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COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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July 13, 2022  
Start: 11:42 a.m.  
Recess: 11:58 a.m.

HELD AT: HYBRID HEARING - COMMITTEE ROOM -  
CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- David M. Carr
- Eric Dinowitz
- Robert F. Holden
- Linda Lee
- Christopher Marte
- Julie Menin
- Francisco P. Moya
- Mercedes Narcisse
- Lincoln Restler
- Sandra Ung
- Marjorie Velazquez
- Vickie Paladino

1 COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a  
3 mic check for the Committee on Parks and Recreation.  
4 Today's date is July 13, 2022. Located in the  
5 Committee Room. Recording done by Pedro Lugo.

6 SERGEANT LUGO: Good morning, everyone.  
7 Welcome to today's hybrid New York City Council  
8 meeting on Parks and Recreation. At this time, place  
9 electronic devices on silent and vibrate mode. Thank  
10 you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] Thank you  
13 so much, Sergeant. We'll begin our hearing today.  
14 Good morning, everyone. I'm Council Member Shekar  
15 Krishnan, and I'm pleased to Chair the Committee on  
16 Parks and Recreation.

17 Today, the Committee will conduct a  
18 proposed vote on Intro 488 sponsored by myself and  
19 many other Colleagues which will ceremonially co-name  
20 78 thoroughfares and public places throughout New  
21 York City.

22 We first considered this bill at a  
23 hearing held on June 7, 2022, where many Council  
24 Members and members of the public spoke in favor of  
25 various co-naming proposals. Of the many honorees

2 proposed by this piece of legislation, I'd like to  
3 again call attention to a couple of co-namings that I  
4 am proud to have sponsored in my own District, in  
5 Elmhurst and Jackson Heights.

6           One would honor Dr. Sergio I. Rubio. Dr.  
7 Rubio was a veteran, originally from Peru, who  
8 brought his expertise and dedication to Jackson  
9 Heights for over 40 years while expanding his  
10 veterinary and community service to previously  
11 underserved communities. Dr. Rubio would treat all  
12 animals who came through his doors, help any neighbor  
13 and resident he could in the community, and was truly  
14 an example of a humanitarian and a veterinarian who  
15 always placed the public interest first.

16           The other would name a section in my  
17 District as Little Thailand Way to commemorate the  
18 vibrant and growing Thai community in Woodside,  
19 Elmhurst, and Jackson Heights. Little Thailand Way  
20 reflects the incredibly vibrant Thai community that  
21 we have between so many activists, small  
22 businessowners, communities that have celebrate Thai  
23 culture on Woodside Avenue in Elmhurst who have made  
24 sure that the neighborhoods of Elmhurst, Jackson  
25 Heights, and Woodside really reflect the beautiful

2 and thriving heritage of our Thai community. It is an  
3 honor to submit today for a vote the renaming of a  
4 section of my District as Little Thailand Way and  
5 also Dr. Rubio Way as well.

6 I look forward to voting in favor of this  
7 bill, and I encourage all of my Colleagues on the  
8 Committee to vote aye as well.

9 I would also just like to mention which  
10 Council Members are here and have joined us for  
11 today's hearing. We have Council Member Dinowitz,  
12 Council Member Lee, Council Member Marte, Council  
13 Member Menin, Council Member Narcisse, Council Member  
14 Ung, Council Member Velazquez, and Council Member  
15 Carr. I'd like at this time thank all my Colleagues  
16 for joining. Also, at this time Council Member  
17 Paladino has joined us as well. Thank you, Council  
18 Member Paladino.

19 At this time, I'd like to acknowledge any  
20 Colleague who wishes to speak on any of the co-naming  
21 proposals. Is there anyone at this time who'd like to  
22 speak? Council Member Holden has joined us as well.

23 We'll begin with Council Member Dinowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Good morning,  
25 everyone. I'm here to talk about the co-naming of

2 West 237th Street in Hudson Manor Terrance in  
3 Riverdale after Bill Stone. When I think about the  
4 work that we do here in the Council and what everyone  
5 expects of us, everyone expects us to make good  
6 change, but we all know change really happens from  
7 very dedicated community servants who work hard in  
8 their communities to make that change, and Bill Stone  
9 was a man whose life was dedicated to serving the  
10 community and serving his country. He was in the U.S.  
11 Army during the Korean War, he was honorably  
12 discharged, was a Staff Sergeant, and earned the  
13 Bronze Star. When he returned, there was a lot of  
14 work he did for our community. For Community Board 8,  
15 he served 3 terms as Chair of the Community Board,  
16 but a lot of his work centered on advocating for  
17 people with disabilities. He was the President and on  
18 the Board for many years, 50 years, and President of  
19 the camp that serves people with multiple  
20 disabilities. As President of this camp, he was  
21 appointed an Ambassador for United Way, and, at one  
22 of our local synagogues he was the force behind  
23 ensuring that the entire facility, everything outside  
24 and everything inside, was fully accessible to people  
25 with disabilities and over the years that type of

