

Referrals
3-19-19.

**PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
STANDING
COMMITTEE**

14

**OFFICE OF CONTRACTING
AND PROCUREMENT**

March 13, 2019

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL:

The Purchasing Division of the Finance Department recommends a Contract with the following firm(s) or person(s):

6001934 100% City Funding – To Provide the Residential Rehab at 5766 Haverhill for the Bridging Neighborhoods Program. – Contractor: Jozef Contractor, Inc. – Location: 11691 Klinger, Hamtramck, MI 48212 – Contract Period: Upon City Council Approval through March 19, 2020 –Total Contract Amount: \$75,240.00.
HOUSING AND REVITALIZATION

Respectfully submitted,

Boysie Jackson, Chief Procurement Officer
Office of Contracting and Procurement

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____ **TATE**

RESOLVED, that Contract No. 6001934 referred to in the foregoing communication dated March 19, 2019 be hereby and is approved.

16.

**OFFICE OF CONTRACTING
AND PROCUREMENT**

March 13, 2019

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL:

The Purchasing Division of the Finance Department recommends a Contract with the following firm(s) or person(s):

6001941 100% City Funding – To Provide the Residential Rehab at 7343 Sarena, 7351 Sarena for the Bridging Neighborhoods Program. – Contractor: Jozef Contractor, Inc. – Location: 11691 Klinger, Hamtramck, MI 48212 – Contract Period: Upon City Council Approval through March 19, 2020 –Total Contract Amount: \$174,460.00. **HOUSING AND REVITALIZATION**

Respectfully submitted,

Boysie Jackson, Chief Procurement Officer
Office of Contracting and Procurement

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____ **TATE** _____

RESOLVED, that Contract No. 6001941 referred to in the foregoing communication dated March 19, 2019 be hereby and is approved.

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City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD
218 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313.224.3487 Fax: 313.224.4336
e-mail: historic@detroitmi.gov

March 11, 2019

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

RE: Petition #167 Secondary Street Sign for Rev. Earnest O. King, Sr

The family of Reverend Earnest O. King Sr and the members of Mt Calvary Baptist Church submitted a petition requesting that the intersection of East State Fair Avenue and Riopelle Street be assigned the secondary street name the Rev. Earnest O. King Sr. Street in celebration of his contributions to the city of Detroit and the East State Fair neighborhood. Upon review of the documentation submitted by the petitioner staff has concluded that the petition does meet the criteria for Secondary Naming of Street in accordance with Article VII Sections 50-7-31 through Sections 50-7-50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code.

Criteria

As stated in Chapter 50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code, *Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article VII, Opening, closing, Extending, Widening, Vacating, Naming and Renaming of Streets and Assigning Secondary Names to Streets*. A secondary street name designation may be sought to recognize a person who achieved prominence as a result of his or her significant, position, contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community.

1. Sites, buildings, structures where cultural, social, spiritual, economic, political, architectural history of the community, city, state or nation is particularly reflected or exemplified.
2. Sites, buildings, structures, which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the community, city, state or national history.

Attached for your review and consideration is a resolution setting the required public hearing as well as a resolution which will authorize the establishment of a Secondary Street Name in honor of Reverend Earnest O. King Sr. upon the conclusion of a favorable public hearing, which must be held in accordance with Section 50-7-35 of the Detroit City Code.

Staff is available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,


Janese Chapman, Deputy Director, Historic Designation Advisory Board

Attachments

RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

Resolved, That a public hearing will be held by the Detroit City Council Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in the Committee of the Whole Room, 13th Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center on **Thursday, _____, 2019** at _____ **a.m.**, for the purpose of considering the request of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church requesting the secondary street name in honor of Reverend Earnest O. King, Sr. in the area of East State Fair Street and Riopelle Avenue to "Rev. Earnest O. King Sr."



Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, Inc.

8700 Chrysler Freeway Drive, Detroit, Michigan 48211

Reverend Dr. Deedee M. Coleman, President

July 23, 2018

Mrs. Brenda Jones, President, Detroit City Council
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340
Detroit, Michigan 49226

Dear President Jones:

As President of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Inc., I write this correspondence in support of the effort of a designated street sign for The Reverend Earnest O. King, Sr.

Over 25 years, Reverend King has served as a faithful member of The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Inc. with honor and respect for Church and Community. He has served in many areas of ministry and programs over the years and considered as a vital member of this Body and community, specifically the City of Detroit.

Reverend King currently serves as the Chair of the Benevolent Committee which he has held this position for the last 20 years giving pastoral support of all Council members in times of distress and bereavement.

Under the Council, Reverend King is a Board Member of the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity and highly recognized in the Council as a master of planning and community activism. The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Inc. supports recognizing this mighty man of God and supports the effort of his Congregation it making it so.

As President, the privilege of having to submit this request gives the Council honor in knowing how deserving Reverend King really is to have a street sign named in his honor gives us great joy.

The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Inc. respectfully request that the City of Detroit City Council would approve our request of having a street named in his honor.

Respectfully,

Reverend Dr. Deedee M. Coleman

Reverend Dr. Deedee M. Coleman, President
Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Inc.



Palestine Missionary Baptist Church
15787 Wyoming Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48238

Phone (313) 341-7605, Fax (248) 424-8510
www.palestinembcdetroit.org

Ronald C. Burks, Senior Pastor

August 20, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I am delighted to support the very worthy request regarding having a street sign named in the honor of the Rev., Dr. Earnest King, the esteemed Pastor of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church located at 1720 East State Fair Street, in the City of Detroit.

Dr. King is a pillar of the community, having given leadership to the Mt. Calvary church for over 40 years, he is very active in engaging with the community to make it a better place to live and rear children. He is an enthusiastic supporter and encourager to our first responders, he has demonstrated concerns about the safety of the people in the surrounding community. He has assigned gifted personnel to assist in the leadership of recreational activities, neighborhood clubs and the like. Has allowed the church building to accommodate meetings to promote the common good of all.

Dr. King, though a very humble man is well respected among his peers, as he serves in meaningful and prestigious positions in the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Calvary Baptist District Association, Wolverine Baptist State Convention and Congress of Christian Education as well as other civic organizations.

Our community would not be the same without the leadership and vision of Rev., Dr. Earnest King, one who is deserving of such a great honor,

In HIS service,

Pastor Ron Burks,

Sweet Kingdom Missionary Baptist Church

4150 Chene Street • Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 921-7550 • Fax (313) 921-9750

Reverend Robert B. Jones, Sr., *Pastor*

August 20, 2018

The Street Sign Committee and
The City Council of
The City Of Detroit

To Whom It May Concern:

The following is a letter in support for the acknowledgement one of Detroit's most dedicated Pastors, Rev. Earnest O. King, Sr. by naming the street where his church stands in his honor. I have known Rev. King for more than fifteen years and in that time, I can honestly say that I have been impressed and inspired by the energy and dedication that he brings to his calling. I greatly value his friendship. Upon his anniversary this year, Rev. King will have served as the Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Detroit for 42 years, and in that time, he has become an institution within Detroit's clergy community.

