

# MATTHEW HENSON

## PLAZA

### *Street Co-Naming Resolution*

**Whereas:** *Matthew Henson - Linguist , Sailor, Craftsman, Author, Poet, Explorer, Born 4/15/1889 - Died 5/16/1979, **Co-Discoverer of the North Pole** is universally considered the greatest Black Explorer of the Twentieth Century.*

**Whereas:** *People now know that America would not have won the Multi-National **Race to the North Pole** - which was the equivalent in our time of the - **“Race to the Moon”** - without the contribution of his many skills and competencies*

**Whereas:** *He exploded a great many stereotypes about Blacks - not the least of which was the ability to thrive in the ultra-cold Artic environment - indeed his name among the Eskimos was **“The Kind One”** - and they respected him as a Brother*

**Whereas:** *That he was successful and effective in these incredibly dangerous groundbreaking initiatives was because of his hard won credibility and also that strategically he knew when to accept the limitations of the Cold Hard North and how to transcend the incredibly racist society of his time*

**Whereas:** *He was an unostentatious, beautifully humored, and balanced man, whose presence was nonetheless a key and vital factor in directing towards excellence any team of men with whom he worked. It was in his Poetry - later discovered in his Diary - in which he expressed so eloquently his desire that if he be remembered - it should be not for his words - but for his Deeds*

**Resolved:** *Although he was a Role Model who made this world a better place, and received many awards while he was alive, it is past time for our Community to remember, recognize, and suitably honor our neighbor (as a longtime resident of the “Dunbar Apartments”) and a Great Harlemiter -*

***Matthew Henson** by Co-Naming Frederick Douglass Boulevard and MaCombs Place between 149th and 150th Streets -*

**MATTHEW HENSON PLAZA**

