

**LETTER FOR THE NAMING AND RENAMING REQUEST OF A STREETS AND
PUBLIC FACILITIES**

CITY OF POMPANO BEACH
OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
21 JAN -7 PM 12:46

FOR

MATTIE BELL SLAPPY WILLIAMS

The request to rename 7th Ave & 15th street to bear the name of a Pioneer of Pompano Beach, Mattie B. Slappy and her late Husband Joseph Dewey Williams were the first family to move into Pinetree Park homes, due to the construction of Mr. Daniel Miller, Sr. residing in said home for over 50 years and raised all their children who became productive citizens.

Mattie Bell Slappy was born to Jack who was born on December 25, 1900 whose parents were products of slavery (Slappy Plantation in Twig County, GA) and Ola Bell Griffin whose mother Leola Griffin was a mulita teacher during those difficult times. Because of this her mother's sister Rosa Bell Griffin Frazier arranged for travel to Pompano Beach, Florida. In the year of 1940, Mattie started her journey at what is believed to be the age of 5 years old from Cochran, Georgia where her parents were share croppers living in quarter homes to Pompano Beach as she was stowed away on the back of a wagon driven by Mr. Brooks of Pompano Beach to find new life she hope for with her Mother Ola Bell Griffin Slappy and her siblings.

Upon her arrival to Pompano she and her family lived in Organ Brothers Quarters were the "Blip" is located off 10th avenue. After a few months they moved to Bud Lyons Quarters off 6th street which sat across from Coleman Elementary School and The Len Walton Quarters in New Town Across from what was known as the Love Land Theater on 11th Ave. In living in their quarter homes, they gave her and her family shelter. During the summer months she and her family would travel up North to places like Prince Ann, Maryland to pick cotton. They were defined as Migrant workers, her mother Ola Bell also worked for Bud Lyons making Pepper Crops.

As Mattie dream to overcome the depression and the rebuke of slavery she strived to change her and her family status. At the Age of 19 She obtained jobs working for Mrs. Hilder Brice, Mr. & Mrs. Betty and Teddy Richard, Mrs. Mary Alice Hazen, Mrs. Helen & Hue Wachob, Mrs. Trevett, Mrs. Wimer, Mr. and Mrs. Tina and. Jack Burrough he was a former City employee. They were not the jobs she dreamed of having for the rest of her life but a start of her independence. During some of the work hours if there were visitors, she would have to stay out of sight because of racial bias.

After redefining herself she took a job with the Broward County School Board and remained for over 28 years and retired in 2005 after the death of her husband. She is a graduate of Blanche Ely High School in the class of 1957, and a Graduate of the Pompano Beach Business Institute where she received her degree in Business.

In 1960, Mattie began her civil duties as, being a part of the Picket against DeWitt Grocery and all the community stores that did not hire black workers.

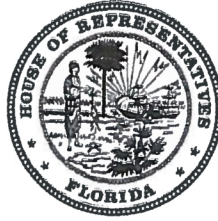
In 1960, Mattie and her husband Joseph marched with Reverend Collier, Reverend Diamond, Former Mayor and Commissioner Pat Larkins along with others in the community to fight for equal rights.

In 1970-1971, Mattie and Joseph march and protested the closing of Blanche Ely High school under unprecedented times to close a neighborhood school that forge great people and leaders. A school where her husband participated in the building and upgrade of the school where some of their children attended. Joseph also participated in the structure of what was known as Pompano Fashion Square.

She also participated in raising and giving monies to build Hopewell Missionary Baptist the neighborhood church for which she is a member.

Mattie also participating in her advocacy before the commission on many issues that would affect her neighborhood and to ensure that Habitat would build homes across from Pinetree Park to keep the community forging in the right direction and extending the value for which she believes in as a pioneer and an advocate for justice, fairness, equality for all people. At her age of 84 she maintains her ability to stand on issues that are fair for her neighborhood never looking for just herself but for the betterment of her communities when no one else stands she becomes that foot soldier.

One's service is often noted when they can't see, here or feel, Asking for the renaming as she can walk, see, here and feel the challenge of change that she made as a pioneer in this community for decades never looking back at the history of her roots from the clay hills of Georgia, traveling to northern states, working in the quarter homes, cleaning and assisting with the raising of children that were not hers but forging forward on remembering the journey of change. A Selfless soul.



Florida House of Representatives
Representative Patricia H. Williams
District 92



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December 21, 2020

City of Pompano Beach
100 West Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure to write this letter in support of honoring Mattie Williams with the renaming of 7th Avenue and 15th Street to Mattie Bell Slappy Williams. Despite her challenging past Mrs. Williams overcame the depression and rebuke of slavery.

As a resident of Pompano Beach, FL in 1960, Mattie began her civil duties by being a part of the protest against DeWitt Grocery and all the community stores that did not hire African American workers. She continued the fight throughout her years with her husband Joseph and marched with community leaders, and advocates to fight for equal rights.

Mrs. Mattie Williams is the true definition of a model citizen in the great city of Pompano Beach, a city that I currently represent, and I humbly believe she is well deserving of the street renaming. Mrs. Mattie Williams service should be noticed and glorified while she's able to see, walk, hear and feel the challenge of change that she has made as a pioneer within the City of Pompano Beach for many years.

It is my honor to support honoring Mrs. Williams, for her everlasting dedication and legacy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia H. Williams".

Patricia H. Williams
Florida House of Representatives
District 92



City of Pompano Beach
100 West Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

November 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to my attention that Mattie Williams may have the opportunity to be honored with the name of 7th Ave and 15th St to add the name or rename to Mattie Bell Slappy Williams.

I met Mrs. Williams when we were advocating for the lift of A Rick Case Habitat Community, the largest development of affordable workforce housing homeownership in Broward County. There were mixed feelings about development and Mrs. Williams stepped in as a leader to advocate for the community which would be located directly across the street from her home. I visited with Mrs. Williams in her home to discuss this and she shared with me her rich family history and the difference homeownership made to her life and that of her family and how important she felt it was for others to have the same opportunity.

Mrs. Williams, came from extreme poverty. Her parents were slaves and ultimately became sharecroppers working hard to create a better life for their children. Mrs. Williams is proud of her heritage and history and what she and her children have achieved today. She is a community leader who fought and stood up for civil rights and equality. She was also known for her advocacy on local issues and continues to work toward building a better tomorrow in the community where she lives. Mattie participated and brought area neighbors to help design the park and cheer the children on for A Rick Case Habitat Community.

What impresses me most about Ms. Mattie is her spirit. She has an infectious one-a-kind energy and sense of humor. She leads by example and treats all equally, and I felt very honored each time I was in her company.

Mattie Bell Slappy Williams represents a chapter in history with a legacy of service, faith, and love that goes with it.

It is my honor to support honoring Ms. Williams, who she is and what she represents.

Very Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Robin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "R".

Nancy Robin
CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Broward