Pastor King is heavily involved with the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, where he has served as the chair of number of committees. My more direct involvement with Rev. King, however, has to do with his work with the Calvary Baptist Association, the district to which we both belong. Pastor King is a past Moderator of the Calvary District and during his term I served as his Special Assistant. During his time as the leader of Calvary Pastor King served well, helping to establish a number of innovative programs. Later, when I served a term as President of the Calvary Congress of Christian Education (the Association's educational arm), Pastor King provided me invaluable advice and counsel. It was during my time with Calvary that I worked with Rev. King to establish the Emogene King Memorial Scholarship Fund, honoring Pastor King's late wife, which provided financial support for fifteen students from various Calvary churches. Finally, during my tenure as Calvary's President, I appointed Rev. King as the President of the Voices of Calvary, the association's choir. A position that he still holds.

Because of the things that I have mentioned and for other things too numerous to name, I feel that Reverend Earnest O. King, Sr. is well deserving of having his name affixed to the street where he has served so faithfully. Many streets in Detroit bear the names of people whose contributions to our city have long since been forgotten. I think that it is only fitting that the city would honor one of its most dedicated Pastors while he and his congregation can enjoy and share in the honor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 313 683-2750.

Yours truly,



Rev. Robert B. Jones, Sr.
Pastor, Sweet Kingdom Missionary Baptist Church
Past President, Calvary Congress of Christian Education

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City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD
218 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313.224.3487 Fax: 313.224.4336
e-mail: historic@detroitmi.gov

March 11, 2019

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

RE: Petition #670: Lamont "Showboat" Robinson, founder of the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame submitted a petition requesting that the intersection of Parkside Avenue and McNichol Road to be assigned the secondary street name for David Ruffin in honor of legendary

The Historic Designation Advisory Board (HDAB) staff has reviewed the documentation submitted to the City Clerk's office by the petitioner for the establishment of a Secondary Street Sign. Upon review of the documentation submitted (see attachment) staff has determine that reasonable grounds has been provided and therefore has concluded that the petition meets the criteria for **Secondary Naming of Street in accordance with Article VII Sections 50-7-31 through Sections 50-7-50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code.**


Criteria

As stated in Chapter 50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code, *Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article VII, Opening, Closing, Extending, Widening, Vacating, Naming and Renaming of Streets and Assigning Secondary Names to Streets.* A secondary street name designation may be sought to recognize a person who achieved prominence as a result of his or her significant, position, contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community.

1. Sites, buildings, structures where cultural, social, spiritual, economic, political, architectural history of the community, city, state or nation is particularly reflected or exemplified.
2. Sites, buildings, structures, which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the community, city, state or national history.

Staff is available to answer any questions and or concerns you may have.

Respectfully submitted,


Janese Chapman, Deputy Director
Historic Designation Advisory Board
/Attachments

RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

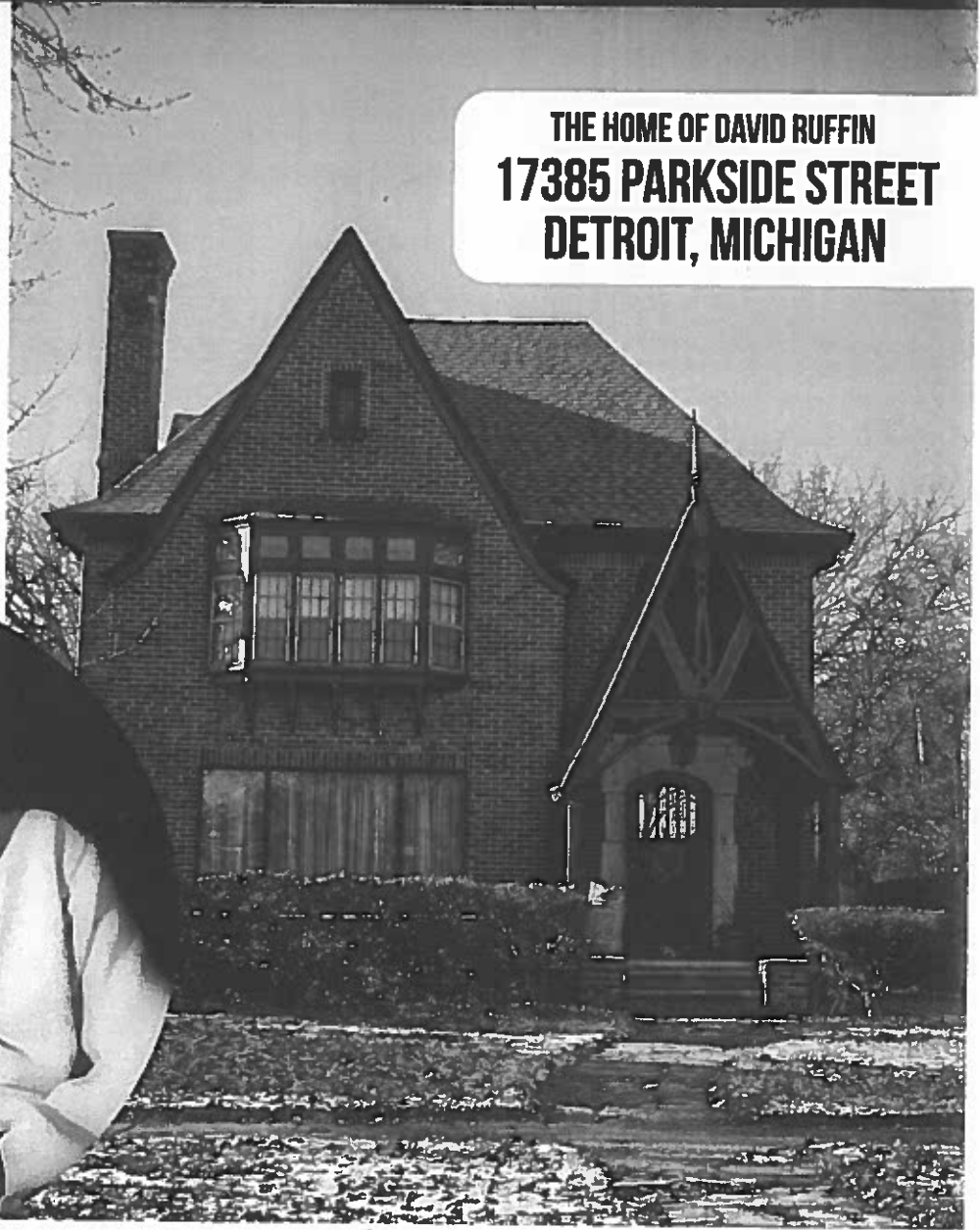
Resolved, That a public hearing will be held by the Detroit City Council Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in the Committee of the Whole Room, 13th Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center on **Thursday, _____, 2019** at _____ **a.m.**, for the purpose of considering the request of Lamont "Showboat" Robinson, founder of the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame requesting the secondary street name in honor of David Ruffin in the area of W. McNichols Road and Parkside Avenue to "David Ruffin Ave."

