

[REDACTED]

From: Cheryl Sealey <ccsealey82@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 1:54 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Co naming of Parkside Plaza/Duane Joseph

[REDACTED]

Dear City Council,

As a longtime resident of the 40th Council District and, a long time community colleague of Duane Joseph, I urge you to vote yes in favor of co-naming Parkside Plaza, in honor of Duane Joseph.

Thank You,

Cheryl Sealey
[REDACTED] Parkside

[REDACTED]

From: Elena Callahan <callahan.elena@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:57 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Duane Joseph Plaza Co-Naming Testimony

[REDACTED]

Hi there,

I am submitting my testimony to support Duane Joseph in being memorialized through the co-naming at Parkside Plaza in Flatbush, Brooklyn. I am a resident of Brooklyn and have lived in the neighborhood for 11 years. I met Duane in 2015 when I joined the Parkside Plaza Committee.

When I think of Duane Joseph the words that come to mind are passionate, determined, caring, friendly, visionary, and caring deeply about racial equity and community health. I had the pleasure of working with him when I joined the Plaza in 2015 and have always been inspired by his consistent commitment to the Plaza as well as how he tirelessly served the community in other ways.

When I first joined the Plaza committee, I had heard just how many years it had taken for this Plaza to come to life. Duane's commitment to ensuring the neighborhood thrived was evident in how he along with others fundraised for years and petitioned the city to have this plaza. After decades of being an empty barren space in front of the train station, the Plaza was transformed into a space by and for the community in 2015. I'll never forget him sharing with me his ultimate vision for the Plaza which was to create an open air community center for neighbors given that there wasn't a community center anywhere nearby for residents.

Over the years, that became a reality as he spearheaded and co-organized many events including resource fairs, music events, pop up libraries, film screenings, and more. For the first few years when we would have anniversary celebrations, I was always impressed by how he was always there ready to get into action, putting up tents, setting up tables, serving food, talking with the community. I knew that Duane would always show up or do his best to.

Over the years as Duane became busy with other community organizing through CB14 and otherwise, I never felt like he was far away from the Plaza and he was always there to call and support when we were having challenges. It also became clear to me over time that he never stopped looking after the Plaza as I remember running into him at the Plaza during the Pandemic at the Carribean Equality Project's food giveaway that became a regular event even to this day. I didn't even realize he had been involved. It just is another trait of Duane's which was to be behind the scenes, always there for the community.

Even up to his last days, he was organizing events. When I last saw him in the spring, we met at Brooklyn Perk for a Plaza meeting to talk through what events we wanted to have on the Plaza during the summer. He let me know that he was already planning two different things. One was a community storytelling and activism project called Hey Neighbor and the other was a Father's Day event to provide resources to fathers in partnership with the Lion's Club and the Infant Safe Sleep Initiative. Again, he never stopped being active.

Finally, I had the opportunity to interview Duane for a podcast I created about Neighbors during the Pandemic. This was actually the second time I had begun to interview him. What I really appreciated was that he didn't seem to even think twice, but that he was so keen and excited to share his story and his passion for the community and making Flatbush a vibrant and equitable place.

Overall, I strongly urge you to support Duane being memorialized at the Plaza. He represents a shining light in dark times, a path and way of being in the world that we can all take example from. He must be remembered in connection to the Plaza bc without his time, passion, and energy, the Plaza wouldn't be what it is today--a gathering place and resource center by and for the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elena Callahan

Lloyd Richards Paved the Way by Michelle Deal Winfield

Life and legacy

American Theatre

Broadway Director

“A Raisin in the Sun”

Renaissance man

Mentor Trainer

Yale Drama School

Communicator

Uplifting the profession

Tony Award winner

Praise & applause

No dreams deferred

West 47th Street and Broadway

Lloyd Richards Way!

[REDACTED]

From: Sonya <sonyarocvil@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:27 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming the Plaza for Duane Joseph

[REDACTED]

Hello,

Duane Joseph was a pillar of our community and worked to create and sustain the Parkside Plaza. In working with Duane as a fellow volunteer for so many years I know the amount of time that he has spent being committed to this neighborhood.

I support the renaming of the plaza to reflect Duane significant contributions.

Thank you!

Sonya Rocvil

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Doal Winfield

Address: [REDACTED] E. 25 ST

I represent: Lloyd Richards wav

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 12-20-23

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ASICO Wilson

Address: _____

I represent: 10thly Represent Duane Joseph

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 12/20/23

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Caroline Davis Joseph

Address: [REDACTED] Debs Place [REDACTED] Bx N410475

I represent: Street Name of Duane Joseph

Address: _____