

RES 17-035

Wilmington, Delaware
May 18, 2017

#4363

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Oliver

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council has enacted Section 2-3 of the Wilmington City Code regarding the authorization and procedures for naming City streets, parks, playgrounds, plazas, buildings, facilities, statues, monuments, and other lands reserved for public use in order to commemorate a particular person and her/his social significance to the City; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-3 states that if it is proposed that a part of, or any facility within, a street or reserved land that is subject to this section be named or renamed in honor of or dedicated to any person, place or event that is different from the rest of it or that is different than that within which it is located, such naming or renaming may be done by resolution of City Council pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, while retaining the name of the rest of the street or park or other reserved land within which the park facility or object so dedicated is located; and

WHEREAS, Brown-Burton-Winchester Memorial Park, which generally extends from Vandever Avenue north to 30th Street, between Northeast Boulevard and Market Street, was named after Clifford Brown, Len Winchester and Robert Burton, all of whom were accomplished black musicians and Wilmington residents; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the City of Wilmington pay proper tribute to the contributions of its citizens, which have enhanced the experience of residents and visitors in Wilmington in a variety of ways and have left their mark on our City; and

WHEREAS, one such citizen was Stephen Wheeler, a long-time employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation who supervised youth and adult basketball tournaments at the former Prices Run Park from 1978 until 1992, organizing events to keep young people off the streets and to help maintain peace and goodwill in northeast Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler, who passed away at the age of 57 on July 11, 2014, was considered a dedicated mentor and trusted friend to many; and

WHEREAS, another such citizen is Rob Brown, P.S. DuPont High School graduate who was the first in the State to start on the varsity basketball team for four years before accepting a basketball scholarship to attend Morgan State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown presently works with students in the Christina School District to help intervene and assist students who are at risk of being placed in an alternative educational setting; and

WHEREAS, yet another such citizen is Tony Washam, who grew up in Wilmington and received the first team all-state honors while attending Concord High School, before receiving a full basketball scholarship to attend the University of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washam considers basketball to be an important tool in his life, and recalls shooting hoops and attending recreational and sports programming throughout Wilmington, including tournaments held in Brown-Burton-Winchester Park; and

WHEREAS, another citizen worthy of recognition is Wayne “Chung” Miller-Jefferson, who graduated from Howard High School and achieved CIAA honors while attending Livingstone College on a full basketball scholarship; and

WHEREAS, presently, Mr. Jefferson serves as the deputy director of the City of Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation, where he helps to enable opportunities for athletic advancement and recreation for children growing up in the community he calls home; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to recognize these four gentlemen for their distinguished contributions to the City of Wilmington by naming in their honor the four basketball courts at Brown-Burton-Winchester Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council hereby approves the naming of the four basketball courts at Brown-Burton-Winchester Memorial Park as follows:

1. Of the two basketball courts closest to East 26th Street, one shall be named “The Stephen Wheeler Memorial Basketball Court” and the other shall be named the “Rob Brown Basketball Court”.
2. Of the two basketball courts furthest from East 26th Street, one shall be named the “Tony Washam Basketball Court” and the other shall be named the “Wayne Jefferson Basketball Court”.

Passed by City Council,
May 18, 2017

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 18th
day of May, 2017.

[Signature]
Assistant City Solicitor