The Official Website for David Ruffin

DAVID RUFFIN

**THE CITY OF DETROIT
LET'S NAME THE STREET
PARKSIDE STREET AFTER
THE LATE GREAT
DAVID RUFFIN TO DAVID
RUFFIN STREET, DRIVE, WAY
OR BLVD.**

**THE HOME OF DAVID RUFFIN
17385 PARKSIDE STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**



~David Ruffin, incredible-voiced singer of The Temptations~
He Purchased this English Tudor in the fall of 1970. He's buried at Wood-
lawn Cemetery; section 3, lot 243, grave 3.

His home here on Parkside Street and his gravesite is one of the most
visited landmarks for tourists that come into the City of Detroit.





David Ruffin



Background Information

Birth name	Davis Eli Ruffin ^[1]
Born	January 18, 1941 Whynot, Mississippi , U.S.
Died	June 1, 1991 (aged 50) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.
Genres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R&B• Pop• Soul• Disco• Gospel
Occupation(s)	Singer
Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocals• drums
Years active	1956–1991
Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anna• Chess• Motown• Warner Bros.• RCA
Associated acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Temptations• Jimmy Ruffin• Eddie Kendricks• Dennis Edwards

David Eli Ruffin (born **Davis Eli Ruffin**,^[1] January 18, 1941 – June 1, 1991) was an American soul singer and musician most famous for his work as one of the lead singers of The Temptations (1964–68) during the group's "Classic Five" period as it was later known. He was the lead voice on such famous songs as "My Girl" and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg".

Known for his unique raspy and anguished tenor vocals, Ruffin was ranked as one of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time by *Rolling Stone* magazine in 2008.^[2] He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989 for his work with The Temptations.^[3] Fellow Motown recording artist Marvin Gaye once said admiringly of Ruffin that, "I heard [in his voice] a strength my own voice lacked".^[2]

Early life

Ruffin was born **Davis Eli Ruffin** in the rural unincorporated community of Whynot, Mississippi, 15 miles from Meridian, Mississippi. He was the third born son of Elias "Eli" Ruffin, a Baptist minister, and Ophelia Ruffin. His siblings were Quincy B. Ruffin, Rita Mae Ruffin, and Jimmy L. Ruffin. Ruffin also had another sister, who died in infancy.

Ancestry

David Ruffin's parents were both natives of Mississippi. His father Eli worked as a truck driver at numerous lumber mills, and his mother Ophelia worked out of their home. Eli's parents had moved from Alabama to Mississippi, because of the harsh circumstances of living after the American Civil War. Prior to living in Alabama, David Ruffin's great grandparents, John Ruffin and Clara Ruffin, had moved from Bertie County, North Carolina. John Ruffin was a Civil War Veteran, fighting with the 14th United States Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment.

Childhood and adolescence

Ruffin's father was strict and at times violently abusive.^[4] Ruffin's mother died ten months after his birth in 1941; and his father married Earline, a schoolteacher, in 1942.^[5] As a young child, Ruffin, along with his other siblings (older brothers Quincy and Jimmy, and sister Rita Mae), traveled with their father and their stepmother as a family gospel group, opening shows for Mahalia Jackson and The Five Blind Boys of Mississippi, among others.^{[4][6]} Ruffin sang in the choir at Mount Salem Methodist Church, talent shows and wherever else he could.^[5] In 1955, at the age of 14, he left home under the guardianship of a minister, Eddie Bush, and went to Memphis, Tennessee, with the purpose of pursuing the ministry.^[4]

At 15, Ruffin went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, with the jazz musician Phineas Newborn, Sr. There, they played at the Fifty Grand Ballroom and Casino. Billed as Little David Bush, Ruffin continued to sing at talent shows, worked with horses at a jockey club and eventually became a member of The Dixie Nightingales. He also sang with The Soul Stirrers briefly after the departure of Johnnie Taylor.^[4] It was in Ruffin's travels as a teenager that he met such later popular personalities as Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Frankie Lymon, Bobby Womack, The Staple Singers, Swan Silvertones and The Dixie Hummingbirds.^[4]

After some of his singing idols such as Sam Cooke and Jackie Wilson had left gospel music and gone secular, Ruffin also turned in that direction. The 16-year-old Ruffin met and came under the guardianship of Eddie Bush and his wife Dorothy Helen, who took the teenager to Detroit, Michigan, where his brother Jimmy was pursuing a career in music while simultaneously working at the Ford Motor Company.

Career

Early years

After moving to Detroit with the Bushes, Ruffin recorded his first released record with the songs "You and I" (1958) b/w "Believe Me" (1958). These songs were recorded at Vega Records and released under the name "Little David Bush", using the last name of his guardian. Ruffin would later recall how he initially recorded "a different kind of music", strongly influenced by the smoother pop and R&B of the time, when he first recorded in Detroit for Vega.^[7]

In 1957, Ruffin met Berry Gordy Jr., then a songwriter with ambitions of running his own label.^[4] Ruffin lived with Gordy's father, a contractor, and helped "Pops" Gordy do construction work on the building that would become Hitsville USA, the headquarters for Gordy's Tamla Records (later Motown Records) label.^{[4][7]} Ruffin's brother Jimmy would eventually be signed to Tamla's Miracle Records label as an artist.

Ruffin also worked alongside another ambitious singer, Marvin Gaye, as an apprentice at Anna Records, a Chess-distributed label run by Gordy's sister Gwen Gordy Fuqua and his songwriting partner Billy Davis.^{[4][7]}

Asked about Ruffin in the *Detroit Free Press* in 1988, Gordy Fuqua said: "He was very much a gentleman, yes ma'am and no ma'am, but the thing that really impressed me about David was that he was one of the only artists I've seen who rehearsed like he was on stage".^[5] According to Ruffin, both he and Gaye would pack records for Anna Records.^[citation needed]

Ruffin created music as both the vocalist and drummer in the Voice Masters, a doo-wop style combo^[8] and eventually started recording at Anna Records, and recorded the song "I'm in Love" b/w "One of These Days" (1961), with the Voice Masters, a group which included future Motown producer, Lamont Dozier. Other group members included members of The Originals: Ty Hunter, CP Spencer, Hank Dixon and (Voice Masters and The Originals founder) Walter Gaines. (At one time, The Voice Masters also included another future Temptations member, Melvin Franklin, one of numerous people David would claim as a cousin).^[4] Ruffin did sign to Anna Records as a solo artist, but his work in that time was unsuccessful.^[8]

Ruffin eventually met an up-and-coming local group by the name of The Temptations. His older brother Jimmy went on a Motortown Revue tour with the Temptations, and he told David that they needed someone to sing tenor in their group. David showed interest in joining the group to Otis Williams whom he lived very close to in Detroit.

