

Name/Nomination (not an individual's name): _____

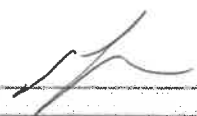
Facility being nominated for renaming (not an individual's name): _____

Financial Contribution: _____

Justification for Suggested Name

SEE ATTACHMENT # 2

Signature: _____



Date: 26 JUNE 2025

Board Recommendation and Signature

This Board recommends that the nominated name meets the required criteria set forth in the Resolution Criteria for Renaming Village of Ruidoso Parks, Streets, and public Facilities and the information provided is accurate.

Village of Ruidoso Board/Committee: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT #1

Virgil Reynolds was a unique resident of the Village of Ruidoso. His family moved to Ruidoso when he was a child. He attended school in Ruidoso, played basketball for the Warriors, and graduated from Ruidoso High School in 1963. Shortly after graduation he married Betty and began working for the Village of Ruidoso.

Back then, there was no full-time fire department in Ruidoso. That didn't happen until 1968. The Village hired its first 3 full-time firefighters that year, and Virgil was one of those first three. The sole fire house was at Sudderth and Eagle and there was only one firefighter on duty during each day. The rotation was a 24 hour shift - so Virgil would work 24 hours and then be relieved by one of the other firefighters.

He continued in that capacity for the next 14 years. Over those years, the fire department grew to two stations and there was a need for a formal command structure to include the need for a Fire Chief. In 1982, Virgil was selected to be the first ever Fire Chief of the Ruidoso Fire Department. Chief Reynolds' goal for the department was a quick response anywhere in the Village and an adequate staff to do the job.

Under his leadership, a new Station 2 was built and Station 3 was built to provide rapid fire protection to the west end of town and the Upper Canyon in particular. During this time he added much needed apparatus to include the first ever ladder truck in the Village.

The fire department staffing grew to 21 personnel. Chief Reynolds implemented mandatory training standards and continuing education for the firefighters. He mandated that every firefighter be trained to the national standards in structural firefighting, and the national standard in wildland firefighting.

He recognized the need to expand into emergency medicine. Often times, critical medical calls were happening within blocks of a fire station and the response time from the fire department could be many minutes sooner than the ambulance. Chief Reynolds mandated that all firefighters become EMT certified and equipped the fire engines with life saving medical equipment and medicine. This one decision has saved countless lives.

As fire apparatus kept getting bigger, it was apparent that RFD had outgrown the main fire station at Sudderth and Eagle. Chief Reynolds, the Village administration, and the state of New Mexico collaborated to secure funds for the new fire Station 1 at School House Park. Chief Reynolds wanted a station that could accommodate the fire department for years to come. He had experienced the issues of outgrowing other stations and he wanted to ensure that this station wouldn't be outgrown. He wanted comfortable housing, large bays for fire engines, cutting edge electronics, and something the community could be proud of. Upon completion, Station 1 was the most state-of-the-art fire station in New Mexico.

Chief Reynolds retired before Station 1 was completed, so he never actually got to

sit behind the Chief's desk in that building - a tribute to his selfless ideas of bettering the fire department for the men and women to come.

When Chief Reynolds retired in 2007, he had worked for the Village of Ruidoso for 43 years - uninterrupted, longer than anyone else had ever worked for the Village. He probably still holds that record. Of those 43 years, 41 were with the Ruidoso Fire Department. Virgil molded the department into what you see today. He not only grew the Ruidoso Fire Department, but he also taught other firefighters at some of the very first New Mexico State Fire academies. He spearheaded cooperation and collaboration with neighboring fire departments. He also oversaw the formation of the Sierra Blanca Wildfire Academy - an annual wildland firefighter's training event, hosted in Ruidoso.

Sadly, Chief Reynolds passed away in January of last year. The contributions that he made to the Village of Ruidoso and visitors are innumerable. His strategic decisions kept the village from burning to the ground by providing fast and adequate response. There was not a single catastrophic fire event in the Village of Ruidoso under his leadership.

Chief Reynolds will never know of this request to name Station 1 in his honor, but his family will. Betty Reynolds, a true angel among us, should be able to drive down Sudderth and see her husband's name illuminated on that building, a tribute to his selfless sacrifices for Ruidoso - time given to our community, often at the expense of his own family. While a name on a building can never fully express enough gratitude, it is a fitting and well-earned recognition of his legacy.

ATTACHMENT #2

WHEREAS, Virgil Reynolds grew up in Ruidoso and was a lifelong member of the community; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds spent 43 years in the employment of the Village of Ruidoso; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds was one of the very first paid firefighters for the Ruidoso Fire Department; and
WHEREAS, Firefighter Reynolds spent 41 years in service to the Village in said department; and
WHEREAS, Firefighter Reynolds placed his life and safety in jeopardy to protect life and property in his duties as a firefighter; and
WHEREAS, Firefighter Reynolds was selected to be the very first Fire Chief for said department; and
WHEREAS, Chief Reynolds significantly advanced the firefighting ability, resources, staffing, and training to improve the ability of the fire department to reduce loss sustained by structural and wildfire; and
WHEREAS, Chief Reynolds implemented EMS training within the fire department, thereby saving many lives due to a rapid response with critical life saving equipment; and
WHEREAS, Chief Reynolds was employed by the Village of Ruidoso longer than any other individual; and
WHEREAS, Fire Station 1 was planned by Chief Reynolds; and
WHEREAS, there is no signage at Station 1 to identify it as a fire station to visitors of Ruidoso; and
WHEREAS, the fire service is rich with tradition and legacy; and
WHEREAS, Chief Reynolds meets and greatly exceeds the Internal Policy for Naming/Renaming Municipal Facilities, Parks, and Properties - Section 1 (e); and
WHEREAS, there is nothing disqualifying in said policy; and
WHEREAS, said policy indicates the Village of Ruidoso's desire to, "Recognize on an exceptional basis, significant contributions that organizations or individuals have made to public life and the well-being of the Village of Ruidoso."; and
WHEREAS, it is right and fitting to do so;

I therefore request that Ruidoso Fire Station 1, located at 541 Sudderth in the Village of Ruidoso, County of Lincoln, New Mexico, be renamed the Virgil Reynolds Main Fire Station and that said designation should be indicated in large - backlit letters which can easily be seen from Sudderth at any time of the day or night. I further request that the Ruidoso Fire Department not incur the cost.