

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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JUNE 7, 2022

Start: 1:41 P. M.

Recess: 2:52 P. M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: Hon. 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 Velázquez

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Abreu, Bottcher, Brewer, Kagan, Barron,
Powers, Gutiérrez and Farías

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

A P P E A R A N C E S

Macayle Fuchs

Speaking on Behalf of Council Member Paladino

Una Neary

Daughter to Jimmy Neary; Co-naming Jimmy Neary Way

Hoay Ming Tan - Parent; NYC Aquatic Programs

Michelle Winfield

Resident of Manhattan Community Board Six and State Democratic Woman 74th Assembly District; Co-naming Dr. May Edward Chinn Place

Natalie Yang - Parent; NYC Aquatic Programs

Olga Nekrasova - Parent; NYC Aquatic Programs

Deidra Bay

New York City Resident; Co-naming Jimmy Neary Way

Stephen Raider

New York City Resident; Co-naming Jimmy Neary Way

Thomas Sessa - Parent; NYC Aquatic Programs

Victoria Davis,

Sister to Delrawn Small; Co-naming Delrawn Small Way

Monifa Akinwole Bandele,

New York City Resident and activist; Chief Strategy Officer at Momsrising.Org; Co-naming Delrawn Small Way

Brian Goggin

Friend to Jimmy Neary; Co-naming Jimmy Neary Way

AnnMarie Neary

Daughter to Jimmy Neary; Co-naming Jimmy Neary Way

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Christine E. Merrit

Street Co-naming for Dr. May Edward Chinn; Member of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

1 SERGEANT LUGO: Pc recording has started.

2 SERGEANT BIONDO: One moment. Recording to the
3 cloud underway.

4 SERGEANT LUGO: Thank you, good afternoon,
5 everyone, welcome to today's remote New York City
6 Hearing of The Committee on Parks and Recreation.

7 At this time would all panelists please turn on
8 your videos? To minimize disruptions, please place
9 all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

10 If you wish to submit testimony, you may send it
11 to testimony@council.nyc.gov again that is
12 testimony@council.nyc.gov.

13 Thank you for your cooperation, Chair, we are
14 ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so [LOST
16 CONNECTION [INAUDIBLE] Okay, good afternoon,
17 everyone, I am Council Member Shekar Krishnan, and I
18 am pleased to chair the Committee on Parks and
19 Recreation.

20 I would like to also note that we have been
21 joined by Council Member Holden, Council Member Moya,
22 Council Member Dinowitz, Council Member Lee, and
23 Council Member Marte, Council Member Narcisse,
24 Council Member Ung, Council Member Carr, Council
25

1
2 Member Abreu, Council Member Bottcher, Council Member
3 Brewer, Council Member Kagan, Council Member Farías,
4 Council Member Restler, and Council Member Velázquez.

5 Thank you all for joining to all of my
6 colleagues.

7 Today, the committee will consider two pieces of
8 legislation. First Intro Number 480, sponsored by
9 myself and many other colleagues, which ceremonially
10 co-names 79 thoroughfares and public places
11 throughout the City.

12 Co-naming bills are result of the periodic
13 process where we seek to honor individuals and
14 organizations that have made lasting contributions to
15 our city. Some of these include co-names for active
16 community members, heroic New Yorkers who've
17 sacrificed their lives for other, people who have
18 committed their lives to public service, or those who
19 really enrich the city's cultural landscape.

20 Of the many honorees proposed by this piece of
21 legislation, I'd like to call... There are many
22 honorees proposed by this piece of legislation, in
23 particular, I'd like to call attention to a couple of
24 co-namings that I am proud to have co-sponsored from
25 my district of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, Queens.

1
2 One would honor Dr. Sergio I. Rubio, who was a
3 vet originally from Peru, who brought his expertise
4 and dedication to Jackson Heights for over 40 years.
5 Dr. Sergio did so while expanding his veterinary and
6 community service to previously underserved
7 communities, while making sure that his skills were
8 used to help those in need in our community, and made
9 sure that he was as helpful as possible to all who
10 need access to his services. Dr. Rubio did very much
11 in Jackson Heights for our community, uh, as a
12 veterinarian, and his legacy lives on in our
13 community.

14 The other, would name a section in my district in
15 Elmhurst as Little Thailand Way, to commemorate the
16 vibrant and growing Thai community in Woodside,
17 Elmhurst, and Jackson Heights. Woodside Avenue,
18 where we also have an open street as well now, during
19 the summer, is such a a testament to the vibrancy,
20 and energy, and incredible activism of our Thai
21 community. The small businesses that are there and
22 the events that are held there, really reflect the
23 beauty and the energy of our Thai community not just
24 of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, but across Queens
25

1 and throughout our city. Little Thailand Way is a
2 very fitting name for this street.
3

4 The second bill we will consider is Intro Number
5 227, sponsored by my colleague, Council Member Gale
6 Brewer. Currently, other than within the supportive
7 documents we draft for each local law, there is no
8 easily accessible by biographical or background
9 information for ceremonial street co-names that are
10 posted on any city agency website. Intro Number 227
11 would improve this by requiring The Department of
12 Transportation to publish on its website biographical
13 information pertaining to all street name changes.

14 Thank you, Council Member Brewer for introducing
15 this legislation, I am looking forward to hearing
16 more on it today, too.

17 Finally, I unfortunately have a scheduling
18 conflict and will be unable to chair the remainder of
19 this hearing. Council Member Lincoln Restler and
20 Parks Committee member has graciously agreed to
21 preside over the rest of this hearing in my absence,
22 and I'd like to thank him very much for agreeing to
23 do so.

24 At this time I will pass the virtual gavel over
25 to Council Member Restler, thank you again.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you very much
3 Sergeant, and thank you, Chair Krishnan, uh, I
4 appreciate your tremendous leadership on the Parks
5 Committee. It is now my honor to pass it over to
6 Council Member Brewer to discuss Intro 227.

7 Uh, and I also just wanted to thank Council
8 Member Julie Menin for joining us today.

9 Council Member Brewer, would you like to speak to
10 the legislation that you are sponsoring?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank... Thank you very
12 much, uh, Interim Chair Restler. I appreciate the
13 fact that this bill is being considered.

14 So, 227, you probably know, because you've done
15 it in the past or you are participating in today's
16 hearing, that whenever a, you know, a street in
17 particular, but also a playground, is renamed or co-
18 named, the City Council usually, usually it's the
19 City Council that makes biological and background
20 information about the person or entity for whom the
21 naming is done for. We would hope that this
22 information would be available on more websites. It
23 is interesting to me that when I looked at the City
24 Council -- because the City Council used to do this -

1
2 - 2007 was the last time that the City Council listed
3 it, and there's no city website doing it currently.

4 Why am I doing this? Just like all of my
5 colleagues, I am a history buff. We love history.
6 And, I know that in my past when, uh, for instance we
7 were having a discussion about the municipal
8 archives, and Mayor Bloomberg wanted to merge them
9 with another city agency, I said, absolutely not,
10 because our history has to stand alone.

