



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Chair

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**LEONARD HARPER WAY
STREET CO-NAMING RESOLUTION**

RESOLUTION: To support the Co-Naming of the Southeast corner of West 132nd street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd Jr. to Leonard Harper Way.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper left an everlasting imprint through his contributions to the Harlem Renaissance, Broadway Musicals and American Arts and Culture. Leonard Harper as a theater organizer was a prolific African-American producer/director/choreographer during the greatest Black cultural renaissance the world has ever known.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper was born in Birmingham, Alabama on April 9, 1899.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper at 14 years old in 1914 became one of the first “Motion Picture Posers” among Black performers, dancing in silent motion pictures for the Educational Film Company.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper teamed up with Osceola Blanks in 1917 to form the song and dance team of Harper and Blanks. Harper and Blanks performed on Broadway in *Put and Take* in 1921. In 1921 theater owners the Shubert Brothers sign Harper and Blanks to be their first Black act ever to tour America in their all White circuit of theaters.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper and his wife return to Harlem from London in June of 1923 and take an apartment at 2067 Seventh Ave. between 124th and 123rd streets.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper in 1923 showcases his Cabaret Floorshows and Black Musical Comedies in theaters and nightclubs in Central Harlem. These venues were mainly located between 132nd and 131st Street on 7th Avenues and its neighboring vicinity.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper and Oscar Micheaux in 1931, mounted their Co-Directed, “First All-Black Talking” motion picture *The Exile*, out of Harlem’s Lafayette Theater’s offices on 7th. Ave. between 132nd & 131st Streets.

WHEREAS: Leonard Harper died on February 4th, 1943 of a severe heart attack he suffered while rehearsing at the Murrain’s Nightclub on 132nd street and 7th Avenue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on December 1, 2014 Manhattan Community Board voted in support of the Co-Naming of the Southeast corner of West 132nd street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd Jr. to Leonard Harper Way by a vote of **32 YES 0 NO 0 ABSTENTIONS**.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 wishes to remember Leonard Harper by formally requesting New York City Council and the Mayor of New York City to enact legislation to Co-Name the Southeast corner of West 132nd street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd Jr. – Leonard Harper Way.