

CHARLES HAMILTON **HOUSTON BOULEVARD**

Street Co-Naming Resolution

Whereas: *Charles Hamilton Houston (Born, September 3, 1895 – Died, April 22, 1950) Was the great legal mind who played the critical role in dismantling the Jim Crow Laws He Invented Civil Rights Law as a Discrete Field of Study and Practice*

Whereas: This following quote demonstrates the depth of his commitment to his people, against injustice and the powerful results that can occur when you combine that with an excellent mind!

"The hate and scorn showered on us Negro officers by our fellow Americans convinced me that there was no sense in my dying for a world ruled by them. I made up my mind that if I got through this war I would study law and use my time fighting for men who could not strike back."

Whereas: *He was the first Black Editor of the Harvard Law Review and as Leader of the Howard University School of Law was responsible for its evolution from a Night School into being fully accredited and respected by the ABA and the American Association of University Law Schools*

Whereas: *He trained future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, among a whole generation of great Black Attorneys and developed and taught the socially responsible concept of **Black Lawyers also being "Social Engineers"** - His Struggle Transcending All Labels*

Whereas: *Specificly appointed as the First Special Counsel to the NAACP in 1935, he lived here in Harlem - initially at the 135St YMCA and then later moving to the "**Dunbar Apartments**" with his wonderful caring and loyal wife - it was here that he won the "Gaines" Case in the Supreme Court*

Whereas: *As "**The Man Who Killed Jim Crow**", he played a role in nearly every Civil Rights case before the Supreme Court between 1930 and 1954. He developed the brilliant plan to use the inequality principle of "Separate but Equal" imbedded in "Plessy vs. Ferguson" in the United States to attack and defeat segregation. It was the Legal Genius in his Strategically Masterful 20 Year Plan that became the Roadmap that led to the Landmark "Brown vs. BOE" Decision.*

Whereas: *Among his other critically important legal breakthroughs were by Legal Abolishment with a Finding of Unconstitutionality - Racially Segregated Juries - Racially Restricted Real Estate Covenants - and The Right to Work & for Blacks to be Fairly Represented by their Labor Unions.*

Resolved: *Arguably "**the Greatest Lawyer of the 20th Century**"; he was a Role Model who made this world a better place, altering and intensifying our understanding of Jurisprudence and our Society, though all to many of us have never known the incredible importance of his Legacy and his Contributions, which are what makes it truly past time for our Community, our City, and our Country to remember, recognize, and suitably honor our former Neighbor and a Great Harlemite -*

Charles Hamilton Houston

*by CoNaming 155th Street from Edgecombe Avenue to the Henry Hudson Parkway -
Charles Hamilton Houston Boulevard*