In January 1964, Ruffin became a member of the Temptations after founding member Elbridge "Al" Bryant was fired from the group. Ruffin's first recording session with the group was January 9, 1964. Though both David and Jimmy were considered, David was given the edge, thanks to his performance skills. These were displayed when he joined the Temptations on stage during the label's New Year's Eve party in 1963.^[9]

With the Temptations (1964-1968)

Main article: The Temptations

After joining the Temptations, the bespectacled Ruffin initially sang backgrounds while the role of lead singer mostly alternated between Eddie Kendricks and Paul Williams. He did sing a few lead parts, both on stage and in the studio, during his first year with the group, but his leads on these studio tracks would not be released for over a year, as they were not considered good enough to showcase his vocals. However, Smokey Robinson, who produced and co-wrote most of the Temptations' material at this point, saw Ruffin during this period as a "sleeping giant" in the group with a unique voice that was "mellow" yet "gruff."^[10] Robinson thought that if he could write just the 'perfect song' for Ruffin's voice, then he could have a smash hit.^[10] The song was to be something that Ruffin could "belt out" yet something that was also "melodic and sweet".^[10] When Robinson achieved his goal, the song, "My Girl", was recorded in November 1964 and released a month later. It became the group's first number-one single in 1965. "My Girl" subsequently became the Temptations' signature song, and elevated Ruffin to the role of lead singer and frontman.

The follow-ups to "My Girl" were also extremely successful singles, and included the Ruffin-led hits "It's Growing" (1965), "Since I Lost My Baby" (1965), "My Baby" (1965), "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" (1966), "Beauty Is Only Skin Deep" (1966), "(I Know) I'm Losing You" (1966), "All I Need" (1967), "(Loneliness Made Me Realize) It's You That I Need" (1967), "I Wish It Would Rain" (1967), and "I Could Never Love Another (After Loving You)" (1968). Ruffin also shared lead vocals on the 1967 hit single "You're My Everything" with Eddie Kendricks. The tall, 6'3", Ruffin's passionate and dramatic performances endeared him to the Temptations' audiences and fans. According to Otis Williams, Ruffin (playfully nicknamed "Ruff" by the group) was a natural comedian and a hard-working singer when he first joined the group.

Ruffin's most notable non-vocal contribution to the Temptations was the masterminding of their trademark four-headed microphone stand.^[11] This enabled the other members to sing and do their dances without having to crowd around one microphone while the lead singer would sing into a separate microphone.



David Ruffin (center) with the Temptations 1967.

14][15]

In June 1968, the Temptations agreed that Ruffin had finally crossed the line when he missed a June 22 Cleveland, Ohio, date with the Temptations in order to attend a performance by his new girlfriend, Barbara Gail Martin (Dean Martin's daughter).^[16] Ruffin was fired on June 27, and replaced with Dennis Edwards, a former member of The Contours, who had been a friend of Ruffin and the group as a whole beforehand.^[16] Though Ruffin himself personally encouraged Edwards to take his place, Ruffin began turning up unannounced at Temptations concerts during Edwards' first few dates with the group.^[16] When the group started to perform a Ruffin-era song such as "My Girl" or "Ain't Too Proud to Beg", Ruffin would suddenly walk on to the stage, take the microphone from Edwards' hands, and steal the show, embarrassing the group but entertaining the fans.^[16] According to Edwards, the adulation and Ruffin's pleas convinced the other four Temptations to give Ruffin a

second chance, but when he arrived late to what was to be his return show with the group in Gaithersburg, Maryland, The Temptations decided to keep Edwards and drop considerations of rehiring Ruffin.^{[17][18]}

In October 1968, Ruffin filed suit against Motown Records, seeking a release from the label and an accounting of his money.^[14] Motown counter-sued to keep the singer from leaving the label and eventually the case was settled.^[14] The settlement required Ruffin to remain with Motown to finish out his initial contract (Ruffin joined Motown as a solo artist and always had a separate contract from the other Temptations, which some felt caused a lot of the in-fighting within the group).^[14]

Solo years and personal issues



The album cover of Ruffin's solo debut LP released in 1969

Ruffin's first solo single was a song originally intended for the Temptations, "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)". The single (from the album also entitled *My Whole World Ended*) was released in 1969, and reached the US Pop and R&B Top Ten. This was followed by the album *Feelin' Good*. A third album, titled *David*, was recorded in 1970–71, but was shelved by Motown and did not see commercial release until 2004. His next official release for Motown did not arrive until 1973 when *David Ruffin* was released.

His final Top Ten hit was 1975's "Walk Away from Love", produced by Van McCoy, which reached number nine on the Pop Charts. It was also Ruffin's only entry into the UK Charts (as a solo artist), and was a hit there as well, making it into the Top Ten (peaking at #10) in early 1976. The single sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc by the R.I.A.A. in February 1976.^[19]

Other notable recordings from Ruffin's solo career include "I Lost Everything I've Ever Loved" (1969); the gospel-inflected "I'm So Glad I Fell For You" (1970); "Blood Donors Needed (Give All You Can)" (1973); "Common Man" (1973) (which was sampled on the 2001 Jay-Z song "Never Change"); "No Matter Where" (1974); "Who I Am" (1975); "Statue of a Fool" (1975); and cover versions of the Jackson Five's "I Want You Back", "Rainy Night in Georgia" (popularized by Brook Benton) - both recorded for the shelved 1970 album; and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes' "I Miss You" (1973), featuring Eddie Kendricks (later Kendrick).



The album cover of his follow-up LP

In 1970 Ruffin recorded an album with his brother Jimmy, *I Am My Brother's Keeper*, for which they had minor hits with "When My Love Hand (Comes Tumbling Down)" and "Your Love Was Worth Waiting For".

While his solo career initially showed promise, Ruffin went into decline, reportedly in part because of his cocaine addiction and the lack of support from Motown.

After leaving Motown in 1977, Ruffin recorded for Warner Bros. Records, releasing the albums *So Soon We Change* (1979) and *Gentleman Ruffin* (1980). He later signed with RCA Records, accompanied by former Temptations colleague Eddie Kendricks, who chose to rekindle their friendship when Kendricks himself started experiencing problems with the Temptations.

