

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: SPERRY STREET AND GOFFE STREET (**Corner**), Designation as “Dr. Mattie Atkinson-Darden Corner” (Alderman Frank Douglass, Jr.).

REPORT: 1467-09

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Alderman Frank E. Douglass, Jr., 2nd Ward, has proposed that the southwest corner of Sperry Street and Goffe Street be named to honor Dr. Mattie Atkinson-Darden, a long standing and well respected spiritual leader and business woman in the New Haven community. Dr. Atkinson-Darden founded in 1983 the Agape Christian Center at 90 Goffe Street, a non-denominational ministry which serves the community with a soup kitchen and clothes closet. At the age of 86, she still oversees a monthly Youth Night at Agape when any age youth can find safe haven, food, and special activities at no charge. She was also instrumental in the early days of the AIDS Interfaith project by assisting Elsie Cofield to help families with AIDS.

Street corners may be named in accord with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances where a procedure is defined, including submission of a site plan showing location of all structures and street features, a plan for the sign drawn to scale, a petition of at least 250 city resident signatures (of which 2/3 must be neighborhood residents), and a fee paid (\$250).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Commission staff observes that there are 408 signatures on the petition supporting the designation of the corner of Sperry and Goffe Streets as “Dr. Mattie Atkinson-Darden Corner” and that at least two-thirds of the signatures appear to be of neighborhood residents. Staff believes this is sufficient to comply with Section 18-2 of the Code of Ordinances. Staff is unaware if the fee had been paid.

The Commission believes it is fully appropriate to name the corner in the Dixwell neighborhood after this devoted citizen. The involved parties should work with the Department of Traffic, Transportation and Parking (TTP) on a site plan and wording for the sign which should easily fit on a standard sign block. Since TTP is responsible for creating, installing and maintaining such signs, it is important that a final design is developed in consultation with TTP.

ADVICE

Approval with Department of Traffic, Transportation and Parking to approve final sign design, location and installation.

ADOPTED: June 20, 2012
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director