

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** March 20, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 22-664, the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 22-664, the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon, with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On December 13, 2017, Bill 22-664, the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember T. White to officially designate the school in Square 5561, Lot 822, bounded by Nicholson Street, S.E., Prout Street, S.E., 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S.E., and Minnesota Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School.<sup>1</sup>

Lawrence E. Boone was born on March 19, 1936 in Washington, D.C. and was raised in the Barry Farms community, as the second oldest of ten siblings. Mr. Boone excelled in school academics and athletics and attended Dunbar Senior High School. Mr. Boone went on to attend Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas where he set numerous track records. Mr. Boone

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<sup>1</sup> Bill 22-664 as introduced designated the school as “Lawrence Boone, Sr. School.” However, it became clear at the February 26, 2018 hearing on the Bill that the family of Mr. Boone and community members intended the name to accurately identify the School as “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School.”

returned to the District and attended Miner's Teacher College, where he majored in elementary education and played for the school's football team. He continued his football career in the DCAAC where won many awards and was inducted into the DCAAC Hall of Fame.

Although Mr. Boone received an offer to play professional football, he decided to pursue his career as an educator. His first assignment was as a second-grade teacher at Madison-Taylor Elementary School. Later, he taught at Lafayette Elementary School, a predominately white school, where he was one of the school's first African American educators. He left Lafayette during the Civil Rights Movement and became a demonstration teacher at Truesdell Elementary School. Mr. Boone was later assigned as Acting Assistant Principal at Randall Highlands Elementary School. Mr. Boone also earned a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision from George Washington University.

In 1973, Mr. Boone became the first black principal of Orr Elementary School where he served until his retirement in 1996. "Mr. Boone was well regarded and well respected by the community, parents, and especially the students."<sup>2</sup> While at Orr Elementary, Mr. Boone implemented innovative policies to improve and enhance students' school experiences including starting safety patrols, establishing the school uniform policy, and providing the school with computers. It is fitting that today, Orr Elementary's computer lab is named in his honor. In addition to his achievements at Orr, Mr. Boone is most remembered for the impact he had on students' lives in and out of the classroom. A former student of Mr. Boone, Ms. Jeanette Staton testified that renaming the school is important for solidifying Mr. Boone's legacy and that doing so "will inspire the staff and every promising child, to get back to the educational, and overall basics of laying the foundation to becoming a Stewart, Shepherd, and Servant as they achieve their goals in life."

After Mr. Boone's retirement, he became a tutor at Fort Myer's Homework Center and volunteered teaching children golf at Langston Golf Course. Mr. Boone also received many outstanding recognitions including the Washington Post Distinguished Leadership Award and Principal of the Year Award. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and a member of the Dunbar Alumni Federation Association. After a long battle with cancer, Mr. Boone passed away on July 18, 2013. Mr. Boone is survived by his wife Ruth Vaughn Boone; his daughter Littyce Boone, a former DCPS Teacher; and grandchildren and great grandchildren who also attended DCPS.

Recently, the students and parents of Orr Elementary School organized to remove the name "Benjamin G. Orr" from the elementary school after discovering Mr. Orr was a slave owner. Instead, they proposed replacing it with a more fitting name that reflected the community's values of equity and excellence. DCPS engaged with parents, students, Orr alumni, and community members through conversations, surveys, and petitions. They received overwhelming support for the "Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School" designation.

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<sup>2</sup> Bill 22-664, *Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018: Public Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole*, Feb. 26, 2018 (written testimony of Carolynn Jackson-King, Principal, Orr Elementary School, DCPS).

### ***Legal Background***

The Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*) (“Act”) establishes procedures for closing streets and alleys, opening new streets and alleys, naming public spaces, and other procedures related to streets and alleys. Specifically, the Act authorizes Council to designate or change the name of any public space in the District of Columbia.<sup>3</sup> Public spaces include “any public street, alley, circle, bridge, building, park, other public place or property owned by or under the administrative control or jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.”<sup>4</sup>

The Act establishes a notice requirement for the official designation of public spaces including parks; at least 30 days prior to the scheduled public hearing, the initiator of the proposed designation shall submit a copy of the legislation for review and comment to each Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC”) in which the public space is located. Regarding Bill 22-664, the notice requirements have been met. ANC 8A was put on notice of the legislation and February 26, 2018 hearing by the Committee of the Whole on January 17, 2018. In a letter dated February 22, 2018, ANC 8A expressed its support for the designation (a copy of the letter is attached to this report).

