

#4

10-0-1981  
(Do Not Write Above This Line)

AN ORDINANCE  
BY COUNCIL MEMBER  
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS  
DESIGNEE TO RENAME HARRIS  
STREET, NW LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN  
ATLANTA BETWEEN PIEDMONT  
AVENUE, NW AND PARK DRIVE, NW IN  
ITS ENTIRETY TO JOHN C. PORTMAN  
WAY, NW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

As Amended

ADOPTED BY  
MAY 16 2011

AS AMENDED COUNCIL

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

Date Referred: 11/1/10  
 Referred To: City Utilities  
 Date Referred: 01/03/11  
 Referred To: City Utilities  
 Date Referred: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred To: \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading  
 Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred To: \_\_\_\_\_

City Committee  
 Date: Nov. 2010  
 Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Action  
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Members

Refer To: \_\_\_\_\_

City Committee  
 Date: Nov. 30, 2010  
 Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Action  
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
 Other: As Amended  
 Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Refer To

City Committee  
 Date: 12/11/10  
 Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Action  
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Members

Refer To: \_\_\_\_\_

City Committee  
 Date: 1/13/2011  
 Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Action  
 Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
 Other: As Amended  
 Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Refer To

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

CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED  
 MAY 16 2011  
 ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CERTIFIED  
 MAY 16 2011  
 Municipal Clerk

MAYOR'S ACTION

APPROVED

MAY 25 2011

WITHOUT SIGNATURE  
 BY OPERATION OF LAW



CITY COUNCIL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AN ORDINANCE

10-O-1981

BY COUNCIL MEMBERS KWANZA HALL, YOLANDA ADREAN,  
MICHAEL J. BOND, AARON WATSON & H. LAMAR WILLIS

AS AMENDED BY FULL COUNCIL

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO RENAME HARRIS STREET, NW LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN ATLANTA BETWEEN PIEDMONT AVENUE, NW AND PARK DRIVE, NW IN ITS ENTIRETY TO JOHN PORTMAN BOULEVARD, NW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the street currently named Harris Street, NW is within the corporate limits of the City of Atlanta; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta did appoint a joint commission to determine and recommend an appropriate honor to bestow on Mr. John C. Portman; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Portman is an architect that has made major contributions and development not only in Atlanta, but other urban centers throughout the United States and the world such as New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Singapore, Shanghai, and Brussels; and

**WHEREAS**, the erection of statue, the renaming of a city street or city owned facility in honor of Mr. John C. Portman would be an appropriate tribute to one of Atlanta's true visionaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the joint commission has met and is in favor of renaming a city street in downtown Atlanta after one of its true native son and a world renowned architect; and

**WHEREAS**, the joint commission has made its recommendation to rename Harris Street located in downtown and runs through several of Mr. Portman's developments and deem this to be an appropriate honor; and

**WHEREAS**, the joint commission also felt it would be appropriate to somehow maintain the history of the original street name by installing a marker/plaque prominently along the street showing the history of John L. Harris and John C. Portman; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Atlanta and the downtown community will be enhanced by this street name change for one of its native sons.

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

**SECTION 1:** That Harris Street, NW located between Piedmont Avenue, NW and Park Drive, NW in its entirety be renamed to John Portman Boulevard, NW. and the Department of Public Works will approve the installation of "Historic Harris Street" street toppers at each corner of the intersections.

**SECTION 2:** The changes are effective upon the Mayor's approval.



**SECTION 3:** That the appropriate City agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Public Works, Atlanta Police and Fire and Rescue Departments, Department of Planning and Community Development and the Clerk of Council, are hereby directed to take such steps as are necessary to have the name changed on street signs, maps and other official documents and markers.

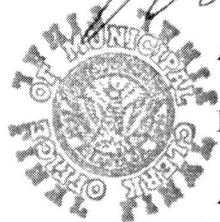
**SECTION 4:** The commission is requesting that a marker/plaque with the history of Harris Street be prominently displayed along the corridor.

