

# 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](mailto:historic@detroitmi.gov)

April 9, 2024

#### HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

**RE: Petition #2023-386, Reverend Cindy Rudolph, Senior Pastor, and William Parker, requesting designation of the Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 19801 Cherrylawn St., Detroit, MI, 48221, as a local historic district, and the appointment of *ad hoc* representatives in connection with this matter.**

This request is on our list of proposals for local historic designation. The proposed Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church Historic District has reasonable grounds for designation. 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 as *ad hoc* members of the Historic Designation Advisory Board in connection with the matter.

Staff has worked with the petitioners and identified two recommended *ad hoc* board members. A resolution appointing these *ad hoc* board members is attached. Staff is available to answer any questions you may have in regards to this proposed historic district.

Respectfully submitted,



Janese Chapman  
Director, Historic Designation Advisory Board

Attachment

cc: City Clerk  
Mary Sheffield, Detroit City Council President  
Angela Whitfield Calloway, Detroit City Council District 2  
David Whitaker, Director, LPD  
Marcell Todd, Director, CPC  
Alexa Bush, Director, PDD  
David Bell, Director, BSEED

BY COUNCIL MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ :

**WHEREAS**, The City Council has received a request to designate the Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church as a local historic district, and

**WHEREAS**, the property to be studied is located 19801 Cherrylawn St., Detroit, MI, 48221, and

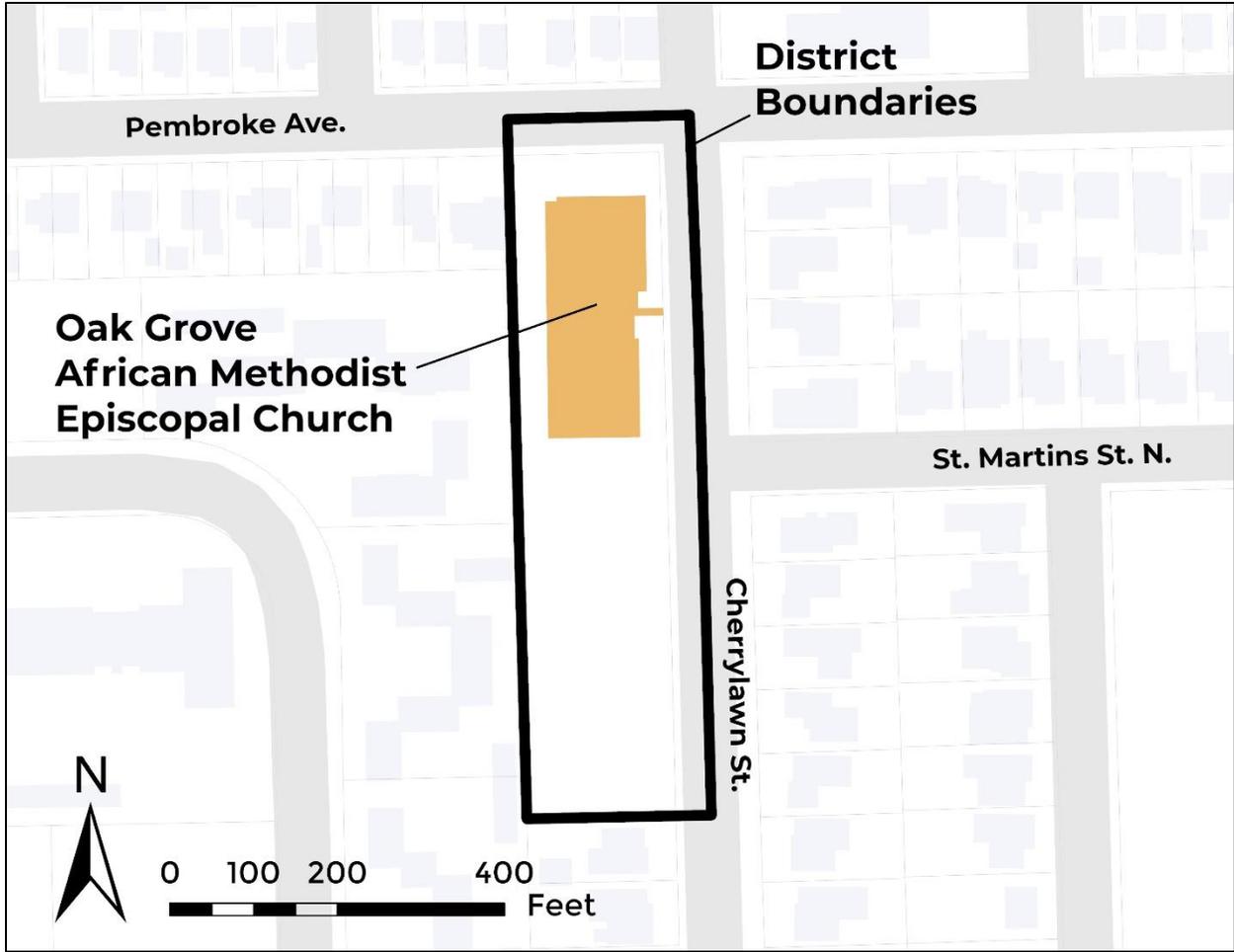
**WHEREAS**, the boundaries of the proposed district are as follows: On the north, the centerline of Pembroke Avenue; On the east, the centerline of Cherrylawn Street; On the south, the southern boundary line of Lot 24 of the Eight Mile-Wyoming Urban Renewal Plat, Liber 90, Page 23, Wayne County Records, extended easterly and westerly; and On the east, the western boundary lines of Lots 15 through 24 of said Eight Mile-Wyoming Urban Renewal Plat, extended northerly and southerly to the point of the beginning; and

