



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescain  
District Manager

## Environment, Open Space and Parks Committee Thursday, January 11, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Board Office

### \*\*\* Minutes \*\*\*

Present: Frances Mastrota (Committee Chair), David Giordano, Tabatha Lozano, Jeffrey Monteiro, Ryan Sheffield Russel Shuler (Public Member), Nilsa Orama (ex officio), Thomas Herrera (staff)

Excused: None

Absent: None

Guests: Dena Toussaint, Sarah Neilson (NYC Parks), Marissa Berry (NYC Parks), Shena Kaufman (NYC Parks), LaSharn Cooper-Patt (NYC Parks)

#### 1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

- a. The committee was called to order by the Chair at 6:10 PM when quorum was attained. Agenda was adopted by Ryan Sheffield and was seconded by Jeffery Monteiro. All in favor.

#### 2. Announcements

- a. Eric Peterson, Randall's Island Park Alliance (RIPA), announced and distributed the RIPA Calendar of Events 2018. He also announced the current employment opportunities on the RIPA website. He concluded with saying that the Sports Permit applications deadline has been extended to January, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- b. The chair announced the presence of Mrs. Dena Toussaint, and distributed her late husband's biography, Richard Toussaint, to all in attendance.

#### 3. Presentations & Discussions

- a. A review of the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation conceptual design for the Harlem Greenway Link:

Marisa Berry, Project Planner, NYC Parks Dept. exhibited the final conceptual design result of the community visioning events of the \$101 million, 7 acre new park. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is asking for a Letter of Support for their project. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) will then carry the project forward, as soon as the DOT and the Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority (TBTA) returns the property to the Park's Dept. Time Line 2018-2019.

**A motion was made by Jeffrey Monteiro to issue a letter of support for the conceptual design of the Harlem Greenway Link. The motion seconded by Tabatha Lozano and passed unanimously.**

- b. A presentation of the various Fitness, Art, & Cultural program initiatives offered at the Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Marcus Garvey (Mt. Morris) Park:

LaSharn Cooper-Patt, NYC Parks Dept. spoke of and distributed Flyers on the following: Free Fitness Classes 02-11 thru 02-16-2018; Toddler Enrichment Programs - children ages 2-5, Tuesdays to 03-24-2018, 10-11 a.m.; 3-D Maker Experience - 3 D Printing, contact: Anthony Burton, 212-860-1380; Thurber Theater in Transit, Friday 01-26-2018, Free Concert, 6:30 PM. RSVP to Pelham Fritz on the Special Events Parks Website

#### 4. New Business

- a. Ms. Shena Kaufman introduced herself as the new Parks District Manager for CB's 10 & 11.

#### 5. Continuing Business

- a. Thomas Herrera, Assistant District Manager CB11M, committee liaison, reported that our Capital & Expense Budget Requests have been submitted. We should have a response by the end of the month
- b. Nilsa Orama, CB11 Chair, asked that we advocate for community based groups that may "asks" for their groups.
- c. **After careful thought and discussion, a motion was made by Russel Schuler for the Board to support the naming of the park at the Harlem Greenway Link between East 125th and East 132nd Streets as Richard Toussiant Park. Additionally, the pathway on the Harlem River Esplanade leading from 142nd Street to the entrance of the proposed new park at 132nd Street to be named as Richard Toussaint Way in honor of lifelong East Harlem park's advocate and former Community Board 11 member, Richard Toussiant. The motion was seconded by David Giordano and passed unanimously.**

#### 6. Old Business

- a. Preliminary conversation about the Budget and Capital Expenses and the expectation for the committee. The committee should expect the response from OMB by the end of January.

## 7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeffery Monteiro, seconded by Tabatha Lozano at 7:58 p.m. all in favor.

