

LAFAYETTE HART PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2857 NW 8th ct
Fort Lauderdale Fl. 33311
954-584-0142

February 22, 2012

Mayor John Rodstrom
115 S. Andrew Avenue Room 409
Fort Lauderdale FL 33301

Issue: naming 8th road after Mr. Wilbur Porter

Dear: Mayor John Rodstrom

Please accept this letter of support to rename NW 8th Road to "Wilbur Porter Road".

I have lived in the area for many years and I know many residents of Washington Park who knew Mr. Porter or knew the history of the area. I know how strongly they support the renaming and how much positive influence it will bring to the area.

History: What we now call Washington Park was uninhabited before 1948. Mr. Wilbur Porter was an African American born in Georgia. He moved to Florida as a young man, reportedly in the mid-1930s, by freight train. Wilbur Porter first lived in Dixon Court apartments, until 1948, when he homesteaded and built his first home in present Washington Park. His first job here was at Forman's Dairy Farm. Mr. Porter also took a part-time job with R-H Wright & Sons, a Fort Lauderdale cement supplier, and became a close acquaintance of Mr. Wayne Huizenga, to whom he sold his first garbage truck.

Background: Subsequently, Mr. Porter opened rubbish, landscaping and waste-hauling Company, serving businesses and residents in the unincorporated Broward, Fort Lauderdale, and Plantation.

- He farmed, raising horses, cows, chickens, fruit trees, and vegetables.
- Mr. Porter was a successful entrepreneur who donated his time and free horse rides to the children.
- He worked hard along with late Lafayette Hart and Mr. James to get a Park in unincorporated area which was named Washington Park.

Concern: While I and the majority of residents in Washington Park support the naming of 8th Road to Wilbur Porter Road, unfortunately there are some at the Washington Park Civic Association who disagrees, and who do not represent the residents on the renaming. For example, at the February 9, 2011 Washington Park Civic Association, Inc. meeting, the Association was unwilling to hear from residents on this issue, even though it was an

agenda item. Mrs. Irene Hart was not even asked for her opinion, even though the late Lafayette Hart and Mr. Porter worked together for the community.

Finally: The residents of Washington Park most strongly urge the renaming of 8th Road for Mr. Wilbur Porter, who founded the community to be a sustainable place where children can live and play and call this area home. Thank you for your support

Sincerely,

Sallie Tillman-Watson
President of Lafayette Hart Park Civic Association

Mrs. Irene Hart, Executive Director; Ms. Sandra Austin, Vice President; Secretary; Mrs. Quintince Spence, Treasury; Mrs. Yvonne Edward

“Come Build and Support our Community”