11 When you look up particularly at the co-namings
12 of the streets, unless you're as well informed as my
13 colleagues, you really don't know sometimes who that
14 amazing person is who's up on the streetlamp, and
15 certainly neither do the tourists. I also think it
16 would be great to have this information available on
17 a website, because school kids could also get to know
18 the history of their neighborhood.

19 There is a very important equity issue, and I
20 don't usually use that term as people know. But, let
21 me tell you why it's important. I know in my
22 neighborhood, it turns out that on my street, there
23 are already two or three co-namings. I know each one
24 of them, I think about them when I walk by. But,
25 these are just the everyday heroes. They are not the

1 famous, famous New Yorkers, but they are the everyday
2 heroes. And people want to know, to celebrate them,
3 to learn about their local leaders, their community,
4 and other civic standouts.
5

6 How would it work? Now, this is forward looking,
7 it's not exactly what I want, but I'm always willing
8 to compromise. If I had my way, it would go back to
9 the beginning of whenever co-naming started, so don't
10 think I am going to stop at this bill. But, what it
11 would do, uhm, would go forward. It calls for the
12 creation of an online database for new namings and
13 co-namings. Like I said, I wanted to go all the way
14 back to the beginning of the New York City, but I
15 will start with this. So, obviously once names are
16 approved by the City Council, as we will do today,
17 they historians from the New York City Municipal
18 Archives -- that's actually my favorite city agency -
19 - uh, could make sure that it's an accurate
20 historical account of the figure or organization, or
21 we could work obviously with the Artist's Antiquities
22 Division of the City Council, if we want to include,
23 uh, Parks naming.

24 I have to say the Parks naming is quite good.
25 The co-namings of streets is terrible, because it's

1 not listed anywhere in any kind of a consistent
2 basis. Uhm, like I said, Parks does a historical
3 signs program. They do describe the history of the
4 site, the park improvements, the biography of the
5 person for whom the park is named. And, it can be
6 found on the Parks' site.
7

8 I don't know that any other city has done this.
9 We checked with Boston. Boston has never kept records
10 regarding the origins of street names. They don't
11 have any of this information. The public library in
12 Boston has made an effort to display some information
13 online, but it's not consistent. Chicago, we
14 couldn't find anything. Uh, San Francisco, which is
15 having a big election today, uh, they have a modest
16 effort that is being run by The Museum of The City of
17 San Francisco of early street names.

18 So, can you see there is not a lot of... around
19 the country, so we could be the first which we always
20 like.

21 I also want to... I know that the, uh, Parks
22 Department and DOT cannot testify today, but City
23 Council Member Ydanis Rodríguez... I think he
24 renamed every street in Washington Heights and
25 Inwood. And I was at most of those re-namings, and

1 they're wonderful people many of whom are local
2 heroes. And they need to be listed.

3
4 There is one person, his name is Gilbert Tower,
5 he lives in my neighborhood, and all by himself, he
6 has been writing articles and keeping track and has
7 his own list. But, obviously we know that an
8 individual has to... lists still have to be
9 duplicated and checked... not duplicated, checked by
10 the City of New York.

11 I have tried to do this in the past, I'll be
12 honest, and the City agencies never wanted to do it.
13 Why I asked? Uh, partially DOT, but now that there
14 is a commissioner who likes doing this, maybe that
15 will change, but in the past because... They said,
16 how do we know that the information is correct?
17 Well, how do you know anything is correct? You do
18 the best you can with The Municipal Archives and
19 their extraordinary staff -- if you need.

20 I also think that the City Council staff does a
21 great job in terms of this information.

22 So, I am very excited about this bill. I know it
23 doesn't change the world, but I can tell you we get a
24 lot of complaints, why does Gale, you know, you...
25 How do I know who so and so is? After 9/11

1 personally, I might say unfortunately, because we all
2 did this, participated in many street name co-
3 namings. I think almost everyone who died and whose
4 family wanted to have their name up on a street co-
5 naming was able to do so in the City of New York.
6 Former Council Member Helen Rosenthal, you may not
7 know, but her brother died in 9/11. And, I was part
8 of her street co-naming on 72nd street. Her brother
9 was Joshua Rosenthal. So, there is, uh, that
10 database, I believe may be listed at the museum --
11 the 9/11 museum. But, that doesn't... Who would
12 know that? And who would know that the one that
13 you're looking at is somebody who unfortunately at
14 9/11?

15
16 So, I think you get my point. The City Council
17 doesn't have the time to update it. In the past, the
18 DOT didn't want to do it. Uh, there is a little bit
19 at the 9/11 museum. There is a little bit, uhm, on
20 an individual's private list. And then there may
21 be... Parks Department has a better list.

22 So, I... You get the picture. I think we
23 desperately need this bill obviously to go forward.
24 And I am hoping that if we get it going, that we
25 would be able to add, uh, all of the names that are

1 posted on our street and obviously work with The
2 Parks Department. They actually do a good job. I
3 wanted to figure out how to coordinate and make sure
4 that it's up-to-date and easily accessible on their
5 website.
6

7 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. And, I look
8 forward to further discussion. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Great, thank you very
10 much, Council Member Brewer.

11 And it is now my pleasure to pass things over to
12 Committee Counsel. Kris Sartori, to walk us through
13 some procedural items. Thank you.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Restler.

15 I am Kris Sartori, Senior Counsel to The
16 Committee on Parks and Recreation, and I will be
17 moderating this hearing.

18 Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone
19 that you will be on mute until you are called on to
20 testify, at which point you will be unmuted by the
21 host. During the hearing, I will be calling on
22 panelists to testify, so please listed for your name
23 be called, because I will periodically be announcing
24 who the next panelists will be.
25

1
2 Today, we will first be hearing from council
3 members who wish to make statements on the bills
4 being considered before the committee today, followed
5 by members of the public who wish to speak.

6 For panelists, once your name is called, once
7 again, a member of our staff will unmute you, and the
8 Sergeant At Arms will go you the go ahead to begin
9 upon setting the timer.

10 For public panelists today, the time limit will
11 be three minutes to issue your statement. So, please
12 wait for the Sergeant that you may begin before
13 starting your testimony.

14 I will now call on council members who wish to
15 make any comments on any of the street naming -- co-
16 naming -- nominations being considered today, and I
17 would ask that of them use the Zoom Raise Hand
18 Function if they would like to make a statement, and
19 I will call on each member who desires to make a
20 statement in the order that they have used the Zoom
21 Raise Hand Function.

22 At this point, I will call on Council Member
23 Barron, followed by Majority Leader Powers.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.
25

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh, thank you very much.

I want to highlight two gentlemen in my district Jose Rosado and Melvin A. Faulkner. Uh, Rosado was a real champion in our community. He's done great counseling for young people in need of counseling. He served on our community board. He was just a dedicated hard working member of the community board concerned about all of the issues. But most importantly, he was the founder and organizer of the Latin Souls Baseball League in our community, and he gets so many young people involved in baseball. But, not only building their baseball skills, but he built their characters and turned them in to strong young people who developed into fine young men. And so to Rosado and the family, anytime we called on him, he was there. And it didn't just have to be something in his sphere of interest, but it was always something that he thought was really, really great for our community. He is sorely missed. What we are going to do, is the field that he used to play on, we have been meeting with the Department of Parks now, and his league, are going to name the field after him as well, and we are also going to refurbish it, renovate it so it will look like a major league field

1 when we get finished with it in the name of Rosado.

