

Wilmington, Delaware  
January 19, 2017

#4319

Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Guy

**WHEREAS**, the late William H. “Dutch” Burton, while a former member of this Council, played a pivotal role in the development of U.S civil rights law as the plaintiff in the landmark case of Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority, 365 U.S 715 (1961); and

**WHEREAS**, the case decided for all the time whether a governmental body could tacitly ratify racial discrimination by its inaction, acquiescence or tolerance, in this case of discrimination by a private tenant who leased space in a governmental facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington Parking Authority can take legitimate pride in its contribution to the development of civil rights law by its involvement in this case and its prompt compliance with the Court’s decision, however reluctant its participation may have been at the time; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate that the role of William H. “Dutch” Burton in this landmark case be memorialized.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that Council requests that the Wilmington Parking Authority memorialize the contribution of William H. “Dutch” Burton to the continuing struggle to eliminate racial discrimination by renaming the Wilmington Parking Authority the “William H. Burton Wilmington Parking Authority,” or by other appropriate action that will continually commemorate his role in the advancement of civil rights.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of January, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Solicitor