

Meeting Date: 10/25/11

Agenda Item

19

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Consent Ordinance Resolution Consideration/ Discussion Presentation

SHORT TITLE CONSIDERATION FOR THE DUAL NAMING OF NW 2ND STREET TO ADD THE NAME OF REVEREND ERNEST E. GRAHAM STREET AS PER RESOLUTION 2003-38 (STREET NAMING POLICY)

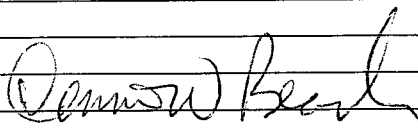
Summary of Purpose and Why:

See attached letter from the family of Reverend Ernest E. Graham who feel Reverend Graham has contributed to the history and economic growth of the City of Pompano Beach.

- (1) Origin of request for this action: Family of Reverend Graham
- (2) Primary staff contact: Robert A. McCaughan *RAM* 786-4097
- (3) Expiration of contract, if applicable: _____
- (4) Fiscal impact and source of funding: None. Costs necessary to change street signage funded by the Mandated \$500 fee which has been provided.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION	DATE	DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENTAL HEAD SIGNATURE

City Manager



ACTION TAKEN BY COMMISSION:

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

Eddy Mae Graham
101 NE 19th Avenue
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060
(954) 783-7168

October 13, 2011

To: City Manager of the City of Pompano Beach
Re: Naming of Residential Street

Dear Sir,

This letter serves as a formal request to name a street after a well deserved Pioneer of the City of Pompano Beach, Florida. The Late Rev. Ernest E. Graham has made an impressionable mark upon local businesses, churches and fellow constituents in the city of Pompano Beach's African-American Community and the surrounding areas. After viewing his Biographical sketch, It is in hopes that you will come to the same conclusion that Rev. E. Graham's name should be honored on a street sign. His legacy is a remarkable story of dedication, commitment, hard work and determination to achieve success as an African-American. It is evident that he had a trusting relationship with those whom he contracted with, whose names are displayed on street signs today. It would make his Descendants and all who knew and loved him extremely proud, to see his name displayed on a street sign which runs in front of his home and the church that he built. The location for this request is: NW 31st Avenue to NW 21st Avenue and NW 2nd Street in the City of Pompano Beach, Florida. Thank you for your cooperation.

Streetsign > REV. E.E. GRAHAM Sincerely,

Rev. Kim Scott
Mr. Frank Scott
Bishop Dr. Semmi Z. Taylor
Elder Clara McComick
Rev. Sharon Johnson

ARBITRATION
OFFICER K.G.

*Biographical Sketch on the Life of
The Late Reverend Ernest E. Graham*

On October 9, 1900, a cool brisk day in Wray, Georgia by midwife delivery, Artie Missy Graham and her husband Elder James (Jim) W. Graham were blessed by God with another healthy baby boy. Elder James Graham named his boy, Ernest Graham, Ernest later made a decision that he wanted a middle name and decided his name would be Ernest E. Graham. He would be the fifth child of what eventually would turn out to be twelve children, two girls and ten boys. He grew up in Fitzgerald, Georgia and attended public school as were provided in that era. He was called into ministry in 1926 realizing he needed a wife; he met and married Effie Mae Lawson on August 6, 1927 and in 1930 Effie presented to her husband a daughter, Elizabeth Graham. Rev. Ernest Graham had packed his wife and daughter and relocated to Pompano Beach, Florida wherein another daughter was born; Rev. Ernest E. Graham named her Ernestine Graham. Two years later in 1934 another daughter was born, Rev. Ernest E. Graham named her Eddy Mae Graham. In 1935 he had began farming large amounts of seasonal crops for various folk. God finally answered Rev. Ernest E and Effie Mae Graham's prayer, and in 1940 God

blessed the Graham's with a healthy baby boy, Rev. Ernest E. Graham named him Everge Cecil Graham. It was important to Rev. Graham that all his offspring's initials from their name were the same as his wife and his, EG. In that same year he had acquired enough money to began his own business, he told his wife he was going into the business of sawmilling. Eventually with the assistance from his only son, through prayer, and supplication he would own all of his equipment, log pulling trucks and most of all, the saw that would take any large tree and produce timber.

(Lumber) He produced timber from trees in a town during that time called "Hammondville" it is known today as Margate. Everyone that lived in the African-American town of Hammondville basically worked for Mr. Hammond. Martin Luther King Boulevard, as it is known today was called Hammondville Road wherein , it took its name from Mr. Hammond. Hammondville Road, during those times was a dirt road that proceeds from State Road Seven to Dixie Highway, Rev. Ernest Graham also contracted trees from Bud and Lena Lyons, wherein Lyons Road as known today, got its name. Rev. Ernest Graham also, provided the timber that was needed to construct the "New River Tunnel" in Fort Lauderdale, Fl. He also contracted trees from Mr. Blount, wherein Blount Road as known today got its name. He cut timber from many areas in what is known today as Coconut Creek, Sample and Banks Road; he

