

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS Keith Ovid Tate dedicated most of his life in civic service to this city's south side neighborhood of Chatham; and

WHEREAS Keith Tate was the oldest of the three children of Elwin Tate and Ola M. Dixon. In 1955, when he was six years old, The Tate family moved to the Chatham community. During that year a bond was formed for the betterment of the community when his father, along with Washington Birney and former alderman and judge William Cousins founded the Chatham and Avalon Park Community Council (CAPCC); and

WHEREAS these CAPCC leaders, along with other residents, made it their mission to achieve excellence in educational opportunities, business development, quality housing, and crime reduction for their community. Keith's father served as executive vice-president in 1983 and in 1987, he became its president. The elder Tate would bring Keith along to the meetings on the second Monday of each month where sense of responsibility for the community was nurtured in Keith at an early age; and

WHEREAS, following in his father's footsteps, Keith Tate served as the Executive Vice President and President of CAPCC for more than two decades. Under his leadership he supported Camilla Render and several hundred residents in advocating for neighborhood vitality, an initiative known as "Arms Around Chatham". They raised money to buy two vacant lots to be used for community development and organized events such as holding hands around the Chatham community boundaries where the late Mayor Harold Washington joined the group. The event was featured on "60 Minutes"; and

WHEREAS, a revered leader and community advocate, Keith Tate and CAPCC fought alongside former alderman and Congressman Bobby Rush to bring businesses such as Target, Nike and Chase Bank to the community. Not only did they bring jobs to the community, but they also got these companies to employ African Americans in management positions; and

WHEREAS one of the most powerful financial developments that CAPCC helped implement during Keith Tate's administration involved an investor buyback deal with Home Depot. About 40 Chatham and West Chatham investors bought the land where Home Depot now sits and leased it to the corporation. Local investors still control this vital land resource and continue to receive dividends; and

WHEREAS Keith Tate recruited younger people to pass on the torch. He worked to increase property values, and took actions to get better jobs, restaurants, and schools in the community. His manner was always diplomatic and had a fair demeanor with everyone from the bank president to the bus driver to the unemployed mother to the schoolteacher. In 2015, Keith was elected as the President Emeritus by the Board of Directors of CAPCC and was the longest serving resident of all its presidents; now, therefore.

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 erection of honorary street name designations, the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of East 79th Street, between South Rhodes Avenue and South St. Lawrence Avenue, as "Keith O. Tate Memorial Way."

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

WILLIAM E. HALL
Alderman – 6th Ward

REASON FOR HONORING

Keith O. Tate's civic contributions to the Chatham community were legendary and continue to have a significant impact on its development and prosperity.

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