2 work and all the other work he's done for the  
3 community has earned him a number of awards from  
4 organizations like the Riverdale Neighborhood House,  
5 the Riverdale Community Council, the Hebrew Institute  
6 of Riverdale, Riverdale B'nai B'rith, and the Bronx  
7 Community Board 8, and earning from NYSARC Volunteer  
8 of the Year Award, the Bronx Developmental  
9 Disabilities Council, and, important to me, Bill  
10 Stone was a friend. He was someone I served on my  
11 local Community Board with, and many people knew him  
12 as someone who cared, who fought hard in our local  
13 community to make that change happen, and this street  
14 co-naming was supported overwhelmingly by our local  
15 Community Board, and it is an honor to be voting in  
16 favor today of co-naming West 237th Street in Hudson  
17 Manor Terrace in honor of Bill Stone.

18 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,  
19 Council Member Dinowitz. Council Member Narcisse.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I was waiting  
21 for Council Member Darlene Mealy because we had a  
22 street co-naming, but since she's not here I will  
23 take the opportunity to say thank you to Council  
24 Member Darlene Mealy for introducing the co-naming of  
25 East 56th Street and Linden Boulevard to Kade Ashton

2 Tyler Lewin Way in honor of my constituent. Kade  
3 Lewin was an innocent, intelligent, fun-loving 12-  
4 year-old whose life was cut short due to yet another  
5 act of senseless gun violence in our streets. It is  
6 my hope that this memorial in the form of a street  
7 co-naming serves as a reminder to all of us that we  
8 must all work together to help out to end this public  
9 health crisis which is stealing the lives of too many  
10 of our young future leaders. It is sad for me as a  
11 mom of 4 to see a 12-year-old falling down from gun  
12 violence. It is time for us to do more than speaking  
13 and talking. We have to walk the walk. 12-year-olds  
14 should not be dying sitting a car eating their dinner  
15 and being shot in daylight. It is my pleasure to work  
16 with my Colleagues to do more that we can stop and  
17 address the inequities in our community because I  
18 always say crime issues don't occur in a silo. It's a  
19 combination of different issues, housing issues,  
20 education, opportunity, job. Those are the things  
21 that we need to pay attention to. Mental health we  
22 know is a crisis in our community all over, but, most  
23 importantly, in the high-risk areas. Thank you for  
24 listening and thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the

2 opportunity to speak on behalf of that bill. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,  
5 Council Member Narcisse. We've also been joined by  
6 Council Member Moya and Council Member Restler. I now  
7 also ask my Colleague, Council Member Menin, to say a  
8 few words.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you so much,  
10 Chair Krishnan. I'm so excited that today's vote has  
11 so many important co-namings including a street co-  
12 naming in my District for Jimmy Neary. Jimmy was a  
13 cherished individual who founded Neary's Restaurant  
14 and Pub in 1967 at the intersection of 57th and 1st  
15 Avenue. Today, Neary's remains a landmark Restaurant  
16 and Pub, and it's a lasting reminder of Jimmy's  
17 impact on the neighborhood. It wasn't just a  
18 restaurant for so many people in the neighborhood and  
19 in the city at large; it was a home. Jimmy passed  
20 away last October at the age of 91. Yet, countless  
21 people have beloved memories of speaking with Jimmy  
22 who spent virtually every single day at Neary's. He  
23 knew so many people that he was known as everyone's  
24 friend. Neary's was a special place for people  
25 because of Jimmy warmth and generosity. It's a



2 distinguished honor to have a street celebrating a  
3 person who did so much for our city. I'm privileged  
4 to have the opportunity to vote in favor of my bill  
5 today. Thank you so much for the opportunity to  
6 speak.

7 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you, Council  
8 Member Menin. Now, we have Council Member Holden.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Chair.  
10 I have 4 street co-namings today, and one is for  
11 Monsignor Zendzian who was former pastor of Holy  
12 Cross Church in Maspeth. He was very active in the  
13 Polish community for many, many years and really  
14 worked with immigrant programs and so forth and was a  
15 tremendous asset to the community.