**SECTION 5:** That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

A true copy,  
  
Deputy Clerk

ADOPTED as amended by the Council  
RETURNED WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR  
APPROVED as per City Charter Section 2-403

MAY 16, 2011  
MAY 25, 2011



CITY COUNCIL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

10-R-0929

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMEMBER(S)

AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A JOINT COMMISSION TO  
STUDY AND PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATE HONOR BEFITTING  
MR. JOHN PORTMAN AND MR. HERMAN J. RUSSELL IN THE  
CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell grew up in the Summerhill section of Atlanta, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods, he learned early the virtues of hard work and saving money from his father a plaster; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman is a native son of Atlanta who has lived, attended school through college and worked in the city his entire life; For a brief period during World War II during which he served in the United States Navy; and

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell quickly gained a reputation for producing high quality work and was thus able to compete successfully against competitors and ranked as one of the largest minority Industrial/Service companies in the United States; and

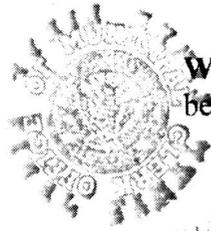
**WHEREAS**, John Portman, has taken his organization and his associates all over the world, his major interest has been the welfare of his home, Atlanta. His interest in and commitment to the health and growth of Atlanta is exemplified by the development of Peachtree Center which covers 14 blocks of Atlanta's Central Business District and which he developed entirely with private funds with no public financial assistance. It was begun with the opening of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962 and its development has spanned the last fifty years with the most current building opening just two years ago.

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell's most significant evidence of his corporate portfolio can be seen in his hometown of Atlanta and includes work with major Fortune 500 companies such as Georgia Pacific, Delta Airlines, The Coca-Cola Company as well as Turner Field and the Georgia World Congress Center; The Russell legacy is permanently etched into the city's landscape as a partner in building the Atlanta City Hall Complex, the Georgia Dome, the Carter Presidential Center and Phillips Sports Arena; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman was a founding member of Action Forum, a small but very influential bi-racial group of behind-the-scenes business leaders who helped establish Atlanta as a role model for racial integration in the 1960's; and

**WHEREAS**, Herman J. Russell became the first African American member, and later President of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce focused on his motto of "strengthening America's foundation"; and

**WHEREAS**, John Portman served as the Danish Counsel and was a founding member of the Atlanta World Trade Club, contributing to Atlanta's recognition as a truly international city; and



**WHEREAS**, the citizens and the City of Atlanta would greatly benefit from an honor being bestowed upon these two important figures of Atlanta history.

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

**SECTION 1:** That a joint commission comprising of thirteen (13) individuals be impaneled to determine and recommend an appropriate individual honor for Mr. Herman J. Russell and Mr. John Portman in the City of Atlanta.

**SECTION 2:** The members of the joint commission shall be appointed by the following individuals or organizations, shall be residents of the City of Atlanta and shall require City Council confirmation:

- a. Two members appointed by the Mayor
- b. Two members appointed by the President of Council
- c. Two member appointed by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- d. Two member appointed by Central Atlanta Progress
- e. One member appointed by Atlanta Business League
- f. One member appointed by Atlanta Conventions and Visitors Bureau
- g. One member appointed by Butler Street YMCA
- h. One member appointed by Atlanta Committee for Progress
- i. One member appointed by National Black MBA – Atlanta Chapter

**SECTION 3:** Upon the adoption and approval of this joint resolution, the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to contact the individuals and organizations listed above requesting that they submit the names of their appointees along with a copy of each person's resume no later than July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**SECTION 4:** All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

A true copy,

*Rhonda Daughin Johnson*  
Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED as amended by the Council  
APPROVED by Mayor Kasim Reed

JUN 07, 2010  
JUN 15, 2010



## John C. Portman, Jr.

The leadership and accomplishments of John Portman have been important factors in Atlanta's growth from a gracious southern American city to the status it now enjoys as one of the world's important dynamic international centers. Combining the role of architect and developer, John Portman has made major contributions to the skyline and development of not only Atlanta, but to other urban centers throughout the United States and the world such as New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Singapore, Shanghai, and Brussels, to name a few.

John Portman is a true native son of Atlanta and except for the time he spent in the navy during World War II, he has lived and worked in Atlanta his entire life. He is a product of the Atlanta public school system and he earned his architecture degree from Georgia Tech in 1950. He worked for the required three years as an apprentice architect for the Atlanta firm of Stevens and Wilkerson and upon receiving his architectural registration in 1953, he opened his own firm.