The Act also promulgates requirements that the Mayor must meet prior to consideration of a public space designation by the Council. First, the Mayor shall provide the Council with comments on the proposed designation submitted by any District agency with jurisdiction over the public space to be designated.<sup>5</sup> The District Department of Public Schools (“DCPS”), which has jurisdiction over the school at issue, attended the February 26, 2018 hearing on Bill 22-664 and submitted comments (supporting Bill 22-664) as part of their testimony at that time, thus meeting this requirement. Second, prior to consideration of a designation by the Council, the Mayor shall provide to Council a surveyor’s plat showing the public space to be designated, including any adjacent and abutting squares to the designation.<sup>6</sup> The Office of the Surveyor provided the Council with a plat of the designation prior to mark up by the Committee of the Whole.

After the official public space designation legislation becomes law and all conditions required by the Council and the Act have been satisfied, the Mayor will install signage denoting the public space name.<sup>7</sup> The signage shall conform to the policies of the agency with jurisdiction over the public space, in this case DCPS.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, the Surveyor of the District of Columbia shall record a copy of the act and the Surveyor’s plat in the Office of the Surveyor.<sup>9</sup>

Officially designating the school located at 2200 Minnesota Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School will honor Mr. Boone, who was highly regarded in the District for his over two-decade career as a public-school principal and the outstanding positive

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<sup>3</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.11(2)(A).

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(b).

<sup>6</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(c)(1)-(3).

<sup>7</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(b).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

influence he had in his community. For these reasons, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 22-664, the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2017.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

January 11, 2018	Bill 22-664, the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember T. White.
January 19, 2018	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-664 is published in the <i>Register</i> .
January 19, 2018	Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-664 is published in the <i>Register</i> .
January 23, 2018	Bill 22-664 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.
February 16, 2018	Revised Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-664 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
February 26, 2018	A Public Hearing is held on Bill 22-664 by the Committee of the Whole.
March 20, 2018	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 22-664.

## III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Carolynn Jackson King, Principal of Orr Elementary School, District of Columbia Public Schools, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School” designation under Bill 22-664. Her testimony is summarized below.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

On January 9, 2018, ANC 8A, in which the proposed official designation is located, voted 6-0-1, in support of renaming the Benjamin Orr Elementary School to Laurence E. Boone Elementary School to honor “Mr. Boone’s decades-long legacy of dedicated leadership and service to the DC Public Schools.” A copy of ANC 8A’s letter in support is attached to this report.

## V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 22-664 on Monday, February 26, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

**Jeanette Staton**, testified in support of the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School” designation. Ms. Staton shared that Mr. Boone encouraged her as an elementary student to reach

her full potential, which left a long-lasting positive impact on her life. She stated that “renaming the school is important for the community, students and solidifying [Mr. Boone’s] legacy.”

***Eric Hodges, Public Witness***, testified in support of the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School” designation. Mr. Hodges described Mr. Boone as a “staple to the community of Anacostia” and shared the ways in which Mr. Boone had a huge influence on his life and many others’. He expressed that this remaining would be a great way to honor Mr. Boone.

***Littyce Boone, Public Witness*** testified in support of the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School” designation. As the daughter of Mr. Boone, Ms. Boone shared background information on Mr. Boone’s life, highlighting his achievements as an educator and the impact he had on his students, fellow educators, and family members. She described the designation as a “perfect positive name for a true Washingtonian with lots of great memories. A man who knew and was involved within the community.”