In 1982, Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks re-joined the Temptations for the recording of their album *Reunion* and a tour to promote the album. The album included the R&B hit "Standing on the Top" with Rick James. The reunion tour was short lived, however, as Ruffin started to miss shows as a result of his cocaine addiction, leading the group to be fined thousands of dollars. Otis Williams fired Ruffin from the group for the second and final time (along with Kendricks, whose voice was weakened due to heavy smoking) by Christmas 1982.^[20]

Ruffin started touring with Kendricks (who dropped the "s" from his last name at this time) as a duo act in 1985.

In 1985, longtime Temptations fans Hall & Oates teamed up with Ruffin and Kendrick to perform at the re-opening of the Apollo Theater in New York. Their performance was released as a successful live album and single. The four singers also sang a medley of Temptations hits at Live Aid on July 13, 1985. John Oates later wrote a minor hit single for Ruffin and Kendrick, but the two duos fell out, allegedly due to Daryl Hall's objections to Ruffin's heavy drug use. After being inducted in 1989 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (along with the other Temptations) Ruffin, Kendrick and Dennis Edwards began touring and recording as "Ruffin/Kendrick/Edwards: Former Leads of The Temptations". On August 17, 2013, in Cleveland, Ohio, The Official R&B Music Hall of Fame inducted David Ruffin as a solo artist and member of The Temptations. His family was in attendance at the ceremony.

Personal life

Ruffin was married twice. His first marriage was to Sandra Barnes in 1961, with whom he had three daughters, Cheryl, Nedra and Kimberly.^[22] He also had one son with his long-term girlfriend, Genna Sapia, whom he met in 1964.^[23] Genna said that since she didn't know whether David was coming or going (because of the well-publicized affair with Motown colleague [and Marvin Gaye duet partner] Tammi Terrell), she named the baby David E. Sapia. Later, David changed his son's name to David Eli Ruffin, Jr. The three lived together for years, but she and David never married.^{[23][23][24]} In 1976—two years after he and Genna split for good—Ruffin married Joy Hamilton. After his death, Sapia would add "Ruffin" to her last name in tribute to their relationship, and for continuity with David Junior.^{[23][25]}

Ruffin is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery (Detroit, Michigan), in Section 3, Lot 243, Grave #3.

Legacy

Ruffin had many admirers among his fellow artists, especially for the emotive power he brought to every song he sang. "Nobody could sing like David Ruffin", said his close friend and colleague Martha Reeves (of Martha and the Vandellas fame).^[29] His contemporary, label-mate, and long-time acquaintance Marvin Gaye was particularly impressed with the virility of Ruffin's voice. Gaye said Ruffin's work "made me remember that when a lot of women listen to music, they want to feel the power of a real man".^[2]

Daryl Hall of Hall & Oates, one of Ruffin's biggest fans, said, "His voice had a certain glorious anguish that spoke to people on many emotional levels".^[2] Ruffin himself said, "I don't know what kind of voice I have, I really don't...it's just about the feeling I get for the song".^[6]

The raspy-voiced Rod Stewart fell in love with Ruffin's voice after he heard "I Wish It Would Rain". "It jumped out of the speakers and ravished my soul", Stewart exclaimed.^[20] Stewart would later become friends with Ruffin. "His voice was so powerful – like a foghorn on the *Queen Mary*", Stewart told *Rolling Stone* magazine in 2005.^[20]

The cover-art of Ruffin's last album *Gentleman Ruffin* was the inspiration for the art of rapper Wiz Khalifa's mixtape *Kush and Orange Juice*.^[5]

David Ruffin was inducted into the inaugural class of the Official Rhythm & Blues Music Hall of Fame at Cleveland State University.

In popular culture[edit]

In 1998, NBC aired *The Temptations*, a four-hour television mini-series about the group's career, Ruffin was portrayed by Leon Robinson (who is usually credited as simply "Leon" as his professional name). The actor won high praise for his performance, although Ruffin's family was quite upset by the way the series portrayed him, and filed a lawsuit against the series' producers and Otis Williams, whose memoir had been the source material.^{[30][31]} The case was dismissed in favor of the defendants, with Williams later claiming that he had no real control over the presentation of the material.

Grand Puba of Brand Nubian referenced the singer on the 1990 single "All for One", stating: "I hit a beat and swing a note as if my name was David Ruffin".

Rapper Machine Gun Kelly also referenced the singer on his 2013 song "See My Tears" stating:"Fought every temptation shit, I guess I'm David Ruffin huh"?

The first song on Fall Out Boy's 2005 CD *From Under the Cork Tree* was to have been titled "My Name is David Ruffin...and These are The Temptations", but for legal reasons the name was changed to "Our Lawyer Made Us Change the Name of This Song So We Wouldn't Get Sued".

Hotstylz used Ruffin's song and referred his name on their hip-hop single "Lookin' Boy".

American rap rock group Gym Class Heroes references Ruffin in the 2008 song "Like Father, Like Son (Papa's Song)" from their album *The Quilt* stating: "I never understood temptation. But I guess we both got a little David Ruffin in us".

In the British documentary film *The Fear of 13*, Common Man is sung.

Solo discography

Main article: David Ruffin discography

Studio albums

- 1969: *My Whole World Ended*
- 1969: *Feelin' Good*
- 1970: *I Am My Brother's Keeper* (The Ruffin Brothers: David & Jimmy Ruffin)
- 1971: *David* (unissued until 2004)
- 1973: *David Ruffin*
- 1974: *Me 'N Rock 'N Roll Are Here To Stay*
- 1975: *Who I Am*
- 1976: *Everything's Coming Up Love*
- 1977: *In My Stride*
- 1979: *So Soon We Change*
- 1980: *Gentleman Ruffin*
- 1988: *Ruffin & Kendrick* (Ruffin & Kendrick: David Ruffin and Eddie Kendrick)

100 Greatest Singers of All Time

Aretha, Elvis, Lennon, Dylan and many more



There's something a bout a voice that's personal, not unlike the particular odor or shape of a given human body. Summoned through belly, hammered into form by the throat, given propulsion by bellows of lungs, teased into final form by tongue and lips, a vocal is a kind of audible kiss, a blurted confession, a soul-burp you really can't keep from issuing as you make your way through the material world. How helplessly candid! How appalling!

Contrary to anything you've heard, the ability to actually carry a tune is in no regard a disability in becoming a rock & roll singer, only a mild disadvantage. Conversely, nothing in the vocal limitations of a Lou Reed guarantees a "Pale Blue Eyes" every time out, any more than singing as crazy-clumsy as Tom Waits guarantees a "Downtown Train." Yet there's a certain time-tested sturdiness to the lowchops approach forged by touchstone figures like Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison and Jonathan Richman, one that helps define rock & roll singing.

