

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: October 13, 2020

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Tasha Logan Ford, Assistant City Manager
William L. Royston, Recreation and Parks Director

Council Action Requested:

Resolution to Name the Community Garden at Carl H. Russell Community Center “Parmon Plants for Prosperity” in honor of the late Mrs. Earline Parmon (Northeast Ward)

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The Recreation and Parks Commission, at its October 6, 2020 meeting, received a request from Council Member John C. Larson, South Ward to name the community garden to be planted at Carl H. Russell Community Center “Parmon Plants for Prosperity” in honor of the late Mrs. Earline Parmon.

Mrs. Parmon was a longtime advocate for the Northeast Ward and the City of Winston-Salem as a whole. She was the first black senator to represent Forsyth County. She was elected to represent N.C. Senate District 32 in 2012. She had previously served five terms representing District 72 in the N.C. House and spent 12 years as a Forsyth County commissioner.

Mrs. Parmon was an outspoken crusader for her constituents, including funding for education. She was a champion for the disadvantaged. Her devotion to education and community was embodied in a scholarship fund she established in 2008 as a way to inspire young people to complete their college education. The nonprofit served as a catalyst for affecting change throughout the communities she served.

Committee Action:

Committee	<u>CDHGG 10/13/2020</u>	Action	<u>Approval</u>
For	<u>Unanimous</u>	Against	<u></u>

Remarks:

During her time in the General Assembly, Mrs. Parmon championed a number of bills, including payments for victims of the state's eugenics program and the Racial Justice Act, which allowed defendants on death row to challenge their sentences if they could prove that race was a significant factor in decisions to seek or impose the death penalty at the time of their trials. Her legacy also includes get out to vote efforts among city residents.

As required by the City Council adopted policy on naming of City-owned buildings and facilities, the advisory body overseeing the facility, in this case the Recreation and Parks Commission supports a resolution recommending the community garden to be planted at Carl H. Russell Community Center to be named "Parmon Plants for Prosperity" in honor of the late Mrs. Earline Parmon.