

Meeting Date: March 22, 2011

Agenda Item

39

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Consent

Ordinance

Resolution

x

Consideration/  
Discussion

Presentation

SHORT TITLE

CONSIDERATION FOR THE NAMING OF WHAT IS KNOWN AS MLK PARK  
TO THE ANNIE ADDERLY GILLIS PARK.

Summary of Purpose and Why:

Please see attached letter from Beverly Perkins.

\$500.00 has been submitted as per Resolution 2003-38.

- (1) Origin of request for this action: Beverly Perkins. family member of Annie Adderly Gillis
- (2) Primary staff contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. 786-4601
- (3) Expiration of contract, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Fiscal impact and source of funding: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION	DATE	DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENTAL HEAD SIGNATURE

X City Manager

*Demetrius Beaulieu*

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMISSION:

<u>Ordinance</u>	<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Consideration</u>
Workshop		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Results:
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading		Results:

Beverly Perkins  
1516 Northwest 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060  
954-786-0901

March 11, 2011

Mr. Dennis Beach  
City Manager  
100 West Atlantic Boulevard  
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

RE: Park naming request

Dear Mr. Beach:

Please accept this letter as a formal request to have MLK Park named in Ms. Gillis honor. On November 27, 2010 the CRA Advisory Board requested Ms. Annie Adderly Gillis light the first Christmas tree in the Northwest Community at the MLK Park. Ms. Gillis passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2011. She was 98 years old. The park is located adjacent to the E. Pat Larkins Center, on the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Northwest 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Gillis had significant ties to this community. In 2008, the City of Pompano Beach Centennial Committee honored her as a pioneer. The Broward County Board of Commission and Historical Commission also recognized and proclaimed her as a pioneer in October 1996. I have enclosed a copy of her biography for your review.

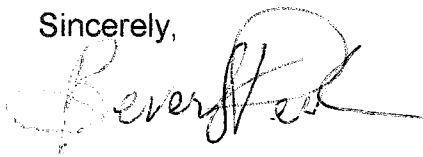
Therefore, Ms. Gillis' family and friends would like for the City Commission to consider the request. Ms Gillis was one of the oldest pioneers in this City.

We would like for the City of Pompano Beach to honor Ms. Gillis' memory by naming the MLK Park after her. I have already discussed the idea with Mayor Lamar Fisher and Commissioner Woodrow Poitier. They both agreed with the idea.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly Perkins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Beverly Perkins

**HASTINGS FOR CONGRESS**

PO BOX 100277

FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33310-0277

7104


DATE 3-8-11

63-4/630 FL  
1310

PAY TO THE ORDER OF City of Pompano Beach  
five hundred 00

\$ 500.00

Security Features  
Details on  
back

DOLLARS 



ACH R/T 063100277

FOR Donation for Art's Naming

Alce J Hastings

⑈007104⑈ ⑆063000047⑆ 898045329738⑈

# **The Life and Legacy of an Earth Angel**

## **Annie Adderly Gillis**

### ***Spring ... A Time To Be Born***

Once upon time, on a Wednesday back on October 16, 1912 in Osteen, Florida, the Lord delivered a beautiful angel to our universe. He entrusted the care and upbringing of this *earth angel* to two loving parents, Edward and Annie Vaughn Demps (deceased).

### ***Summer ... A Time To Plant and To Love***

Annie's childhood years were spent in Geneva, FL which is near Orlando. Those were her roots. Here is where she began to sprout her wings and grow. With a foundation based primarily on a relationship with God and a focus on family and education, Annie's start in life is best characterized by her baptism in a local Geneva lake at the age of ten. She attended grammar school in the Seminole County school system. At the young age of 22 years old, Annie traveled south to the big city of Pompano Beach where she lived until her homegoing. During those early years in Pompano Beach, things were not easy. Annie and her sister Elizabeth shared a home that did not have any indoor plumbing. It was not until the 1950's that they were blessed with electricity in their home, but Annie was still thankful.

