



# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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## MUNICIPAL SERVICES

September 13, 2021

MINUTES \

### PATTERSON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Michael Lawrence** said that we're here to request support for the renaming of East 143<sup>rd</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to Nathaniel "Tiny" Archibald Way.

Nathaniel "Tiny" Archibald was born and raised in the Patterson Housing Projects he used basketball to steer clear of the drugs and violence claiming many of his peers. He was the oldest of 7 children and at age 14 became head of the household when Big Tiny left the family. He learned all about rising from desperate surroundings, it was an education that started early in life and served him well through a 14 year playing career that led him from the Cincinnati Royals to an NBA championship with the Boston Celtics.

Not a man to forget his roots he continued to be a presence in the troubled neighborhoods every summer he returned to the South Bronx to help and counsel troubled youngsters and when he stopped playing basketball he returned to New York City to run basketball schools for under privileged kids and to work as Athletic Director at the huge Harlem Armory homeless shelter until it closed in 1991.

"It's interesting," Archibald told Sport Magazine in 1980, "how guys who are into drugs are always looking to get other guys involved, as if they want company when they go under. Me, I was always into basketball. But basketball hardly seemed the natural course for the young Archibald, true he had decent skills but he was a small shy kid who lacked confidence on the court. He failed to make the basketball team his sophomore year at DeWitt Clinton High School and nearly dropped out of school. Fortunately for Archibald a man named Floyd Layne then a Community Sports Director and later head Coach at City College entered the scene. Layne knew the DeWitt Clinton Coach who agreed to take another look at Archibald, the youngster made the team his junior year and by his senior season had made the All-City Team.

The 1980-81 season marked the height of Tiny's resurgence where he picked up the All Star Game MVP and after 11 up and down seasons in the NBA finally claiming an NBA championship. He retired in the 1983-84 season after 14 years in the NBA.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

September 13, 2021

Pg. 2

He was awarded with election to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1991 and honored for his work with the city's youth by then Mayor David Dinkins in 1993.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**