

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: BUTLER AND READ STREETS (Corner), Designation as "Reverend Doctor Thomas J. Donelson Corner" (Alderman Charles Blango).
REPORT: 1458-05
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Alderman Charles Blango, 20th Ward, has proposed that the corner of Butler and Read Streets be named to honor the late Reverend Doctor Thomas J. Donelson, a long standing and well respected member of the New Haven community. Following an earlier career as an accountant, Rev. Donelson followed his calling by attending seminary at Yale Divinity School and Universal Bible Institute where he completed doctorate degrees in Theology, Bible Study, Religion and Theological Philosophy. He then became Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church where he served for 46 years. He volunteered his time visiting and ministering to the sick and shut-ins at convalescent homes and at Yale-New Haven Hospital in addition to attentively caring for the spiritual lives of his parishioners, including blessing of new homes created for community members by Habitat for Humanity.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Street corners may be named in accord with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances where a procedure is defined, including submission of a site plan showing location of all structures and street features, a plan for the sign drawn to scale, a petition of at least 250 city resident signatures (of which 2/3 must be neighborhood residents), and a fee paid (\$250).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Commission believes it is fully appropriate to name the corner in Newhallville after this devoted citizen. The involved parties should work with the Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking (TTP) on a site plan and wording for the sign which should easily fit on a standard sign block. Since TTP is responsible for creating, installing and maintaining such signs, it is important that a final design is developed in consultation with TTP.

Under city ordinance, 250 city residents, with at least two-thirds from the affected neighborhood, must sign a petition in favor of a corner naming. Commission staff observes that there are 352 signatures on the petition supporting the designation of the corner of Butler and Read Streets as "Reverend Doctor Thomas J. Donelson Corner" and that at least two-thirds of the signatures are of neighborhood residents. Staff believes this is sufficient to comply with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances. Staff is unaware if the fee had been paid.

ADVICE

Approval with Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking to approve final sign design, location and installation.

ADOPTED: November 16, 2011
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director