For me, Bob Dylan and Patti Smith, just to mention two, are superb singers by any measure I could ever care about — expressivity, surprise, soul, grain, interpretive wit, angle of vision. Those two folks, a handful of others: their soul-burps are, for me, *the soul-burps of the gods*. The beauty of the singer's voice touches us in a place that's as personal as the place from which that voice has issued. If one of the weird things about singers is the ecstasy of surrender they inspire, another weird thing is the debunking response a singer can arouse once we've recovered our senses. It's as if they've fooled us into loving them, diddled our hard-wiring, located a vulnerability we thought we'd long ago armored over. Falling in love with a singer is like being a teenager every time it happens.

This is an excerpt from Jonathan Lethem's introduction to the Greatest Singers of All Time feature in the November 27, 2008 issue of Rolling Stone. A panel of 179 experts ranked the vocalists.



Petard Collection/Redferns

65

David Ruffin

Born

January 18th, 1941 (died June 1st, 1991)

Key Tracks

"Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "My Girl," "Walk Away From Love"

Influenced

Hall and Oates, Michael Jackson, Rod Stewart

Motown founder Berry Gordy said that any of the five Temptations could have been a lead singer, but it was David Ruffin who stood out most from the pack. In contrast to his heavenly-voiced partner, Eddie Kendricks, Ruffin sang as if every word was a plea — pain and desperation filled his lead vocals on "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "(I Know) I'm Losing You" and "I Wish It Would Rain." "His voice had a certain glorious anguish that spoke to people on many emotional levels," says Daryl Hall, who briefly recorded and performed with Ruffin in the Eighties. "I heard in [his voice] a strength my own voice lacked," said Marvin Gaye, who added that Ruffin's work "made me remember that when a lot of women listen to music, they want to feel the power of a real man."

David Ruffin - Songs

ABOUT

David Ruffin (January 18, 1941 - June 1, 1991) was a highly acclaimed R&B/soul singer and one of Motown's all-time top stars who first became famous during the mid 1960s as the lead singer for The Temptations. Known for his distinctive gritty tenor vocals and emotive delivery as well as his flamboyant onstage presence, he took the lead in such era-defining classics as "My Girl." He then continued on as a solo artist beginning in 1969 with "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)."

Born Davis Eli Ruffin in Whynot, Mississippi (he later had his first name changed to David), he began his music career as a child singing in his family's gospel group along with his siblings that included older brother and future soul sensation, Jimmy Ruffin. He left home in his early teens and went to Memphis, Tennessee, originally intending to join the ministry, where he participated in local talent shows and sang with The Dixie Nightingales and other gospel groups. In 1958, while still in his teens, he landed his first record deal with Vega Records, recording under the name, Little David Bush. During the early 1960s, he recorded several singles for Check Mate and the Motown subsidiary, Anna Records, both solo and with The Voice Masters.

A major career turning point came for Ruffin in late 1963 when he was invited to join The Temptations. First serving as a background vocalist, he took the helm in 1965 with the Smokey Robinson-penned "My Girl," which topped both the Pop/Rock and R&B charts and launched The Temptations to international superstardom. This smash was followed by a long string of hits featuring Ruffin's trademark lead vocals that also included "Ain't Too Proud To Beg" (1966), "Beauty Is Only Skin Deep" (1966), "(I Know) I'm Losing You" (1966), and the anguished "I Wish It Would Rain" (1968). As The Temptations' fame continued to soar during the late 1960s, Ruffin's association with the group came to an end in 1968 due to disagreements as well as his increasing cocaine abuse.

Ruffin officially had his first charting solo song in 1962 with the little known "Mr. Bus Driver - Hurry," the B-side of a single he had recorded with Check Mate which became a minor hit on the Record World (Music Vendor) charts. His solo career began in earnest in 1969 with the lovelorn ballad, "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)," a Top 10 hit Pop/Rock hit that was followed later that year by "I've Lost Everything I've Ever Loved" and "I'm So Glad I Fell For You." In 1970, Ruffin paired up with brother Jimmy to record an album titled "I Am My Brother's Keeper" which included their R&B Top 40 cover of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me." Ruffin had another Top 10 Pop/Rock hit 1975 with "Walk Away From Love," which topped the R&B charts and later went gold. His string of hits, which continued through 1985 on both the Pop/Rock and R&B charts, also included "Heavy Love" (1976), "Everything's Coming Up Love" (1976), "Break My Heart" (1979), and "A Nite At The Apollo Live! The Way You Do The Things You Do/My Girl" (1985), the latter credited to Daryl Hall & John Oates with David Ruffin & Eddie Kendrick. He later had two additional R&B hits with Eddie Kendrick: "I Couldn't Believe It" (1987) and "One More For The Lonely Hearts Club" (1988).

Ruffin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989 along with The Temptations. His other awards and accolades also included being inducted into the R&B Music Hall of Fame in 2013 and being named one of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time by Rolling Stone in 2008.

RELATED BANDS AND ARTISTS

- [Jimmy Ruffin](#)
- [The Temptations](#)

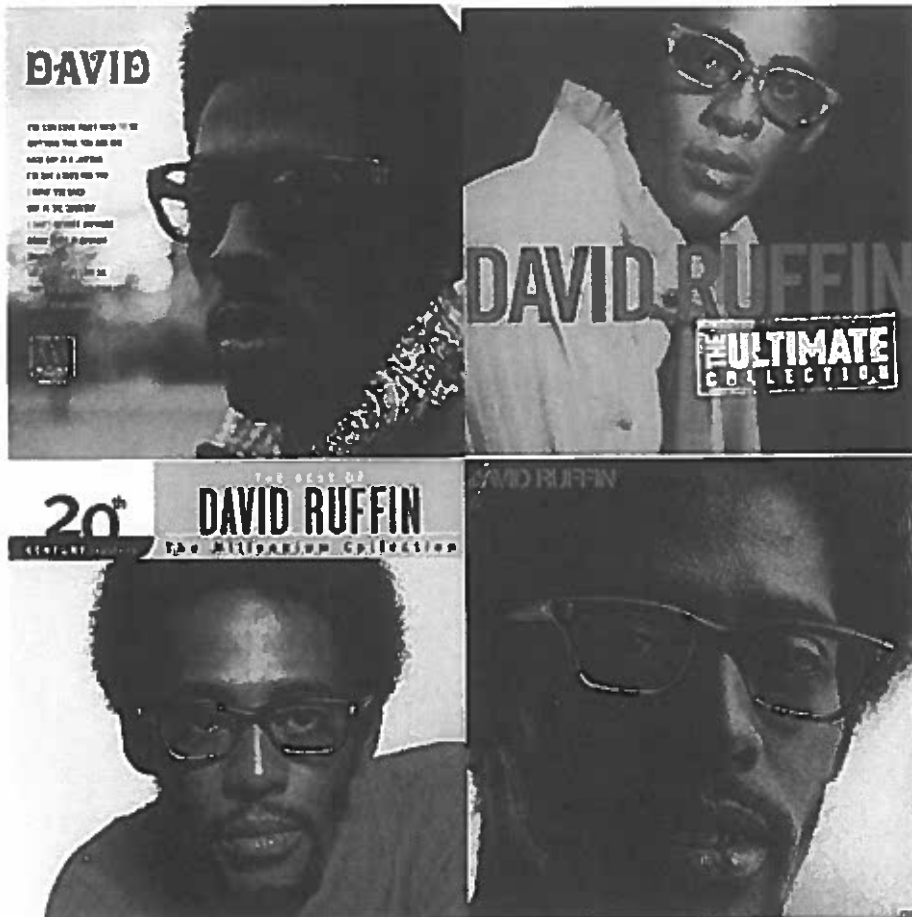
LINKS

- In a 1988 [interview with the Washington Post](#), Motown hit maker Smokey Robinson reveals that he wrote "My Girl" to showcase Ruffin's unique vocals.
- Temptations co-founder Otis Williams remembers David Ruffin in a 2016 [interview with freelance writer Malcolm Wyatt](#).
- David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks discuss their later work with Hall & Oates and other topics in an [interview with soulandfunkmusic.com](#).