2 And, then personally, I just really loved that

3 brother. He was just so warm and open and always

4 just so kind to our people.

5 And, Mel Faulkner, is an iconic figure in our

6 community. And Mr. Faulkner has been around for a

7 long time. You know, in our community, some people

8 say very long, but we say, "loooong" time, that means

9 he's really been around a long time. And he served

10 so well. And Mr. Faulkner, and, you know, his

11 affiliation with Gerald Seabrooks and Rehoboth

12 Cathedral, he was a deacon there. But, in our

13 community he was a member of our community board, and

14 he was in my office and in my wife's office, in the

15 City Council Office, and in the State Assembly

16 Office. And the thing that Mel Faulkner is most

17 known for is how many families he got out of

18 foreclosure. Over a 100 families in years in our

19 office, he was able to get out of foreclosure --

20 without lawyers! All of the judges knew him, their

21 legal aids and legal lawyers knew him. When Mr.

22 Faulkner came in that office, uh, we knew that family

23 was going to be saved. So, he saved over 100

24 families from foreclosure in our district. And he

1 was able to deal with seniors. He loved the seniors,
2 and he made sure that they had their healthcare,
3 their housing, any senior needs were definitely taken
4 care of by Mr. Melvin Faulkner. So, he's an iconic
5 figure in our community, we miss him and love him.
6 He served his time in the military, and he served his
7 community just tremendously. Melvin Faulkner is an
8 institution, and his wife Carolyn Faulkner and his
9 grandchildren and children, all of them are just so,
10 so important to our community. So, we thank you for
11 honoring Melvin Faulkner.
12

13 And even though this one is not in my community,
14 but Delrawn Small was a young man who had high
15 character in our community. Killed by NYPD during a
16 traffic incident. The officer cut him off, with him
17 and his loved ones in the car. He got out to say,
18 "Why did you do that?", and just was shot, before he
19 could even say another word, and killed. And this
20 injustice system let this officer go. But, we will
21 always remember Delrawn Small for the character he
22 had, and his family has been... Victoria and Brother
23 Dempsey, Victor, we have been working with them over
24 the years, so we honor them today as well. Thank you
25 very much.

1 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

2 Next his Majority Leader Powers, followed by
3 Council Members Menin and Marte.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, uh, I will be
6 brief, but I am just here to speak in support of a
7 street re-naming that I want to thank my colleague,
8 Council Member Menin, for doing, which is in support
9 of Jimmy Neary Way, which is close to my district,
10 but also have a lot of pertinence here as the Head of
11 the Irish Caucus. Uh, Mr. Neary was not only an
12 institution in the Irish community, but he also...
13 [BACKGROUND NOISE] Somebody, can you... can you hit
14 mute, somebody? Uhm, but has had a big... had a lot
15 of relevance here in the Irish-American community,
16 but also in our neighborhoods and in the Sutton Place
17 neighborhood. He was also a sort of well-known, well
18 established, and very famous institution that I
19 believe was open on Saint Patrick's Day in 1967. I
20 got the thumbs up, I believe from his daughters, who
21 are giving me a... Uhm, but, you know, I have had
22 multiple people that are in my life and the Irish-
23 American community to reach out... Just so ecstatic
24 and so enthused that we are taking this moment to
25

1 honor his legacy, his institution, and his
2 personality. And so I join... And, Council Member
3 Menin, and I want to thank her for taking this
4 opportunity, and with his family here as well today,
5 to honor his legacy, and honor what he meant to our
6 districts, and in our community, but also what he
7 meant to the City at large. And I did, myself, uh,
8 having just worked around the corner, uh, on 57th and
9 1st, years ago, had the opportunity to spend a number
10 of days in there, got to know Mr. Neary, and got to
11 talk politics with him as I was a young staffer. So,
12 I am particularly happy to be here to join in with
13 many others, uh, who... Let's see, I know we will
14 hear from Brother Breslin and many others as well,
15 who are so very enthused about this.

17 So, thank you to my colleague, Council Member
18 Menin, for taking this and doing this for them. And
19 of course, to his family who are here today, I just
20 want to say he was a fantastic guy, and I am really
21 glad that I got to meet him. I am glad to chair to
22 The Irish Caucus here in the council, to be able to
23 part of honoring people like him who did so much for
24 our community.

1 So, uh, thank you for his contributions. Thank
2 you for sharing him with us -- our community -- and
3 thank you to the City, and thank you guys for sharing
4 him with New York City as well. It will be honor
5 once we get to put that sign up there.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Council Member Menin,
8 followed by Council Member Marte, followed by Council
9 Member Abreu.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you so much.

12 Well, I really want to echo what Majority Leader
13 Powers said.

14 So, this is a street naming that I am putting
15 forward for Jimmy Neary. I knew Jimmy incredibly
16 well -- and his family. He is literally an
17 institution not only in this district, but throughout
18 New York City. So, in honor of him, I just wanted to
19 say a few special words about him.

20 So, Jimmy was an Army veteran, a business owner,
21 and a prominent and iconic figure in the City. In
22 1967 on Saint Patrick's Day, he opened Neary's, which
23 is located at 57th Street and 1st Avenue on the
24 Eastside of Manhattan. The restaurant was a place
25

1
2 for everyone. You would literally see former US
3 presidents; you would see New York City Mayors; you
4 would see labor leaders; you would see artists; and
5 you would see neighborhood activists.

6 Jimmy arrived from Ireland to the United States
7 in 1954. He later joined the Army and was deployed
8 to Germany. After returning to the City, Jimmy and
9 business partner, Brian Mulligan, put \$500.00 towards
10 opening up Neary's. For decades Neary's became a
11 vital cultural part of both the neighborhood and our
12 city. It wasn't just a restaurant, for many it was a
13 home. People who visited Neary's will remember
14 Jimmy's joy, his hospitality, I know that I certainly
15 do. He always treated people with respect and care.
16 He could be found there virtually every, single day,
17 and he rarely took a break from running the
18 restaurant and pub. Jimmy was so dedicated and
19 passionate about his business that it closed on only
20 one day each year and that was Christmas day.

21 Tragically, Jimmy passed away last October at the
22 age of 91. Neary's remains a significant New York
23 institution that celebrates Irish culture, history,
24 and pride. It's a testament to Jimmy's passion,
25 dedication, and enthusiasm. It would be a

1 distinguished honor to have this intersection at 57th
2 and 1st Avenue celebrate a person who did so much for
3 our city and was the embodiment of so many the
4 traditions of the Irish community. Thank you

5
6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

7 Next is Council Member Marte, followed by Council
8 Member Abreu, followed by Council Member Gutiérrez.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Hi, everyone. We have a
11 couple of good street re-namings in my district this
12 year, but the one I really want to highlight is
13 Beastie Boys Square. It's been in the making for a
14 really long time, about nine years. I really want to
15 thank LeRoy McCarthy who was the champion who also
16 got the Wu-Tang District in Staten Island and Biggie
17 Smalls in Brooklyn, and now he has helped to champion
18 to bring the recognition of Beastie Boys down on the
19 Lower East Side intersection of Ludlow and Rivington.

