



## Legislation Text

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File #: 18-4537, Version: 1

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### Title:

**Public Hearing - Naming of Third Ward Park to "James Dennis Rash Third Ward Neighborhood Park"**

### Summary

#### **ACTION:**

- 1. Open the public hearing on the request to name Third Ward Park to the "James Dennis Rash Third Ward Neighborhood Park"**
- 2. Close the public hearing and approve the naming as presented, "James Dennis Rash Third Ward Neighborhood Park"**

**Staff Contact:** Peter Cook, Division Director of Park Operations  
Park and Recreation

**Presentation:** No

#### **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:**

In 1978, under the leadership of Hugh McColl and Dennis Rash, NNCB (now Bank of America) formed the first U.S. bank-owned, community development corporation to promote the revitalization of inner-city residential neighborhoods. Dennis became its first President and served as such for the next 23 years.

In 1981, NNCB Community Development Corporation (CDC) became interested in the renewal of Third Ward, which was then a neighborhood of detached, single-family homes in the shadow of a scrapyard stretching from the railroad tracks to Cedar Street. The City had already acquired and cleared some of the Third Ward land and had initiated efforts to acquire the scrapyard land. Dennis envisioned the development of urban-scale townhouses on some of the City's vacant land, but was eager not to disturb the existing neighborhood or displace its residents. To that end, he created a nonprofit corporation for the neighborhood, The Committee to Restore and Preserve Third Ward, Inc. (with resident Mildred Baxter Davis as its president), which in turn formed a joint venture with NNCB CDC.

Dennis, who passed away on July 25, 2017, was a lifetime champion of urban neighborhoods, such as Third Ward and Fourth Ward in Charlotte. For that and his other considerable contributions to this city and state, renaming the park in his memory and honor would be entirely deserved.

**This naming application has been endorsed by both the Central Park Region Advisory Council and the Park and Recreation Commission.**

**PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND:**

**N/A**

**POLICY IMPACT:**

**N/A**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**N/A**