MERCHANDISE

- [David Ruffin Recordings \(CDs, etc.\)](#)
- [David Ruffin MP3s](#)
- [David Ruffin Vinyl](#)

FEATURED RECORDINGS



19

CITY CLERK 2019 MAR 11 AM 11:25

City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD
218 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313. 224.3487 Fax: 313. 224.4336
e-mail: historic@detroitmi.gov

March 11, 2019

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

RE: Petition #700: Secondary Street Sign for Reverend Edward L. McCoy

The family of the late Reverend Edward Leon. McCoy Sr., and the members of New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church Ladies Auxiliary submitted a petition requesting that the intersection of Mt Elliott and Hendricks be assigned the secondary street name the Rev. Edward L. McCoy, Sr. Street in celebration of his contributions in the field of music, a community leader and as a minister to the city of Detroit. A professional musician, Rev. McCoy owned and operated McCoy Recording Company. Under the his record labels Big Mack Records and Brighter Day Records, Rev. McCoy wrote, produced and recorded numerous albums and managed many artists. In 1988, Rev. McCoy was installed as pastor of New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church and served in that capacity for twenty-six years.

Upon review of the documentation submitted by the petitioner staff has concluded that the petition does meet the criteria for Secondary Naming of Street in accordance with Article VII Sections 50-7-31 through Sections 50-7-50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code.

Criteria

As stated in Chapter 50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code, *Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article VII, Opening, closing, Extending, Widening, Vacating, Naming and Renaming of Streets and Assigning Secondary Names to Streets.* A secondary street name designation may be sought to recognize a person who achieved prominence as a result of his or her significant, position, contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community.

1. Sites, buildings, structures where cultural, social, spiritual, economic, political, architectural history of the community, city, state or nation is particularly reflected or exemplified.
2. Sites, buildings, structures, which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the community, city, state or national history.

Attached for you review and consideration is a resolution setting the required public hearing as well as a resolution which will authorize the establishment of a Secondary Street Name in honor of Reverend Earnest O. King Sr. upon the conclusion of a favorable public hearing, which must be held in accordance with Section 50-7-35 of the Detroit City Code.

Staff is available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janese Chapman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janese Chapman, Deputy Director, Historic Designation Advisory Board

Attachments

RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

Resolved, That a public hearing will be held by the Detroit City Council Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in the Committee of the Whole Room, 13th Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center on **Thursday, _____, 2019** at _____ a.m., for the purpose of considering the petition of the New Harmony Missionary Baptist Church Ladies Auxiliary requesting the secondary street name in honor of the late Reverend Edward Leon McCoy, Sr. in the area of Mt. Elliot Street and Hendricks Avenue to "Reverend Edward L. McCoy, Sr."

BACKGROUND

Rev. McCoy was born and raised in the City of Detroit. He was a stand-out football player in high school as well as at Morehouse College, where he majored in Math. He served his country in the US Army National Guard, and returned home to work as a local musician and businessman. He operated a recording studio under the label Big Mack Records, and his recordings have been sought after by international production companies (ie., Eccentric Soul-Número Group). Following the 1967 civil unrest and riots in Detroit, Rev. McCoy was appointed by then Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh to a committee to help restore and rebuild the neighborhoods.

From the age of 14 and throughout his adult hood, he served as a minister of music in local Detroit churches, including Pilgrim's Baptist Church, Gospel Temple Baptist Church, West Side Central Baptist Church, True Love Baptist Church, Pine Grove Baptist Church, New Harmony, and others. Finally, in 1987 he answered the call to serve as a pastor at New Harmony Baptist Church, where he remained for 28 years. Along the way, he was married for 54 years to his wife, with whom they raised three children and numerous grandchildren. As testament to their father's commitment to service, two of his children dedicated their lives as police officers for the City of Detroit, and another serving as a risk management specialist in educational systems for children.

SERVICE AS PASTOR

As pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church, Reverend McCoy made it his mission to be a mentor for his congregation, especially to the youth. He established the children's "Young Voices" choir and purchased a bus to pick up neighborhood children and adults for Sunday, Saturday, and Wednesday services. He initiated a Saturday tutorial program for children at risk (youth with learning and emotional challenges). Reverend McCoy also provided tutoring to adults with reading difficulties.

Recognizing the need for his congregation and the surrounding neighborhood to have a sense of pride in their community, he over saw the designation of New Harmony as a Historical District within the City of Detroit. Built in 1904, the church has been serving the community without interruption, and has been a place of spiritual guidance to the African American community since the late 1940's.

His pastoral service included a radio outreach ministry. Reverend McCoy broadcast for more than 16 years on the former WJLB radio station with the task of "Reaching out to a city in need with the word it needs." He read from the Bible, prayed, preached, and counseled callers to the station, sometimes to those in life threatening situations.

Reverend McCoy had several affiliations. He was an active member and supporter of the "McDougal-Hunt" Council Community group, which was non-profit group representing the neighborhood around New Harmony. He was an active member of the Wolverine State Baptist Convention (Saginaw, Michigan), which serves the various needs of thousands throughout the State of Michigan. He also was a member of the National Baptist Convention, USA, whose mission is to serve all people through teaching, preaching, and healing.

Committed to his role as a mentor, Reverend McCoy confronted stage 4 throat cancer without relinquishing his pastoral duties. Faced with the possibility of disfiguring surgery to his face, he never questioned his circumstances, even though he was a non-smoker and a non-drinker. He expressed his faith in God, and as New Harmony's pastor his plight was on public display. Following radiation and chemo treatment, he was even called upon by his doctors at Beaumont Hospital to counsel other cancer patients. Finally, after the ordeal of his aggressive treatment, Reverend McCoy was declared cancer free. He took gratification that he was able show his congregation that he could not only encourage them to have faith, but to possibly give them hope as they confronted their own challenges. In later years, Reverend McCoy continued to preach right up until his death in 2015.

