

Date June 22, 2009

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RENAMING OF THE ARCHIE BROOKS COMMUNITY CENTER

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2009, by Roll Call No. 09-1049, the City Council scheduled a public hearing to be held on June 22, 2009, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers to consider a proposal to rename the Archie Brooks Community Center at 2100 SE 5th Street; and,

WHEREAS, notice of the proposal and of the public hearing was conspicuously posted at City Hall and at the Archie Brooks Community Center; and,

WHEREAS, all persons interested in the proposed street renaming, both for and against, have been given the opportunity to express their views; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa as follows:

1. That the public hearing on the renaming of the Archie Brooks Community Center is hereby closed.
2. The Archie Brooks Community Center is hereby renamed as identified in the motion below. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to cause the signage at the community center and all references to the community center in City publications to be corrected to reflect the new name.

MOVED by _____ to adopt and to approve the renaming of the Archie Brooks Community Center to the _____ Community Center.

FORM APPROVED:

Roger K. Brown
 Roger K. Brown, Assistant City Attorney

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COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

.....
 Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

 City Clerk

Charles E. Harvey - was the
man who founded (all
and then some) programs
at the Archie Brooks Com. Ctr.
Charles has been past away
18 years and deserve's
recognition for The Com.
Center.

Betsy King
299-0419

PETITION FORM

Date: 5-9-9

The Honorable Mayor
And
Members of the City Council
Des Moines, Iowa

We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Des Moines City Council for the following: RENAMING ARCHIE BROOKS COMMUNITY CENTER
TO CHARLES E. HARVEY COMMUNITY CENTER

FILED
2009 MAR - 9 AM 9:58
DES MOINES CIVIL CLK

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS AND ZIP
<i>Larry Wilhois</i>	LARRY WILHOIS	211 CAULDER 50315
<i>Larry Goode</i>	LARRY GOODE	2214 W. KONDIE VIEW DR
<i>Tom Swokaty</i>	TOM SWOKATY	1857 EVERGREEN
<i>Mare Flowers</i>	MARE FLOWERS	403 BELL AVE
<i>Anna Smith</i>	ANNA SMITH	120 KIRKWOOD AVE
<i>Charles Rippl</i>	CHARLES RIPPL	205 SE 13th
<i>Randy L. Spicker</i>	RANDY L. SPICKER	106 SE Bell 50315
<i>Jerry Lee</i>	JERRY LEE	106 SE Bell 50315
<i>Larry Roth</i>	LARRY ROTH	815 S.E. EMMA
<i>Ronda K. Thomas</i>	RONDA K. THOMAS	720 Bell Ave
<i>Regis Thomas</i>	REGIS THOMAS	" "
<i>Marty Metz</i>	MARTY METZ	
<i>Sheila Savage</i>	SHEILA SAVAGE	808 SE Jackson
<i>Joe Savage</i>	JOE SAVAGE	808 SE Jackson
<i>Mary Ann Victor</i>	MARY ANN VICTOR	3516 SW 13th St
<i>Kathy Tweedy</i>	KATHY TWEEDY	6205 SE 4th St
<i>Pamela K. Ogg</i>	PAMELA OGG	4306 SE 12th 50315
<i>John K. Moor</i>	JOHN K. MOOR	4306 SE 12th
<i>Robin L. Barnes</i>	ROBIN BARNES	6901 SE 14th FRL 239

I am writing in regard to changing the name of the Archie Brooks Community Center back to Pioneer Columbus so it would better represent the area's identity. The name Pioneer Columbus doesn't really represent the true identity of the area or it's past history. The name comes from the old Model City program which mapped out the blighted areas of the city that needed help to grow and survive. Because of the pride of it's people and the people not trusting the government program the area almost didn't go along with the program. It was only thru Archie Brooks' strong leadership that the program was accepted and became so successful in getting things done for the area.

Thru Archie Brooks' strong leadership, the board brought the area alive again. It's streets and sidewalks got paved at hardly any cost to the area residents. The people got running water and sewer and their homes were updated for very little cost thru government community development programs. And finally the Community Center was final built after many, many years of just dreaming about one.

Thru Archie's leadership the neighborhood school, McKinley Elementary, was kept from closing and instead was remodeled and made bigger to continue to serve the area children since 1902. This kept the area alive by having families more back to the area and many more new homes built in the area.

The Archie Brooks Community Center is named after a person whose roots are from the area. He went to McKinley School, attended Jordan Methodist Church, played ball at SDM Little League, spent his summers on the old Black Diamond field, played in it's wading pool, did arts and crafts at the shelter house, used his imagination while playing in the woods that surround the area, in the winter he slid down the hills and ice skated at the old ice rink at Black Diamond (Stone Park).

Archie returned to the area after serving with the Marines during the Vietnam War to work in the family business. Wanting to do more for the area he got involved when the Model City Program started and the rest is history. Thru history there is always someone that stands out as a leader for that time period. Archie was that person and he answered the call and did serve his people and the area.

The center is named after Archie for all his past achievements for the area. The name Brooks is very much a part of the area history. Since the 1900s the Brooks family has given back to the community, four generations past and present still live in the area. The family store still serves the area and has since 1922.

If for not Archie's strong leadership the numerous neighborhood boards would not be as strong today. They are producing strong leaderships for the future such as Councilman Brian Meyers, James Post, Ellen Celsi, Joanne Corigliano, Betty Patrick, Donna Cosner, etc.

To the outsiders of the area and to Archie's old political foes who are trying to speak for the area in changing the name for identity sake. Pioneer Columbus only represents a blighted area in the eyes of the government, where the present name, Archie Brooks Community Center, represents it's past history and it's present growth done so thru Archie's leadership.

It is up to the present and future leaders to continue that job. Hopefully they can do it with the same loyalty and love that Archie did for over 30 years.