***Carolynn Jackson King, Principal of Orr Elementary School, District of Columbia Public Schools***, testified that the Executive supports the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School” designation. Ms. King spoke about Mr. Boone’s tenure with DCPS and his dedication to Orr Elementary School, including the “personal contributions and sacrifices that Mr. Boone made to improve the lives of the people in Orr’s community.” She also described the naming process and the community input that was considered when selecting “Lawrence E. Boone” as the school’s new name.

The Committee received letters in support of the Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School designation. Copies of the letters are attached to this report.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 22-664, as it pertains to the Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation, has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 authorizes the Council to designate any public space, including parks.<sup>10</sup> Further, the Act provides that, with limited exception, no public space shall be named in honor of any living person or in honor of any person who has been deceased less than two years.<sup>11</sup> Mr. Boone passed away on July 18, 2013, more than two years ago.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The District of Columbia Public Schools estimates that standard signage to designate the park will cost roughly \$XXXX which can be absorbed by the agency. A copy of the Fiscal Impact Statement is attached to this report.

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<sup>10</sup> Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

<sup>11</sup> See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

## **VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS**

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 22-664.
<u>Section 2</u>	Officially designates the school in Square 5561, Lot 822, bounded by Nicholson Street, S.E., Prout Street, S.E., 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street S.E., and Minnesota Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School.”
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this act to the Mayor, the District of Columbia Public Schools, and the Office of the Surveyor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 5</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day Congressional review language.

## **IX. COMMITTEE ACTION**

## **X. ATTACHMENTS**

1. Bill 22-664 as introduced
2. Written Testimony and Letters
3. ANC 8A Letter
4. Surveyor’s Plat
5. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 22-664
6. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 22-664
7. Committee Print for Bill 22-664

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Washington D.C. 20004**

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council

From :   
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : January 16, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Thursday, January 11, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Lawrence Boone, Sr. School Designation Act of 2018", B22-0664

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember T. White

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services

1 

2 Councilmember Trayon White



Chairman Phil Mendelson

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6 A BILL  
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12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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16 To officially designate the school in Square 5561, Lot 822, bounded by Nicholson Street, S.E.,  
17 Prout Street, S.E., 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S.E., and Minnesota Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as Lawrence  
18 Boone, Sr. School.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
20 act may be cited as the "Lawrence Boone, Sr. School Designation Act of 2018".

21 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 422 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition  
22 Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-  
23 204.01 and 9-204.22) ("Act"), the Council officially designates the school in Square 5561, Lot  
24 822, bounded by Nicholson Street, S.E., Prout Street, S.E., 22<sup>nd</sup> Street S.E., and Minnesota  
25 Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as the "Lawrence Boone, Sr. School".

26 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

27 The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Mayor, the  
28 District of Columbia Public Schools, and the Office of the Surveyor.

29 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

30 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
31 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
32 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).



33           Sec. 5. Effective date.

34           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
35 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
36 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
37 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
38 Columbia Register.

Jeanette M. Staton  
1046 Cook Drive SE  
Washington, DC 20032

February 26, 2018

**Why Benjamin Orr Elementary School Should Be Renamed:  
Lawrence Boone Elementary School**

*Bill 22-664, Lawrence Boone, Sr. School Designation Act of 2018*

My name is Jeanette Staton. I graduated from Orr in 1992, when Mr. Lawrence Boone was Principal. Mr. Boone encouraged my mother to transfer me from a private school, to Orr Elementary back in 1989; and that was the beginning to me unlocking my potential and greatness.

I can recall singing the following lyrics from our school's song:

*"We love our school, and honor thee, the mighty gold and green. We strive for excellence and greatness, to achieve our goals in life..."*

The lyrics of that song came to fruition because of the unwavering dedication and passion that Mr. Boone exemplified every day, as he walked the halls of such an amazing educational institution. I wasn't just a number to Mr. Boone, I was a student that he saw struggling, and yet somehow saw my potential.

He knew that I had only been in private school, and encouraged my mother to register me for summer school at Orr prior to the start of the new school year. His decision to have me attend summer school was one of a leader that understood the importance of a child being able to comfortably assimilate to the public school culture and curriculum.

