



Item Number: 2

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: July 16, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: City Commission Meeting

LIAISON: N/A

FROM: Tim Burkman, City Engineer
Engineering

SUBJECT: **Public hearing considering the Commemorative Designation of the intersection of Henry Avenue and Logan Street as "Cliff's Corner" in honor of Rev. Dr. Clifton Rhodes, Jr.**

This public hearing is being held to consider a request received from representatives of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church for the commemorative designation of the intersection of Henry Avenue and Logan Street as "Cliff's Corner" in honor of the late Rev. Dr. Clifton Rhodes, Jr.

The church representatives have indicated that:

1. Rev. Dr. Rhodes was the pastor at Messiah Missionary Baptist Church, Grand Rapids' oldest Black Baptist church, for over 45 years prior to passing away in 2018.
2. His five-year long fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) was an inspiration to many.
3. Along with preaching, Rev. Dr. Rhodes spent his life supporting the Black community in Grand Rapids. He worked to bridge the racial divide, advocated for Black children in schools and partnered with police to combat street violence.
4. Messiah Missionary Baptist Church would like to honor Rev. Dr. Rhodes' memory by designating the intersection of Henry Avenue and Logan Street as "Cliff's Corner".
5. Messiah Missionary Baptist Church is the owner of two properties at the intersection of Henry Avenue and Logan Street, and Grand Rapids Public Schools is one of the other property owners.

The request has been circulated to City Departments in accordance with [City Commission Policy No. 1000-20](#), "Renaming City Streets", and any pertinent responses will be incorporated into the City Engineer's report per the City Commission Policy.

In accordance with that policy, all owners of record of properties directly abutting the intersection of Henry Avenue and Logan Street that is requested to be designated have been notified of the hearing by mail.

cc: Louis Canfield

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW