

MOTION PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTIO

Sweet Alice Harris is the Founder and CEO of Parents of Watts, a social services organization that she started out of her home in the mid-1960s as a way to alleviate tensions in her neighborhood after the 1965 riots.

Born in Alabama in 1934, Harris experienced poverty, homelessness and single motherhood as a teenager. Her childhood and youth, while some of the most trying times of her life, would motivate her to lead a life of making a difference for young people. After moving to Los Angeles, she witnessed the 1965 Watts Rebellion. As a way to help ease the tensions in her community that followed, Harris and a group of volunteers worked out of her house to help rebuild the community. Linking with other civic groups, she formed the Black and Brown Committee, which eventually became the Parents of Watts in 1979 and was incorporated in 1983.

Today, Parents of Watts operates more than 15 programs in eight houses purchased by Harris. It provides emergency food and shelter for the homeless, tutoring, health seminars and parenting classes, literacy courses, drug counseling, college and career preparation, and housing assistance for anyone who needs it.

In 1993, Essence magazine presented Harris with an award for her work. In 2002, California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante named Harris "Woman of the Year," in honor of her community outreach efforts through Parents of Watts. In 2007, The Women's Conference awarded Harris a Minerva Award. In 2008, Harris received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Southern California. In that year, she was also named one of U.S. President George H. Bush's "Points of Light", bestowed upon citizens who made a significant impact in their communities through volunteer work. On October 8, 2015, Harris was honored with the Community Leadership Award during California State University, Dominguez Hills' (CSUDH) Founders' Dinner.

She has also been politically active in her community hosting events with local, state, and federal officials over her long career. She has created relationships with councilmembers, state assembly members, and members of Congress, ensuring that Watts has access to resources that it deserves.

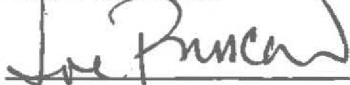
Sweet Alice has continued her work as an advocate in Watts to this day, she hosts several community events and giveaways. Every Thanksgiving and Christmas she gives away free meals and gifts ensuring that the children and families of Watts never go without during the holidays.

With over 50 years of volunteer work in her community in Watts, she is one of the community's most prominent community activists who has dedicated her life to mentoring youth in Watts.

In recognition of Sweet Alice Harris' remarkable achievements, it is appropriate that the City honor her by renaming a portion of Lou Dillon Ave in her honor.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Engineer be DIRECTED to initiate the process of changing the name of Lou Dillon Ave from E 103rd St to Santa Ana Blvd to "Sweet Alice Avenue"

PRESENTED BY:

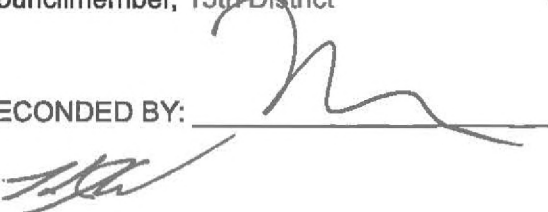


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District



HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY:



AUG 27 2019

ORIGINAL