

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS ALDERS** Designating the corner of Brewster Street and Shelton Avenue as “General Bishop Elijah Davis, Jr. Corner” in perpetuity to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Elijah Davis, Jr. for his great contributions to the Newhallville Community and Citywide. (Submitted by: Delphine Clyburn Alder, 20th Ward)

REPORT: 1589-10

ADVICE: No recommendation

BACKGROUND

Community members have submitted an order proposing the corner of Lilac and Butler Street to be designated as "Bishop Elijah Davis, Jr. " to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Elijah Davis, Jr., a well-known and respected spiritual leader Newhallville neighborhood and citywide.

Bishop Elijah Davis Jr. was born on June 2, 1946, in Ayden, North Carolina. In 1967, he was united in holy matrimony to the former Esther Hardy. They were blessed with two children, Rev. Dr. LaTonya Renee Thorpe (Adolphe) and Retired Connecticut State Trooper Christopher E. Davis (Lolita), and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bishop Davis and his family later moved to New Haven and joined Pitts Chapel U.F.W.B. Church in 1974 under the leadership of Bishop Lonnie Gorham. Bishop Davis has transformed the lives of countless others as he became the Pastor of Pitts Chapel in 1986, received his Bachelor's degree in Theology in 1989, was consecrated Bishop in October 1996, and received his Doctorate of Divinity in February 1997.

Over the years, Bishop Davis has shown great compassion throughout the community-at-large that led to the establishment of a food bank, Winter Coat Drives, Boys to Men Youth Program, Deacon Training School (the only one known in Connecticut), and the Newhallville Community Center, providing many needed services to the youth and adults throughout the Newhallville community. For 35 years, pastor Davis provided various counseling services. When increased violence became a problem in the neighborhood, General Bishop Davis walked with several other bishops and pastors to protest the violence and bring calm and peace back to the community. Bishop Davis has financially assisted many residents, provided loans to new pastors seeking to start their own churches, performed numerous funerals, weddings, christenings and baptisms free of charge to the underprivileged. Bishop Davis continues to show great concern and compassion for the spiritual growth and wellbeing of others in the church and throughout the community. Thus, it is fitting that this corner be named 'Bishop Elijah Davis, Jr. corner' in perpetuity of his contributions to the City of New Haven.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

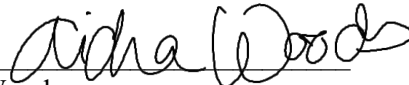
Community members have submitted an official order, with details on Bishop Elijah Davis, Jr.'s life, accomplishments, and contributions to the Newhallville community and residents across the City of New Haven.

A petition with 250 city resident signatures, required per General Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article I, Section 18-2, was not included in the Board of Alder referral.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Resolutions in the best interest of the City, yet the requirements per General Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article I, Section 18-2 were not fully met. The City Planning Commission recommends following up with applicant to obtain the appropriate amount of signatures.

ADOPTED: 7.21.2021
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST: 
Aicha Woods
Executive Director, City Plan Department