

COUNT BASIE PLACE

Street Co-Naming Resolution

Whereas: *Count (William) Basie - Pianist, Composer, Band Leader born 8/21/04 - died 4/26/84, was a true member of Music Royalty in the Twentieth Century.*

Whereas: *His spare, clean keyboard style and supple rhythmic drive made his Orchestra one of the most influential groups of the Big Band era. He was, along with Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, among the pre-eminent band leaders of the Big Band era in the 1930's and 1940's. Mr. Basie's band, more than any other, was the epitome of Swing; Jazz that moves with a built-in flowing intensity. Among some of his bands greatest and most memorable music pieces were "Li'l Darlin" and "April in Paris." His masterful and elegant piano style was an exquisite realized condensation of the "Stride" style of Fats Waller and James P. Johnson with whom he got his start as a young man.*

Whereas: *He was unostentatious man, whose presence was nonetheless a key and vital factor in directing towards excellence his own band or any other group of musicians with whom he played.*

Resolved: *Although showered with many awards and much recognition while he was alive, it is past time for our Community to recognize and honor our Neighbor and a Great Harlemite - Count William Basie, by Co-Naming 160th Street between St. Nicholas Avenue and Edgecombe Avenue - Count Basie Place.*