

MOTION

Mary Clay opened the Mary Clay School in the West Adams Neighborhood of today’s Council District 10 in 1959 to provide childcare and education for the children of working families during a time when Black families had few affordable options for daycare services and early childhood education.

The Mary Clay School would quickly become renowned for its trailblazing work, becoming the first private kindergarten accredited by the Los Angeles school system, and receiving other professional awards and recognition. Alongside its success in the professional field of education, the school also became a popular choice for working families enrolling their children in early education and saw a waitlist of potential students.

Mary Clay led the school until her death from cancer in 1971, after which Clay’s daughter-in-law, Eleanor “Sue” Clay, assumed leadership of the school. Under Eleanor’s direction, the school became an important site for teacher training and early childhood research for the local universities and community colleges, partnering with the University of Southern California, the University of California, Los Angeles and the community colleges of East Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, and El Camino.

While the Mary Clay School would eventually close its doors in 1998, the school has left a profound legacy in the City over its half century of serving local families and providing the educational foundation for many of the City’s residents.

In recognition of the historical, cultural, and educational legacy of the Mary Clay School, it is appropriate that the City name the intersection of W. Adams Boulevard and 10th Avenue, adjacent to the school’s location from 1959 to 1998, as “Mary Clay School Square.”

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at W. Adams Boulevard and 10th Avenue be named as “**Mary Clay School Square**” and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY: 
HEATHER HUTT
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

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MAR 04 2026