

ORIGINAL
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RESOLUTION NO.: R-2021-043

*Approving the Honorary Naming of the Lyon Street Community Garden on Gervais Street
to the "Marvin Heller Community Garden"*

WHEREAS, Marvin Anthony Heller was born in Columbia, South Carolina and raised on McDuffie Street in the Lyon Street Community. He graduated from A.C. Flora High School in 1975 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master's in Public Health Administration from the University of South Carolina in 1978; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Heller carried on the family legacy as a paint contractor, worked for Will Lou Gray Opportunity School where he mentored young people that showed an interest in painting; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Heller worked tirelessly to create spaces for community members to meet and spend time together including St. Anna's Park and the Community Garden. He was always there to support community members whether it be welcoming new neighbors or bringing flowers when a neighbor passed; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Heller was a strong community activist dedicated to uplifting the Lyon Street community as well as neighboring communities and the City of Columbia. He was instrumental in the revitalization of Gonzales Garden, traffic calming improvements along Millwood Avenue, the creation of the Lyon Street Community Garden and opening of the Edgewood Public Library; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Heller served as President of the Lyon Street Community Association, the Richland County Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Board and the City of Columbia Community Development Citizens Advisory Board; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 20th day of April, 2021, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of the Lyon Street Community Garden to the "Marvin Heller Community Garden." The design and color of the honorary signs shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation.

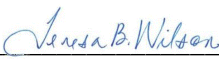
Requested by:

Councilmember McDowell



Mayor


Approved by:




City Manager

ATTEST:

Approved as to form:



City Attorney
Introduced: 4/20/2021
Final Reading: 4/20/2021



City Clerk

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY AND SITE RENAMING

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

Marvin Hellef

2. Name of street, facility or site proposed for designation:

Please list the intersecting street. No more than two signs are permitted per designation.

Community Garden on Getways

3. Attach sheet describing the significant contribution(s) this individual or organization has made in the community:

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony:

May 1, 2021 12:30 P.M

5. Council Member Sponsor:

Name

Ed McQuinn

FOR STAFF USE:

Council Member Sponsor: Approved Rejected

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Review Type: Staff Council _____ Council Date

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY AND SITE RENAMING

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: Street naming
 Facility and site naming

Checklist: Application
 Council Member Sponsor
 Letter(s) of Support

Howard E. Jewell Jr
Applicant Signature*

Howard.E.Jewell@colombiasc.gov
E-mail Address

Howard E. Jewell Jr
Print Name

1829 Senate St. 1701C 29201
Mailing Address

803 238 6875
Phone Number

4/7/21
Date

Check and initial each box in this section acknowledging application requirements.

HJE Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters

HJE Any changes to initial request must be made no more than 20 days prior to ceremony

HJE Signage wording and resolution will be finalized 15 days prior to ceremony

HJE Applicant must provide letter(s) of support from neighborhood association, institution or business(s) impacted by the proposed renaming street, facility or site



yon Street Community Association

April 14, 2021

Subject: Marvin Heller Community Garden Dedication

Dear Columbia City Council Members,

The Lyon Street Community Association endorses the renaming of the Lyon Street Community Garden as the Marvin Heller Community Garden. This motion was voted on and unanimously passed at our meeting on February 9, 2021.

Marvin Heller was a lifelong resident of the Lyon Street Community and Columbia, South Carolina. He attended elementary school on Liberty Hill Avenue where our neighborhood still gathers for meetings and events.

Marvin worked tirelessly to better the Lyon Street Community. In the 1990s, He worked with city leaders to ensure the safety of the neighborhood during the crack cocaine epidemic. Later, he collaborated with the city and Columbia Housing Authority to remove the Gonzalez Gardens housing units and rebuild safe, affordable housing.

Marvin was an advocate and community builder. He always stood up for what was best for the community. He secured many grants for the neighborhood to restore St. Anna's Park with play equipment and restructure the community garden with the city's first tunnel house, enabling year-round gardening. He knew how to foster connections and work together to accomplish the goals of the neighborhood.

The community garden was always a place to meet and chat with Marvin. Neighbors could find him in the tunnel house or sitting in a chair under one of the newly planted trees. He waved as neighbors drove by and brought volunteers together to fill boxes and plant vegetables. The garden Marvin envisioned was a place to gather and learn.

We endorse the renaming of the garden to preserve Marvin Heller's legacy and vision. It exists to remind neighbors that there is nothing that cannot be accomplished with hard work, persistence, and a love of community.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Davis
Acting President, Lyon Street Community Association