



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

..letter

November 12, 2019

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders

Dear President Walker-Myers:

We would like to respectfully submit to the Board of Alders the attached Order proposing that the corner of Chapel Street and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard, on the boundary line between Ward 24 and Ward 26, be designated as “Coach William Thompson Way” to honor William Thompson, beloved coach of the New Haven Age Group Track Club and respected mentor for so many young City athletes.

William Thompson, known as “Coach T”, was a beloved coach of the New Haven Age Group Track Club for more than 38 years, assuming the role of head coach after the founder retired. He coached thousands of children, and served as mentor and advocate for so many New Haven youths in leading this great Track Club. Mr. Thompson loved track and his athletes, and instilled in them the importance of academics, respect, love and hard work, while earning the respect of athletes, parents and coaches from across Connecticut and several other states.

A humble and unselfish man, Mr. Thompson spent countless hours over the years at Bowen Field and Edgewood Park volunteering his time, energies and expertise as a coach for the New Haven Age Group Track Club. His commitment and concern for the children was so heartfelt that he kept in touch with them when they went on to attend high school and college, continuing to inspire and motivate them.

Though he passed away in 2014, Mr. Thompson’s legacy lives on in recalling his devotion to the Track Club he served as role model, father figure and mentor, as well as the positive impact he had on the enrichment and personal development of the lives of so many individuals across the City of New Haven.

On numerous weekends, Mr. Thompson could be seen sitting on the bench at the corner of Chapel Street and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard in coaching his athletes, so it is altogether fitting that the corner at that intersection, which lies on the boundary between Ward 24 and Ward 26, be named in his honor. In requesting this tribute to express gratitude and admiration for Mr. Thompson’s many years of unselfish works for the community, there has been an outpouring of support from residents throughout New Haven in completing the necessary petition and paperwork.

We very much support the designation of the corner of Chapel Street and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard as “Coach William Thompson Way” in honor of William Thompson’s many years of service to the New Haven Age Group Track Club and great contributions to the entire City of New Haven. We thank the colleagues for consideration of this measure and urge its approval.

Respectfully submitted,

EVETTE HAMILTON
Alder, Ward 24

DARRYL J. BRACKEEN, JR.
Alder, Ward 26

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ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS DESIGNATING THE CORNER OF CHAPEL STREET AND ELLA T. GRASSO BOULEVARD AS “COACH WILLIAM THOMPSON WAY” TO HONOR WILLIAM THOMPSON, BELOVED COACH OF THE NEW HAVEN AGE GROUP TRACK CLUB AND RESPECTED MENTOR FOR SO MANY YOUNG CITY ATHLETES.

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WHEREAS: William Thompson, known as “Coach T”, was a beloved coach of the New Haven Age Group Track Club for more than 38 years, assuming the rule of head coach after the founder retired; and

WHEREAS: he coached thousands of children, and served as mentor and advocate for so many New Haven youths in leading this great Track Club; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Thompson loved track and his athletes, and instilled in them the importance of academics, respect, love and hard work, while earning the respect of athletes, parents and coaches from across Connecticut and several other states; and

WHEREAS: a humble, unselfish man, Mr. Thompson spent countless hours over the years at Bowen Field and Edgewood Park volunteering his time, energies and expertise as a coach for the New Haven Age Group Track Club; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Thompson’s commitment and concern for the children was so genuine and heartfelt that he kept in touch with them when they went on to attend high school and college, continuing to inspire and motivate them; and

WHEREAS: though he passed away in 2014, his legacy lives on in recalling his devotion to the Track Club he served as role model, father figure and mentor, as well as the positive impact he had on the enrichment and personal development of the lives of so many individuals across the City of New Haven; and

WHEREAS: on numerous weekends, Mr. Thompson could be seen sitting on the bench at the corner of Chapel Street and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard in coaching his athletes, so it is altogether fitting that the corner at that intersection, which lies on the boundary between Ward 24 and Ward 26, be named in his honor; and

WHEREAS: in requesting this tribute to express gratitude and admiration for Mr. Thompson’s many years of unselfish works for the community, there has been an outpouring of support from residents throughout New Haven who completed the necessary petition and paperwork to satisfy the requirements of Section 18-2 of the General Code of Ordinances regarding the procedure for corner naming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the New Haven Board of Alders that in honor of William Thompson’s many years of service to the New Haven Age Group Track Club and great contributions to the entire City of New Haven, the corner of Chapel Street and Ella T. Grasso Boulevard is hereby designated as “Coach William Thompson Way” in perpetuity.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking is hereby directed and authorized to implement this order.