had an established contract (paperless - only by hand shaking) with Rinker, and the East/West Coast Railroads, wherein he furnished the cross-ties. (Thick timber that the tracks sits on top of) He supplied the timber to build his tri-plexes, duplexes and a second home. (They remain occupied today) Also, The House of God Church, Pompano #1; he supplied the timber to build the floors and the ceiling. (Yet, intact today) He built his family their first home utilizing his own timber and traded his timber for all the other materials that was needed to complete what is now known as the "HOME" house. It is located at 208 NW 10th Avenue, at that time it was known as "New Town". By this time, Rev. Ernest Graham was appointed to be the pastor of The House of God, which is the Church of the Living God, The Pillar and Ground of the Truth without Controversy, Inc., Keith Dominion, one of which still remains today in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In 1941 he was re-appointed by Chief Overseer, Mary Keith to become the pastor of The House of God Church in Deerfield Beach, wherein he was the pastor there until God gave him a vision together with his wife, to begin a ministry in Pompano Beach, Florida (Collier City). In 1958 with his wife, only two members, consultations from his best friend, (Elder B. J. McCormick); utilizing timber from his sawmill and his workers from his sawmill "The Tent" went up. His wife went door to door asking parents to allow their children to be picked up

to attend Sunday school and church services at the tent. He strongly believed in the importance of a quality education for all African-Americans, and Sunday school became mandatory. He owned a station wagon, which was utilized as the church bus. He had to make many car loads to get everybody to Sunday school/church. Now, with so many children in the congregation, he formed a well known choir called, "The Grahamettes." Every church he visited, it was imperative that he brought that "singing choir". In 1960 Rev. Ernest Graham's wife, Effie Mae Graham decided they wanted another boy, they adopted Alden Manley Graham. After eight long years, numerous hurricanes and splintered floors Rev. Ernest E. Graham decided it was time to build a church. The property that the tent was presently on (corner of 5th St/24th Ave. Collier City) was only one lot and it would not be sufficient to build a church, he had to locate a larger piece of property while assuring it was near Collier City. Being that he was the only timber man it paid off, for he was much acquainted with what folk called during that time as "important white folk". He went to Mr. Horne (Caucasian man that is responsible for most of the flat top houses in Collier City) and inquired about purchasing two lots from him, in order to build the church. Mr. Horne told him he would not sell two lots, but, because it was for a church and to help Collier City children he would give him two lots. In 1969 Rev. Ernest

Graham, his wife, and his tent congregation broke ground on two lots on Northwest 2nd street directly behind Jmar. He utilized his own timber and raised money by selling fish sandwiches, having penny rallies (kids saved their pennies and turned them in at every month's end, the one with the most pennies was awarded an ice cream cone from Dairy Queen) and the famous peanut pulling (bags of peanuts were for sale however, two people would take a bag of peanuts, dump them on the table. Take turns pulling a peanut (in the shell) at the time; the person who pulled the last peanut would have to pay for the bag of peanuts). Concrete blocks were only ten cent at that time and every month's end Rev. Ernest E. Graham and the congregation would determine from the kid's pennies and offerings how many blocks they were able to purchase. After three years of praying and building; Rev. Ernest E. Graham with the assistance of his wife, son, two deacons, (Dec. Eulee C. McGirt and Dec. Primus McGirt) and the entire congregation the church was finally complete, it was then deeded over to the House of God, Corporation. It yet remains today and is known as The House of God Which is the Church of the Living God The Pillar and Ground of the Truth, without Controversy, Inc., Pompano number two. After a long bout with cancer, on February 13, 1974 Rev. Ernest E. Graham passed away. Since his death his son Everge, who worked so diligently with his father passed on

August 9, 2005. His wife, Effie Mae Graham passed at the age of 95, on January 3, 2006.. Since the passing of his wife, two of his daughters have also preceded him in death. Ernestine Rolle and Elizabeth Clayton. *His legacy lives on, he was the first and only African-American in Pompano Beach, Florida to become an owner of a sawmill. It lives on, through the old stories of the saw that made Rev. Ernest E. Graham a self-made man, through the remembrance of his relationship with God, and through the importance of every African-American having an education. It lives through the memories of him, being the world's greatest father, grandfather, great grandfather and great-great grandfather. It all lives on within his surviving descendants, his daughter, Eddy Mae Graham, adopted son, thirteen grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren. And through the many folk he sold timber too and the properties that yet hold the timber from Rev. Ernest E. Graham's sawmill.*

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BRANCH 00687

Eddy M. Graham
101 NE 19th Street
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Ph. 954-783-7168



10/17/11 Date

\$ 500.⁰⁰

City of Pompano
five Hundred ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars

Security
Deposit on
Back



WACHOVIA
Wachovia Bank, N.A.
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For *Eddy M. Graham* MP

For

⑆067006432⑆1010259451619⑆0163

GUARDIAN SAFETY® GREEN

Harold Clarke