

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2024-056

Approving the Honorary Naming of the community garden at T. S. Martin Neighborhood Park "Joseph S. Azar Community Garden"

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Azar was born in Columbia, South Carolina to Jose Salem Azar and Evelyn Mary Azar on April 12, 1951. He attended Columbia public schools and attended the University of South Carolina. He later became an entrepreneur opening both The Cyclist and Upstairs Audio in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Azar had a passion for community service and volunteered as a high school sports coach. He was a board member of the Columbia Sertoma Club and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. He founded Rolling Leaders of the Midlands, a non-profit children's literacy program for Richland and Lexington counties; and


WHEREAS, Prior to his passing in 2019, Joseph S. Azar expressed an interest in establishing a community garden to benefit the surrounding community which is located in a food desert. The garden will also give youth attending nearby schools exposure to gardening; and NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 16th day of July, 2024, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of the community garden at T.S. Martin Neighborhood Park "Joseph S. Azar Community Garden".


Requested by:

Councilman Tyler D. Bailey

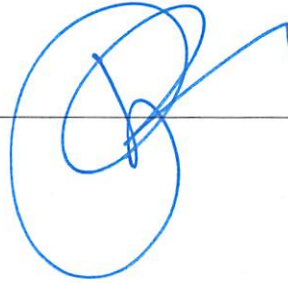
Approved by:


City Manager

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

Mayor



ATTEST:


City Clerk

Introduced: 7/16/2024

Final Reading: 7/16/2024

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application.
SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.
Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to ceremony.

- Is the designation: Honorary Street Naming
(topper will be posted above standard city street signs)
 Facility Naming (a marker of plaque will be posted inside and outside of facility)
 Room Naming (a marker or plaque will be posted outside of room).
 Site Naming

- Checklist: Application
 Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)
 3 Letter(s) of Support
 1) One letter expressing Community support
 2) One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support
 3) One letter expressing Councilmembers' support
-
-

Applicant Signature*

William Ake

Print Name

818-908-7598

Phone Number

E-mail Address

William.Ake@gmail.com

Mailing Address

4-27-2024

Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- WA Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters.
- WA Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to ceremony.
- WA Signage wording and resolution must be finalized 30 days prior to ceremony.
- WA Applicant must provide letter(s) of support as outlined in the above checklist.

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY, ROOM AND SITE NAMING

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

Joseph S. Azar Community Garden at T.S. Martin Neighborhood

2. Name of street, facility, room or site of proposed designation: *Please list the intersecting streets and block numbers for honorary street naming's. No more than two signs are permitted per honorary street naming designation.*

T.S. Martin Neighborhood Park

3. Attach sheet describing the significant contribution(s) this individual or organization has made in the community (no more than one page):

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony if approved:

November 2024

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Tyler Brailey At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Ed McDowell

FOR STAFF USE:

Council Member Sponsor(s): Approved Rejected

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Parks and Recreation: Approved Rejected

Support Services: Approved Rejected

Public Safety: Approved Rejected

City Council Approval Date: July 14, 2024

Why of Community Garden:

The propose community garden at T.S. Martin Park idea was presented to us in 2020.

Joe, in 2012 attended a garden dedication ceremony at Jones Memorial AME Zion Church where he met Mr. Ed Brogdon. Joe approached Ed inquiring about how he could go about establishing a garden in the 29203 community.

In 2017, Willa Martin Baily and Ed Brogdon collaborated on an initiative to establish a garden in the 29203. Specifically the community housing area next to the park.

Joe passed away in 2019. Joe's cousin, William Akel contacted Ed Brogdon after discovering in Joe's WILL for Ed Brogdon to design and build a community garden in his name sake.

The Garden will benefit the community that is located in a food dessert to have access and be able to grow their own vegetables through an annual lease agreement (similar to NOMA garden). In addition the nearby middle school will benefit as a result of our collaboration with the school district to allow youth access and exposure to experiential gardening hands on.

Community Garden.txt

June 21, 2024

To: Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter in support of a proposal for a community garden to be located in T.S. Martin Park, As a former resident of the Edgewood Community, I am speaking as one who has deep ties to this community since I grew up on Barhamville Road and attended W.A. Perry Middle School. My father, Thomas Martin, was the manager of the original Drew Pool for more than 20 years. Furthermore, my (deceased) sister, Willa Martin Bailey always had a vision for a community garden that would benefit the residents and students in many ways.

I understand that the proposed community garden will be named the Joseph Azar and Thomas Martin Community Garden, and it will feature a fountain and plots that can be leased by community members. Since the Edgewood Community is located in a food desert, especially after the closing of the Save-a-Lot grocery store, this garden would fill a great need. In addition, the students at W.A. Perry would benefit from the educational opportunities such as learning labs, science and math hands-on activities, and intergenerational connections. Increased parental involvement could also be a result of students, parents, and teachers working together to complete a task. With the current food desert in this community, a community garden can potentially increase the availability of fresh vegetables and fruit, and bring together people from diverse backgrounds. With proper planning and management, the community garden could be a "Win Win" project for everyone involved.

For these and other reasons, I support this community garden being developed in T.S. Martin Park, and I hope it will become a reality for those who will benefit from it.

Sincerely yours,



Tommye Martin McMillan

June 24, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

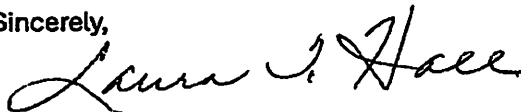
I am writing in support of the proposed establishment of a community garden in the T.S. Martin Community. I was pleased to learn that there was interest in establishing a garden in this area, a known food desert. I grew up on Barhamville Road, and as I think back to my childhood, this area has always lacked the availability of major food markets. There were only small local stores where limited food items could be purchased.

Having a garden in this community and in close proximity to W.A. Perry Junior High School has several advantages and will fill a major gap in access to fresh food. First and foremost, the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, the mainstay of a nutritious diet, will have a major impact on improving and sustaining the health of the residents, particularly the children. This will also provide an ideal learning opportunity for students at W.A. Perry Jr. High School. Lessons on agriculture, nutrition, seasonal planting and harvesting will have a lifetime impact.

In addition, the pride of ownership and the satisfaction that comes from planting and harvesting food that has been grown by the residents will be immeasurable. I can speak to this from personal experience. My father, James F. Thompson, lived in the 2200 block of Barhamville Rd his entire life. He died in 2022 at the age of 101 and was the last of the original residents of the Edgewood Community. He planted a garden every year, well into his 90's. He shared his knowledge of gardening with his nieces and nephews, who still garden, using the knowledge he passed on to them. A Community Garden in The T.S. Martin Community will continue Mr. Martin's legacy in yet another powerful way.

I am very excited about this proposal and hope to see this valuable resource established in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura J. Hall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Laura Thompson Hall

165 N. Beaver Dam Rd
Columbia, SC 29212
803-206-3914