16 Louis Iorio was involved in youth sports.  
17 He's also getting a street co-named.

18 Mary Anne Verbil was a beloved teacher  
19 for many years in Maspeth, taught thousands of  
20 children in the area.

21 I also want to talk about Captain Thomas  
22 G. Abbey. A very unique story. He served in 2 World  
23 Wars. The first World War he was a pilot in the  
24 biplanes, very treacherous job, and he survived World  
25 War 1, became a police officer in the motorcycle unit

2 of the NYPD, and then volunteered. By the way, the  
3 Mayor La Guardia didn't allow the NYPD to enlist or  
4 reenlist during World War 2 because there was a  
5 shortage of police officers, but Mayor La Guardia  
6 gave him special permission, Captain Thomas Abbey,  
7 because they needed pilots and they needed to train  
8 new pilots because we had a shortage during World War  
9 2 so he volunteered. He served during World War 2 as  
10 a pilot. He also trained pilots and then volunteered  
11 for a special mission during World War 2. His  
12 commanding officer was lost so he volunteered to go  
13 out alone and look for his commanding officer.  
14 Unfortunately, he perished. He gave his life, he  
15 served in 2 World Wars and outstanding person. I  
16 thank the Newtown Historical Society for coming up  
17 with this, and we're going to honor Thomas Abbey with  
18 a street co-naming. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,  
20 Council Member Holden. Now, we have Council Member  
21 Marte.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I'm really excited  
23 about the 3 street namings that we have in our  
24 District. One has local implication, one has  
25 national, and one actually intergalactic

2 implications, and, if you know the Beastie Boys, you  
3 know what I'm referring to.

4 Harold Lui Way. This gentleman was part  
5 of almost every single community organization in  
6 Chinatown. First starting out with Hamilton Madison  
7 in his youth, later being one of the founders of the  
8 Chinese American Planning Council. He was also one of  
9 the founders of the Chinatown Health Clinic which  
10 later became Charles B. Wang. He was on the Board  
11 twice of Chung Pak Senior Housing, and he also was  
12 one of the founders of the Chinatown History Project  
13 which later became MOCA. If you know any of those  
14 organizations, they are the cornerstone of Chinatown,  
15 and this guy helped lead the way in founding them so  
16 it's with great honor that we're able to give him the  
17 street renaming which is long overdue.

18 Second street renaming is for Edie  
19 Windsor and Thea Spyer Way, 2 LGBTQ activists who  
20 were the lead plaintiffs allowing for same-sex  
21 marriage to become the law of the land and so we're  
22 really excited. We worked with Eric Botcher's team so  
23 hopefully in the next few months we'll be able to  
24 have a great celebration, especially in these times  
25 that our nation is going through.

2           Finally, in my home street on the Lower  
3 Eastside, on the cover of Beastie Boys' first album  
4 was the block of Rivington and Ludlow Street and so  
5 this has been in the works for a really long time.  
6 It's great to honor hip hop. It comes in a lot of  
7 different colors, and I think the Beastie Boys were  
8 the first hip hop artist group that was allowed to be  
9 on MTV which helped publicize and universalize hip  
10 hop in every community so that's going to be a fun  
11 party. Going to invite everyone to come to that  
12 because it's going to be really cool. Thank you.

13           CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,  
14 Council Member Marte. Well said. Pun well-done too. I  
15 want to thank all the Colleagues for your statements  
16 today.

17           I'll now ask our Clerk to call the roll  
18 for the vote.

19           WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Good  
20 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
21 vote Committee on Parks and Recreation. Proposed  
22 Introduction 480-A. Chair Krishnan.

23           CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

24           WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden.

25           COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

5 Dinowitz.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Menin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

14 Narcisse.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Restler.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye as well.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

21 Velazquez. Council Member Velazquez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: Aye on all.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank

24 you. Carr.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: By a  
3 vote of 12 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and  
4 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the  
5 Committee. I will pass the mic back to the Chair.

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much.  
7 I want to say thank you to, in addition to my  
8 Colleagues for joining us for today's vote, to all  
9 our Parks Committee staff. First and foremost,  
10 starting with our Counsel for today, Irene Byhovsky,  
11 Kristoffer Sartori, Patrick Mulvihill, Chima  
12 Obichere, Rose Martinez, Nicholas Montalbano, and  
13 from my office, Legislative Coordinator Greg Clark  
14 and our District Director Weilai Rice who have worked  
15 with me on our street namings today too. Thank you  
16 all so much. Thank you to the Council and have a good  
17 day, everyone.

18 Hearing adjourned. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 22, 2022