



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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## **Elombe Brath Way Street Co-naming Resolution**

**Resolution: To support the Conaming at the southwest corner of Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard between 124<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> Streets to Elombe Brath Way.**

**WHEREAS:** Elombe Brath distinguished citizen, national civil rights and international human rights leader who contributed substantially to Pan-Africanism, Black Cultural Awareness and Black empowerment both at home and abroad in his life's work; and

**WHEREAS:** Elombe Brath, of Harlem, New York, died on Monday, May 19, 2014 at the age of 77; and

**WHEREAS:** Elombe (nee Cecil) Brathwaite was born in Brooklyn, New York on September 30, 1936 to Cecil T. Brathwaite and Margaret Etelka Maloney-Brathwaite. Both parents immigrated to the United States from Barbados, the Caribbean island geographically closest to the African continent. He was the oldest of three children; brother Kwame (nee Ronald) Brathwaite, middle sibling and Brother John Edward Brathwaite, youngest sibling. Brath was politically inspired early on in his life by hearing his mother speak of her first cousin, Clennel Wickham, editor of the renowned HERALD newspaper; and

**WHEREAS:** Brath's political commitment evolved in 1956 simultaneously with the struggle to eliminate "Negro" as the nomenclature of African American people; creating the "Black is Beautiful" campaign in 1961 following the creation of the African Jazz-Arts Society and Studios (AJASS) with this brother Kwame and a cadre of other local activists and launched the Grandassa Models and "Naturally Shows"; and

**WHEREAS:** this esteemed man was a pioneer in the Pan-African movement; he worked closely with the Federation of Pan-African Nationalist Organizations setting the stage for African Liberation Day and the development of the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC); his efforts played a critical role in educating and organizing thousands in the fight against imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism on the African continent; and

**WHEREAS:** Despite his total immersion on the international front as well as the countless battles against racism at home, Elombe was employed at WABC-TV where as a graphic artist (skills he acquired while in high school and at the School of Visual Arts) and vital consultant, particularly on African Affairs to Gil Noble, the esteemed host of "Like It Is". "Elombe was instrumental in facilitating the presence of many of the African leaders on the show" said Robert Van Lierop, an attorney and filmmaker formally affiliated with the show; and

**WHEREAS:** in 1975, following in the footsteps of black nationalism forefathers, Marcus Garvey and Carlos Cooks, Elombe Brath founder and chairman to the Patrice Lumumba Coalition (PLC), a Harlem based group which spread word of the ongoing struggle against oppression in Africa, coordinating hundreds of forums with the purpose of educating the masses and mobilized local support in the fight against apartheid and oppression of people all over the world; and

**WHEREAS:** Elombe Brath was also one of the principle organizers when Harlem welcomed Nelson Mandela in 1990, and was a strong advocate for the Central Park Five; and

**WHEREAS:** an international figure, charitable, tireless advocate for civil and human rights; imbued with a sense of justice this remarkable man's life continues to inspire others leaving behind a legacy of fighting for freedom long enduring the passage of time remaining in comforting memory to all he served and befriended;

**WHEREAS:** Elombe Brath is survived by his wife, Helena Nomsa Brath, and their seven children, he passed quite fittingly on the 89<sup>th</sup> birthday of Malcolm X;

**WHEREAS:** Mr. Brath impacted legendary jazz entertainers creating awareness and promoting jazz in the Bronx is supported by Senator Perkins and US Congressman Charles Rangel

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that Manhattan Community Board 10 wishes to remember Elombe Brath by formally requesting that the New York City council and the Mayor of New York City enact legislation to support the Conaming at the southwest corner of Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard between 124th and 125th Streets to Elombe Brath Way with a vote of 28 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstentions.