

Resolution

ORDER NO: 2017-0574

DATE: May 2, 2017

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §



BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 2nd day of May, 2017, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District 3, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Dallas County Commissioners Court joins the Texas Historical Commission in remembering the historical significance and beauty of the Hamilton Park community, born of a time underscored by hate and turmoil; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton Park is an historically black neighborhood located ten miles north of Downtown Dallas. The community was named after Richard Theodore Hamilton in 1954, a young doctor graduating from Howard University in Washington, D.C., who moved to Dallas in 1901; and

WHEREAS, Together, Dr. Richard Hamilton and his wife Hattie were advocates for equality and better housing conditions in Dallas during a time of "separate but equal," a time when African Americans were still not welcome in predominantly white neighborhoods. Hamilton Park was created to address a housing shortage for the growing African American community moving into Dallas to build a better future for their families. It was completed in 1961 and consisted of 742 single-family dwellings; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton Park was a fully thriving community with schools, churches, a local park, and businesses and addressed all the needs of Hamilton Park residents. The community consisted of World War II veterans; educators and preachers; chauffeurs and domestic workers; registered and licensed vocational nurses; dentists and doctors; actors, gospel singers and jazz musicians; landscapers, carpenters and contractors responsible for building homes and churches; sculptors who shaped visual art; historians and civic leaders who rose to national status; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton Park is home to an exemplary educational institution, the Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet Elementary School, which has served as a model for local school districts and other school districts across the United States. Before becoming the Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet Elementary School, it operated as the Hamilton Park School for all elementary, junior high and high school African American children in the community - reminiscent of a time when "separate but equal" was deemed acceptable. Landmark United States Supreme Court case "*Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka*" in 1954 would later lead to the integration of junior high and high school aged students, leaving only the elementary school; and

WHEREAS, Community residents recently commemorated Hamilton Park's 60th Anniversary in August of 2015. The Hamilton Park Civic League serves as the community organization and has met monthly since the 1950's to connect community residents with the resources of the City of Dallas and draw the community together. "Hamilton Park stands at the intersection of four paths of American history: the history of Dallas, urban history, African-American history, and the history of community."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby honor the Hamilton Park Community, a historical gem in Dallas County, for its Undertold Story Marker issued on behalf of the Texas Historical Commission. Thank you to the many contributions of so many hardworking individuals who forged on in spite of challenging circumstances. The dedication of the Hamilton Park Undertold Story Marker will take place on May 13, 2017, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet School.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 2nd day of May, 2017.

Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge

Dr. Theresa M. Daniel
Commissioner, District 1

Mike Cantrell
Commissioner, District 2

John Wiley Price
Commissioner, District 3

Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner, District 4