



BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee Street Co-Naming Resolution

Resolution: To support the Co-Naming at the intersection of West 123rd Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard to Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee Place.

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson McGhee, affectionately known as “Bubba,” was director of the Phipps Police Athletic League (PAL) in Harlem;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee created many PAL recreational and social activities in his role as director to keep young adults away from the competing criminal elements in the Harlem streets;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee challenged his staff for excellence and to be exceptional individuals, and was an inspirational to all who were fortunate enough to know him, especially young people. He led by example through mentoring, teaching, coaching, and by being a great listener. He touched many lives by being a role model, father figure and friend to all;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee also worked at the August Aichorn Center for Adolescent Residential Care where he continued to serve children whom society deemed “unplaceable.” He became a treasured mentor to numerous children, inspiring and guiding them to reach their full potential;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee, one of seventeen children, was born to Johnnie Pearl Gardner and Jake McGhee in Selma, Alabama, on January 8, 1953;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee began working at Phipps PAL as a janitor and after many years of dedicated and exemplary service he became the director. He loved the children, and wanted them to have better opportunities to become productive citizens. Under Randy’s leadership the Phipps PAL was the first PAL to win the National Arts Program Award. The PAL provided arts and crafts, dance classes, tutoring, field trips, summer employment, educational enrichment programs, and sports programs such as basketball training;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee was a hard worker, friendly, unselfish human being, and developed the Harlem PAL into one of the most innovative programs in New York City. He admitted children even when their parents could not afford to pay. The doors of the PAL were open seven days a week, and Randy served the community even when he was not paid. His motto was “the kids come first,” and many of these children were positively affected by his heart, humor and caring, and went on to college and successful employment thereafter;

WHEREAS: Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2016, with a home-going celebration of his life held on May 19, 2016 at the Canaan Baptist Church in Central Harlem, New York;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 wishes to remember Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee by formally requesting New York City Council and the Mayor of New York City to enact legislation to Co-Name the intersection of West 123rd Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard to **Randy Nelson “Bubba” McGhee Place**

The Historic Preservation and Transportation Committee voted on this item May 9th 2017 with a vote of 6 in favor 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.