20 As many of us know, once the Beastie Boys hit the
21 scene, uh, it really changed the hip-hop game and the
22 visibility of hip-hop especially on networks like
23 MTV. They wouldn't even play any hip-hop music until
24 the Beastie Boys came on to the scene. And so, it
25 helped make it a much more broadly recognized genre,

1
2 and also made it relatable to a lot of people who
3 were either purposely or un-purposely left aside from
4 having that experience and exposure to hip-hop.

5 So, I think it's going to be a really fun moment
6 to actually do this. Many of our community members
7 have been advocating for years to get this done. And
8 so, I see it as a celebration. A celebration for the
9 Lower East Side, a celebration for hip-hop, and
10 especially a celebration for our community who has
11 been organizing for a really long time to make this
12 happen. So, uh, I am really excited.

13 And, we have two other street co-renamings in my
14 district, which I will talk more a little bit at the
15 stated meeting. Thank you, guys.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.
17 Council Member Abreu, followed by Council Member
18 Gutiérrez, followed by Council Member Kagan.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council, and
21 good afternoon to everyone, and thank you, Chair
22 Krishnan, and to Mr. Chairman Restler.

23 I am... I'd like to take a moment to highlight
24 the importance of the two individuals we have chosen

1
2 to honor for inclusion in the street co-naming
3 legislation.

4 We will start with Juan María Díaz, Juan María
5 Díaz was an important figure in the Dominican
6 community. He was a born leader, and was heavily
7 involved in galvanizing international support against
8 the dictatorship of Rafael Leónidas Trujillo, facing
9 many assassination threats, and at one point being
10 assigned 24-hour protection by the FBI.

11 In the states, Juan co-published an anti-Trujillo
12 newspaper, De Patria. Juan's friend and co-founder of
13 the paper, Andres Requena, was assassinated in New
14 York City for his involvement by Trujillo's agents;
15 speaking to just how real the threat on his life was
16 and his steadfastness in fighting for democracy and
17 his people in the face of clear and present danger.

18 Despite the constant threat to his life, Juan
19 fought for what was right, and was known locally as a
20 man who was kind and generous and always looking to
21 help those less fortunate than himself.

22 This street co-naming of Juan M. Díaz Way would
23 be at 157th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. I
24 am hopeful to get this done in a timely fashion, so

1
2 that his family members are able to participate in
3 the ceremony.

4 The second person Judge Hubert T. Delany -- The
5 Honorable Hubert T. Delany. I am also honored to
6 speak about his immense contributions. He was a
7 well-known Civil Rights Attorney, Assistant US
8 Attorney, the first Black Tax Commissioner of New
9 York, and one of the first appointed Black judges in
10 New York City to the Juvenile Court.

11 A strong member of the community, he was on the
12 boards of the NAACP and Harlem YMCA, and was an
13 active leader in the Harlem renaissance. His impact
14 on the district was profound, and his national
15 profile -- serving as an attorney and advisor to the
16 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman Adam
17 Clayton Powell Jr., and Poet Langston Hughes --
18 speaks volumes to who he was a person; and we are
19 honored to be able to recognize him with this street
20 co-naming at the intersection of 145th Street and
21 Riverside Drive.

22 I thank the Honorable Charlie Rangel, the "Lion
23 of Lenox Avenue", a friend of Judge Delany, for his
24 support on this co-naming, and Judge Delany's
25

1
2 granddaughter, Michelle Stent, for her work on this
3 as well. Thank you so much.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

5 Next is Council Member Gutiérrez, followed by
6 Council Member Kagan, followed by Council Member
7 Farías.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Can you hear me?

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes... (CROSS-TALK)

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you all so much,
12 uh, and thank you, Interim Chair, uh, for this
13 opportunity. I just wanted to, uh, speak on the
14 street co-naming request for my district.

15 Detective Barbara Taylor-Burnette was assigned
16 to the NYPD Intelligence Division on September 11,
17 2001. She responded to the terrorist attacks on the
18 World Trade Center, arriving at the time of the
19 collapse of the second tower.

20 Barbara worked at Ground Zero for the next four
21 weeks, seven days a week, between 12 and 16 hours a
22 day. In 2006, she retired with 9/11 related lung
23 disease and severe fibrosis in both lungs.

24

25

1
2 In March of 2009, Barbara testified under oath
3 before Congress to fight for Health and Compensation
4 for 9/11 first responders.

5 In April 2017, Barbara was diagnosed with
6 inoperable lung cancer related to her work and
7 exposure at Ground Zero and was confined to a
8 wheelchair in her later years and on an oxygen tank
9 24-hours a day.

10 Detective Barbara Taylor-Burnette continued to
11 fight and advocate for Health and Compensation rights
12 for others, and three months before she died, Barbara
13 was asked to appear at a press conference at Ground
14 Zero to speak about the upcoming 20th Anniversary of
15 the 9/11 attacks. Unfortunately, Barbara passed away
16 on December 30, 2021 of lung cancer.

17 I just wanted to highlight that Detective Barbara
18 Taylor-Burnette was a beacon and certainly an
19 institution for us in Williamsburg. She was a
20 lifelong tenant of Williamsburg Houses, the borough's
21 oldest development, and she was a fixture in the
22 community for a long, long time.

23 Members in the community actually wanted to
24 reorganize her before her passing. And so I am
25 really honored to be able to elevate her life. Her

1 family and community have galvanized around the
2 street co-naming, so I am really proud to be able to
3 elevate her life, her legacy -- right in
4 Williamsburg, right in North Brooklyn -- to
5 commemorate her life, her commitment, and not just to
6 the City and her community, but to all of us. Thank
7 you.

8
9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

10 And, at this time, I'd ask any other council
11 members who wish to make a statement on any of the
12 street naming proposals or on Intro 227 to please use
13 the Zoom Raise Hand Function.

14 At this time, we will move on to Council Member
15 Kagan, followed by Council Member Farías.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you so much for this
18 opportunity. I have introduced several street co-
19 namings in my district, in particular Lou's Deli Way,
20 Frank Giordano Way, and Francesco LoPresti Street.

21 I would like to say a few words Lou Jerome, who
22 was a World War II veteran who fought Nazis during
23 World War II. He was also the owner of the Lou's
24 Deli in my district, and was a prominent businessman,
25 and a very generous person who always helped the

1
2 community. If someone could not buy something, he
3 sometimes gave it to them for free or sometimes gave
4 them credit. So, he was always a community person,
5 helping people in need. He helped to support the
6 community center in my district as well. He was
7 always generous to families in need or in crisis, and
8 never said no to people. That is why people loved
9 him so much.

10 I very much appreciate the City Council for
11 considering to rename one of the streets in my
12 district Lou's Deli Way. Thank you very much.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

14 Our next speaker is Council Member Farías.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Hi, everyone. I am really
17 proud to present this co-naming for Marie Reed Way.