A Celebration of the Life of

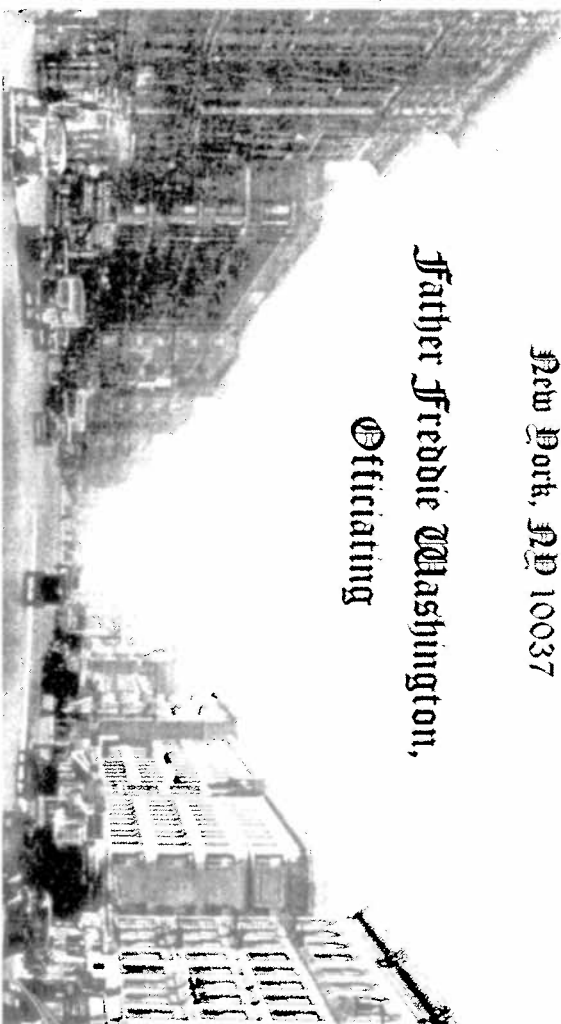
**Richard Patrice Toussaint**  
**March 17, 1944 — May 25, 2015**



**Service**

Saturday, May 30, 2015 — 11:00 AM  
St. Mark the Evangelist R.C. Church  
65 West 138th Street  
New York, NY 10037

Father Freddie Washington,  
Officiating



## Order of the Mass

Gathering Hymn "Amazing Grace"  
Processional Hymn "Shall We Gather At The River"

Placing of the Pall

First Reading --  
Old Testament: Wisdom 3:1-9 Stephanie Colbert

Second Reading --  
New Testament: Thessalonians 4:13-18 Hon. Keith Wright

Gospel Father Freddie Washington

Homily Father Freddie Washington

General Intercession

Offertory Hymn "A Surrender All"

Communion Hymn "I Am The Bread of Life"

Communion Meditation Hymn "When Peace Like A River"

Obituary Read by Eugene Graham, Jr.

Remarks

Final Commendation

Recessional Hymn --  
"O God Our Help in Ages Past"

## Acknowledgement

The Family wishes to express its gratitude and sincere appreciation to all friends, neighbors and those in the community for their expressions of concern and support to our Family during his time of illness. Your continued prayers and expressions of sympathy will continue to be most appreciated.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to Benta's Funeral Home

630 St. Nicholas Avenue 3254 White Plains Road  
New York, NY 10030 Bronx, NY 10467  
(212) 281-8850 (718) 324-4700



Richard participated in the Y.M.C.A. Mentoring Program for several years providing much needed guidance and, even more important, a positive Black male image for young Black children. To say that Richard loved model trains would be an understatement. He created entire communities of trains, buildings, support vehicles and miniature people in one of the rooms in their apartment. He was meticulous when it came to landscaping and attention to detail and would spend hours putting buildings together, painting them and populating them with the appropriate people.

### His family can look back on many happy times with him:

—trips to Disney World, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Charleston South Carolina, Aruba, Toronto Canada, Trinidad, Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame

— he helped organize the first family reunion in Florence, South Carolina and spent many holidays with family and friends. And through it all Richard was there to laugh with, to talk with, to listen to (since he loved to talk) and sometimes to provide a shoulder to cry on.