When I officially stepped foot in Orr as a rising 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, I felt ready and prepared, because of the experience I received during summer school. During my educational journey at Orr, I not only improved my grades, but I went on to receive many academic honors, and formed amazing bonds and friendships along the way.

Receiving an education under the direction of Principal Boone, ignited a fire in me that has not dimmed, and couldn't be extinguished from the many challenges I would and continue to face in my never-ending pursuit to learn and cultivate my talents.

I stand before you to say this...Renaming the school is important for the community, students and solidifying his legacy. Renaming this educational institution Lawrence Boone Elementary School, will inspire the staff and every promising child, to get back to the educational, and overall basics of laying the foundation to becoming a Steward, Shepherd, and Servant as they achieve their goals in life.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. I relish the opportunity to drive down Minnesota Avenue and see Mr. Boones name on the side of that beautiful building that changed my life and perspective on education and success.

Hello Everyone,

I'm Littyce Boone, former DCPS Teacher, the Daughter and only child of Lawrence E Boone.

Before I go on, I want to make the slight name correction that's in This Bill. My father is not a Senior, his name is Lawrence Edward Boone. Can the Sr be taken off and his middle initial E be added? instead of the school being named Lawrence Boone Sr, it should be named Lawrence E Boone ES. I really appreciate it, if this correction can be made. Thank you so much for renaming Orr ES, after my father, the late Lawrence E Boone,. (March 19, 1936- July 18, 2013).

My Mother, Ruth Vaughn Boone, also a native Washingtonian, is his wife and widow. His granddaughter, Sharnetta Boone Ruffin, lives in here in Dc and attended DCPS. and his Grandson, Steven Lawrence Boone, attended DCPS and now lives in Georgia. He has two great grand daughters, Shaunah Boone (8), DCPS and Xena Boone (3) Georgia.

I am honored to share a little history of my father with you. Lawrence Edward Boone, "jack Rabbit" as he was called, is the second of 11 children. His father died when my dad was 14 years old.

He grew up in SW on Dixon/Dwyer's Court in his earlier life. He attended Smallwood and Ambush Elementary Schools. He also attended Randle Jr High School, winning in Amateur boxing and running track as a champion sprinter. He was one of many that came out of the first boys club in SW and played every sport at the schools playground and recreational center, He also loved and could sing, and was in a singing contest with Marvin Gaye.

He was a 1954 graduate of Paul Lawrence Dunbar high School, where he was the captain of the football team, and breaking school and city records for track. (This is how he received the nick name of "jack rabbit".

He had chosen Houston-Tillotson College, where he stayed on the honor roll, broke several track records, became the captain of the football team and pledge Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. After two years in Texas, he came back to DC.

He enrolled in DC teachers college, in the Health and PE Dept. and met Mr Frank Bolden, who he honored as helping him become the person he is. He continued playing football and also for the Cavaliers Football Team, which was a DCs neighborhood team, under the Washington Gridiron League and played against his friend, Dr Vincent Reed, former Superintendent of DCPS, who had played for stonewalls football team.

My father eventually, was invited to play professional football for the New York Titans, known today as the New York Jets, turned it down because, back then, maybe it wasn't as popular as it is today. I never did ask him why, but I loved watching him play.

He also became a member of one of DC areas kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he became great friends with Dr Gilbert Hoffman, former Asst and Dr Andrew Jenkins, former Superintendents of DCPS. He became one of the first AA Recreational Director of Playgrounds, at John Edgar Howard.

After graduating from DC Teachers College, he became a teacher at Madison-Taylor Elementary School in NE. While doing this, his years of teaching became the history of desegregation. He was asked to go teach at Lafayette Elementary, in 1966, becoming one of two first African American teachers appointed to this school.

After the riots in 1968, my father decided to come back to the inner city, and started teaching at Truesdell Laboratory Demonstration School. After two years, he was asked to become an Asst Principal at a combined school of Orr-Randle Highlands Elementary. After one year, and a new Orr School being built, he was asked and appointed Principal.