John Portman is a life-long student of philosophy and he has been influenced particularly by the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and others on self reliance. He pioneered the concept of architect as developer and his success at combining these two roles has become a model that others have studied and sought to emulate.

John Portman enjoys an international reputation for excellence in architecture, urban design and real estate development and his work has been extensively studied and become the subject of many articles and books. The Atlanta High Museum of Art has on display an exhibition titled "John Portman, Art & Architecture" in recognition of his internationally acclaimed excellence not only in architecture and urban planning, but his work as an accomplished painter, sculptor and furniture designer that recognizes the extensive abilities of this unusually talented man.

Even though their work has taken John Portman and his associates all over the world, his major interest has been the welfare of his home, Atlanta. His interest in and commitment to the health and growth of Atlanta is exemplified by the development of Peachtree Center which covers 14 blocks of Atlanta's Central Business District and which he developed entirely with private funds with no public financial assistance. It was begun with the opening of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962 and its development has spanned the last fifty years with the most current building opening just two years ago. Peachtree Center was a major factor in preventing the abandonment of the City Center by the business community as occurred in many other American cities. It includes many of the city's landmark buildings such as the Westin Peachtree Plaza, the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, the SunTrust Plaza and the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. The Hyatt's first phase was completed in 1967 and its design, with its trend-setting 22-storey atrium, made architectural history and brought much acclaim not only to John Portman and the Hyatt Hotel Company, but attention and recognition to Atlanta.

The opening of the Atlanta Merchandise Mart by John Portman was the catalyst that set off the rapid development of the Atlanta convention and tourist business that has been a major factor in the economic growth of the city. Today, AmericasMart, formerly the Atlanta Merchandise Mart, attracts over half a million visitors to Atlanta each year making it a major contributor to the tourist, hospitality and restaurant business in the city.

As a founding member of Action Forum, John Portman was one of a small bi-racial group of business leaders who worked behind the scenes to help Atlanta become a role



model for racial integration in the 1960's. He was the first to open non-segregated restaurants in the city when he completed the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962 which contained two up-scale public restaurants. His commitment to fairness and equal opportunity has been recognized by various organizations who presented him with such awards as the "Distinguished Community Service Award" from the Urban League, the "Martin Luther King Salute to Greatness Award", the "Torch of Liberty Award" from the Anti-Defamation League and others.

John Portman has been an active participant in civic affairs. He served as President of Central Atlanta Progress from 1969 through 1971 during which time he led the city's first comprehensive study for downtown Atlanta. He was an active champion for the construction of the city's rapid rail system in the 1970's, and he campaigned to keep the international airport close to the Central Business District. He was the initiator of the concept for the Georgia Worlds Congress Center to bolster Atlanta's growing convention industry and he served several terms as an officer and director of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

When John Portman opened the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in 1962, he publicly declared that Atlanta was going to be a great international city, and he has been an active participant in the activities that have made this happen. He along with Sam Ayoub of Coca-Cola and then Governor George Busby founded the World Trade Club in 1982. In 1967, he was appointed the Honorary Counsel of Denmark in which capacity he served for 30 years. His efforts have been recognized by both local and international communities and he has been awarded the "Shaping of the City Award" by the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, the "International Business Award" by the Business Chronicle and he was one of the original inductees into the "Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality Hall of Fame".

John Portman's companies have offices in China, Korea and India, but his main office is in Atlanta and it is from there that he directs his national and international business. He and his associates are constant boosters of Atlanta, and their success has brought credit to Atlanta. In addition, his efforts within the City have helped its growth, shaped its appearance, improved its economic viability, and brought change and improvements to the community of which he is justifiably proud. John and his lovely wife, Jan, continue their generous support to the cultural, educational, medical and humanitarian outreach community of Atlanta. He, his sons, and his associates are committed to continuing the efforts he has made over the years to bring recognition, strength and continued growth to the city.

RCS# 1062  
5/16/11  
4:31 PM

Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

10-0-1981

AUTH.MAYOR TO RENAME HARRIS STREET TO  
JOHN PORTMAN BOULEVARD  
ADOPT AS AMEND

YEAS: 9  
NAYS: 5  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
NOT VOTING: 0  
EXCUSED: 0  
ABSENT 2

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

10-0-1981