As a solid citizen, leader, inspiration, and positive role model in the City of Detroit, it is hoped that Bulage Place be renamed in honor of Reverend Edward L. McCoy.

Dedicated to church, community

By Val Thompson

The Rev. Edward McCoy was called to the ministry in May, 1984 and ordained in December, 1987. He was installed as pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church in October, 1988.

Rev. McCoy came into the ministry running and he hasn't lost a beat since then. Frankly, he has picked up steam and it has had a tremendous affect on the community surrounding the east side church located at Mt. Elliott and Vernor.

A professional musician as well, Rev. McCoy's greatest ambition now is to continue his broadcast over WKMK-Radio on Thursdays at 11 a.m. The broadcast has been lauded by shut-ins and various age groups.

The broadcast is an extension of the out-reach ministries, started by Rev. McCoy to serve members who were separated from regular church fellowship and to reach out to a city in need of the word of God.

The membership is encouraged by the broadcast, which has aided in the growth of the church bringing in some 62 new members in one year. Other programs have been developed to address the needs of the community and

Kenyan choir at Fellowship Chapel

The Muungano National Choir from Nairobi, Kenya will be in concert at Fellowship Chapel, 19555 W. McNichols, on Saturday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 538-8895. The event is sponsored by the Fellowship Music Dept. Wendell Anthony is pastor.



Rev. Edward McCoy

to broaden the missionary focus of the church which includes training classes for grades K-12, hospital and nursing home monitoring, and jail and evangelistic ministries.

There is a summer youth program at New Harmony that runs six days a week throughout the summer and includes speakers from the Detroit Police Dept. and Herman Keifer Hospital, a tour of the Rehabilitation Institute and presentations by physicians at Harper Hospital about drug abuse.

The youths have also enjoyed trips to Cedar Point and other places of interest. Many of the children involved in the programs joined the church and have encouraged some of the parents to join.

Rev. McCoy is a graduate of Chadsey High School and Morehouse College, studied at William Tyndale and is presently working on his doctorate at Asiland The-

ological Seminary in Ohio. He and his wife, Madeline, are the parents of three children.



CITY OF DETROIT
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
2 WOODWARD AVENUE SUITE 808
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
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February 19, 2019

Detroit City Council
1340 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226

**RE: Property Sale
5907 French, Detroit, MI 48213**

Honorable City Council:

The City of Detroit, Planning and Development Department (“P&DD”) has received an offer from JST Acquisition Company, L.L.C. (“JST”), a Michigan Limited Liability Company, to purchase certain City-owned real property at 5907 French (the “Property”) for the purchase price Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00).

JST proposes to utilize the property as a green space between properties that the company already owns. Currently, the property is within a B4 zoning district (General Business District). JST’s proposed use of the Property shall be consistent with the allowable uses for which the Property is zoned.

We request that your Honorable Body adopt the attached resolution to authorize the Director of P&DD to execute a quit claim deed and such other documents as may be necessary or convenient to effect a transfer of the Property by the City to JST Acquisition Company, L.L.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice D. Cox
Director

cc: Stephanie Washington, Mayor’s Office

CITY CLERK 2019 MAR 12 PM 4:01

RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Detroit City Council hereby approves of the sale of certain real property at 5907 French, Detroit, MI (the "Property"), as more particularly described in the attached Exhibit A incorporated herein, to JST Acquisition Company, L.L.C. ("JST") for the purchase price of Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Planning and Development Department, or his authorized designee, is authorized to execute a quit claim deed and other such documents necessary or convenient to effect transfer of the Property to JST consistent with this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following Property Sales Services Fees be paid from the sale proceeds pursuant to the City's Property Management Agreement with the Detroit Building Authority ("DBA"): 1) Three Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (300.00) shall be paid to the DBA from the sale proceeds, 2) Two Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$250.00) shall be paid to the DBA's real estate brokerage firm from the sale proceeds and 3) customary closing costs up to Two Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$200.00) shall be paid from the sale proceeds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the P&DD Director, or his authorized designee, is authorized to execute any required instruments to make and incorporate technical amendments or changes to the quit claim deed (including but not limited to corrections to or confirmations of legal descriptions, or timing of tender of possession of particular parcels) in the event that changes are required to correct minor inaccuracies or are required due to unforeseen circumstances or technical matters that may arise prior to the conveyance of the Property, provided that the changes do not materially alter the substance or terms of the transfer and sale; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the quit claim deed will be considered confirmed when executed by the P&DD Director, or his authorized designee, and approved by the Corporation Counsel as to form.

(See Attached Exhibit A)

EXHIBIT A


LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Property situated in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, described as follows:

W FRENCH RD 728 ST CLAIR HEIGHTS EUGENE SLOMANS SUB L18 P50 PLATS, W C
R 21/534 30 X 114.67A

a/k/a 5907 French
Tax Parcel ID 21040260-1

Description Correct
Engineer of Surveys

By: 
Basil Sarim, P.S.
Professional Surveyor
City of Detroit/DPW, CED



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

CITY CLERK 2019 MAR 13 PM 4:52

21

MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
FROM: Council President Pro Tempore Mary Sheffield, Chair, Neighborhoods and Community Services Committee (MS)
THRU: Council Member James Tate, Chair, Planning and Economic Development
DATE: March 13, 2019
RE: Request for Right to Counsel Ordinance Update and Funding Recommendations

I am requesting LPD provide an update to the request to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance (attached) submitted on September 14, 2018. In addition, I am requesting that LPD consider the following funding mechanisms amongst others: general funds, the affordable housing leverage fund or blight remediation demolition funding to fund the initiative. I am also requesting that LPD consult with the United Community Housing Coalition and the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel in order to identify the appropriate funding level needed for the ordinance.

I am also requesting that the request be removed from the Public Health and Safety Standing and placed on the Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee's calendar.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
Honorable City Clerk
Stephanie Washington, City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office



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City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
FROM: Council President Pro Tempore Mary Sheffield, Chair, Neighborhoods and Community Services Committee
THRU: Scott Benson, Chair, Public Health and Safety Committee
DATE: September 14, 2018
RE: Right to Counsel Ordinance

At least half of all tenants fighting eviction would not lose their case if they had legal representation. Additionally, about 97% of cases in housing court are initiated by landlords, and almost all landlords have representation while the vast majority of tenants do not. This results in landlords evicting tenants because they have power, not because the law supports them. Furthermore, landlords sue tenants they shouldn't because they can get away with it - telling tenants that the case is a simple issue of paying rent which denies tenants access to the power of complex and vast housing laws designed to defend their homes.

Therefore, I am requesting that the Legislative Policy Division draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance for housing eviction cases. The legislation should utilize ordinances in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco as model legislation.

Please contact Brian White at 313-224-4505 if you have any questions.