

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 070133)

RESOLUTION

Also naming Diamond Street from 16th Street through 19th Street “Father Paul Washington Avenue.”

WHEREAS, Paul Washington was born in Charleston, South Carolina on May 26 1921. He attended the well-known Avery Institute, which prepared him for his entry to Lincoln University; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from the Philadelphia Divinity School of the Episcopal Church. He did his pastoral work at the Church of The Crucifixion at 8th Bainbridge Streets in South Philadelphia, where he met his lovely wife to be and soul mate-his Little Christine; and

WHEREAS, During his 25 years at the Advocate, he was recognized as one of the key leaders of the black power movement. When there was nowhere else for gatherings to be held, it was known by all that Father Paul would allow them to meet at the Advocate; and

WHEREAS, He hosted the National Black Power Conference in 1968. Two years later he hosted the Convention of the Black Panther Party. Huey Newton was one of the speakers; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, the Church of The Advocate was the site for the rally to raise money for the Angela Davis Defense Fund; and

WHEREAS, The 1970s also marked Father Paul’s and the Advocate’s increasing involvement in another area of inequality-the role of women in the Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, Father Paul participated in the ordination of the first 11 women into priesthood. Although the ordination was highly controversial, this event marked a new era for both the Episcopal Church and the Church of The Advocate; and

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WHEREAS, He was widely known and revered. At the request of then-Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Father Paul participated in the international peace conference in Iran that was forbidden by the U.S. government. He was honored far and wide; and

WHEREAS, During his years at the Advocate, Father Paul served as Episcopal Chaplain at Eastern State Penitentiary. He served on the Move Commission established by then-Mayor Wilson Goode and was the chaplain of the Advocate Communities Development Corporation's (ACDC) Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, He continued to serve ACDC until the fall of 1998. ACDC was established by his wife and constructed multimillion-dollar projects, rehab and new construction for those in need. Over 400 units of housing have been added to the North Philadelphia community; and

WHEREAS, Father Paul departed this life on Oct. 7, 2002, survived by his wife, one daughter, three sons, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. At his resurrection service more than 1,000 people attended-equal parts black and white, rich and poor, conservative and liberal, straight and gay, men and women, community and establishment. His love reached out to all; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Diamond Street between 16th Street and 19th Street also be named "Father Paul Washington Avenue."

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the nineteenth of April, 2007.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Clarke, Rizzo, Kelly, O'Neill, DiCicco, Savage, Miller, Tasco, Krajewski, Greenlee, Kenney, Reynolds Brown, Goode, Ramos, Campbell and Blackwell