

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2014-0260

DATE: February 25, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 25th day of February, 2014 a motion made by Dr. Theresa Daniel, District 1, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

Whereas, In May 1949, Karl S. J. Hoblitzelle, theater magnate and philanthropist, informed the trustees of the Hoblitzelle Foundation that there was a housing shortage for African Americans in Dallas County and proposed building a large development. The Foundation was not able to secure the land but instead loaned funds to the Dallas Citizen's Interracial Association, which raised additional funds to purchase a 233-acre site for an African American middle class community, known as Hamilton Park; and

Whereas, The Hamilton Park Community is named for Dr. Richard T. Hamilton, a physician and African American civic leader. The community was dedicated in October 1953, and formally opened in May 1954. By 1961, Hamilton Park was completed with 742 single-family dwellings, an apartment complex, shopping center, a twelve-grade school (now a six-grade pacesetter magnet school), churches of different denominations and a park with a playground, swimming pool, tennis court, and baseball diamond; and

Whereas, These determined African American men and women, some of whom were returning to Dallas having bravely served their country during WWII, ventured to North Dallas to purchase land and nurture a family-oriented community of two-parent households, with shared values, morals and traditions (a marriage certificate was required to purchase a home in Hamilton Park); and

Whereas, Hamilton Park, recognized for its pioneering spirit, formed various social institutions to fulfill and sustain the needs of the community: The Hamilton Park Civic League, The Hamilton Park Inter-organization Council, The Hamilton Park Garden Club, The Hamilton Park PTA, and The Hamilton Park Dads Club, to name a few. The latest organization was the Hamilton Park Historic Preservation Foundation. Most notably, the majority of these organizations remain a viable institution today; and

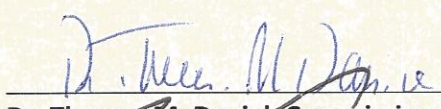
Whereas, Hamilton Park has been a jewel in North Dallas for nearly 60 years. It is the first African American inspired suburban development in the City of Dallas. Hamilton Park is known as a quiet, stable and responsible area with dedicated professionals, educators, clergyman, business owners, entertainers, scholars and blue collars workers. It has enriched this historic community through partnerships and collaborations with several non-profits, private corporations, churches and with the support of the Dallas Police Department to provide a safe community; and

Whereas, Today, Hamilton Park is an integrated community, predominately African American. There have been many changes over the years, yet the essence and pride of Hamilton Park still exists through the work of the community leaders, the first homeowners and their descendants; and

Whereas, In these changing times, the new generations guided by the teachings of their parents and mentors, continue to serve in a variety of community and civic roles throughout Dallas County and the world; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioner Court does hereby recognize and commend the Hamilton Park community, along with its various organizations, in preserving the historic legacy of this community.

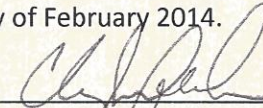
DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 25th day of February 2014.



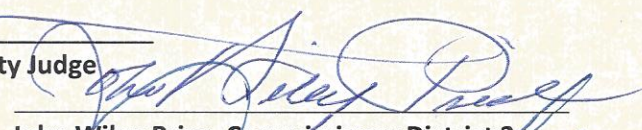
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1




Mike Cantrell, Commissioner District 2



Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge



John Wiley Price, Commissioner District 3



Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner District 4