18 Marie Reed was a very active constituent within
19 Council District 18 with the Soundview Presbyterian
20 Church and James Monroe houses for over 40 years.
21 With the church, she served on numerous committees
22 such as the Education Committee, the Women and Girls
23 Committee, Scholarship Committee and the choir. She
24 did outreach to support the church's day camp for
25 children to ensure, despite economic background, they

1
2 could participate. Serving on The Education
3 Committee for over 30 years, she helped raise money
4 for the church's scholarship fund for high school
5 seniors to attend colleges. She also arranged block
6 parties and Halloween parties -- so many different
7 opportunities and events that not only directly
8 impacted the day the day of not only the students in
9 our community, but also our neighbors and their
10 families. She provided food for the homeless in the
11 Hunts Point Market and took youths on field trips
12 around the City, just a pleather of different
13 opportunities. We were so lucky to have her in
14 Council District 18. And, so it would be an honor to
15 have this co-naming in our community after all of her
16 commitment and dedication to the district. So, I am
17 proud to represent her today, and I am appreciative
18 for the consideration. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

20 We will now move on to Council Member Bottcher.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Good afternoon, I am so
23 proud to speak about two street co-namings that we
24 are doing. One is for a James Houghton who is the
25 founding artistic director New York's the Signature

1 Theater founded in 1991 as an artistic home for
2 playwrights, and today it is a New York institution,
3 and an essential part of New York City's cultural
4 landscape. He made a profound contribution to the
5 cultural fabric of New York City. He lived in Hell's
6 Kitchen from 1986 until his passing. He served as
7 Artistic Director for 21 years and lived in Manhattan
8 Plaza, where he and his wife, the late Joyce O'Conner
9 raised their children right in Manhattan Plaza.
10

11 The second co-naming is in support of Bob
12 Trentlyon, who passed away last year, and we are
13 naming the intersection of 23rd Street and 11th
14 Avenue for Bob Trentlyon. He was instrumental in the
15 creation of Hudson River Park -- 550 acres of
16 riverfront park and sanctuary on the Hudson River
17 would quite arguably not exist without the advocacy
18 of Bob Trentlyon. He was a local newspaperman who
19 founded the Chelsea News and was a co-founder of the
20 Chelsea Reform Democratic Club, a long time Chair of
21 Manhattan Community Boards for Waterfront Parks and
22 Environment Committee. Bob's loss was a great loss
23 for the community, but with this street co-naming,
24 his memory will live on. Thank you very much.

25 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member.

1
2 We will now move on to Macayle Fuchs who will be
3 speaking on behalf of Council Member Paladino.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

5 MACAYLE FUCHS: Good afternoon, and thank you
6 Interim Chair. Thank you for this opportunity. Uh,
7 and I would really like to highlight what Council
8 Member Brewer said about celebrating our local heroes
9 and how they are culturally attentive to our
10 districts.

11 Thank you for this opportunity. Uh, and I would
12 really like to highlight what Council Member Brewer
13 said about celebrating our local heroes and how they
14 are culturally attentive to our districts.

15 Our two co-namings, one will be for Police
16 Officer Timothy Motto Way, who we know as Timmy
17 Motto. Officer Motto was born and raised in Queens,
18 and was a member of the 28th Precinct in Harlem. He
19 was at one point The President of the NYS Fraternal
20 Order of Police, and a member of nine other fraternal
21 orders including NYPD Holy Name Society and NYPD
22 Columbia Association. His most notable contribution;
23 however, was when another patrolman in his precinct
24 was shot and killed while responding to a call of a
25 false officer, he [BACKGROUND NOISE] [INAUDIBLE]

1
2 36:50] took this personally and really made sure to
3 take care of that officer's family and made sure that
4 his history was known. They even had a K9 Unit named
5 after Patrolman Philip Cardillo. Even though he
6 retired, Timmy Motto did help in the Ground Zero
7 excavation, and he unfortunately suffered terminal
8 cancer from this work.

9 And, our second street naming is for Big Jim
10 Corcoran Way. And, Big Jim, another service member,
11 was a founding member of FDNY Emerald Society Pipes
12 and Drums band to pay tribute to those who put their
13 lives on the line, as well as bring the Irish Culture
14 to New York City. He served in FDNY for 36 years,
15 and performed for several presidents and for the 343
16 FDNY brothers and sisters that were lost in the 9/11
17 attacks. Unfortunately Jim suffered a fatal heart
18 attack after retirement while performing at the Saint
19 Patrick's Day Parade, but as his family chooses to
20 remember him, he was killed in the line of duty,
21 because he suffered his heart attack in the line of
22 duty, and truly dedicated his life for serving those
23 and for serving others in the FDNY Emerald Society.

24 We really appreciate your support for this, and
25 thank you very much.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much.

Before we move on to testimony by the public, I'd like to just make one last call to any council members who have any comments to make on the bills being considered.

Seeing none, at the... Thank you very much, at this time we will move on to testimony from members of the public who have registered to speak, and I would remind everyone that you will be on a three minute time limit accommodate all who wish to speak today. I will be calling out the panelists in the order that they have registered.

First we will hear from Una Neary, followed by Hoay Ming Tan

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

UNA NEARY: Terrific, thank you. It's very hard to capture my dad in three minutes, but I will do my best.

So, I won't repeat much of what was said before, but want to thank the City Council very much for this opportunity with a special callout to Brian Anderson and James Breslin who really helped push forward this opportunity to co-name 57th and 1st Jimmy Neary Way.

1
2 As was stated my father was an iconic figure in
3 New York City. He opened his restaurant on Saint
4 Patrick's Day very fittingly, being Irish, and
5 carrying on the Irish heritage. So, we have just
6 marked our 55th anniversary this past Saint Patrick's
7 Day. He was there seven days a week, he never
8 considered when he went to work that he was working.
9 He loved what he did; his passion was people. He
10 loved being around his customers, they were
11 everything to him.

12 I always describe it as he as two families, one
13 is our biological family and the second was our Neary
14 family -- our customers. He treated them as equally
15 and loved them as much as he did his own flesh and
16 blood. My parents raised four children, we all
17 received Catholic educations, we all were taught our
18 strong Catholic faith, and we were also taught by our
19 parents to love this country, love this city, and to
20 give back. Our parents were not as fortunate as we
21 were to be able to get a college education. My
22 father only went to 6th grade, and my mother
23 graduated high school. Their goal in life for their
24 children was to make sure that they were able to
25

1
2 achieve the American dream, which was to get a
3 college education, which we all have done.

4 And, as it relates to Dad's business, when it
5 came to Neary's, again, his customers were
6 everything. We have an older clientele as many of
7 you may know, and Dad always treated them and cared
8 for them like they were family.

9 There were a number of special kind of stories
10 that I'd like to share with you to illustrate how Dad
11 thought about his customers. For example, if our
12 customers had not been around for a while, Dad would
13 reach out and go to their apartments to find out if
14 they were okay. One of our customers who had passed
15 way literally had no money left, could not have a
16 burial, so Dad took it upon himself to bury him and
17 give him death with dignity. We would invite
18 customers over to our family Christmases in New
19 Jersey if they had no other place to go. Dad always
20 felt that he wanted the customers to feel like when
21 they came in to Neary's they were part of something
22 special.

