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CITY SECRETARY
DALLAS, TEXAS



CITY OF DALLAS

Memorandum

DATE August 7, 2024

TO: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT Ceremonial Street Topper for Raul Reyes Jr. – Morris St. Between N. Winnetka Avenue and Sylvan Avenue.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 51A-9.302 of the Dallas Development Code, please proceed with the process for the consideration of a Ceremonial Street Topper in memory of Raul Reyes Jr. on Morris Street Between N. Winnetka Avenue and Sylvan Avenue.

For additional information on Raul Reyes Jr. legacy, please find the attached Exhibit

A blue ink signature of Omar Narvaez.

Omar Narvaez
Council Member, District 6

A blue ink signature of Carolyn King Arnold.

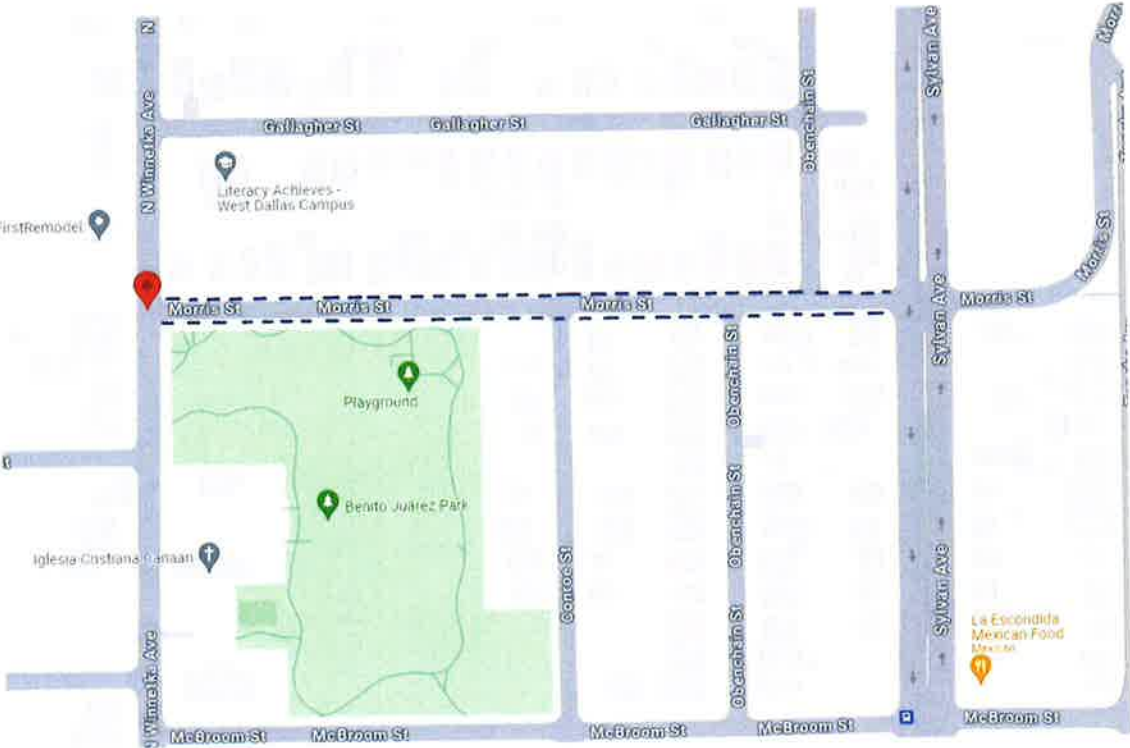
Carolyn King Arnold D4
Council Member, District 4

A blue ink signature of Adam Bynum.

