



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

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MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MINUTES

February 11, 2019

CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

STREET RENAMING OF EAST 151ST STREET AND THIRD AVENUE, BETWEEN THIRD AVENUE AND MELROSE AVENUE

Mr. Michael Propper said that a couple of years ago we lost my Father Richard Propper who was like the guardian of the Third Avenue HUB on 149th and Third. We lost him very quickly he came down with Pancreatic Cancer and there was no time for any preparation it was a very swift loss. About two years ago just after his passing the district honored him posthumously and they mentioned to us we're going to be campaigning for a naming of a street in honor of my Father which we thought was very moving needless to say. The idea that Dad was going to leave Third Avenue and 149th Street was outrageous to us he'd been 60 years on this street. We have a Scholarship that we established in his name at HOSTOS Community College for two Bronx residents to be receiving Scholarships we're going to make sure that stays alive forever because Dad's not supposed to leave Third Avenue that's not supposed to ever happen. But the BID District while they were talking about the presentation that's why I didn't bring a presentation to bore you with because they had made one about my Father's history. But the BID doesn't really know Dad they knew him when he was 80 years old but I wanted to share with you about who he was. My Father parked on 151st Street for 60 years and my Father was a champion for Third Avenue nothing was more important to him than Third Avenue and 149th Street. My Father championed the removal of the El he was instrumental in establishing the bus service through Third Avenue bringing as he called it sunlight to Third Avenue to bring life back to Third Avenue where a tree can grow. My Dad sat on the rubble with Jimmy Carter when he came here to recognize the disrepair of the borough of the Bronx. My Dad would go knocking on door-to-door when the city was going bankrupt and the city was in distress he went door-to-door to get the merchants to put up money for things to make the area safer for the community and to thrive through all of that successfully. Then my Father found out this new-fangled thing called the BID District. A BID District if you don't know is basically a funded organization for the community based on taxation and my Father knocked on every door and got these property owners to vote in favor of going into their pocket for taxation for the sake of the community. If you think that was easy, trust me it wasn't. I was a young boy between the ages of 5 and 15 walking right behind him when he was going out there saying listen we need to keep this safe and preserve this. My Father navigated the city system in the midst of a bankruptcy crisis to save Third Avenue. My Dad should never leave Third Avenue this is part of his life. This young lady that just walked in Jackie Carter some of you may know her. Jackie worked with us for 13 years. No one was more committed to Third Avenue my Father was here at 6:00 in the morning every day and here until 10:00 at night every day and what his concern was the growth of Third Avenue and East 149th Street. The HUB was all we ever heard and when he successfully created the very first BID District and no longer had to go beg for money to put security and to put street lights on 149th Street and Third Avenue the funding was there by virtue of taxation it changed the whole complexion of Third Avenue and 149th Street. I believe in my heart of hearts that Third Avenue stands the way it does today because of my Father and there is a corner on 151st and Third where

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he brought himself and his family himself every day and me every weekend and parked on 151st Street and Third Avenue and I respectfully request that you place him there for eternity.

Questions and Comments

STREET RENAMING East 149th Street and Willis Avenue

Ms. Tiffany Williams said that Robert Anthony Williams known to friends as Bob born and raised in the Bronx. He attended Theodore Roosevelt High School, continuing his education at NYU receiving a B.S. in education and a Master Degree in Public Administration. He was one of the very first Americans to play professional basketball in Europe, one year in Barcelona, Spain followed by 2 seasons in Vitoria, Spain. Returning to the States in 1967, he continued to both play and coach in the famed Rucker League. He also became NYU's first African-American Assistant Basketball Coach. While starting his life beyond basketball Bob founded the Sport Foundation, Inc. in 1969 and serving as its CEO until his retirement to St. Croix in 2003. Based here in the South Bronx the Sports Foundation develops and encourages positive youth development using sports and education as a vehicle. The Foundation's work within the community has had a ripple effect touching many lives and establishing a beacon of light and hope for inner-city youth. Sports Foundation alumni include Doctors, Lawyers, Journalists, Coaches, Community Activists, Political figures, Educators, Civil Servants, Professional Athletes and Entrepreneurs. Among the many other hats my Father has worn over the years author of The Student Athlete's Handbook your personal guide for success, he served as Chairman of the New York Yankees Community Council and was a founding member of B.U.L.B. the Black United Leadership of the Bronx. He also co-founded The New York City Basketball Hall of Fame, for the last 29 years he served as the Hall's first and only President. March of this year the Sports Foundation will be celebrating 50 years of service with a wing span as great as my Dad's I couldn't think of a better way to commemorate his legacy than with a street co-name to coincide with the anniversary. Thank you for your time and have a good evening.

Questions and Comments

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Ms. Audrey De Jesus applicant said that I'm representing the J Lounge and I'm trying to get a letter of support for a Liquor License within the community. The place is located on 132nd Street and St. Ann's and Brook Avenues across the street from Food Fest. It's a building that we've acquired but as of yet we have not signed the lease we're waiting upon a letter of support from the community. I am very transparent in this community a lot of people know me I'm an Activist. Focusing on the LGBT community there's a need for it in the community. I will try to be open 7 nights a week until 3 o'clock in the morning, I'm going to be having a full functioning restaurant. Its two floors I have an elevator with a lobby. The building is going to have sprinkler systems throughout, I'm going to have AC air conditioning, fire escapes I'm also going to have an egress of right now we have four exits but we're going to build out two more. There's nothing there it's just a physical building I have a rough draft of the floor plans three pages and I'll pass them to the Committee. It's going to be open there's not going to be any hidden rooms and you could visibly see the exit signs. We're waiting for the C of O based on everything that's going on here waiting on an approval from the Community Board. We're going to have entertainment. We're going to be open to the community and the whole Bronx because this is going to be

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the first gay establishment in the Bronx. This will be my second one but my first in this community I've already had five night clubs and fifteen years in this community but this is the main one I'm focusing on with a fully functioning five-star restaurant.

Questions and Comments

The Chairman called for a motion to provide a letter of support on the renaming of East 151st Street and Third Avenue in the name of Richard Propper.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the renaming of East 151st Street and Third Avenue in the name of Richard Propper. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion to provide a letter of support on the renaming of East 149th Street and Willis Avenue in the name of Robert A. Williams.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the renaming of East 149th Street and Willis Avenue in the name of Robert A. Williams. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion to provide a letter of support in approval of a Liquor License for the J Lounge.

Motion made to approve a letter of support to the J Lounge for a Liquor License. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.