23 What Dad created at Neary's is known that only
24 throughout New York City but around the world.
25 People loved to come in to New York to see Jimmy

1
2 Neary. The first stop would be to see Jimmy Neary
3 and see how he was doing. His positivity, his
4 positive outlook on life, his belief in New York
5 City, his support of military and law enforcement was
6 just so inspiring. You would often hear us belt out
7 "God Bless America" in Neary's in great respect for
8 this country. He loved this country, he loved his
9 Irish heritage, but it was all about giving back and
10 making people feel good about coming to Neary's, and
11 just having a moment where they could enjoy Dad's
12 company, his wit, his charm, and his Irish brogue.

13 So, thank you... (CROSS-TALK)

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much.

16 Our next speaker is Hoay Ming Tan, who will be
17 followed by Michelle Winfield.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

19 HOAY MING TAN: Good afternoon, Council Members,
20 my name is Hoay Ming Tan. I am a parent of two
21 children and both of them attend to swim team program
22 with the city park. And, I would like to appeal for
23 the swim team program to continue, because I feel the
24 program has been a great opportunity for my kids to
25 mingle around and stay healthy and are able to be

1
2 with a group of friends and are able to be in a
3 healthy sport where they can stay healthy and just
4 able to, uh be active and also stay focused in their
5 classes and all. And, I feel like a lot of... We
6 are very grateful that we have been able to attend
7 this swim team program that has been launched this
8 year after the pandemic. So, I hope that the City
9 will continue the swim team program for all of the
10 kids who are interested in learning how to swim.
11 Swimming is a very important skill for all to learn
12 so that they can stay healthy and also save
13 themselves. Thank you.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Miss Tan. I
15 noticed your comments were referencing the swim team,
16 uh, funding for that team, were you attempting to
17 join another hearing? Because this hearing is
18 focused on street co-namings and keeping a record of
19 biographical information on street co-namings. Can
20 you... Hold on for one second while we unmute you,
21 and we can refer you to the proper committee and take
22 your testimony afterwards. Uh, can she be unmuted
23 again, please?

24 HOAY MING TAN: Yes, I would love to join the
25 appropriate program for this hearing.

1 COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION 40

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay, we will, uhm... (CROSS-
3 TALK)

4 UNKNOWN: To you so much... (CROSS-TALK)

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much. We...
6 (CROSS-TALK)

7 UNKNOWN: We'll...

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We will contact you
9 afterwards, and either take your testimony or refer
10 you to the proper hearing. Just, uh... (CROSS-TALK)

11 UNKNOWN: Yeah...

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: [INAUDIBLE 00:44:47]

13 UNKNOWN: Yeah, thank you.

14 HOAY MING TAN: Okay, thank you.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much.

16 Thank you, uh, our next speaker is Michelle
17 Winfield who will be followed by Natalee Yang.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

19 MICHELLE WINFIELD: Thank you Parks and Recreation
20 Committee. I am a resident of Manhattan Community
21 Board Six and State Democratic Woman 74th Assembly
22 District.

23 I come before you to speak on behalf of hundreds
24 of residents that have honored Dr. May Edward Chinn
25 by signing petitions and letters requesting a street

1 at the North West corner of East 29th Street and
2 First Avenue in her honor. May E. Chinn, the unsung
3 trailblazer, an African American woman physician, had
4 a remarkable career in medicine and science.
5 Graduating from Columbia University in 1921 with a
6 B.S. in Science, May Chinn worked in the Pathology
7 labs at Columbia University under the mentorship of
8 Dr. Jean Broadhurst. In 1926, May E. Chinn was the
9 first black woman to graduate from Bellevue Hospital
10 Medical College, now known as New York University
11 Grossman School of Medicine and lived at East 27th
12 Street and Third Avenue, Manhattan. She then became
13 the first Black woman intern at Harlem Hospital,
14 1926-1928. Dr. Chinn rode in ambulances with
15 emergency crews saving patients before they reached
16 the hospitals. Due to a segregated society, Dr. Chinn
17 was denied hospital admitting privileges until 1940
18 when Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia integrated Harlem
19 hospital for all at that time. In 1933, Chinn worked
20 with Dr. George N. Papanicolaou and contributed to
21 his studies on the Pap test, now known as the Pap
22 smear. As noted on the Strang Cancer Prevention
23 Institute website, Dr. Chinn worked there for 29
24 years and has a place in history as one of the
25

1
2 doctors who worked on early detection of cancer of
3 the cervix. This breakthrough resulted in the Pap
4 test saving millions of women's lives. Finally, in
5 1980 Columbia University honored Dr. May Edward Chinn
6 as a Distinguished Alumnus and awarded her an
7 honorary doctorate in science for her contributions
8 to medicine. I urge you to co-name East 29th Street
9 and First Avenue, NW corner, Dr. May Edward Chinn
10 Place, for a trailblazer in the fight against
11 cervical cancer benefitting women worldwide. Thank
12 you.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much. Our next
15 speaker is Natalie Yang, followed by Olga Nekrasova.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 NATALIE YANG: Hello, uh, I am also here to
18 support NYC Recruiting Center's swimming program.
19 Unfortunately, we were told this was the right place
20 to speak up. I would love to be redirected to the
21 right place to talk. Thank you very much.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much. We will,
23 uh, reach out to you after this hearing, and then you
24 can submit the record or we can put you in contact

25

1
2 with the proper committee and refer you to the proper
3 hearing. Thank you very much.

4 Thank you, and our next speaker is Olga
5 Nekrasova.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

7 OLGA NEKRASOVA: I am also here to support the
8 team and request a continuation. So, if you could
9 [INAUDIBLE 00:49:06] to me [INAUDIBLE 00:49:08] the
10 proper avenue, that would be great.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay, thank you.

12 Our next speaker then is Deidra Bay.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

14 DEIDRA BAY: [NO AUDIO]

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Miss Bay, Deidra Bay, are you
16 currently logged on? If not we can come back...
17 Yes... (CROSS-TALK)

18 DEIDRA BAY: Alright, uh, Jimmy Neary is a legend.
19 As you heard from his daughter Una, he left Ireland,
20 came to the United States, he is the epitome of the
21 American Dream. Honestly I think all of 57th Street
22 should be named Jimmy Neary Way, because he was
23 larger than life. Everyone loved him. Three
24 generations of our family had the honor of dining at
25 Neary's, and he treated our grandchildren exactly the

1 same way has he treated the adults in the room. So,
2 he is, again, a legend who personified the American
3 Dream, and what more can I say? Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Thank you very
5 much.

6 Our next speaker is Patricia Doherty.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 PATRICIA DOHERTY: (NO RESPONSE)

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Patricia Doherty, are you
10 currently logged on? Okay, we will come back to you
11 if you are still logged on later on.

12 Uh, next speaker is Steven Raider.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

14 STEVEN RAIDER: [NO AUDIO]

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay, Steven Raider?

