



CITY OF SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL

Alicia Miller Blakely
Alderwoman, At-Large Post 2

February 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Alicia Miller Blakely, Alderwoman of the City of Savannah's Post 2, fully endorses the application to request an Honorary Street Naming of Annie B. Graham Street located at Essex Avenue Between 2nd Avenue and Corvair Street

Staff will review and formally make a recommendation of action to City Council at a later date. This endorsement is only an approval to move forward in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alicia Miller Blakely', written over a horizontal line.

Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely
Post 2 – At Large
City of Savannah, Georgia

Annie Bell Graham – Tremont Park Matriarch

March 6, 1925 – August 27, 2023

In early 1941, Ms. Annie Bell Graham and her husband, Mr. Elliott Graham, settled in Tremont Park. She was the mother of twelve biological children and served as the legal guardian for approximately sixteen additional children.

Mrs. Graham was among the first African American property owners in the Tremont Park Community. Her three-bedroom home soon expanded to five bedrooms to accommodate the growing family.

Mrs. Graham served as the “Mother of the Church” of Tremont Park Missionary Baptist Church, located in Tremont Park, for nearly sixty years.

Mrs. Graham was a dedicated community organizer who hosted numerous fundraisers in her home during the early seventies to purchase land for the first Tremont Park Community Center. The center, built and governed by Tremont Park residents, greatly benefited from her efforts. She played a vital role in assisting other community leaders in securing a newly built community center through the City of Savannah. Whenever she couldn't attend a meeting or event, she ensured her voice was heard by sending a family representative. Mrs. Graham consistently contributed to the center by cooking hams, potato salad, and her award-winning sweet potato pies for community Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas parties. She remained actively involved in community events well into her nineties.

Mrs. Annie Bell Graham embodied the spirit of a Southeastern Pioneer Woman, showcasing remarkable resilience and resourcefulness. She provided food and clothing to numerous children in Tremont Park. Families would come to her home for a hot meal and often leave with a bag of food to take home. Those who knew her as “Grandma” understood she always had something to offer, whether it was food, clothing, or a monetary gift.

Mrs. Graham provided childcare in her home for both her family and the community, continuing this care well into her nineties. She often said, “Bring the children to me, (Nigh) and you go on to work.” She never charged for her childcare services and refused any money offered to her. Her home was always open to anyone in need of a place to stay. Over 500 people stayed at her home, whether for an overnight stay or for several months. With over 130 grandchildren, the number of people she sheltered could have easily been in the thousands, making her a foster grandmother to many.

Mrs. Annie Bell Graham's legacy endures through the countless lives she touched. She is a true legend and will forever be known as the “Matriarch of Tremont Park.”

Honorary Street Designation Request-

Purpose

Honorary street name designations are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. The designation is temporary assignment of the honorarium and shall not interfere with the official name of the street. Honorary Street Designations DO NOT change the official name of the street, they are only symbolic.

Proposal

Current Name: Essex Avenue
Proposed Honorary Name: Annie B. Graham Street
Location: Essex Avenue Between 2nd Avenue and Corvair Street
Petitioner: Doretha Rice 912-631-3942/ Jacelyn Johnson 912-655-7628







Street Sign Locations- Honorary Street Sign will be attached below the actual street name and Honorary Sign will be brown in color.







Statement of Reason- Community Contribution submitted by Petitioner

STATEMENT REQUIRED



12 total property owners
7 approval's required to move petition forward

Owner	Mailing_Address	Address	Approval
1. GRANT, SR. ARTHUR L.	1414 ARCADIAN ST.	2012 ESSEX AVE	Y
2. LOWMAN MAMIE	348 CANEBRAKE RD	2200 ESSEX AVE	Y
3. GRAHAM ANNA BELLE	2015 ESSEX AVE HIGHWAY PARK	2015 ESSEX AVE	Y
4. HINES LARRY WILLIAM	105 RUNAWAY POINT RD	ESSEX AVE	Y
5. GRANT MYRTIS T	PO BOX 14455	2009 ESSEX AVE	Y
6. GRANT MYRTIS TERENTIA	PO BOX 14455	ESSEX AVE	Y
7. BAPTISTE ANTOINE	PO BOX 24261	2017 ESSEX AVE	
8. GRANT, SR. ARTHUR L.	1414 ARCADIAN ST.	2010 ESSEX AVE	
9. ODOM CARLEEN & BENJAMIN K*	2002 NASH AVE	2005 ESSEX AVE	
10. GREEN TERRANCE &	307 GRIST MILL COURT	2007 ESSEX AVE	Y
11. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AN OFFICE	810 VERMONT AVENUE NW	2008 ESSEX AVE	
12. GRAHAM ANNA BELLE	2015 ESSEX AVE HIGHWAY PARK	ESSEX AVE	



