


City Council Meeting
June 21, 2023

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

SECTION 1. That an ordinance heretofore passed by the city council which authorizes erection of honorary street name signs, the commissioner of transportation shall take the necessary action or standardization of SE corner of 81st St. & S. Blackstone Ave. and SE corner of 82nd St. & S. Blackstone Ave., to be known as “**Officer Aréannah M. Preston Way**”.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force hereinafter its passage and publication.


MICHELLE A. HARRIS
ALDERMAN, 8TH WARD

Police Officer Aréanah M. Preston

Aréanah M. Preston was born in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 7th, 1998 to Dionne and Allen Preston. As the true “firecracker” that she was, Aréanah had to be the first born amongst her beloved sisters, Amiyah and Amyrah. At a young age, Aréanah’s parents divorced leaving her mother to raise their three girls. However, at the age of 6, her mother Dionne, met and married Terrance Mhoon who was proud to take on the role as father. Being the oldest, Aréanah was revered as the protector of the “Triplets”, she was extremely passionate about all that she did and took pride in guiding and supporting her sisters in everything they did.

Aréanah began her early academic years at the south Side YMCA, which gave her the stepping-stones to be the leader she was destined to be. Aréanah then attended Robert A. Black Magnet Elementary School where she excelled academically and graduated with honors in 2012. While attending UIC Prep High School, Aréanah continued to flourish scholastically and developed a great love for cheerleading. She graduated from UIC College Preparatory High School in 2016. Aréanah enrolled in Illinois State University where she truly thrived. Aréanah joined the Women of Enlightenment Chapter of the National Association of Colored Women’s Club. She went on to study abroad in Germany. Aréanah’s dream was to work in the area of Forensic Science and was awarded her Bachelor of Science Degree on Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2019. Aréanah amazed everyone when she proudly joined the Chicago Police Department in May of 2021. Working to serve and protect, but most importantly, Aréanah continued her education earning her Master of Jurisprudence, with a concentration in Child and Family Law from Loyola University. On May 13, 2023 Aréanah’s family attended Loyola University’s graduation ceremony, accepting her degree, posthumously.

Affectionately known by those she loved as “Bae, Nani, RéRe, Captain, Seester, Aré and Officer”. Aréanah’s affectionate spirit spoke volumes! Aréanah had a sense of humor that was second to none and because of her lively personality, she never met a stranger. Aréanah’s outgoing character, appealing smile, and extraordinary ability to connect with people made everyone she encountered feel comfortable and at ease. Aréanah lived her life to the fullest, often traveling with family and friends. She was big on celebrating weddings, graduations, and holidays. Aréanah was a volunteer for the Leukemia Research Foundation working to raise funds, and bring awareness, and support to the families of leukemia patients.

Laughter was Aréanah’s superpower, and she was eager to share that with each person she knew or came in contact with. It is no coincidence that Aréanah loved sunflowers. Sunflowers symbolize happiness, optimism, honesty, longevity, peace, admiration, and devotion; all the qualities that encapsulate who Aréanah was as a daughter, sister, cousin, and friend.

Aréanah had an incredible love for cooking and an insatiable appetite for seafood. Although Aréanah had such a small frame, eating, especially seafood boils, and reading James Baldwin novels were two of her favorite pastimes. In addition, Aréanah enjoyed shopping and was an avid collector of fashionable gym shoes. She amassed an unimaginable amount of stylish gym shoes and at any given time you would find Aréanah dancing and singing about her latest purchase.

Aréanah touched the hearts and lives of so many people in a short amount of time. Her strong family values, selflessness, and compassion for others will forever live on. Aréanah leaves to

Aréannah touched the hearts and lives of so many people in a short amount of time. Her strong family values, selflessness, and compassion for others will forever live on. Aréannah leaves to honor and cherish her memory: mother and stepfather Dionne and Terance Mhoon; two sisters, Amirah and Amyrah; Uncle, Christopher (Adriana) Williams; her PaPa; her Big. Bria from NSCWC and friend Trenise; DJ (CPD Partn); her Chicago Police Department Family ; bonus sisters, Aájah, Paáshion, Tia; Aunt, Sonia (John); biological father, Allen Preston; paternal aunt, Anjela; special cousins, Jru and Madison; and a host of cousins, aunts, uncles, bonus family, and friends. Aréannah's grandmother, Jeannette Myer, preceded her in death on November 8, 2020.

There are not enough words to express how such a beautiful young person left such a strong legacy behind. Aréannah was "one of a kind", beloved by everyone. Her name will continue to live on.

Google Maps

