



City of Chicago



O2018-4048

Office of the City Clerk

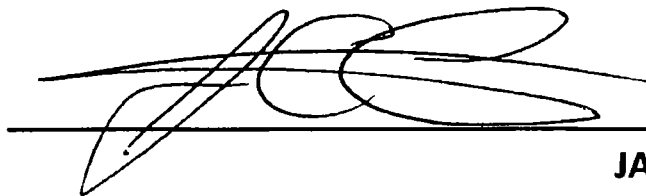
Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	5/25/2018
Sponsor(s):	Ervin (28)
Type:	Ordinance
Title:	Honorary street designation as "Officer Barry D. Batson Sr. Way"
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Transportation and Public Way

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to an ordinance heretofore passed by the City Council which allows erection of honorary street-name signs, the Commissioner of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of Central Park Drive, between Lake Street and Carroll Avenue extended as "Officer Barry D. Batson Sr Way"

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines, positioned above a horizontal line.

**JASON C. ERVIN
28TH WARD**



City Council

City Hall – Room 200
121 North La Salle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

JASON C. ERVIN

City of Chicago

Alderman, 28th Ward
2602 W. 16th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60608
Telephone: (773) 533-0900
Fax: (773) 522-9842
Jason.Ervin@cityofchicago.org
www.AldermanErvin.com

May 14, 2018

Committee Memberships

Budget & Government Operations, Vice Chair

Human Relations, Vice Chair

Economic, Capital and Technology Development

Education and Child Development

Finance

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

Transportation

Office of Budget and Management
121 N. LaSalle, Room 604
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern: I, Jason C. Ervin, Alderman of the 28th Ward, hereby authorize the Office of Budget Management to withdraw the funds associated with the cost of installation for this honorary street designation for Officer Barry D. Baston Sr. from my:

☒ Ward's annual menu program budget

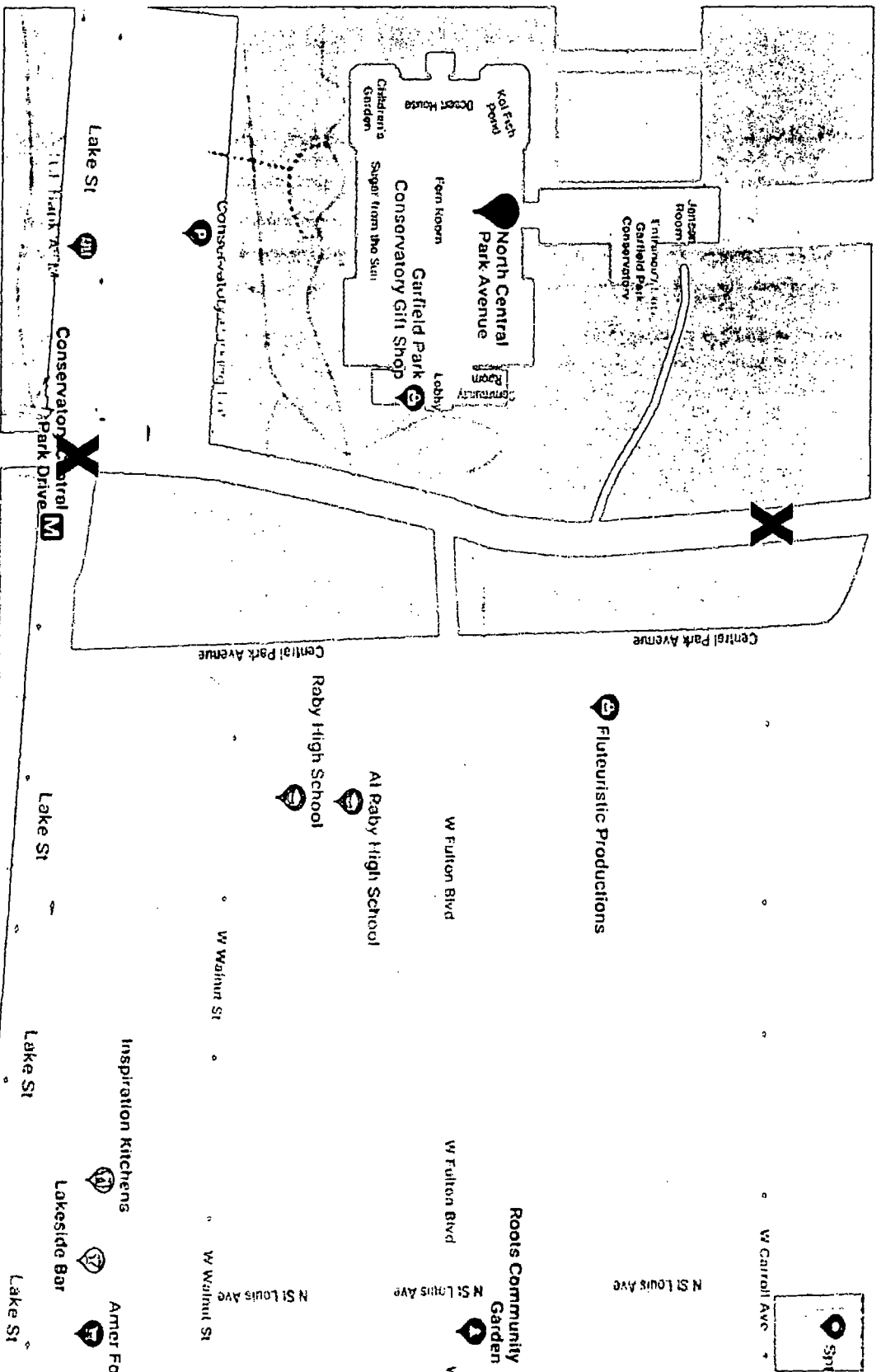
☐ Ward's aldermanic expense allowance

upon passage of this designation ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Chicago Municipal Code.

Sincerely,

Jason C. Ervin
Alderman, 28th Ward

"Moving the 28th Ward to the Next Level"



N. CENTRAL PARK DRIVE, FROM W. LAKE ST NORTH TO W. CARROLL AVE EXTENDED

March 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Patrolman Barry D. Batson Sr. served his community with great enthusiasm. He gave all of himself to the youth of the community within the 11th District.

The Batson family would like to see something done to honor a "good" policeman who served tirelessly in his community. They would like for this memorial, if possible, to be at the corner of Lake Street and Central Park. Officer Batson spent so much of his time each summer at Garfield Park for nearly twenty years volunteering and working to save children's lives and to give them great childhood memories.

Sincerely,

The Barry D Batson Sr. Family

What does police work, McDonald's, tennis, Civil Rights Marches, father of four and grandfather of four (now six), Mid-West Community Council, Non Hodgins Lymphoma, Acute Leukemia, Bowling Green, Ohio, Lawndale Urban Progress Center, Garfield Park, Inner city youth, multiple championships, court visitations, toy distribution, and Chicago Police Department have in common? Patrolman Barry D. Batson Sr. who worked out of the 11th District (Fillmore and later Harrison Street), from June 1964 until his retirement in August of 1995.

Officer Batson had a variety of experiences in the time that he was on the job. He worked a regular beat car. He worked tactical. He worked vice. He did undercover work. He worked in the Human Relations field with the civil rights groups, helping to keep lines of communication in his community open. He worked in community service. He worked special details. The detail that he treasured most was his assignment in 1966 to serve as personal body guard to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the time that Dr. King spent conducting marches and other demonstrations in Chicago.

In 1975 Officer Batson, while assigned to Neighborhood Relations, decided that he would like to teach tennis to some of the children in the community during their summer break. He started playing tennis himself in 1972, after recovering from back surgery. This little tennis clinic in Garfield Park on the courts behind the Garfield Park Conservatory, started with Batson taking a small group of inner city youth from the neighborhood, ages 8-20, and with a few old racquets he began to teach them tennis. This first group had never played tennis, most had never seen nor held a tennis racquet; some were in very strange clothes, and one young boy who showed lots of enthusiasm and promise came out to play in ballet slippers. Officer Batson was determined, however, to make this program work.