16 STEVEN RAIDER: I don't... Yeah, I'm here.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, go ahead, please.

18 STEVEN RAIDER: I don't know what I can say to add
19 on to what everybody has said about Jimmy Neary. I
20 was very fortunate, I think I was there opening night
21 as a little toddler. And my family has eaten there
22 practically almost every Sunday night for a number of
23 years up until about 10 years ago when we moved to
24 Pennsylvania fulltime. I can say that living in that
25

1 neighborhood from a child all the way up, there was
2 no other person I could Dad or a father than Jimmy.
3 He was just unbelievable and treated everybody -- I
4 don't care who you were -- as an individual with
5 respect with respect and dignity. And his family as
6 accepted our family forever. So, all I can say is I
7 don't know how anybody can turn down renaming that
8 street Jimmy Neary Way. Thank you very much.

9
10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much.

11 Our next speaker is Thomas Sussi.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

13 THOMAS SESSA: Thank you, members of the council,
14 I too was here for the aquatics program. I apologize
15 for taking any of this time. If I could please be
16 referred to a future meeting? But I will say, to
17 hear all of the things about all these wonderful
18 people, I hope that many of these things are named
19 after and on behalf of these people, particularly,
20 Jimmy Neary. I have not been there, but I will be
21 there myself, and I will go check it out now. Thank
22 you.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much, and we
24 will be in contact afterwards, thank you.

25 Our next speaker is Victoria Davis.

1
2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

3 VICTORIA DAVIS: Hello, everyone, thank you for
4 having me. My name is Victoria Davis, uh, I am the
5 sister of Delrawn Small who was killed by an NYPD
6 officer, Wayne Isaacs, on July 4th of 2016 in front
7 of his 4-month-old son. Delrawn was great person who
8 was well loved in the community. He was a person who
9 cared deeply about issues such as HIV and
10 homelessness as our family was directly impacted --
11 our Mom died from complications HIV. The last event
12 that I did with Delrawn was with my job. I am a New
13 York City employee at the Department of Health, and I
14 specialize in HIV. So, he did the AIDS walk with us,
15 and it meant everything, because he was able to stand
16 for what he wanted to stand for. If Delrawn was
17 still here, that's the work that he would be doing.
18 As his sister, because unfortunately, his life was
19 taken in front of his 4-month-old son, as his sister,
20 I continue his legacy. I have a nonprofit
21 organization called Sisters of Justice Impact
22 Project, and I also some political work around social
23 injustice in many forms especially gun violence,
24 maternal health justice, and HIV/AIDS education.
25 And, so having this street name would be very

1
2 important not only to his family, but when went to
3 get the street signing petitions from the
4 neighborhood, they were more than happy to do it.
5 The community and the street that would be named on
6 Bradford and Atlantic, all of the residents on that
7 street were more than happy to sign the petition. I
8 am not out of time, right?

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Uh, if you have... You are
10 not out of time. If you have anything more to say,
11 you have... (CROSS-TALK)

12 VICTORIA DAVIS: And I just wanted to say that my
13 brother was a father, he was a person who loved
14 children. I have poems and paintings from different
15 children from events that I do in his honor. He also
16 was an actor. He has a film on Netflix. He was well
17 loved by his co-workers, and he was a student at the
18 time that he was killed. He also raised myself and my
19 brother, because as I stated earlier, my mom died
20 when we were very young. And, we always had a
21 mission to change the world, to make the world a
22 better place as... (CROSS-TALK)

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

24 VICTORIA DAVIS: as we are. Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much, thank
3 you.

4 Our next [NO AUDIO]

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Kristoffer are you on mute?

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Thank you very
7 much.

8 Our next speaker is Monifa Akinwole Bandele, who
9 will be followed by Brian Goggin.

10 MONIFA AKINWOLE BANDELE: [INAUDIBLE 00:56:39]...

11 (CROSS-TALK)

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

13 MONIFA AKINWOLE BANDELE: Thank you so much. My
14 name is Monifa Bandele, and I am a resident of
15 Central Brooklyn, an activist, and I am also the
16 Chief Strategy Officer at Momsrising.Org. I fully
17 support the street co-naming of Bradford Street
18 between Liberty and Atlantic Avenues in honor of
19 Delrawn Small. He grew up there and in the very
20 location and our staff and some of our members were
21 with his sister to talk to the community about the
22 street naming and the outpouring of support. He was
23 absolutely someone that everyone in his community
24 knew and looked up to.

1
2 As Council Member Barron stated, and his sister,
3 Victoria, Delrawn was a father, a brother, an actor,
4 a student, and an active community member who raised
5 his siblings in the wake of losing his mother. He
6 taught HIV classes, and even envisioned launching and
7 additional support and advocacy efforts. He was
8 determined to honor and uplift those around him. He
9 is well remembered for his positive character, and
10 like many Black and Brown children, he and his
11 siblings grew up in foster care. And so we think
12 it's an important marker to so many in our community
13 that are impacted by the foster care system to see
14 one of their own also canonized and uplifted in this
15 way. The Central Brooklyn Community and many of our
16 organizers have worked tirelessly to make sure to
17 direct resources in our city to the things that
18 Delrawn Smalls worked on -- like our care
19 infrastructure, monies for programs for drug
20 treatment, mental health, community safety, and
21 racial and economic justice.

22 So, again, in honor of Delrawn Small, let's
23 elevate his name and the strong community centered
24 values that he stood for by renaming Bradford Street,
25

1 that's the kind of person he was. I loved Jimmy
2 Neary, and my regret is that COVID prevented me from
3 seeing him over the last couple of years. And he
4 passed a short couple of months before I was due to
5 visit New York for Thanksgiving last year. I never
6 went to New York without visiting Jimmy. He gave me
7 an enormous lift. He did that for everybody. His
8 capacity to make everyone feel so special whether
9 they were President of The United States or just an
10 ordinary person like me. I loved him. I think it
11 would be a great honor to remember in this way, and I
12 hope that the committee will find it in their gift to
13 name the junction Jimmy Neary Way. Thank you very
14 much.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much.

17 Before we move on to the next panelists, I would
18 just like to ask that whomever was signed up to
19 testify today, who wishes to speak on the, uh,
20 swimming pool program and issues related to that, I'd
21 ask that you use the Zoom Raise Hand Function, and we
22 can call on you afterwards at this hearing, and you
23 can make your statement. So again if anyone would
24 like to speak on that program, please use the Zoom
25 Raise Hand Function so we can tell who is here to

1 speak on that, and I will call on you afterwards to
2 speak during this hearing, thank you very much.

3 Our next speaker is AnnMarie Bergwall, followed
4 by Christine Merrit.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

6 ANNMARIE BERGWALL: Hi, everyone, I am AnnMarie
7 Neary, I am Jimmy's other daughter, and I am honored
8 to be testifying here today on the co-naming of 57th
9 and First Jimmy Neary Way.

10 If any of you have met my father, you would
11 understand why the name should be co-named Jimmy
12 Neary Way. But, if you haven't, I do ask that you
13 look on Amazon Prime, there is a documentary about
14 him and his life, and you can feel his spirit through
15 it, called Neary's: The Dream at the End of the
16 Rainbow. Trust me it will make you proud to be an
17 American.

18 That being said, I am going to try and talk about
19 my father and tell you what an extraordinary man he
20 is -- quickly.

