

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

In the 1970s, the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) undertook a bold and visionary effort to expand affordable homeownership opportunities for working families in Watts. Through extraordinary determination, the organization relocated 39 ranch-style homes from Westchester and carefully placed them in the heart of Watts, near Success Avenue and East 102nd Street. This community came to be known as “Franklin Square”.

What began as an experiment in ingenuity and resilience became a cornerstone of neighborhood pride. Despite the challenges that arose over the decades, most of the original homes remain standing today, many still held by the very families who were first entrusted with them. The project accomplished its ultimate goal of providing homeownership in Watts through its unique model.

Today, Franklin Square endures as a vital thread in the cultural and historical fabric of Watts. Its story deserves recognition and preservation in the City’s history, not merely as a housing project, but as a living monument to the power of community vision, the determination of Watts families, and the enduring hope of homeownership.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection of East 102nd Street and Courtney Street in Watts be designated as “Franklin Square”, and that the Department of Transportation be directed to install permanent ceremonial signage at this location in its honor.

PRESENTED BY:

TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL

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