Adam Bynum
Council Member, District 7

Location Map –

- Morris Street between N. Winnetka Avenue and Sylvan Avenue



RAUL REYES JR. Bio- Son and Champion of West Dallas

On February 27, 2024, a somber veil descended upon all who knew, cherished, and admired Raul. Whether you had the privilege of collaborating, conversing, or simply sharing a moment with him, you quickly discovered that his passion for progress was deeply rooted in the welfare of the people. His vision for West Dallas was forged through countless meetings, discussions, and gatherings, where he tirelessly advocated for every voice to be heard and every individual to have a place they could call home. As friends and neighbors gathered to offer solace in the modest abode on Morris Street, one sentiment echoed resoundingly - that there was much yet to be accomplished, and his guidance would be sorely missed.

Raul Reyes Jr, affectionately known as "LLa LLa" by his siblings, was the long-awaited and cherished eldest child of Raul and Juana Reyes. "La Guia," as his father fondly referred to him, entrusted him with the responsibility of setting a commendable example for his siblings - Jesus, Eddie, Janie, Roberto, and Priscilla. Born on January 7th, 1974, Raul's commitment to his studies, family, and community began from his early years in Head start and continued through his education at L.G. Pinkston High School. Guided by his parents' values of education, hard work, and selfless service, Raul immersed himself in the fabric of West Dallas, participating in programs at Trinity River Mission, Wesley Ranklin, and other community centers, many of which he would later support as a board member or advocate.

Throughout his academic journey, from El Centro College to UT Arlington, where he earned dual bachelor's degrees, Raul's fervor for community betterment only intensified. This passion burned brighter with the arrival of his children - Raul III, Dahlia Monee, and Reagan Camila - whom he welcomed into the same community that had shaped his own upbringing. As a single father, Raul faced numerous challenges, from navigating unfamiliar terrain to confronting health scares, yet his unwavering devotion to his children, affectionately known as Chato, Dala, and Chata, propelled him forward in his mission to create a brighter future for them.

The Raul Reyes Jr that endeared himself to the community was a product of his experiences and convictions - a belief that the people of West Dallas deserved a voice, and he was determined to amplify it. The agent of change began to actively participate in various organizations opening doors and paving the way for those around him. He not only mentored his children, but Nathaniel, Jordan, Leya, Eddie Christopher, Ava, Brandon and Alani, inspiring them to continue their studies and service to the communities. He mentored countless of community members and incoming service leaders as they embarked in their journeys. Raul truly desired community; color, race, creed nor zip code mattered to him or his work. He believed that change only came when working together and setting aside our difference to educate and empower the people.

Raul fought tirelessly for justice, equity, inclusivity in all that makes up a community from education, housing, environment and law. If it affected the people or the community, Raul was sure to be there and he was going to be heard; to ensure that the power was activated and rested with the people. He spoke and worked with all, creating a conglomerate of friends, advocates, visionaries, business owners, politicians, educators all who at one point or another would pick up the phone and have hours of conversations with him to gather advice or understanding to what happens next. As gentrification began to rise in West Dallas, he realized along with a few close friend like Ronnie, Mary Lou, that a coalition of neighbors and associates was necessary to steer when needed and provide a resounding voice. Although Raul served in several private and public advisory boards and steering community, his proudest was to be a founding member and President of West Dallas 1.

Raul's departure, much like that of other extraordinary leaders, came far too soon. He leaves behind a legacy of unyielding dedication to social and environmental justice, equitable education, and fair housing practices. For those who knew him well, his legacy extends beyond mere words; it is a call to action, a reminder to never cease learning or growing. Raul's selflessness knew no bounds; he found wealth not in material possessions but in the lives he touched and the communities he transformed.

On that fateful Tuesday morning, West Dallas didn't just lose a father, brother, uncle, mentor, coach, leader, champion, advocate, or friend - it lost a son. His bond with the community was so deeply ingrained that tears flowed indiscriminately, regardless of blood ties. West Dallas wept, mourning the loss of a man who fought tirelessly to empower its residents.

Yet, Raul's legacy endures, carried forth by the various organizations, scholarship foundation, and the unwavering dedication of family and friends. He laid the groundwork; it is now our duty to uphold his teachings and continue the work he began, ensuring that West Dallas remains strong for generations to come.