John A Brooks, sr
rebjab@aol.com



SOMERSET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

President – Mel Pins – 210 E. Bundy Ave – Des Moines, Iowa 50315
Tel. 953-4289 email: melpins69@msn.com

June 17, 2009

Honorable Frank Cownie and
City Council Members
City of Des Moines
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

RE: Archie Brooks Community Center Name Change

Honorable Mayor Cownie and City Council Members:

The Somerset Neighborhood Association formally voted on February 2, 2009 to request that the City of Des Moines remove the name of Archie Brooks from the Community Center at 2100 SE 5th St. This request from our Association was provided to Mayor Cownie by letter on March 6, 2009. As the City is now sponsoring a public hearing on this issue, I want to reaffirm our resolution that Archie Brooks' name be removed.

The misuse of taxpayer funds, Federal crimes, and the CIETC scandal that Mr. Brooks was directly and knowingly involved with has been the most embarrassing chapter in public service within Des Moines that I can ever recall. Councilman Brooks abused the privilege of his elected position for personal gain, lied to an Iowa Legislative Committee, and quickly thereafter pleaded guilty to Federal charges. Why would the city want to continue to memorialize his crimes by leaving his name on this public building?

For years to come, Des Moines citizens will be reminded of the debacle of the CIETC scandal every time there is an announcement in the newspaper about activities at 2100 SE 5th St: "Boy Scouts to meet at Archie Brooks Center"; or, "Bingo night at Archie Brooks Center", or "Craft Fair at Archie Brooks Center."

If the Council does not remove the Brooks' name from this public building, then you are sending a message that it is acceptable to abuse the public trust. Please put closure on this embarrassing chapter in Des Moines' City Council history, by removing the name Archie Brooks from the center.

Sincerely,

Mel Pins
President
Somerset Neighborhood Association

09-1074
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Regarding Brooks Community Center - Sevastopol—Brooks family:

In the late 1890's the Brooks family moved to Des Moines, settled on the South side, in the 2000 block of S.E. 5th Street, where Charles Carl and Jane Ann (Cross) Brooks raised 3 sons: Charles Carl II, John R. and J. Archie.

Charles Carl was a private contractor, building many homes on the South side, mainly in the Sevastopol area—Indianola Road, S. E. 5th and S. E. 6th Streets. Later, with some help from their parents, and money earned as paper boys and from selling soda and candy at the old Black Diamond (home park to the semi-pro baseball teams, where the brothers both played on Sevastopol and Sunkist semi-pro teams), John and Archie went into the grocery business.

May 20, 1922—John and Archie opened their first store at Hillside and Indianola Road. John, age 18, stayed in school and finished his senior year. Archie, age 17, quit school to work in the store.

Being raised in the old Sevastopol area and going to McKinley School, they were successful in the grocery business by giving back to the community they served. This is something that has carried on to the present. In the late 1920's, they opened a second store at the corner of S. E. 6th Street and Hartford.

In 1935, they combined the two stores when they built a new building next door to the one on S.E. 6th. They stayed in this location until 1962, when they moved across the street after buying the DeYoung grocery. The business has been there since that time.

During the depression, for families who couldn't afford to do so, they made sure families had food on their table. They helped families in the area keep their homes, by using only a handshake, never expecting anything in return, just helping each other.

In the 1940's, World War II was going strong. They worked 20 hours a day to service the people of the area who had different shifts at the plants, again making sure the area families had sugar, flour and meat.

The brothers continued to serve the South side until their deaths, always living on the South side.

Charles Carl II started and owned the Colonial Oil Company that was bought and changed to Fina in the 1960's.

Archie had three children: Jane Ann, John and Archie. His wife Gwendolyn Brooks, owned and operated the Sevastopol Cafe (1962-1971), named after the old township, keeping the name alive in the area.

Jane Ann owned and operated Millies Drive-in in the late 1960's until her retirement the 1990's. She was married to Frant Kooyman, a Des Moines policeman.

The younger brothers, Archie and John, served on the first old Pioneer Columbus Board. Archie was chairman during the years that brought water, sewer, paving and sidewalks to the area. John was chairman of the Community Committee that was called "Operation Mars". The two brothers together were instrumental in getting what is now the Archie Brooks Center. They worked together after Archie returned from Viet Nam and settled on the South side, Then Archie was elected to the Council.

Archie was re-elected to the Council seven times and served almost 30 years, until he stepped down. Archie has three children, all Lincoln High grads.

John took over the store with his wife and family in the late 1970's. They raised 7 children, all going to McKinley, St. Anthony's, Weeks, and Lincoln. He was past president of the Home School at St. Anthony's, school board member, active in S.D.M. Little League as a coach and board member, past Umpire Chief of District 5, and a Little League, high school, and college umpire for 30 years. He presently serves on the Des Moines Civil Service Board. He has lived in the same location on the South side since 1962.

The store is still in the Brooks family. It is run by John's sons, Joe and John, Jr. It is where Joe's wife, Rose (also a south sider) and daughter, Jenny, work. They all continue to support churches, schools, and programs in the area. But most of all they support the people in the area and greater Des Moines. Both Joe and John live in the area, raising their families.

The business and the Brooks name has survived. B & B Grocery is the 2nd oldest neighborhood store in the county. (There used to be 18 neighborhood stores within a one mile radius.) It has become a land mark for Des Moines and the South side. B & B will be on the History Channel for being owed and operated by the same family for 87 years. Also, the Food Network is going to do a show on the Deli part of the store that has become a legend on its own.

The family business and the "Brooks" name is a symbol of all the hard working families that live in our area. Please leave the Brooks name on our Community Center. "Brooks Community Center".

We hope this finds its way to your heart and you vote in our favor. THANK YOU!