

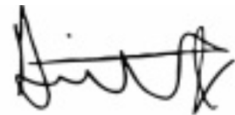
ORDINANCE

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, which allows for honorary street name designation (“Designation Ordinance”), the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of North Oak Park Avenue, from West Barry Avenue to West Wellington Avenue as “Honorary Coach Larry (Lawrence) Thurm Way.”

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Section 2-8-040 (b) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Designation Ordinance shall be accompanied by a Biography (“EXHIBIT A”), the Reason for honoring the individual or group (“EXHIBIT B”), and a Map indicating the blocks for the designation (“EXHIBIT C”).

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take full effect upon passage and publication.



Gilbert Villegas
Alderman, 36th Ward

EXHIBIT A

BIOGRAPHY OF LAWRENCE “LARRY” THURM

Lawrence “Larry” Thurm was a lifelong Chicagoan, born September 30, 1935. He attended Lakeview High School where he played football as a running back. He also played softball in high school and semiprofessionally. Larry married his sweetheart Dixie DeLong and lived on Henderson Street in Roscoe Village until after his three daughters got married in the early 1980s.

From Henderson Street, Larry moved to 2958 N Oak Park Avenue. Being a sports person, Larry would walk across the street to Bell Park to watch the children play T-Ball. He encouraged his children to bring his grandchildren to Bell Park to play T-Ball, so he and Dixie could watch them play and grow.

Larry and his children got involved in the Bell Park Advisory Council along with other neighborhood residents. When Larry found out that after children reached the age of 8 there was no option for neighborhood children to continue playing baseball locally, he started a movement to grow the baseball program.

Larry started the baseball league at Bell Park in 1985. He took the small community park and made it a vital part of the lives of thousands of youth throughout his 20 years of running the league. From starting at approximately 100-120 T-Ball players, the program grew to include both little league and high school age players. Larry brought so many neighborhood families into the park, and the program expanded to include both Rutherford Sayre Park and Riis Park. The program was age- and skill-appropriate, creating an American League with six teams of players aged 8-10, a National League of four teams with players aged 11-12, and a Major League of three teams with players aged 13-16 who did not play for a High School team. He built this program into one of the most respected baseball programs in the City of Chicago.

Through Larry’s passion, commitment, and leadership the league continued to grow year after year. Many players went on to play high school baseball, and several continued to also play NCAA baseball - with a couple of players making it into the Major League Baseball draft. While there were ups and downs in numbers over the years, the league is currently flourishing consisting of 14 teams. Many of the original players are still involved now as parents and coaches.

On October 29, 2023, at age 88, Larry passed away, surrounded by his loving family. Larry was the most loving and devoted husband of Dixie Thurm; loving Dad of Lorrie (Harold) Turrentine, Sherri Brock, and Shelly Lyon; adoring grandfather of Hal (Jenna) Turrentine, Jef (Crystal) Turrentine, Stevin (Katie) Turrentine, Lorne (Natalie) Turrentine, Aaron (Lisa) Brock, Sean Lyon, Brendan Lyon, Kevin (Kristin) Lyon, Tim Lyon, and the late Ryne Brock; most adoring great-grandfather of Jude, Violet and Penny Brock, Laura, Maria and Sara Lyon, Zack, Hailey and Mackenzie Turrentine, Jake, Chase and Clay Turrentine, Deskin Turrentine, and Emmett, Logan and Miles Turrentine; unforgettable uncle; caring cousin, and fond friend of many.

EXHIBIT B

REASONS FOR HONORING LARRY THURM

The 36th Ward is honoring Larry Thurm for his numerous contributions to the community and the many children who have played baseball and learned life lessons and sportsmanship through participating in the programs Larry helped to create and grow. Larry's dedication to the Galewood and Montclare neighborhoods will always be cherished and will never be forgotten.