In that Summer of 1975, a NJTL official (National Junior Tennis League) came to Garfield Park and noticed that Officer Batson had his group at one end of the courts; he was asked if he'd be interested in volunteering his services and participating in their program during the next summer season. He agreed.

He volunteered to do this service in Garfield Park and he conducted tennis clinics with NJTL in that park until his retirement in the summer of 1995. Because NJTL did not have to pay Officer Batson for those 19 years of service, the children in his program received free memberships in the program and free t-shirts. In 1993, the Chicago Tennis Patrons presented Officer Batson their "Paul Dean Award" for Volunteer of the Year.

Officer Batson always sought out community resources to assist in his summer program. He got used tennis equipment through the Lawndale Urban Progress Center. He, also, got lunches each day from the Mayors Department of Summer Programs. His partner at that time, but now also deceased, Patrolman George Jackson, saw to it that the lunches arrived each day and on time for the children. The children agreed to come early and spend the entire day in order to get lunches. His children came really early every day, and had a great time learning to play tennis. Karen Baird, then the head of CDTA and the NJTL program in Chicago would bring used equipment, tennis shoes, and clothes for the children who needed them.

What had begun as a small group now turned into a group of children who filled the tennis courts, with some always having to sit out. These children, by the third summer, went on to win the Illinois State Championship with NJTL and then took second place in the regional tournament in Bowling Green, Ohio. Over the course of nearly 20 years in Garfield Park, Officer Batson's team won the championship seventeen times.

The great thing about this program was that it was friendly and family oriented. There was never an incident at the courts, and in the surrounding area that included the Conservatory, in all of the years that Officer Batson taught tennis there. His players went to other courts for matches on Fridays without incidents. He arranged for the Police Bus to transport them, so that his children could get out of the neighborhood and have positive experiences away from home.

The Garfield Park team became a real family, and during the school year mothers of the team members would call on Officer Batson at the 11th District Station to assist them with team members, mostly the young men, with problems they may have encountered at school and in the community. Believe me, they were few.

During this time Officer Batson, also, elicited the support of Mr Robert Johnson of the Mid West Community Council. His son became a part of the tennis program.

At the end of each summer season the children enjoyed a "family style" Bar B Que alongside the courts. Mr. Batson would get the owner of the "Blue Ribbon Super Market" on Roosevelt Road and Whipple Street to donate the food and he and the parents took it from there.

Many of these young people who "hung out" at those courts with Officer Batson went on to become respected members of the community; one became a physician and in a conversation with a friend he said that Officer Batson had saved his life with the summer tennis program. He felt assured of a safe and enjoyable place to go in the summer when he was growing up. One young man who worked later at a hospital coached a group of doctors at a local tennis club.

Before Officer Batson died he boasted of having "fathered" at least three to five hundred young men. At that time he knew that two of his tennis students had become doctors, one a lawyer, one a teacher, and a Social Worker.

In 1994 McDonald's Corporation awarded the Garfield Park Tennis Team an \$8,000.00 grant so that they could play tennis on Saturdays during the winter months at the Oak Park Tennis Club. Officer Batson saw to it that the team members, with this grant, had good equipment and were transported to and from the tennis club. This was an experience of a lifetime for these young people who had never seen the inside of a tennis club. This was truly another beginning for these young people.

Over the course of 19 to 20 years an estimated 700-800 young people were a part of this program and learned the correct way to play tennis. Many of them still enjoy the sport today.

Patrolman Barry Batson has been deceased since May 2001. He was a cancer survivor for approximately 18 years. He was blessed to have four children and able to enjoy four of his, now six, grandchildren before he died. He was able to see all four of his children graduate from college. Even with his cancer, lymphoma and leukemia, he taught tennis in the park until his retirement. He maintained his zest for life with the same enthusiasm that he had for his job as a Chicago Police Officer, until the end.

On any given day when you would ask Officer Batson how he felt, up until his death, he'd say, "Great!"