While at Orr, he and the school became a model for other staff to come and observe. He was also a mentor principal, member of the Council of School Officers, one of the first to start and implement the school uniform policy.

He received an award for the Best School Climate. He was one of the first to start the safety patrols, one of the first that helped sponsor an Elementary year book, school newspaper, present computers to the elementary schools, and had a computer lab named after him.

He was an awesome golf player on the Tee to Green Golf Club and volunteered to teach kids golf over at Langston Golf Course. He was a member of the Dunbar Alumni Federation Association. He definitely has an historical background.

Lastly, My Children and a host of his Nieces and nephews attended Orr. Orr school was and still remain a family oriented school where all are welcome, and the staff are awesome.

Yes, Lawrence E Boone, is the perfect positive name for a true Washingtonian with lots of great memories. A man who knew and was involved within the community  
What a great Birthday gift this is. (March 19, 1936)

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**DC Public Schools**



Public Hearing on B22-664, the “Lawrence Boone, Sr. School Designation Act of 2018”

Testimony of  
**Carolyn Jackson-Kim**  
Principal, Orr Elementary School, DC Public Schools

Before the  
Council of the District of Columbia  
Committee of the Whole  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman

February 26, 2018  
Room 123  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Committee, and staff. For the record, my name is Carolyn Jackson-King, and I am the Principal of Orr Elementary School. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you to discuss B22-664, the "Lawrence Boone, Sr. School Designation Act of 2018."

On behalf of Orr Elementary School, I strongly endorse renaming our school in honor of Lawrence Edward Boone, who was highly regarded in the District for his over two decade career as a public school principal and the outstanding positive influence he had in our community.

Orr Elementary provides children with supportive learning environments and dynamic educational experiences that enable them to achieve academic success, gain knowledge in core areas, and develop personal responsibility and integrity. Combining academics with a strong sense of community, we help our children become global citizens, problem solvers, and lifelong learners.

Recently, as a school, we have reflected on the meaning of our current name. For our community, we want to ensure that we are consistently putting the needs of our students first, focusing on equity and excellence, and always having the courage to change. These values, and the larger national conversation about America's legacy, led us to question the appropriateness of our current name. The school community feels that the current name does not align with our core beliefs and mission.

We also want to share with the Committee some of the ways that we have worked with our community. We engaged with current parents, students, and Orr alumni through conversations, surveys, and petitions, as well as reached out to our larger neighborhood, and received overwhelming support for this change. We believe Bill 22-664 will further our commitment to creating a positive school environment where all students feel loved, challenged, and prepared.

Lawrence Boone was a former principal at Orr Elementary School. He was raised in the Barry Farms community of southeast D.C., as the second oldest of ten siblings. Mr. Boone excelled in school academics and athletics, and he attended Dunbar High School.

Boone's perseverance and drive to achieve followed him to Houston-Tillison College. Upon his return to Washington, D.C., he attended Miner Teacher's College, where he majored and specialized in Elementary Education.

After graduating from Miner Teacher's College with honors, Boone pursued his career in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) where he excelled as a classroom teacher and then as an Assistant Principal at Randall Highlands Elementary School. Mr. Boone earned a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision from George Washington University. In 1973, Mr. Boone became the first Black principal of Orr Elementary School where he remained until his retirement in 1996. Mr. Boone was well regarded and well respected as principal by the

community, parents, and especially the students. During his tenure with DCPS, he mentored other DCPS principals at the Truesdell Laboratory School and taught adult education classes at Armstrong Senior High School. After his retirement from DCPS, Boone continued to work tirelessly in the community by mentoring and volunteering. After a long, hard battle with cancer, Lawrence Edward Boone, a pillar of the community, died on July 18, 2013. Among the hundreds who attended his home-going services, many were former students, professional colleagues, friends, and community members.

I have received numerous letters of support for renaming Orr Elementary to Lawrence E. Boone Elementary due to the personal contributions and sacrifices that Mr. Boone made to improve the lives of the people in Orr's community. Therefore, it is without reservation that I, too, endorse B22-664 to replace the name of Orr Elementary with Lawrence Boone School.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony today. I look forward to responding to any questions you may have.



