

Legislation Text

File #: 220755, **Version:** 0

Also naming the 900 block of South 17th Street “Geraldine Graves Way,” to honor the life and legacy of Geraldine Graves.

WHEREAS, Geraldine Graves was born on May 11, 1954, and passed away January 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Graves was a lifelong public servant, spending 34 years working for the Internal Revenue Service in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Graves was a faithful member of the Gospel Temple Church in the Point Breeze neighborhood of South Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Graves was deeply engaged in her community, and she put tremendous energy particularly into the Edwin M. Stanton School; and

WHEREAS, First, she was only a supporter, and then she developed into a fierce advocate when Stanton was threatened with closure in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Graves refused to give up and met weekly for months with other supporters. She would strategize, plan and provide solid foundation for all who gathered to plan to save the Stanton school; and

WHEREAS, Thanks in large part to her conviction, the Philadelphia School District decided not to close Stanton, and Mrs. Graves kept the quality public school open and thriving. She was able to provide for the children in the community the ability to have a safe place to learn and grow. This was particularly impactful because of the 2013 closure of the Walter G. Smith School, which also served the Point Breeze community; and

WHEREAS, Following her retirement from the IRS, Mrs. Graves became a school crossing guard at 17th and Christian street, for the exact school she saved; and

WHEREAS, She would guide hundreds of students to safety from one side to the other each day with a warm smile and kind words. For over twelve years, Geraldine was the heart and soul of the Stanton School community; and

WHEREAS, In her free time, Mrs. Graves would continue serving the public through numerous volunteer endeavors, including with Unity in the Community, Friends of Stanton, and Don’t Shoot I Want a Future; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Graves dedicated her life to serving the public and to doing all she can to support the children in her community. She is sorely missed by the countless community members whose lives were touched by her work; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Also names the 900 block of South 17th Street “Geraldine Graves Way,” to honor the life and legacy of Geraldine Graves.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Mrs. Geraldine Graves as evidence of the admiration and respect of this body.