



City of Chicago



O2023-1149

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	3/15/2023
Sponsor(s):	Sawyer (6)
Type:	Ordinance
Title:	Honorary street designation as "Honorary Reverend C.B. Taylor Way"
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Transportation and Public Way

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2022, Reverend Charles B. Taylor, owner of Taylor Funeral Home in Chicago's 6th Ward, made his transition at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Reverend Taylor came to Chicago in 1948. After graduating from high school, he attended Prairie State College for three years, and shortly thereafter received a Graduate Certificate from Worsham College of Mortuary Science. In addition, he was also awarded a master's degree in business administration from Jackson State College, Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, Reverend Taylor founded Taylor Funeral Home, allowing him to serve his community not only as an advocate but also as an employer. In 1975, he started Thrifty Printing. In 1982, he acquired Oak Hill Cemetery Association in Gary, Indiana that spans approximately 60 acres. Reverend Taylor used this space to build a mausoleum containing five hundred crypts. Another Taylor Funeral Home location was acquired later that year, providing the families served by Taylor Funeral Homes with unparalleled resources; and

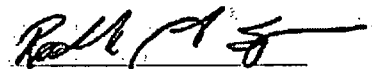
WHEREAS, from the inception of the funeral home to the day he passed, he his entrepreneurial spirit drove him to start several more businesses including Taylor Coach, American Monument Company, Atlas Auctioneers Inc., TRW Auto Sales & Rebuilders, and B-Low Auto Sales, Repairs & Rebuilders; and

WHEREAS Reverend Taylor was fraternally affiliated with Commanders of Rite Prince Hall Hiram Lodge #14, Prince Hall Grand Lodge State of Illinois, and International Shriners. As a spiritual leader, he was affiliated with the Board at Progressive Baptist Church, T.E. Brown Apartments, Greater Metropolitan M.B. Church, and the Apostolic Church of God. As a Funeral Director, he was a member of Alumni Association of Worsham College of Mortuary Science, IFDA (Illinois Funeral Directors Association), National Funeral Directors Association, and Flying Funeral Directors of America. As a neighbor and civic leader, he was a member of the Tuscaloosa Club and was affiliated with the T. E. Brown Apartments, the Paul L. Dunbar Vocational Career Academy, and the Charles S. Deneen Public School of Excellence; and

WHEREAS Reverend C.B. Taylor was extraordinary in his service to communities on both the West and Southsides of Chicago through many school and church projects as well as political events, now therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

- Section 1. Pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, which allows erection of honorary street name designations, the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of East 78th Street, between South Eberhart Avenue and South Rhodes Avenue as "Honorary Reverend C. B. Taylor Way."
- Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.



RODERICK T. SAWYER

Alderman - 6th War

BIOGRAPHY



Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Charles B. Taylor came to Chicago in 1948. After graduating from high school, he attended Prairie State College for 3 years, and shortly thereafter received a Graduate Certificate from Worsham College of Mortuary Science. In addition, he was also awarded a master's degree in business administration from Jackson Mississippi State College.

In 1963, Mr. Taylor founded Taylor Funeral Home, Ltd.; the funeral home allowed him to serve his community not only as an advocate but also as an employer. The business grew steadily and allowed him to also found Thrifty Printing in 1975; after continued growth, Mr. Taylor also acquired Oak Hill Cemetery Association in Gary, Indiana in 1982. The Cemetery spans approximately 60 acres, and Mr. Taylor used this space to build a mausoleum containing five hundred crypts. Another Taylor Funeral Home location was acquired later that year, providing the families served by Taylor Funeral Homes with unparalleled resources. In addition to serving his community, Mr. Taylor proudly served his state and country, serving in the Illinois National Guard for 22 years, finally retiring as First Sergeant. He also obtained his pilot's license and has flown for more than 25 years. Mr. Taylor is married to his devoted wife, Mrs. Leyeuna A. Taylor. Mrs. Taylor is also a Licensed Funeral Director; together, she and Charles have 2 children, Nicholas and Margo Taylor, both of whom are Licensed Funeral Directors.

Mr. Taylor is proud member of the following organizations:

- Member of Illinois National Funeral Directors Association.
- Member of National Funeral Directors Association
- Member of National Funeral Directors Pilots Association
- Member of National Select Morticians Association
- Board Member of National Baptist Convention College Board
- Chairman of the Board - Progressive Baptist Church (25 years)
- Treasurer of T.E. Brown Apartments, 3600 South Wells.
- As Treasurer, Mr. Taylor was responsible for orchestrating and advising through the completion of the 117 unit building (Section 202-1976) in honor of the late Dr. T.E. Brown, former pastor.
- Member, Financial Advisory Board, Greater Metropolitan M.B. Church (30 years)
- Member, Board of Youth Commanders Organization Shriners International (2 years)
- Member, Advisory Board - Paul L. Dunbar Public High School (15 years)
- Sponsor, Charles S. Dennen Public School (5 years)
- Member, Alumni Association, Worsham College of Mortuary Science
- Honorary Supporter and past Potentate, Educational and Youth Activities - International Shriners (20 years)
- Past Master of Hiram Lodge #12 F. & A. M., Illinois
- Past Patron of Hiram Chapter #91 F. & A. M., Illinois
- Member Western Consistory #28 F. & A. M., Illinois
- Grand Inspector General of 33rd United Supreme Council

REASON FOR HONORING

The Reverend Charles B. Taylor is being so honored for having been a remarkable business and spiritual leader who made numerous civic contributions for the betterment of this city and providing comfort to the people he served in their most consequential and turbulent moments of their lives.

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