

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-113

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, CO-DESIGNATING A PORTION OF 131 STREET FROM NORTHEAST 2ND AVENUE TO NORTHWEST 7TH AVENUE TO BE KNOWN AS “COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE STREET” AND NAMING BREEZESWEPT PARK IN HONOR OF FORMER COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE; AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ALLOCATE AND EXPEND THE REQUIRED FUNDS TO COVER THE COSTS FOR SIGNAGE, AND TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CO-DESIGNATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, born in Haiti, Jacques A. Despinosse immigrated to New York City in 1968; and

WHEREAS, always the quintessential businessman, Jacques Despinosse opened a variety store on Utica Avenue in Brooklyn, selling African and Haitian items; and

WHEREAS, he sold music of the homeland, but he also had an affinity for the popular American groups of the 60’s and 70’s - Yes, Jacques even rocked an Afro!; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Jacques Despinosse moved his family to Florida and settled in Miami’s now famous Little Haiti; and

WHEREAS, yet, Jacques had assimilated into the American culture - Now, as a citizen, he immersed himself into the politics of the county, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, his political involvements pushed him to found the Haitian American Democratic Club of Greater Miami in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse’s political activism has taken him many places; and

WHEREAS, he has been a delegate to six Democratic National Conventions; Washington, DC to meet with presidents, vice-presidents, and Congressional elected officials advocating for Haitians; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse was also tasked by President Clinton to be an observer of the electoral process in Haiti on two occasions; this was an honor by itself, but it also allowed

him to travel on the presidential plane; and

WHEREAS, as a political activist, Jacques Despinosse understood the power of the vote; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse was the lone voice in the Miami community for many years pleading with Haitians to become American citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse believed that for them to be effective in their communities, and to truly help Haiti, they had to gain political power by being able to vote; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse turned his activism to reality when he first ran for state office, District 104 in 1994, vying for an open seat against three other individuals; and

WHEREAS, Jacques Despinosse was first elected to the North Miami City Council in 2001, and re-elected unopposed in 2005; and

WHEREAS, since leaving office, Jacques Despinosse has remained active in the political arena through his work with the local Democratic Party and his radio show *Radio Citizen*, a show he started more than 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, although no longer on the air, Jacques' voice is still heard through invitations by other radio hosts; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Jacques has been supported by his family, particularly his wife, Ruth, and mother Amarante (now both deceased); and

WHEREAS, Jacques is the father of four children and a grandfather of one; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his dedication and commitment to the community, the Mayor and City Council wish to co-designate a portion of 131st Street from Northeast 2nd Avenue to Northeast 7th Avenue to be known as "COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE STREET"; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council are also desirous of naming Breezeswept Park in honor of former Councilman Jacques Despinosse; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to authorize the Interim City Manager to allocate and expend the necessary funds to cover the costs of any and all signs to indicate the designation of said street as "COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE STREET".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Approval of Street Co-Designation. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby co-designate a portion of 131ST Street from Northeast 2nd Avenue to Northwest 7th Avenue to be known as “COUNCILMAN JACQUES DESPINOSSE STREET”.

Section 2. Approval of Naming of Breezeswept Park. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida hereby name Breezeswpet Park in honor of former councilman, Jacques Despinosse.

Section 3. Authorization of the Interim City Manager. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby authorize the Interim City Manager to allocate and expend the required funds to cover the costs for signage and to do all things necessary to effectuate the co-designation of 131 street from Northeast 2nd Avenue to Northwest 7th Avenue and the renaming of Breezeswept Park.


Section 4. Transmittal. The Mayor and City Council direct the City Clerk to transmit a certified resolution to the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 27th day of May, 2025.


ALIX DESULME, ED.D.
MAYOR

ATTEST :



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN ESTIME-IRVIN

CO-SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN BURNS AND COUNCILMAN CHARLES

Moved by: Charles

Seconded by: Estime-Irvin

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

X (Yes) _____ (No)

Vice Mayor Kassandra Timothe, MPA

X (Yes) _____ (No)

Councilman Kevin A. Burns

X (Yes) _____ (No)

Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin

X (Yes) _____ (No)

Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles, M.Ed.

X (Yes) _____ (No)