Throughout his last, toughest battle he never complained, just remained our beloved Richard. Richard was a lifelong Harlem community resident. He lived in Riverton with his wife and son for over 40 years.

He leaves behind his wife, Dena, son Damani, mother Dolly, brothers Gene & Allan, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends.



## OBITUARY

How do you describe someone in terms that will make acquaintances, as well as close friends say, "Yes, that's the Richard I know?"

There is the easy part — providing details, listing awards, stating dates that will give an outline of who Richard was. Then there's the real hard part — how to adequately describe just how giving and loyal and loving a person he was.

His mother, Dolly, remembers her son Richard (Dicky) as a cheerful student in school. He loved to sing Ray Charles and Frank Sinatra songs on the way to school and always loved his mother's home cooking.

Richard P. Toussaint was born in Harlem to Dolly and Leopold Toussaint. He was very active in the St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church and school, and as an altar boy enjoyed serving the parishioners. He graduated from Fashion Industries High School. He attended Manhattan Community College then earned Bachelors and Masters degrees from City College of New York.

He was employed as a counselor at the College Adaptor Program in Harlem. While there he helped found an innovative prison program for Rikers Island inmates. At Con Edison he worked in Human Resources and loved holding Diversity Training sessions for Con Edison employees until his retirement in 2006. He was also an active member of St. Marks Roman Catholic Church and their Men of Commitment organization.

## His accomplishments were many:

- As a teenager he volunteered with The Jazzmobile and was a member of the Associated Community Teams (A.C.T.) - writing and producing plays for young people.
- At Kennedy Community Center he was a co-founder of The Black Mask Players. One of their productions won awards for Best Play and Best Costume Design at Staten Island Community College in 1977.
- As an intern at CBS in the Community Affairs Department, he was a cast member of "The Learning Experience", an educational TV program with Dr. Jeanne Noble.
- As the Riverton Tenant's Association Chairman, in 1990 he presented the idea for the Harlem River Park to the New York City Department of Parks. It was not until 2002 that the first phase of the park (from 155th to 142nd streets) was completed and officially opened.
- He was President of the Frederick E. Samuels Democratic Club.
- He was an active member of Community Board 11 for 12 years including 10 years as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee.
- Recently, up until his illness, he was the Chief of the East Harlem Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.). He and his CERT team were the first to respond to the 2013 East Harlem explosion.
- Richard was a founding partner, with Celia Wickham of 'Community Directed Ownership' (CDO), providing scholarships and career guidance to high school students.

## And then there are the awards:

- 1989 - The Harlem YMCA 'Black Achievers in Industry' award.
- 1986 & 1994 - The Educational Opportunities Center of S.U.N.Y. 'Distinguished Alumni Awards'.
- 1993 - 'Award of Appreciation' from The National Center for Disability Services for his work with their disabled clients.
- 1997 - 'Community Advocate of the Year' with Camary Statewide Services Award for his work with the autistic, an award shared with his wife.
- 2002 - 'The Energizer Award' from the New York Area Chapter of The American Association of Blacks In Energy.
- 1994 - The National Urban League Inc. 'Certificate of Appreciation' in recognition of his service as visiting professor in the Black Executive Exchange Program administered by Con Edison.
- 2003 - 'Certificate of Appreciation' from Community Board Number 11, Borough of Manhattan.
- 2005 - The 'Bernice Bolar Community Service Award' from the Harlem Hospital Center Community Advisory Board.
- 2014 - The 'Manhattan Daffodil Award' for his work with the Harlem River Park Task Force, presented by New Yorkers for Parks.

But Richard was so much more than those awards and community accomplishments. He was a devoted husband to Dena, his wife of 46 years, and to his son Damani, a loving son, brother, uncle, brother-in-law and cousin. He had a special love for his grandparents, especially his grandpa who always told him jokes.