21 As the saying goes, they broke the mold when they
22 made Jimmy Neary. Dad was a larger than life
23 gentleman who embraced every day with enthusiasm.
24 It's difficult to talk about all of his great
25

1 successes, achievements, and talk about his generous
2 deeds in this short time. But, my father, all he
3 ever wanted to do was come to America, especially New
4 York City, from Ireland. He had no idea where it
5 was, he had no idea what it looked like or how he
6 would get there, but he had a calling and he made it
7 work. Dad always tells the story about how he came
8 to America by selling 14 sheep to pay for his trip.
9 He always says he came with nothing but a few coins
10 in his pocket, but he actually came with the most
11 important things he needed: His faith, his love of
12 life, and a strong work ethic. From the moment our
13 father would wake up in the morning until he would go
14 to sleep at night, he lived a faithful life by the
15 golden rule: Treat others as you would want to be
16 treated. Dad embodied what it was to live the
17 American Dream. His passion for this country,
18 especially New York City, could be felt by everyone.
19 One of Dad's favorite things to do, was to be singing
20 God Bless America in the restaurant, whether it be on
21 July 4th, Saint Patrick's Day, or his annual surprise
22 birthday; it would also be sung on solemn occasions
23 like September 11th, when the country needed to come
24 together. A friend of ours recently said, "It's easy
25

1
2 to be a big man in a small town, but it's hard to be
3 a big man in a big town, and that's who your father
4 was."

5 When Dad opened up 55 years ago, he never could
6 have imagined it would turn out the way he did.

7 Dad's had US presidents, cardinals, politicians of
8 all levels of government, writers, astronauts,
9 sports, movie and T.V personalities all come through
10 the doors of Neary's. People from all over the world
11 would stop in to see Jimmy. But our customers on
12 57th Street and the surrounding area are our family,
13 and they took care of Dad and he took care of them.

14 I do want to mention, Michael Bloomberg, who
15 surprised Dad with a trip to his town over in
16 Ireland, Dad was beside himself.

17 So, in a nutshell, Jimmy Neary is literally the
18 American Dream. Somebody who sent a letter on Dad's
19 behalf said, "If it was possible that Jimmy Neary,
20 who had stood larger than life in the middle of the
21 New York Harbor to welcome people to the land of
22 opportunity, with his infectious smile, twinkle in
23 his eye, saying, "I love this country, God bless
24 America," but that job was already filled by Lady
25 Liberty." So, Jimmy Neary did the best thing, and

1 did that on 57th street and 1st Avenue for 55 years.

2 So, it seems only fitting to name... (CROSS-TALK)

3 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

4 ANNMARIE NEARY: it Jimmy Neary Way. Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much.

6 Our next speaker is Christine Merrit.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 CHRISTINE MERRITT: [NO AUDIO]

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Uh, Miss Merritt... (CROSS-
10 TALK)

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Miss Merritt, you have to...

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We unmute your first...

13 CHRISTINE MERRITT: Sorry... (CROSS-TALK)

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Please begin again, thank you.

15 CHRISTINE MERRITT: Okay, thank you.

16 I have submitted written testimony, because I
17 wanted a statement to be on record. But, I am honored
18 to be given an opportunity to speak.

19 As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
20 for 46 years it has been my privilege to personally
21 know Delta women who have made significant
22 contributions as first achievers to the New York
23 community and the world. Dr. May Edward Chinn stands
24 out as one of the finest examples of this.
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2 In 1921 Dr. May Edward Chinn became a charter
3 member of Alpha Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
4 Sorority Inc. This was the first graduate chapter of
5 a sorority that was only eight years old. Though the
6 name changed to Alpha Sigma and is now known as N.Y.
7 Alumnae Chapter, its mission has always been in
8 public service.

9 Dr. Chinn was one of a handful of educated black
10 women in the early 1900s who made a difference
11 despite the challenges of race, gender, and other
12 biases. As a founding member of Alpha Beta Chapter we
13 know that she was a part of its rich foundation that
14 has grown in leadership and public service in the
15 Harlem community for 101 years. Professionally we
16 know that Dr. Chinn was the first Black female doctor
17 to graduate from Bellevue Medical College in 1926. We
18 know that she was the first Black female doctor to
19 intern at Harlem Hospital when it was a white male
20 dominated medical staff. She was the first Black
21 female doctor to ride in an ambulance. And we know
22 that when hospitals would not give her privileges to
23 work within their hospital, she set up a private
24 practice in the Harlem community. Later her interest
25 in cancer screening research led to work that would

1
2 successfully allow detection of gynecological cancer
3 in women. We know that because of her dedication,
4 brilliance, and steadfast courage to make a
5 difference that our world is a better place.

6 Dr. May Edward Chinn is known and revered by New
7 York members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For
8 more than three decades the New York Metropolitan
9 Coordinating Council has awarded the Dr. May Edward
10 Chinn Scholarship to a deserving medical student
11 within our sorority at the annual Founders Day
12 Luncheon. It is because of women and sorors such as
13 Dr. May Edward Chinn that healthcare continues to
14 advance in so many ways. It is most fitting that Dr.
15 May Edward Chinn be honored and celebrated for her
16 vast accomplishments. As a proud member of Delta
17 Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. North Manhattan Alumnae
18 Chapter, I am honored to overwhelmingly support...

19 (CROSS-TALK)

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

21 CHRISTINE MERRIT: and ask CB Six to grant
22 approval of Street Co-naming in honor of Dr. May
23 Edward Chinn. Sorry, I was so nervous, but thank you
24 so much.

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: No problem, thank you very
3 much.

4 Before we return to Council Member Restler to
5 adjourn the hearing, I'm just going to make one last
6 call to any members of the public who wish to speak
7 on the swimming program. If you'd like to, please
8 use the Zoom Raise Hand Function now, and I can call
9 on you. And, before we move on, I would make one
10 last call to Patricia Doherty who I had called on
11 before, but was not able to, uh, respond. If you are
12 on, please unmute... Uh, please go ahead.

13 Okay, thank you. Seeing none at this time, I
14 will turn it back over to Chair Restler to offer any
15 closing comments and adjourn the hearing, thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Wonderful, well I just
17 want to thank you, Kris, and thank all of my
18 colleagues who testified so beautifully on behalf
19 street re-namings in their communities. I especially
20 want to thank, uh, Council Member Brewer, because if
21 there is one person in the City of New York who might
22 actually know the biographical history of every,
23 single street... every, single street that has been
24 renamed after a New Yorker, it's her. But, I like
25 that she is committed to sharing that information

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2 with all New Yorkers, uh, via her legislation to
3 require DOT to put it online.

4 And, I want to thank each and every one of the
5 members of the public who came today to testify and
6 share experience... share the stories of the people
7 they love, and why each and every one of those names
8 deserves this recognition, so that we walk down the
9 streets of our neighborhoods; we can look up and be
10 lifted up and inspired by great New Yorkers who have
11 come before us.

12 So, without further ado, I will adjourn this
13 hearing, and thank you all for your time today. Uhm,
14 and we'll...

15 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

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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 July 13, 2022