

10-P-1976

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A RESOLUTION BY

COUNCILMAN C. T. MARTIN

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVEREND JAMES ORANGE COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

ADOPTED BY

NOV 0 1 2010

COUNCIL

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred _____
 Referred To: _____
 Date Referred _____
 Referred To: _____
 Date Referred _____
 Referred To: _____

First Reading

Committee _____
Date _____
Chair _____
Referred To _____

Committee _____

Date _____

Chair _____

Action _____

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other _____

Members _____

Committee _____

Date _____

Chair _____

Action _____

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other _____

Members _____

Refer To _____

Committee _____

Date _____

Chair _____

Action _____

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other _____

Members _____

Refer To _____

Committee _____

Date _____

Chair _____

Action _____

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other _____

Members _____

Refer To _____

- FINAL COUNCIL ACTION
- 2nd
 - 1st & 2nd
 - 3rd
 - Consent
 - V Vote
 - RC Vote

CERTIFIED

NOV 0 1 2010

ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CERTIFIED

NOV 0 1 2010

MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION

APPROVED

NOV 0 9 2010

MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

10-R-1976

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMAN C. T. MARTIN

and Clela Hunter
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE REVEREND JAMES ORANGE COMMISSION; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 10-R-0223, adopted February 1, 2010 and approved February 9, 2010, a commission was created to determine an appropriate honor memorializing Reverend James Orange in the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the commission has met, discussed, deliberated and held public hearings with regard to such an appropriate honor; and

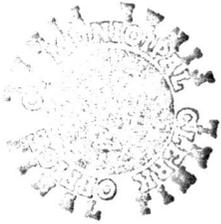
WHEREAS, the commission has made its recommendations which are now being presented to the Atlanta City Council (the report of the commission is attached as an exhibit to this resolution).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

Section 1: The Reverend James Orange Commission has made the following recommendations for an appropriate honor memorializing Reverend James Orange in the City of Atlanta:

• **Institutionalize Rev. Orange's Service**

- To re-name Oakland City Park and Recreation Center (located in NPU S) the **Rev. James Orange Park at Oakland City**, in his honor. This effort would serve as a perpetual tribute to his personal and unyielding commitment to social justice for all. To ensure that the tribute truly embodies the legacy of Rev. Orange, a commitment is made to undergoing a community engagement and planning process that includes the establishment of a "Friends of the Park" committee, which will meet under the guidance and existing guidelines of the "Friends of the Park" program at Park Pride a 501c3 non-profit. This planning process will include, but not be limited to ensuring adequate arts and cultural planning and implementation for public arts features and programming at the park in the long-term, as well as ensuring educational and



historical markers and programming to pay tribute to Rev. James Orange and the social justice movements to which he dedicated his life.

- **Recognize Rev. Orange's Strength**

- To formally recommend to the MARTA Board of Directors to re-name the Oakland City MARTA Station in honor of Rev. James Orange and develop and, further, to maintain a visual arts design project in partnership with the Atlanta Public Schools that would serve as an educational marker at the station.

- **Acknowledge Rev. Orange's Sacrifice**

- To acknowledge Annual MLK March as a City Sponsored event according to the requirements of Section 142 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, with net proceeds from the march and other events benefitting the park, recreation center and youth leadership programming. This would create a strategic partnership between the City of Atlanta and the MLK March Committee.

Whereas Rev. Orange was responsible for establishing the 25 year long tradition of celebrating the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the City of Atlanta through the establishment of the annual march in his honor, which attracts marchers and delegations from countries around the world, national political leaders, including past Presidents of the United States of America, and social justice advocates around the country, this designation would be a lasting tribute to a man so instrumental in the international recognition of civil rights.

Section 2: The City Council of the City of Atlanta hereby accepts said recommendations, will review and consider them, and will take appropriate action consistent with the spirit of this process, in bestowing a fitting honor to the memory of Reverend James Orange for his strength, service and sacrifice.

