. Later Ellwanger and Barry donated more land to the city for the second Ellwanger and Barry School 24 which was built in 1913.and remained a school until 1979. The second school was built as a one story building to insure the safety of the children and may have been the first of its type built in this country. By 1935, the original school building was torn down and the site converted to a playground.

The history and contributions of Ellwanger and Barry reach far beyond our playground. At the time Rochester changed from "Flour City" to "Flower City", Ellwanger and Barry

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owned Mt. Hope Nurseries, the largest nursery in the world. They donated 20 acres of land to the City of Rochester for Highland Park and were influential in the creation of the Park Commission. Much of our neighborhood was once their nursery land. Later they developed the land, building houses and lining our streets with trees creating as they stated in their ads" The Finest and Healthiest Part of the City".

The children of our city were important to Ellwanger and Barry. Not only did they donate land for schools, but they built a Memorial Pavilion in Highland Park and dedicated it to the children of Rochester. The dedication held such importance to the people that the pavilion became known as "The Children's Pavilion". Since that no longer stands in Highland Park, it seems especially appropriate to honor George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry by renaming this park, a place where children still enjoy land that Ellwanger and Barry gave to the city and where the Highland Park Neighborhood Association holds events such as our annual event, *The Taste of the Neighborhood*, to bring together all our residents, to "**Ellwanger and Barry Park**".

We feel it would especially appropriate to have the name changed this year, the 175th anniversary of the City of Rochester, a time to reflect and remember how this special place in the center of our neighborhood came to be. We plan to have our 3rd annual Taste of the Neighborhood at this location on Sunday, September 20, 2009 and would like to have a dedication of the new name at the event.

Sincerely,

Marcia J. Zach	Ruth Danis	Roger Ramsay
North Section Leader	Co-Chairperson	Co-Chairperson

Enclosures: Additional Signatures, Documentation to support application