

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD

218 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226

Phone: 313.224.3487 Fax: 313.224.4336

Email: historic@detroitmi.gov

June 11, 2024

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL:

RE: Request for the proposed designation of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Flats local historic district, located at 3201-3203 Virginia Park, Detroit, MI 48206, and the appointment of ad.hoc. representatives in connection with this matter.

This request for historic designation is on our list of proposals for historic designation. The proposed Rosa and Raymond Parks Historic District. Reasonable grounds for the study have been provided, and a resolution directing the Historic Designation Advisory Board to conduct a study is attached.

Should your Honorable Body adopt that resolution, you must appoint two persons to serve ad.hoc. members of the Advisory Board in connection with the matter. The Advisory Board staff have provided two names for your consideration.

A resolution of appointment is attached for your consideration. Staff is available to answer any questions and/or concerns you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Janese Chapman, Director
Legislative Policy Division
Historic Designation Advisory Board

chapmanj@detroitmi.gov

313.224.3487

Mr. David McGraw,
Rosa and Raymond Parks flats property owner
28656 Bayberry Park Drive
Livonia, MI 48154

June 17, 2024

Ms. Janice Winfrey
City Clerk
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 201
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Ms. Winfrey,

I am writing to petition the City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board to designate the Rosa (McCauley) and Raymond Parks Flats at 3201-3203 Virginia Park Street as a local historic district. The two-family home is located at the southwest corner of Virginia Park Street and Wildemere Street, on the block of Virginia Park Street between Wildemere Street and Dexter Avenue in the Wildemere Park neighborhood.

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks is the nation's best-known female African American civil rights activist who had a pivotal role in the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott. While living in the Virginia Park Street house, Ms. Parks continued her activism, and supported the political causes in the civil rights movement. Ms. Parks held meetings in the house that were part of the black consciousness movement. Raymond and Rosa Parks were politically active in Detroit and Ms. Parks focused on the Women's Public Affairs Committee of 1000, among others. In 1987 she founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development from the house. Rosa Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. Upon her death, she was the second Black person to lie in honor in the Capitol rotunda in Washington D.C.

The McGraw family has owned the two-family home at 3201-3203 Virginia Park Street since approximately 1950 and continues to own it today. Rosa and Raymond Parks moved into the house in 1958 and lived there until 1988, for a total of thirty years.

Because of the significant African American civil rights, political, and social history of the potential Rosa (McCauley) and Raymond Parks Flats Historic District, I am petitioning for historic designation.

Thank you,

David McGraw,
Rosa and Raymond Parks flat property owner
28656 Bayberry Park Drive
Livonia, MI 48154

Cc: Mary Sheffield, Council President (District 5)
Councilmember Mary Waters

Councilmember Coleman A. Young II

Janese Chapman, Director, Historic Designation Advisory Board

David D. Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division

Antoine Bryant, Director, Planning and Development Department

Marcell Todd, Director, City Planning Commission

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____:

WHEREAS, The City Council has received a request to designate the Rosa and Raymond Parks Flats Historic District, 3201-3203 Virginia Park Street, Detroit, MI 48206, a two-family home located at the southwest corner of Virginia Park Street and Wildemere Street, on the block of Virginia Park Street between Wildemere Street and Dexter Avenue, and

WHEREAS, the boundaries for the proposed district are as follows (using cardinal directions); on the north, the centerline of Virginia Park Street; on the west, the east 15 feet of Lot 431 of the Wildemere Park Subdivision; on the east, the centerline of Wildemere Street extended northerly and southerly; on the south, the centerline of the alley between Virginia Park Street and Vicksburg Street.

WHEREAS, The City Council finds that there are reasonable grounds for such a request,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council hereby directs the Historic Designation Advisory Board, a study committee, to conduct studies to determine whether the Rosa and Raymond Parks Flats meets the criteria for historic designation and to issue appropriate reports in accordance with the Michigan Local Historic Districts Act and Chapter 21, Article II of the 2019 City Code.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____:

WHEREAS, The City Council has adopted a resolution directing study of the proposed historic designation of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Flats, and

WHEREAS, The Historic District Ordinance (Chapter 21-2) requires the appointment of ad hoc members to the Historic Designation Advisory Board to represent the interest of property owners and those having a demonstrated interest in the preservation of this historic resource,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council appoints **Ms. Lanay Gilbert-Williams**, a resident of the Wildemere Park neighborhood at 3230 Whitney Street, and president of the Wildemere Park Neighborhood Association (in which the proposed historic district is located) and **Dr. Gloria House**, African American history professor, activist, poet, friend of Ms. Rosa Parks, and a Detroit resident at 14063 San Juan Street, to serve as *ad hoc* members of the Historic Designation Advisory Board in connection with the study for the proposed Rosa and Raymond Parks Flats Local Historic District.