Date: 2/21/2018

To: Ms. Hawthorne

From: Steven Boone Williams

Title: Grandson and former student

Subject: Orr to be renamed Lawrence Boone School

To Ms. Hawthorne,

My grandfather Lawrence Boone was a community leader in the Anacostia area. He dedicated his profession to helping children that came to his school, graduated, and moved on to the next levels. And in at those next levels, he still checked in on them, in person, to make sure they were still working towards their high school diplomas. But more than being a principal, He understood the community that he was in, and the people that lived in it. That area of DC was riddled with crime and drugs on an unimaginable level and he wanted to make a true difference while trying to keep as many kids as possible away from that life or its effects.

I remember a time when he walked me across the street to the corner store to get a huggie and some candy. We saw a girl that graduated years ahead of me from Orr. I didn't know her, but I think like she was either in the 8th or 9th grade. She was buying a carton of milk and some cereal when she saw my granddad and she gave him a hug. So my grandfather asked her "How are you doing, how's your mom?" To which the girl reply, "I'm fine and she's ok, just started a new job." When then proceed to walk this girl home which was about a block and a half away, and when we walked in the door, it was interesting to me to see that all the window curtains were up and she kept the door open. So then my granddad took her bag to put the cereal on the fridge and the milk inside the fridge. When he open the door, the fridge was completely bare with a water jug in it and a pack of bologna. I also noticed that the refrigerator light didn't come on. I then realized that the electricity was off in this house, which is why all the window curtains were open, to use the light before it became dark. So my grandad, gave her a hug and we said goodbye and walked out. As we were walking down the street back towards Orr, I remember him mumbling to himself, and I didn't know why. We went back to the corner store and he brought bags of stuff: eggs, bread, milk, water, juice, oatmeal, you name it, and we walked out with about 4 bags a piece. We then walked back up to the girl's house, and when she came to the door, she started crying and my granddad put the bags down and gave her a hug. We then put the groceries away, and then he left \$100 on the table and told her to tell her mom to pay the electricity bill when she comes home. I was in elementary school and that is still to this day, that is a memory I continue to carry about my grandfather.

My grandfather loved his teachers. He loved the energy and the dedication that they showed to their profession. There were times when he received phone calls at home from teachers asking for advice both for professional and personal reasons. Former students did this as well.

While he was sick, I was forced to talk to my grandfather via handwritten notes, where I would talk and he would write down his responses. I remember asking him "What would you have done differently in your life if you had the chance?" He wrote that he would've pushed back his retirement a few more years just to be able to continue to be at the school and in that

community everyday. I thought that was a odd thing to say. I mean who would want to go back to work after they had retired? But he really loved that school. He knew that the community takes pride in that school and the kids that have graduated from there take pride in that school as well. The pride for the school also was evident when I used to walk with him in the morning around the school and he would pick up trash and sweep the sidewalks before the other kids got there. I remember that well because every other car that passed beeped their horn at him to say hey, every cop that rose by stopped to say good morning to Mr. Boone, and every person that lived in that community knew who he was and show a great amount of appreciation for him as the principal.

To me, a school within a community like that should honor its building name to a man that really served his community. The name should be given to a person that long time residents actually know from personal experience. They didn't see him on tv, or in a film, or listened to him on the radio, they saw him for the man he was. They've had conversations with him, they've had kids that went to his school, they've seen him walk in the citywide safety patrol parades every year rain or shine. That's the true definition of who Lawrence Boone was, he was a man of the community, and I'm deeply blessed for sharing his name as well as having had a front row seat to his life and legacy.