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4. HINES LARRY WILLIAM <i>Hines Larry William</i>	105 RUNAWAY POINT RD	ESSEX AVE
5. GRANT MYRTIS T <i>Myrtis T. Grant</i>	PO BOX 14455	2009 ESSEX AVE
6. GRANT MYRTIS TERENTIA <i>Myrtis T. Grant</i>	PO BOX 14455	ESSEX AVE
7. BAPTISTE ANTOINE <i>Bapt. Myrtis T.</i>	PO BOX 24261	2017 ESSEX AVE
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Requirements for Honorary Street Naming Designations. (Sec.4-1104)

Purpose

- ✓ Honorary street name designations are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the City. The designation will be a temporary assignment of the honorarium and shall not interfere with the official name of the street.

Restrictions

- ✓ Roadways under the control of the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation or Chatham County are not subject to honorary naming.
- ✓ Honorary designations shall be limited to one approved designation per City Council member per calendar year.
- ✓ Individual family tributes, commercially concerned and corporate-related recognitions shall not be eligible for honorary designation.

Requirements

- ✓ The proposed namesake made a sustained contribution over an appreciable time period, exerted efforts of benefit or significance to local, state or national affairs and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;
- ✓ The proposed namesake made contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community;
- ✓ The proposed namesake resided in the City for at least 5 years.
- ✓ A statement of reasons supporting the honorary naming request, including a discussion of the historical significance, contributions, heroic service or personal sacrifice by the honoree to the City, state or nation;
- ✓ Identification of the particular section or block of an existing City street for which the honorary designation is sought.
- ✓ A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject right-of-way
- ✓ An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.
- ✓ A check for \$150 made to the City of Savannah

1. Jacquelyne G Johnson
2. Rosine Graham
3. Antonio Graham Jr.
4. Jordan Graham
5. Antonio Graham SR
6. Bernard Johnson Sr.
7. Charles E Simon Jr
8. Carey B Graham
9. Talana Graham
10. Michael Weathers
11. Jaquan McCombs
12. Samuel McCombs
13. Chelsea McCombs
14. Samir McCombs
15. Fred Herman Walker
16. Antwan Braxton
17. Akia Braxton
18. Lemuel James Arkwright
19. Shise Arkwright
20. Shenelle Weathers
21. Caden Roberts
22. Ana Weathers
23. Antonio Graham III
24. Herman Fields III
25. Naziyah McCombs
26. Nashakeya Emin
27. Jimmia Graham
28. Ahmaria W. Graham
29. Brianna Jones
30. Lenora Axon
31. Courtney Himm
32. Shantel Blount
33. Stevie Ellison
34. Caleb Jones
35. Shanell Wilkerson
36. Resnold Simmons
37. Resnold S. Simmons R
38. Sharon Sadler
39. Henry Gimlet
40. Diane Holmes
41. Denae Holmes
42. Lorenzo Holmes
43. Monica Holmes
44. Hunter Braxton
45. Fsiadah Braxton
46. Antwan J. Braxton
47. Antwanera T. Braxton
48. Jamir Wilkerson
49. Ty'Rae Jenkins
50. Shanell Wilkerson
51. Maurice Lopez

41. Mary Ann Graham
48 Ramonte Hall
49 Jamel Jackson
50 Kerisha Chambers
51 Jaleka Jackson
52 Jeremiah Jackson
53. Malik Jacobs
54. ALFRED WILSON
55. Janice Wilson
56 LaTran Wilson
57 JAMES TAPP
58. Romario Axon
59. Jamarie Axon
60. Christopher Walker
61. Jovian Jacobs
62. Tyjuan Quarlesman
63. Norman Fields
64. Mikel Smart
65. Shaw Williams
66. Kendall Carter
67. Marquis London
68. Zach Patterson
69. Clarence Axon SR
70. Aubrey Graham
71. Cornelia Graham
72. Naziah Axon
73. Clarence Axon SR.
74. Shamia Brown

75. Diamond Gillard
76. Dominique Johnson
77. GREG Banner
78. Navonia Graham
79. Margetah Graham
80. Watrell Errin
81. Ahmarja Graham
82. Wal' Shakeya Errin
83. Pailsey Errin
84. Tajneq Muhammad
85. Tajara Muhammad
86. Raven Weathers
87. Reginald Weathers
88. Christopher Glover
89. Jazmine McCombs
90. Naziyah McCombs
91. London McCombs
92. Spain McCombs
93. Jayden West
94. Kiani McCombs