

Staff Report

This purpose of this legislation is to rename the Section of Holeclaw Street between the intersections of Bunche Street and Hicks Avenue to "Norwood Brown Lane" in honor of the contributions of Mr. Thomas Norwood Brown to the City of Annapolis.

On November 2, 2016, Shawn Wampler, City IT Department, and I, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, attended and made a presentation to the City's Heritage Commission regarding changes to the names of 3 streets in Ward 3. (There are no residences on any of these streets.) The Commission voted unanimously to honor our 3 requests. They also agreed to forward a letter of support and the outcome of their vote to the proper City office. Mr. Ted Mack is the Chair of the HC. This request to re-name these 3 streets is a continuing part of our 100 year celebration of the Walter S. Mills-Parole Elementary School - 1916-2016.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not recognize Shawn, who has been working diligently on this project for several months.

The new street name for this piece of legislation is:

"Norwood Brown Lane"

Currently, there are 3 sections of Holeclaw Street. The western-most section has residences. The section between Bunche Street and Hicks Avenue does not have any residences. We proposed, and it was passed, that this section be renamed "Norwood Brown Lane".

Mr. Thomas Norwood Brown served as the first Alderman representing Parole when Parole was annexed into the City of Annapolis in 1951. Alderman Brown served admirably from 1951 until 1967. He chaired the Ordinance and Bylaws Committee. He sponsored the Open Occupancy Housing Ordinance; advocated for the first Black members to all City Commissions; and as a member of the Police Committee, he sponsored the first Black policemen and staff members.

Alderman Brown was a true "Renaissance Man". He worked tirelessly and contributed mightily to the fabric and to the growth of the community. Mr. Brown was a leader in many community and church organizations, including the Parole Improvement Association (Charter Member); the Community Health Center at Parole, Inc., serving on the Committee to develop this facility; the Annapolis City Commission to develop the Stanton Community Center; the Anne Arundel County Community Chest (Vice-President); the Regional Board of the Red Cross, representing the Disaster Committee, Anne Arundel County Red Cross Chapter; the Annapolis Urban Renewal Authority; the Housing and Community Development Committee; the Frontiers Club International; the Anne Arundel County YMCA; the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Inc.; the NAACP (Life Member); Bowie State College Foundation, Inc.; the Salvation Army Advisory

Board; the Providence Center, Inc.; St. Philip's Episcopal Church (Vestry and Finance Committees); Delegate to the Diocese Commission for the Aged; the Fairhaven Life Care Community (Board of Directors), Sykesville; the Search Committee, New Bishop Co-Adjutor, Maryland; and the Community Organizer's Association, HUD Area 2 (which included Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia).

Alderman Brown was a very astute and successful businessman. He owned and operated a Taxi business as well as a Restaurant; obtained a license as an Insurance Salesman, working as an Independent Agent; was awarded a federal contract to operate the Parole Post Office; and obtained a real estate license where he sold property and managed a private housing project.

Alderman Brown was a life-long resident of Parole, being a product of the Stanton Elementary and High School.

Many of Alderman Brown's family members continue to reside in Anne Arundel County. Mr. Brown's family members attended our Annapolis area schools, including Parole Elementary School.

Because this request is a continuing part of our 100 year celebration of the Walter S. Mills-Parole Elementary School - 1916-2016, the President and Immediate Past President of the Greater Parole Community Association, Mr. H. Vincent Price, Jr. and Mr. Lawrence L. Harris, Jr., and I would appreciate it if this matter could be approved in 2016. We would however, anticipate a formal community celebration sometime in the spring 2017.

Prepared by Alderwoman Pindell Charles