

PRESS RELEASE

Ogden City Council to Vote on Naming of Soccer Fields
at Marshall White Community Center

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On April 1, 2025, Ogden City Council will vote on Mayor Nadolski's proposal to name the soccer fields at the newly rebuilt Marshall White Community Center in honor of fallen Officer Nathan Lyday. The proposal was introduced by Ron White, son of Dr. Marshall N. White, whose name the center proudly bears.

The newly rebuilt center, spanning 68,000 square feet, remains a cornerstone of the community—designed to foster mentorship, recreation, and lifelong connections. As Ogden prepares to celebrate its reopening the first week of May, the recommendation to name the soccer fields after Officer Lyday serves as an opportunity to honor his dedication to service and his passion for the sport.

"The Marshall White Community Center has always stood for connection, service, and community," stated Ogden Police Chief, Jake Sube. "This vision was shaped by Sergeant Marshall 'Doc' White and carried forward by Officer Nathan Lyday, who both gave their lives standing up for Ogden and its people. Naming the Field House in Officer Lyday's honor is not about creating a memorial but about celebrating those who truly embody the spirit of this city. Officer Lyday grew up here, served here, and had a deep passion for both community and sports—values that align perfectly with this facility's mission to bring people together and strengthen Ogden."

Dr. Marshall White: A Legacy of Service and Community

The Marshall White Community Center stands as a tribute to the extraordinary life and contributions of Dr. Marshall Neil "Doc" White—an intellectual, war veteran, health officer, civil rights leader, and the first Black detective sergeant in the Ogden Police Department.

Born in 1909 in Humboldt, Tennessee, during the Jim Crow era, Dr. White overcame unimaginable challenges to pursue education and community service. A scholar at heart, he engaged in intellectual discussions on history, economics, and philosophy, later earning a degree from the Northwestern Institute of Foot Surgery and Chiropody in 1939.

His journey led him to enlist in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was stationed in Ogden. Following his service, he worked as a health officer, tackling public health challenges head-on. Recognizing his unwavering dedication and ability to connect with the city's diverse populations, the Ogden Police Department recruited him in 1946 as a special reserve officer.

Dr. White's policing career was defined by courage, intelligence, and a deep understanding of people. He became a trusted bridge between law enforcement and the community, navigating the

complexities of a divided 25th Street while earning the respect of colleagues and residents alike. Known for his grit, fairness, and commitment to justice, he broke up gang fights, solved high-profile burglary cases, and even served as a bodyguard for former heavyweight boxing champion Ezzard Charles.

Yet, beyond his police work, Dr. White's greatest legacy was his commitment to youth and community-building. A firm believer in mentorship, he established Ogden's first Black youth center, championed recreational programs, and led grassroots efforts that brought the city's Black and white communities together. He became the first Black member of the Elk's Club—then went on to establish a Black chapter. He served as president of Ogden's NAACP chapter, advocating for civil rights long before the national movement took hold.

Dr. White was tragically killed in the line of duty on October 15, 1963, while responding to a burglary involving two escaped juveniles. True to his nature, he attempted to de-escalate the situation, speaking to the armed suspect in hopes of a peaceful resolution. He was shot in the abdomen and, despite his resilience, succumbed to his injuries six days later. In November of that year, the newly established recreation center was officially named the Marshall White Community Center—an honor that would have been bestowed upon him regardless of his passing.

Honoring Officer Nathan Lyday's Legacy

Now, more than 60 years later, the community is embracing the opportunity to expand the legacy of service and mentorship that Dr. White embodied. The proposal to name the center's soccer fields after Officer Nathan Lyday follows the same spirit of dedication and community connection.

Officer Lyday, an Ogden native and avid soccer player, was known for his commitment to protecting and serving his hometown. He was tragically killed in the line of duty in 2020, leaving behind a legacy of selflessness and unwavering service. Naming the soccer fields in his honor recognizes his passion for the game and his impact on the people of Ogden.

Ron White, who put forth the recommendation, shared the deep significance of this proposal:

"My father believed in the power of mentorship, of guiding young people and creating a sense of belonging. Officer Lyday lived those same values—both in his service and in his love of soccer, which he used to connect with others. Naming these fields after Nate is a way to honor his legacy while continuing my father's vision for this center: a place where people come together, grow, and build lasting relationships."