Section 3: All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

A true copy,

Rhonda Daughkin Johnson
Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED by the Atlanta City Council
APPROVED by Mayor Kasim Reed

NOV 01, 2010
NOV 09, 2010



The City of Atlanta

Celebrating His
Strength, Service, and Sacrifice



Rev. James Edward Orange

October 29, 1942- February 16, 2008

The Official Recommendations of the Rev. James Orange Commission



REV. JAMES ORANGE COMMISSION

Jamillia Jones
Mayoral Appointee

Walter Andrews
Council President Appointee

Alice Johnson
Atlanta City Council Appointee

Natasha Berry
Atlanta City Council Appointee

Derrick Boazman
Atlanta City Council Appointee

Charlie Flemming
AFL-CIO Appointee

Dr. Marie Robinson-Metz
NAACP Appointee

Helen Butler
Peoples Agenda For Voter Empowerment Appointee

Deborah Scott
Georgia Stand Up Appointee

Dr. Richard Cobble
Concerned Black Clergy Appointee

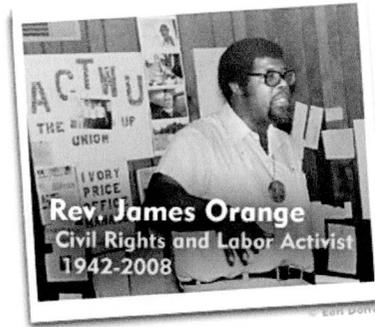
Rev. Eric Thomas
St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church Appointee

Sharyl Chatman
Atlanta Fire Rescue Department Appointee

Cleon Orange
Rev. Orange Family Appointee

Jeremy Ponds
SCLC Appointee

Amy Johnson
NPU S Appointee



REV. JAMES ORANGE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rev. James Orange Commission was created on February 1, 2010 by City of Atlanta Resolution 10-R-0223, authored by District 10 Councilmember, C.T. Martin, passed unanimously by the Atlanta City Council and approved by Mayor Kasim Reed. The mission of the Commission was to honor the legacy of Rev. James Orange (1942-2008). Rev. James Orange was a leader in the Civil Rights, Labor, and Anti-Poverty Movement for over 40 years. His 1965 jailing sparked a fatal protest that ultimately led to the famed Selma-to-Montgomery march and the Voting Rights Act of 1964. Rev. Orange worked side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was present when King was assassinated in 1968. Rev. Orange resided in the southwest Atlanta neighborhood of Oakland City for four decades while fighting the good fight for equality and social justice for all mankind.

Rev. Orange was also known for the many dimensions to his life including his love for non-violence, equal opportunity, and youth leadership development. The Commission's ultimate goal was to identify any honors or proclamations that commemorated his service, his strength and his sacrifice to the citizens of the world, but most especially to the residents of Atlanta, Georgia.

The Commission was comprised of 15 members representing a cross-section of business, civic and faith-based organizations. The panel began meeting on May 26, 2010 establishing a working committee structure— and adopting a 6 month timeline for delivering recommendations to the Atlanta City Council (for **Acceptance**) and the Mayor (for **Approval and Implementation** as jurisdictional authority/purview, funds and project timelines allow). To enable and encourage community input and broad support, the Commission voted to have a Public Hearing on July 26, 2010. The Commission also presented an overview at the NPU M meeting on August 19, 2010. On August 24, 2010, the commission held a community informational meeting at the Oakland City Recreation Center that was attended by the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner. On October 27, 2010 Atlanta City Councilmember Cleta Winslow facilitated a meeting of Oakland City stakeholders at Fire Station #14. At that time there was a unanimous consensus among residents to accept the proposed recommendations. To date the Commission has collected hundreds of signatures from City of Atlanta residents who support the recommendations of the Commission.



The Rev. James Orange Commission Recommendations are as follows:

- **Institutionalize Rev. Orange's Service**
 - To re-name Oakland City Park and Recreation Center (located in NPU S) the **Rev. James Orange Park at Oakland City**, in his honor. This effort would serve as a perpetual tribute to his personal and unyielding commitment to social justice for all. To ensure that the tribute truly embodies the legacy of Rev. Orange, a commitment is made to undergoing a community engagement and planning process that includes the establishment of a "Friends of the Park" committee, which will meet under the guidance and existing guidelines of the "Friends of the Park" program at Park Pride a 501c3 non-profit. This planning process will include, but not be limited to ensuring adequate arts and cultural planning and implementation for public arts features and programming at the park in the long-term, as well as ensuring educational and historical markers and programming to pay tribute to Rev. James Orange and the social justice movements to which he dedicated his life.

- **Recognize Rev. Orange's Strength**
 - To formally recommend to the MARTA Board of Directors to re-name the Oakland City MARTA Station in honor of Rev. James Orange and develop and, further, to maintain a visual arts design project in partnership with the Atlanta Public Schools that would serve as an educational marker at the station.

- **Acknowledge Rev. Orange's Sacrifice**
 - To acknowledge Annual MLK March as a City Sponsored event according to the requirements of Section 142 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, with net proceeds from the march and other events benefitting the park, recreation center and youth leadership programming. This would create a strategic partnership between the City of Atlanta and the MLK March Committee.

