



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
RESOLUTION
“Allah, Justice, and the Five Percenters Square”

RESOLUTION: To support the co-naming at the Northwest corner of West 126th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard to “Allah, Justice, and the Five Percenters Square.”

WHEREAS: “Allah, The Father” was named Clarence Edward Smith after being born on February 22nd, 1928, in Danville, Virginia, as the fifth of Mr. Louis and Mrs. Mary Smith’s seven children. The Smiths migrated to Harlem in 1946, residing at 249 West 139th Street (between Seventh & Eighth Avenues).

WHEREAS: “Justice” was born on June 3rd, 1924 in Harlem and was named James Howard. He attended New York City’s Public Schools before working numerous odd jobs throughout Harlem. He then became a merchant marines man during the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s, gaining valuable worldly experiences while navigating the seven seas.

WHEREAS: In 1959, Clarence joined his wife Dora at the Nation of Islam’s (NOI) Mosque #7, (then located at 102 West 116th Street), which was headed by Minister Malcolm X, whose tutelage he remained under for several years. While there, he was known as Brother Clarence 13X, being the thirteenth man named Clarence to join the organization.

WHEREAS: In the early 1960s, “Justice” and “Allah the Father” met and joined forces and focused on educating inner-city youth and on October 10th, 1964 - to distinguish their new youth movement from the Nation of Islam – while standing in front of 200 West 127th Street with several of their young disciples, they announced that their fledging group would become known as “The Five Percenters”

WHEREAS: By the spring of 1965 some of *The Five Percenters* were spreading the teachings beyond Harlem, and many teenagers in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. By the Spring of 1967, Allah, The Father had formed alliances with New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay, a couple of Lindsay’s aides – Barry Gottehrer & Sidney Davidoff, and several other prominent local political figures, namely, then-Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, then-N.Y. State Senator Basil Patterson, future U.S. Congressman Charlie Rangel and future NYC Mayor David Dinkins.

WHEREAS: on April 30th, 1967, The Five Percenters conducted their first monthly parliament at Central Harlem’s Mount Morris Park. In June 1967 the Urban League turned over to him a property the city had recently acquired, located at *2122 Seventh Avenue, between 126th & 127th Streets*, with a ninety-nine-year lease.

WHEREAS: Along with Harlem Prep headmaster, Dr. Ed Carpenter, they were creating a curriculum at their street academies which were not only compliant with city standards, but that would also better their students’ chances of having successful futures upon completing school. Having their minds nourished by such prominent African scholar warriors as Dr. John Henrik Clarke, Dr. Yosef A.A.

ben-Jochannan (aka Dr. Ben) and Professor George Simmons, helped raise student's cultural awareness, self-esteem and self-worth.

WHEREAS: On June 13th, 1969, at approximately 4:15 a.m., *Allah, The Father* was assassinated as he entered the elevator on the first floor of 21 West 112th Street in the Martin Luther King Jr. Towers. He was headed home to see his wife when he was shot seven times.

WHEREAS: Justice continued guiding the youths for the next several years, chaperoning them to cultural and educational expeditions; also encouraging them to continue seeking knowledge of their glorious past, and spread it amongst other youths in their communities. Justice passed on July 19, 1978.

WHEREAS: The Five Percenters presented to Manhattan Community Board 10's Transportation, Historic Preservation, and Landmarks Committee on September 11, 2018 and received a unanimous vote in support for the street co-naming application.

WHEREAS: The street co-naming received letters of support from State Assembly Member Inez Dickens; former State Assembly Member Keith Wright; the Allah School in Mecca Street Academy; Allah's School in Medina; Herb Boyd, Adjunct Professor at the City College of New York; Sidney Davidoff of the law firm Davidoff, Hutcher, and Citron; the Falu Foundation; and the Sons of Africa.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 10 wishes to remember Clarence Edward Smith aka "Allah, The Father," James Howell aka "Justice," and the Five Percenters by formally requesting that the New York City Council and the Mayor of New York City enact legislation to support the Co-Naming at the northwest corner of West 126th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard to "Allah, Justice, and the Five Percenters Square" on November 7, 2018 by a vote of 43 YES; 1 NO; 1 ABSTENTION; and 0 recusals.