



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**HENRIETTA LYLE**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

**BISHOP WILLIAM LEE BONNER STREET CO-NAMING RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION:** To support the Co-Naming at the intersection of West 124<sup>th</sup> street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd Jr. to **BISHOP WILLIAM LEE BONNER SQUARE**

**WHEREAS:** William Lee Bonner, affectionately known as Bishop Bonner, was pastor of the Greater Refuge Temple Church (GRT) in Harlem and Chief Apostle of the Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop Bonner was a world renowned Pentecostal Leader, builder, college founder, book author who built an international organization, landmark educational institutions and churches reaching millions in his ministry.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop Bonner leaves a rich legacy of spiritual leadership and community contributions which includes the repair of Refuge Temple; distribution of food within the community; giving of scholarships such as **STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**; building a water transportation system in villages in Liberia, Africa where his wife also taught.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop William Lee Bonner, third of five children, was born to Emmett and Janie Bonner, in the small town of Milledgeville, Georgia, on November 12, 1921.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop William Lee Bonner was sent to become the pastor of the GRT after the death of its founder Bishop Robert Clarence Lawson, in 1961. He then, as general contractor, renovated the edifice that stands today on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop William Lee Bonner served as senior prelate of the General Assembly of the Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith. Under his administration, the assembly has grown from 155 churches in 1961, to over 500 churches and missions throughout the world.

**WHEREAS:** His supporters experienced his evangelistic ministry via “The Hour of Truth” broadcast which aired on the nationally syndicated BET and The Word Network, as well as, radio stations across the country and via live stream.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop William Lee Bonner established W.L. Bonner College in 1995. The college has educational opportunities for bachelor, associate, certificate and continuing education in religious studies and Christian ministries.

**WHEREAS:** Bishop William Lee Bonner passed away on Friday, April 3, 2015. While a grand home going celebration of his life was held in Detroit, MI and other celebrations were held at the Greater Refuge Temple on Thursday, April 23, 2015 and at the Palace Cathedral on Friday, April 24, 2015 in New York City.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Manhattan Community Board 10 wishes to remember **Bishop William Lee Bonner** by formally requesting that New York City Council and the Mayor of New York City enact legislation to Co-Name the intersection of West 124<sup>th</sup> Street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd Jr. to **BISHOP WILLIAM LEE BONNER SQUARE** on December 2, 2015 by a vote of **25 YES 4 NO 2 ABSTENTIONS**.