Steven Lawrence Boone Williams



## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 8A

Government of the District of Columbia  
Anacostia/ Fairlawn/ Hillside/ Sheridan

### **Executive Officers**

February 22, 2018

Troy Donté Prestwood  
Chairman

Amanda Alexandra  
Interim Chancellor  
DC Public Schools  
1200 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

T'Chaka Sapp  
Vice Chair

Terri Acker  
Treasurer

Greta Fuller  
Secretary

Via Email: [amanda.alexandra@dc.gov](mailto:amanda.alexandra@dc.gov); [carolyn.jackson-king@dc.gov](mailto:carolyn.jackson-king@dc.gov)

**RE:** ANC 8A Support for Renaming Benjamin Orr Elementary School to Lawrence Boone, Sr. Elementary School

### **Commissioners**

Holly Muhammad  
SMD 8A01

Barbara J. Clark  
SMD 8A02

Terri Acker  
SMD 8A03

Troy Donté Prestwood  
SMD 8A04

Travon Hawkins  
SMD 8A05

Greta Fuller  
SMD 8A06

T'Chaka Sapp  
SMD 8A07

Dear Chancellor:

At its regularly scheduled, properly noticed meeting on January 9, 2018, with a quorum of 7 Commissioners present (a quorum is 4 of 7 Commissioners), Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 8A voted **6-0-1** to support the Orr Elementary Parent Teacher Organization's request to rename Benjamin Orr Elementary School to Lawrence E. Boone Sr. Elementary School in honor of Mr. Boone's decades-long legacy of dedicated leadership and service to DC Public Schools.

The students and parents at Orr Elementary School have worked hard in their quest to remove the name of Benjamin G. Orr who they discovered was a slave owner and is on record for selling a slave known as Pluto to James Madison, the soon to become U.S. President. History also notes that Orr Elementary School was built in 1902 for white students. The students in their quest to assert their dignity and eliminate this oppressive reminder of a history that has not yet been reconciled, collected petitions and lobbied the DCPS Chancellor in their efforts to have the name changed.

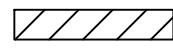
Mr. Lawrence E. Boone Sr. was the first African American Principal of Orr Elementary School from 1974 – 1996. He was also one of the first African American teachers in the D.C. Public Schools. He was well known in the Fairlawn community for his efforts to go above and beyond his call to duty to assist the students in whatever way possible so that they may be successful. Mr. Boone grew up in the District of Columbia and was a product of the DCPS System. He was a Dunbar Sr. High School Alumni Class of 1954, inducted into the DCIAA Hall of Fame, a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity member, and received many honors for his work as an educator. Mr. Boone touched the lives of many students over his many years of service and we support this small acknowledgement of his work.

