

ANC 5E09-Newsletter

Commissioner Dianne Barnes

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JUNE 1, 2020

Highlighting APA FRATERNITY

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SYMBOLIC DESIGNATION ON FIRST ST NW

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Mu Lambda (“Mu Lambda”) Chapter, requests the support of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) to symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., as “Alpha Phi Alpha Way.” A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes only and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is already deemed an official name.

The Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha is an Alumni chapter and was chartered on October 1, 1923, in the District of Columbia. Like other residents of the District of Columbia, Mu Lambda has been impacted by the Coronavirus. Mu Lambda Chapter will be celebrating 97 years on October 1, 2020, and would like to commemorate its 97th anniversary with the symbolic designation. At a time when this pandemic is having a profound impact on all of our lives, and our communities as a whole, we recognize that all efforts are rightfully focused on addressing this “new normal” in every facet of our lives. We also recognize that this request can serve as an opportunity to uplift not only Alpha Phi Alpha but the very residents that we serve. It is also an opportunity to show our resilience as an organization that has provided public service to residents of the District of Columbia for almost 100 years.

During the pandemic, Mu Lambda has been on the front lines, ensuring the women at the House of Ruth receive hot meals, mentoring the youth, and delivering Personal Protective Equipment for elderly community members. The Director of Development of House of Ruth recently said, “It is rare that words fail me, but your generosity, and that of Mu Lambda, always blows me away.” Mu Lambda hosts weekly virtual meetings with the young men at Charles Hart Middle School and Frank W. Ballou Senior High School to ensure they have a sense of normalcy in their lives, obtain scholarships, apply to college, and/or complete their school work.

Additionally, Mu Lambda is an active participant of the Clean City Program. Not only has the Chapter adopted First Street between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., where a bi-monthly clean-up day is conducted to maintain the cleanliness of this area, but members of the Chapter also clean numerous other surrounding blocks as part of the Clean City Program, including other portions of Bryant and Channing Streets. The Adopt A Block sign is prominently displayed at the corner of First and Bryant Streets.

Symbolically designating the block of First Street fronting the Mu Lambda House will recognize the cultural significance and history of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The proposed official designation is located in ANC 5E09. Thus, Mu Lambda is seeking that the ANC to support symbolically designating the subject portion of First Street, N.W. as Alpha Phi Alpha Way and seeks a resolution memorializing the ANC’s support.

June 4, 2010

Community Input Requested:

On May 29th, I've received, on behalf of ANC 5E, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's proposal for an officially "Symbolic Designation" to add a street sign name "Alpha Phi Alpha Way" for the 2400 Block of First Street NW

This proposal will recognize the cultural significance and history of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Please provide your response by June 13, 2020 so that it may be discussed at the upcoming virtual BCA Meeting scheduled for June 15, 2020 and ANC 5E Public Meeting scheduled for June 16, 2020.

I ask that you complete the requested information below and return to 41 Adams St NW, or forward your response to 5E09@ANC.DC.GOV.

Please indicate whether you:

Support: _____ /Non-Support _____ the "Symbolic Designation" to add a street sign: "Alpha Phi Alpha Way" at the corner of First and Bryant St NW for the 2400 Block of First Street, NW, fronting the Mu Lambda House.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____