

## SPONSORS:

Barry Tyler Jr., 3rd District Councilman

Katrina Alexander, Councilwoman at Large

**RESOLUTION NO. R 08****A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ANNIE BURNS HICKS FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS  
AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHER WITHIN THE CITY OF HAMMOND  
(as amended)**

**WHEREAS**, Annie Burns Hicks was born to Albert and Mary Burns in 1937 as the oldest of 13 siblings in Mississippi and later moved to Hammond, Indiana in 1944 after her father witnessed the public lynching of two young black boys;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Burns Hicks attended Maywood Elementary School and graduated from Hammond High School in 1954;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Burns Hicks graduated from Ball State Teachers College (now Ball State University) in Muncie, Indiana in 1958 and eventually obtained a Master's Degree from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois;

**WHEREAS**, She began teaching 5th grade in Gary, Indiana in 1958 and in 1959, five years after the Brown v. Board of Education decision, Mrs. Burns Hicks, at 23-years-old, filed a lawsuit against the School City of Hammond and then superintendent, Lee Caldwell, for this discriminatory practice as they had ignored her application and told her "Hammond was not ready for a black school teacher";

**WHEREAS**, Throughout the lawsuit, Mrs. Burns Hicks was represented by attorney Richard Hatcher, who would later become Gary, Indiana's first African American Mayor;

**WHEREAS**, After the lawsuit was settled, Mrs. Burns Hicks was hired as the first African American school teacher within the School City of Hammond and began her 40 year teaching career in 1960;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Burns Hicks taught primarily first grade for over 40 years at Maywood Elementary School;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Burns Hicks co-authored the first full day kindergarten program in Hammond, Indiana, instituted a formal reading program into Maywood's full day kindergarten, and worked in the first Head Start staff program;

**WHEREAS**, In January of 2022, the School City of Hammond Board of Trustees voted 5-0 in favor of renaming Maywood Elementary School to Annie Burns Hicks Elementary in honor of the service and dedication exemplified by Mrs. Burns Hicks during her time as a Hammond educator;

RESOLUTION NO. R 08

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ANNIE BURNS HICKS FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS AS  
THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHER WITHIN THE CITY OF HAMMOND**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Burns Hicks opened doors for other African American educators and leaders within the City of Hammond as she taught and inspired generations of students and families to be the best they could be in support of their community and making the world a better place;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Hammond that the Common Council on behalf of the citizens of the City of Hammond duly recognize Mrs. Annie Burns Hicks for her contributions as the first African American teacher within the City of Hammond.

RESOLVED this 25th day of April, 2022.



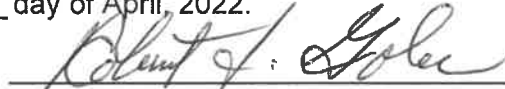
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Dave Woerpel  
President /s/ Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



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ROBERT J. GOLEC, City Clerk /s/

PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond to the Mayor said City for approval on the 26th day of April, 2022.



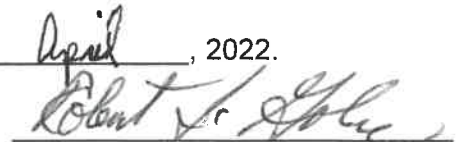
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ROBERT J. GOLEC, City Clerk /s/

The foregoing Resolution No. R 08 consisting of three (2) typewritten pages, including this page, approved by the Mayor on the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2022.



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THOMAS M. MCDERMOTT, JR.,  
Mayor /s/City of Hammond, Indiana

PASSED by the Common Council on the 25th day of April, 2022.



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ROBERT J. GOLEC, City Clerk /s/

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