



**Dean J. Trantalis**  
Vice Mayor - District II

100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
(954) 828-5004  
(954) 828-5667 Fax  
[dtrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:dtrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov)  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

Feb. 13, 2017

Phil Thornburg  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
1350 W. Broward Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Dear Mr. Thornburg:

I would like to recommend that the City of Fort Lauderdale re-name Dolphin Isles Park after Leonore "Lu" Deaner, who is in hospice and expected to pass away shortly. Mrs. Deaner has had a long history of involvement in the civic life of our community.

Mrs. Deaner served as president of the Dolphin Isles Civic Association and was a strong proponent of creating the park. Her advocacy helped lead to the joint financial effort by the city and Broward County to purchase and develop the park, which opened in 2011.

Lu was the lead representative of the Dolphin Isles neighborhood on the park project, and her tireless efforts ensured that the park became a reality. She met frequently with city commissioners and staff to discuss potential sites and helped select the piece of property where the park is now located.

Mrs. Deaner's community involvement stretched beyond just the creation of Dolphin Isles Park. As president of the neighborhood association, she worked diligently to promote the safety and beautification of Dolphin Isles. Her projects included slowing down through-traffic, making entryway enhancements and ensuring beach access.

As a retired teacher from New York, Mrs. Deaner also took a strong interest in local education and children's issues. She served six terms on the city's Education Advisory Board and volunteered with Broward County Schools, the Museum of Discovery and Science, Child Care Connection and Family Central.

She lent her knowledge and expertise to countless educational programs and issues, including school readiness, safety, diversity, educational equity and community involvement. She was the driving force behind the city's Municipal Leadership in Education project and was a key part of the "art bus" initiative, which was an enrichment

program for elementary school children that encouraged self-expression through various artistic mediums.

The City Commission twice honored her with proclamations creating *Leonore "Lu" N. Deaner Day*. In the 2005 proclamation signed by Mayor Jim Naugle, the commission declared, "Lu Deaner is highly regarded and held in affectionate esteem by all who know her."

When the City Commission honored Mrs. Deaner for a third time on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2012, Commissioner Romney Rogers stated the following:

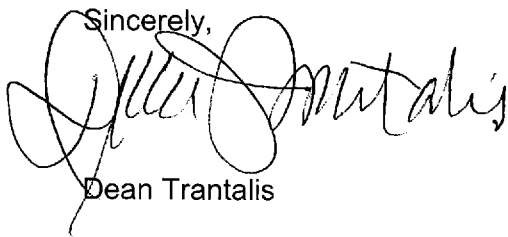
*She serves as a role model for the community-at-large by exemplifying the attributes of leadership, integrity, respect, perseverance and an uncompromising commitment to excellence.*

*Through her selfless efforts, Lu has demonstrated the importance of giving back to the community and stands as a shining example that one person can make a world of difference in the lives of others.*

During my first tenure on the City Commission, I had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Deaner on many projects, including the Dolphin Isles Park. She had a generous spirit, good humor and an inner strength. She touched the lives of an incredible number of people through her good deeds.

I'm honored to make this recommendation to name the park after her and ask that you forward it to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board for its review. Mrs. Deaner has personified what community service is about. My office has spoken to the current leadership of Dolphin Isles, and we're told that the board has no objection to this change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Trantalis", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Dean Trantalis