

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS Mamie Elizabeth Till-Mobley, born Mamie Elizabeth Carthan on November 23, 1921, in Webb, Mississippi, was a remarkable American educator and activist, whose life was profoundly marked by her unwavering commitment to civil rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley was the mother of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy who tragically lost his life on August 28, 1955, in Mississippi, a horrifying event that became a turning point in the struggle for civil rights. Her courage and determination in the face of unimaginable grief were evident when she insisted on an open-casket funeral for her son, Emmett, so that the world could bear witness to the brutality and injustice that had taken his life; and

WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley's early life was marked by her family's migration from the Southern United States to the Chicago area during the Great Migration, where she overcame adversity and excelled in her studies, becoming the first African-American student to make the "A" Honor roll and one of the few African-American students to graduate from a predominantly white high school; and

WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley's activism and advocacy for civil rights intensified after her son Emmett's brutal murder, and she became a powerful voice for racial justice and an effective public speaker, using her personal tragedy to inspire hope, unity, and determination among audiences nationwide; and

WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley's dedication to education was exemplified by her 23 years of teaching in the Chicago public school system, as well as her establishment of "The Emmett Till Players," a theater group that used famous speeches by civil rights leaders to inspire young students. Her pursuit of education continued as she graduated from Chicago Teachers College and obtained a master's degree in educational administration from Loyola University Chicago, further demonstrating her commitment to empowering future generations; and

WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley's legacy extends to the creation of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, which played a significant role in the passage of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2008 and the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016; and

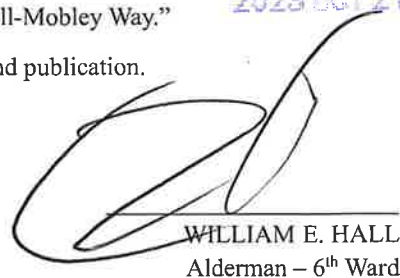
WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley's remarkable life story has been brought to a wider audience through the film "Till," the television drama "Women of the Movement," and her portrayal by Danielle Deadwyler and Adrienne Warren, respectively. Her memoir, "Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America," coauthored with Christopher Benson, shared her family's story and the impact of her son's death on the nation; and

WHEREAS Mamie Till-Mobley's struggle for racial equality and social justice deserve the utmost recognition and appreciation of her determination to seek justice for her son, her dedication to education and the extraordinary contribution she has made to the cause of civil rights in the United States; 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 South Wabash Avenue, between East 83rd Street and East 85th Street, as "Honorary Maimie Till-Mobley Way."

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


WILLIAM E. HALL
Alderman – 6th Ward

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.
2023 OCT 27 PM3:10

REASON FOR HONORING

Mamie Till-Mobley's dedication to justice, education, and civil rights has left an indelible mark on the nation, inspiring future generations to fight for equality and justice. 8434 S. Wabash Avenue is the residence where she lived until her death on January 6, 2003.

MAP