She was married to Anthony Adderly, Sr., (deceased) and they raised seven children. Later, she married Vasco Gillis (deceased). When Pompano Beach flooded in 1948, Annie's children used the family boat to ride throughout the northwest community-rescuing people from their homes. She also delivered her nephew (Baby Johnny) into the world on November 13, 1950.

### ***Autumn ... A Time To Keep Silent And Time To Speak***

Many would say that life's obstacles and growing pains merely made Annie that much stronger and much wiser. Relying on the foundation provided early in childhood, Annie continued to develop her relationship with the Lord as a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church, since 1934.

Sister Annie Gillis grew into a beautiful, accomplished and well-respected lady and, under the leadership of Pastor Eddy Moise; she was later named the Church Mother. During her 77 years at Bethel, her faithful and diligent service included: President of Sanctuary Choir, member of Missionary Society, Pastor's Aide, Board Trustee, and member of the Stewardess Board. She even baked the communion bread for more than 40 years.

When Annie was not conducting church business, one of her favorite past times was designing and making stunning, high-fashion hats which many adored. She was also well-known for her mouth-watering, delicious pink cakes, her collection of over 200 elephants, and showing off the results of her "green" thumb in her award winning garden where she grew flowers, cotton, and pineapples. She was indeed the matriarch of the family and an example of all that was good.

At her surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration “*This Is Your Life*” over 200 attended. Every year, the family celebrated her birthday with a church service on the third Sunday of October and a huge family dinner. She was the Queen.

Some of Annie’s community activities included: Heroines of Jericho since 1951 and former President; Christian Pallbearers 1934-2006; Eastern Stars since 1935; and a Poll Worker for Broward County Supervisor of Elections for over 15 years.

She also took pleasure in celebrating Martin Luther King’s (MLK) birthday in Pompano Beach by participating in the parades. In December 2010 at the age of 98, she lit the first Christmas tree in the northwest community at a park on MLK Boulevard and 6th Avenue.

Annie was known for caring and raising children throughout the community. She was the Class Mother to the Blanche Ely High School Class of 1960 which included her son, Ralph (Maude) and former Commissioner E. Pat Larkins.

Even at the age of 98, Annie had a superb memory. She would remember things when family members forget. She enjoyed watching television; her favorite shows were Judge Judy, Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. She saw a great deal of history. She witnessed this country elect the first Black President, Barack Obama.

### ***Winter ... A Time To Die ... A Time To Heal***

Sister Annie Gillis went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 20, 2011. Sister Gillis was predeceased by her sisters Elizabeth McKenzie, Alberta Detreville, Josephine Smith, Ethel Hillsman and Lillian Bacon.

She is survived by one sister, Ella Mae Thomas, seven children, and one hundred thirty-six grandchildren are left to continue and cherish her 98-year legacy.

<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>GRANDCHILDREN</b>	<b>GREAT- GRANDCHILDREN</b>	<b>GG GRANDCHILDREN</b>
Thelma Perkins Fullins	3	3 (1 deceased)	9
Cyrus Adderly	3	2	4
Anthony Adderly, Jr.	7	23	32
Ola Adderly Hewett	4	12	13
Clinton Adderly	4	5	1
Ralph Adderly (Maude)	2	2	
Leroy Adderly	1 (2 deceased)	5	1
	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>60</b>

She is also survived by a loving and caring granddaughter Beverly Perkins Moody (Willie).

She had many godchildren who include, Cassandra McCray, Cassandra Williams, JaLeesa Newbold, Forestine Richardson, Dorothy Gay, Elmira Cook, Shirley Lewis Clark, Chastie Jackson, and Richard Macon.

She also had a host of nieces and nephews, and many devoted relatives and friends to carry on her torch of faith, love and, determination. She made a lasting impression on the entire family and the entire Northwest Pompano Community.