**WHEREAS**, The City Council is in receipt of evidence demonstrating definite architectural and historical value regarding the proposed historic district, and

**WHEREAS**, The Detroit City Code, Historic District Ordinance Chapter 21-2-23, requires the appointment of *ad hoc* members to the Historic Designation Advisory Board to represent the property owners and those having a demonstrated interest in the preservation of the historic resource,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The City Council hereby directs the Historic Designation Advisory Board, a study committee, to conduct a study to determine whether the Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church Historic District meets the criteria for local historic designation and to issue appropriate reports in accordance with the Michigan Local Historic District Act and The Detroit City Code, Historic District Ordinance Chapter 21-2-31.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The City Council appoints **William Parker**, as representative of the property owner of the proposed district (19801 Cherrylawn St., Detroit, MI, 48221); and **Rev. Dr. Kenneth Johnson**, President of the Eight Mile Road Old Timers' Club (7605 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI, 48221); as *ad hoc* members of the Historic Designation Advisory Board in connection with the study of the proposed Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church Historic District.



Map of the proposed boundaries for the proposed Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church Historic District.

# City of Detroit

Janice M. Winfrey  
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Andre P. Gilbert II  
Deputy City Clerk

## DEPARTMENT PETITION REFERENCE COMMUNICATION

*To: The Department or Commission Listed Below*

*From: Janice M Winfrey, Detroit City Clerk*

---

The following petition is herewith referred to you for report and recommendation to the City Council.

In accordance with that body's directive, kindly return the same with your report in duplicate within four (4) weeks.

---

Petition No.	2023-386
Name of Petitioner	William Parker
Description of Petition	Please see request to obtain Historic Designation for "Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church".
Type of Petition	<b>Historical Designation</b>
Submission Date	12/7/23
Concerned Departments	Historical
Petitioner Contact	William Parker Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church 313-341-8877

# OAK GROVE

## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



November 6, 2023

Ms. Janese Chapman  
Senior Historic Planner, Historic Designation Advisory Board  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Building  
2 Woodward Avenue – Suite 218  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Ms. Chapman:

Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church respectfully requests your assistance in obtaining historic designation for our church. Oak Grove A.M.E. Church has been a beacon of the historic Eight Mile Wyoming District since 1920. We have been the home of many movements concerning the welfare and future of the community as well as the home church of many who were instrumental in the development and fight for home ownership during the 1940's and 1950's and beyond.

In the early 1940's, member, community activist and noted author, Bernice Avery spearheaded the fight for F.H.A. loans for African Americans as she and others objected to the building of the infamous Birwood Wall. The Carver Progressive Club rallied at Oak Grove and battled with the Detroit City Planning Commission, speculators and other parties, to assure that those in the community will be able to build homes with F.H.A. loans.

The current edifice, built in 1967, was the first African American owned commercial building south of Pembroke Ave. thereby breaking the de-jure color barrier that had existed since the area was annexed in 1922. Oak Grove A.M.E. was designed by famed African American architect Nathan Johnson and was part of the urban renewal project created by then State Senator Coleman A. Young.

Oak Grove has been and is currently home to many community activists, political figures and noted contributors to the welfare and uplift of all people.

It is our understanding that the process for the historical designation for Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church begins with a petition. We respectfully request your assistance in helping us obtain the petition for the Historic Council/City Planning Department to research the history of Oak Grove A.M.E. and to make a recommendation for local historic designation.

The historic designation will assist us in preserving the history and culture of this great church and surrounding community. We believe the designation will encourage others in the area to have a greater degree of pride in the community and will want to know and share this tremendous history.

Thank you for your assistance and for your service to the residents of the city of Detroit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cc: Angela Whitfield Calloway, JD Detroit City Council  
Janice Winfrey, City of Detroit Clerk

**REV. CINDY RUDOLPH, SENIOR PASTOR**

19801 CHERRYLAWN | DETROIT, MI 48221 | PHONE: 313.341.8877 | FAX: 313.341.0112  
WWW.OAKGROVEAME.ORG

# OAK GROVE

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



March 18, 2025

Janese Chapman, Director  
City Council Legislative Policy Division  
Historic Designation Advisory Board  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Ave, Suite 218  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Ms. Chapman,

**Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Please find this missive as approval for Mr. William D. Parker to be assigned to represent Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church as an ad hoc member to the Historic Designation Advisory Board. This is in connection with the study of the proposed oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church Historic District.

Please let me know if there is anything else that is needed at this time. May God continue to bless and keep you.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Cindy Rudolph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Cindy Rudolph,  
Senior Pastor  
Oak Grove AME Church

**REV. CINDY RUDOLPH, SENIOR PASTOR**

19801 CHERRYLAWN | DETROIT, MI 48221 | PHONE: 313.341.8877 | FAX: 313.341.0112  
WWW.OAKGROVEAME.ORG