Sincerely,

Mr. Troy Donté Prestwood  
Chairman

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A

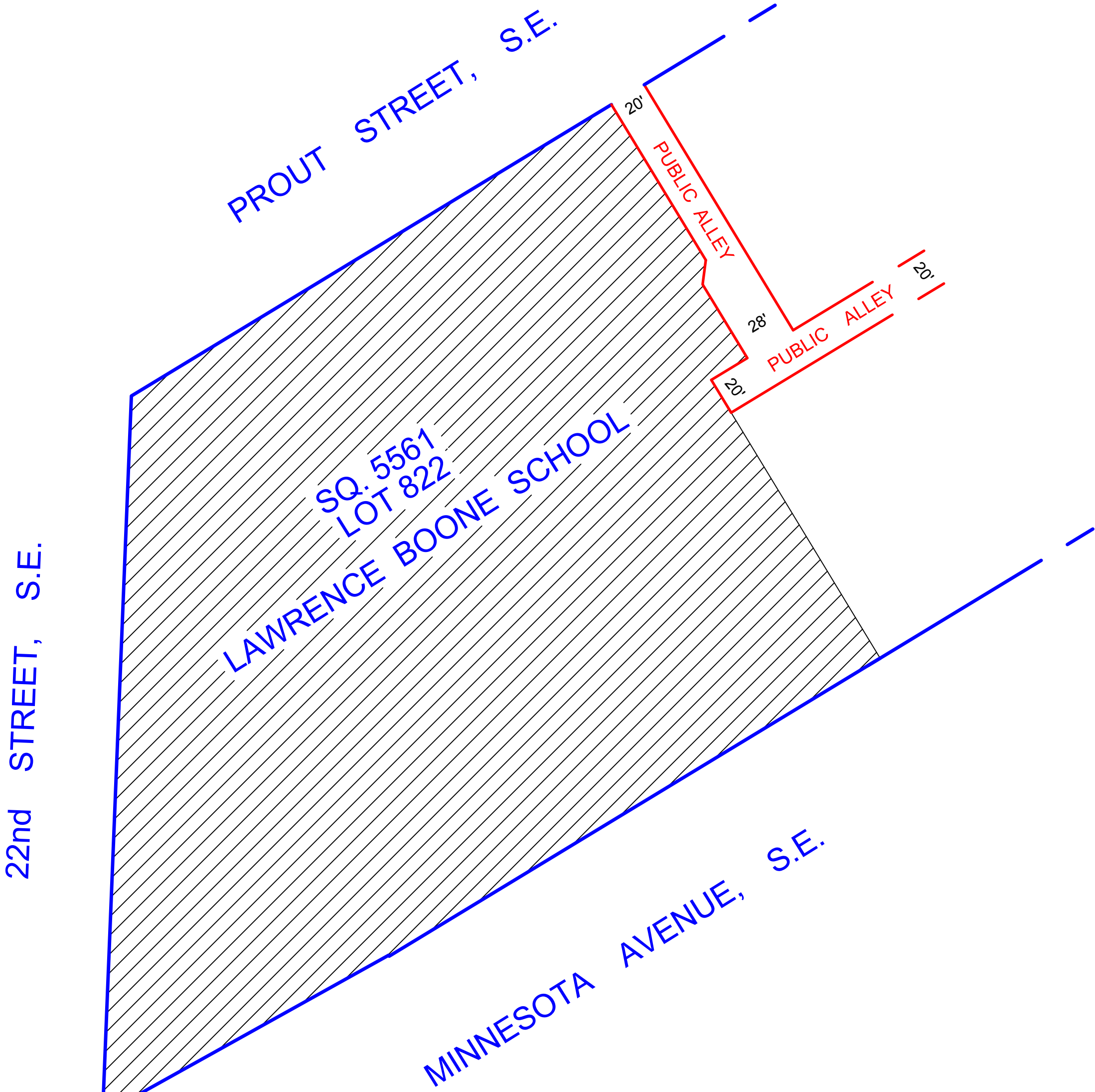
NAMING OF A SCHOOL  
SQUARE 5561  
LOT 822

PURSUANT TO D.C. LAW \_\_\_\_\_ EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_,  
THE AREA SHOWN THUS:  IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS  
" LAWRENCE BOONE SCHOOL".

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR, D.C.  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2018

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS CORRECT AND IS RECORDED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SURVEYOR, D.C.



SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, D.C.	
Made for: <u>DDOT</u>	
Drawn by: <u>A.S.</u>	Checked by: _____
Record and computations by: <u>B. MYERS</u>	
Recorded at: _____	
Recorded in Book _____	Page _____ SR-18-0000
Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet	File No. 18-11111

1 **March 20, 2018**  
2 **Committee of the Whole**  
3 **Committee Print DRAFT**  
4  
5

6 A BILL  
7

8  
9 22-664  
10

11  
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
13  
14  
15

16 To officially designate the school in Lot 822 in Square 5561, bounded by Nicholson Street, S.E.,  
17 Prout Street, S.E., 22nd Street, S.E., and Minnesota Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as  
18 Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
20 act may be cited as the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018”.

21 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 422 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition  
22 Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-  
23 204.01 and 9-204.22), the Council officially designates the school in Lot 822 in Square 5561,  
24 which is bounded by Nicholson Street, S.E., Prout Street, S.E., 22nd Street S.E., and Minnesota  
25 Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as the “Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School”.

26 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

27 The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Mayor, the  
28 District of Columbia Public Schools, and the Office of the Surveyor.

29 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

30 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
31 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
32 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

33           Sec. 5. Effective date.

34           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
35 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
36 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
37 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
38 Columbia Register.