



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RESOLUTION NO. 250163

Introduced February 27, 2025

Councilmember Young

RESOLUTION

Also naming the 2900 Block of Dauphin Street as “James Blocker Way.”

WHEREAS, James Blocker moved from Greenwood South Carolina to Philadelphia in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Prior to moving to Philadelphia, James served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged that same year; and

WHEREAS, Upon relocation he moved to the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood, where he resided with his Aunt Katherine and Uncle Boyd; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blocker’s main job when he moved to Philadelphia was in construction. He helped build Strawberry Mansion High School and four other schools in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, After working for six and half years in construction James Blocker realized it was time for a new venture; and

WHEREAS, James Blocker tapped into a new set of skills working for seven years as a Navy Yard electrician; and

WHEREAS, In 1996 James married the love of his lives Eula Mae Gaskins and they had three children: James Darryl Blocker, Kevin Blocker, and Gregory Blocker; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to make a better life for his wife and children, James opened up Mansion Auto Repair in 1974 on the corner of 2301 N 30th Street; and

WHEREAS, Through James L. Blocker's vision, Mansion Auto has evolved into a multi-generational, Black-owned business, proudly owned and operated by the community, for the community; and

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WHEREAS, Mansion Auto became a pillar of the community and was also a Safe Haven Corridor for neighborhood children; and

WHEREAS, James Blocker's vision continues to thrive through his sons and grandsons, with over 48 years of serving the same community in which he still resides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the 2900 Block of Dauphin Street shall also be named as “James Blocker Way.”

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to James Blocker as evidence of the true and sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.