Whereas Rev. Orange was responsible for establishing the 25 year long tradition of celebrating the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the City of Atlanta through the establishment of the annual march in his honor, which attracts marchers and delegations from countries around the world, national political leaders, including past Presidents of the United States of America, and social justice advocates around the country, this designation would be a lasting tribute to a man so instrumental in the international recognition of civil rights.



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Rev. James Edward Orange

Rev. James Edward Orange was one of the nation's greatest warriors for social justice. Born October 29, 1942, in Birmingham, Alabama, he was the fourth of seven children of Calvin and Ida Robinson Orange. His father worked in an iron mill.

At age 21, Mr. Orange joined the civil rights marches led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Rev. Ralph David Abernathy in Atlanta, Georgia in 1963. Inspired and motivated by the depth and commitment of both King and Abernathy, he was quickly appointed by Dr. King and became a key field organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, (SCLC) and is credited with bringing hundreds of young people into the labor and civil rights movement. He became part of Dr. King's inner circle and was at the bottom of the stairs at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis with former ambassador Andrew Young when Dr. King was assassinated in 1968.

Rev. Orange organized marches and demonstrations throughout the South, with one of his most notable demonstrations being a voter registration drive in southwest Alabama in early 1965. It was there in Perry County on charges of disorderly conduct and contributing to the delinquency of minors. Rumors had gone around that Orange was supposed to be lynched in jail on the night of February 18, 1965. There were protestors who had barely left a church nearby the front of the courthouse and city hall when they were brutally beaten by angry spectators. One young protester, Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was trying to protect his mother and grandfather from being beaten, was shot by a state trooper and died eight days later. This tragedy sparked the movement which led to Dr. King and others saying they would take the body of Jimmie Lee Jackson and put it on the steps of the State Capitol in Montgomery to let Gov. George Wallace see what type of racism existed. That incident is considered one of the catalysts that prompted the development of the march from **Selma to Montgomery**, which led to the prelude of "Bloody Sunday," and ultimately lead to the **Voter's Rights**



Act of 1965. The arrest in Perry County was just one of dozens that Orange faced while organizing protests in Alabama.

His commitment to the civil rights movement and the philosophies of Dr. King allowed him to take many of the same principles with him when he began to work for the AFL-CIO Labor movement in 1977, as a union organizer. He found that the Labor movement allowed him to use the philosophies of the Civil Rights Movement to build a bridge between the two movements for progressive change in the Southern States. He then went on to work with U.N.I.T.E and later retired from AFL-CIO. After retiring he was able to pursue his causes and interest at his leisure. One of his passions was voting. Rev. Orange recruited and mobilized hundreds of students from the Atlanta University Center and other colleges throughout the metro area to organize the commemorative march to commemorate Dr. King's birthday.

He provided marshalling for all of the events when the *Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change* was founded by Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Both the Blue Crew and the March Committee have given birth to many Chiefs of Police and Fire Department personnel, City Council persons, Mayors, Preachers, reformed gang bangers, activists, organizers and just better people along the way.

NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF REV. JAMES EDWARD ORANGE

- ◆ The March on Washington 1963
- ◆ Voter's Rights Act of 1965
- ◆ Ordained a Baptist minister in 1967
- ◆ Resurrection City, Poor People's Campaign 1968
- ◆ Joined the AFL-CIO union in 1977
- ◆ Chief Marshal for the 1992 Olympic flag ceremony
- ◆ Helped to organize the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in 2003
- ◆ Greatly supported the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, AL
- ◆ Greatly supported S.C.L.C./W.O.M.E.N, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia

Rev. James Orange never failed to stand up when called on or speak out when it mattered. He spent his life standing up and organizing and fighting for the betterment of all people. He believed intensely in the capacity as human beings to create a beloved community and to win justice and equality for all. He constantly called you to your best. He lived his life connecting to the "leader" in everyone, in fact "Hey Leader" was how he was known to greet those around him. Rev. Orange's wife, children, grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives have lived in the Oakland City community for over 40 years and continue to support community equality.

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11/01/10
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Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

JAMES ORANGE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT

YEAS: 15
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 1
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 0

Y Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	Y Bond
Y Hall	Y Wan	Y Martin	Y Watson
Y Young	Y Shook	Y Bottoms	Y Willis
Y Winslow	Y Adrean	Y Sheperd	NV Mitchell