



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

April 9, 2020

Hon. Diana Ayala
New York City Council
105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029

Dear Councilwoman Ayala:

Community Board 11 is proud to support the co-naming of the southeast corner of East 100th Street and Third Avenue in honor of Coach Skip Branch.

Mr. Floyd "Skip" Branch Jr. was the Founder and Director of NYC Bombsquad Basketball Classic, Inc. (NYCBBC), a summer basketball and mentorship program that operates out of Cherry Tree Park on East 100th Street and Third Avenue. When he started the program in 1993, his goal was to provide an alternative to hanging out in the streets to youth in East Harlem. Since then and until his passing, NYCBBC served more than 300 boys and girls ranging from ages 6 to 18 each year. Through the summer program, he taught youth not only the fundamentals of basketball, but also responsibility, respect, and the importance of teamwork and community give-back. Coach Skip Branch remains a valued role model to youth and parents in East Harlem.

The enclosed street co-naming request includes 15 letters of support from neighboring businesses, faith-based organizations, local non-profits, and city agencies including: NYPD 23rd Precinct, FDNY Engine 53/Ladder 43, and Supportive Children's Advocacy Network (SCAN). The request also includes over 150 petition signatures and multiple letters of support from former mentees and NYCBBC participants that speak to the character of Coach Skip and his impact on the lives of East Harlem residents.

We request that you support and carry the "Coach Skip Branch Way" street renaming through the New York City Council's street co-naming process. Please feel free to contact Carly Wine, our Assistant District Manager, at 212-831-8929 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Jose Altamirano, Community Board 11(via email)
Denilyn Arciaga, Community Board 11 (via email)
Carole Richards-Branch, Applicant (via email)