The Northwest corner of N Oak Park Ave and W Wellington Ave, and the Southwest corner of N Oak Park Ave and W Barry Ave would be the perfect placement for signs acknowledging Larry's contribution to the Bell Park community and the many families and children who have been part of his dedicated work. These locations encompass the Eastern boundary of Bell Park and both Baseball Diamonds and will provide maximum exposure to the community. Through this ordinance, we stand to name this section of N Oak Park Ave: **Honorary Coach Larry (Lawrence) Thurm Way**

EXHIBIT C

MAP

DESIGNATION BLOCK:

N. Oak Park Avenue, from W. Barry Avenue to W Wellington Avenue.

Signs will be placed at:

- Northwest Corner of N. Oak Park Avenue and W. Wellington Avenue
- Southwest Corner of N. Oak Park Avenue and W. Barry Avenue

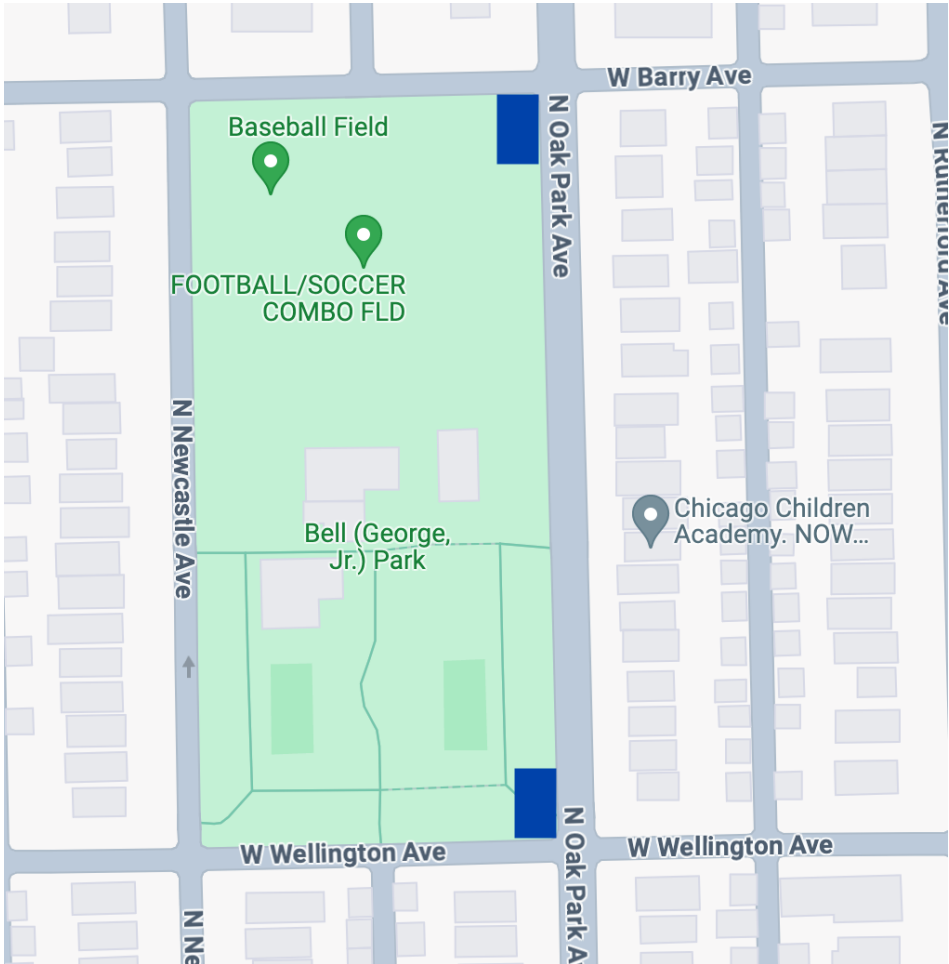


EXHIBIT D

AUTHORIZATION FORM

2/13/2024

Office of Budget and Management
121 N. LaSalle, Room 604
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Gilbert Villegas, Alderman of the 36th Ward, hereby authorize the Office of Budget Management to withdraw the funds associated with the cost of installation for this honorary street: "Coach Larry (Lawrence) Thurm Way" designation for \$660 from my:

- Ward's annual menu program budget
- Ward's aldermanic expense allowance

upon passage of this honorary street designation ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-8- 040 of the Chicago Municipal Code.

Sincerely,



Gilbert Villegas
Alderman 36th Ward