

**77-R-20**

**A RESOLUTION**

**Designating Harbert Park as “Harbert Payne Park”**

**WHEREAS**, Harbert Park’s name currently honors the late Elizabeth Boynton Harbert, an author and woman’s suffrage advocate, founder of the Women’s Club of Evanston; and

**WHEREAS**, Harbert Park lies along the Northshore Channel on the west, Dempster Street on the north, Main Street on the South and McDaniel Avenue on the east; and

**WHEREAS**, to the east of Harbert Park, is the western-most community of the City of Evanston where a majority of the population is African-American; and

**WHEREAS**, Betty J. Payne lived in this community for more than forty (40) years where she organized and led a neighborhood group named Canal Park Neighbors for thirty-four (34) years, and

**WHEREAS**, During that time, Betty held regular meetings for the neighbors to address their needs for services, such as street paving, policing, park renovation and upkeep, and alley paving; and

**WHEREAS**, Betty J. Payne also mobilized a neighborhood watch program entitled “noise neighbors” adorned with t-shirts and banners leading them in marches in the Evanston 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and in the Canal Park neighborhood to heighten the vigilance of the community against crime and disruptive activities; and

**WHEREAS** Betty J. Payne engaged disruptive youth in the community directly by leading a contingency of neighbors to visit them at home and helping them

find constructive paths to their development away from alcohol, drugs and other criminal activities; and

**WHEREAS** As a result of Betty's leadership, Betty created a safe, stable and innovative area for residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Betty J. Payne continued her dedication to the City of Evanston by serving as the Evanston Township's Treasurer for two consecutive terms; and

**WHEREAS**, Betty's love for animals inspired her to become a generous supporter of the Humane Society and philanthropist to many notable causes including creating and funding the Stanton Payne Westinghouse Vocational High School Scholarship Program. This program granted college scholarships to many deserving Westinghouse graduates, affording them the opportunity to further their education; and

**WHEREAS**, Betty J. Payne was motivated by a sense of civic pride and a desire to empower her community,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** The foregoing recitals are hereby found as fact and incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2:** On behalf of the entire citizenry of the City of Evanston, the City Council hereby expresses appreciation for Betty J. Payne by designating Harbert Park as "Harbert Payne Park."

**SECTION 3:** This Resolution 77-R-20 will be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.



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Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor

Approved as to form:



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Kelley A. Gandurski, Corporation Counsel

Attest:



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Devon Reid, City Clerk

Adopted: October 12, 2020