



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
ONE ROOSEVELT SQUARE

DERRICK THOMPSON
CITY COUNCILMAN
DThompson@mountvernonny.gov

MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
(914) 665-2352 FAX (914) 668-6044
www.cmvny.com

COUNCILMEMBERS
Danielle Browne, Esq., President
Jaevon Boxhill
Cathlin Gleason
Edward Poteat
Derrick Thompson

CHAIR, STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

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PUBLIC SAFETY & CODES

February 24, 2025

I am writing to formally recommend the renaming of the 4th Street Park in honor of legendary professional basketball player Gus "The Wizard" Williams. As a distinguished athlete and role model, Mr. Williams has made significant contributions to the sport and has been an inspiration to our community. Naming 4th Street Park after him would be a fitting tribute to his legacy and an enduring source of pride for the Mount Vernon community.

4th Street Park has a rich basketball heritage and has been instrumental in developing numerous talented players. The park's courts have been a nurturing ground for athletes, attracting scouts from major colleges. One of the most notable figures associated with this park is Gus "The Wizard" Williams. Born on October 10, 1953, in Mount Vernon, Mr. Williams honed his skills at Mount Vernon High School, leading the team to a state championship in 1971.

Gus Williams, known for his exceptional skill, leadership, and sportsmanship, played a pivotal role in professional basketball, earning multiple accolades throughout his career. His impact extends beyond the court, as he has remained an influential figure in promoting athletics, perseverance, and excellence. Renaming 4th Street Park as "Gus 'The Wizard' Williams Park" would not only recognize his achievements but also serve as motivation for future generations.

I respectfully urge the passage of legislation to rename the 4th Street Park as the "Gus 'The Wizard' Williams Park" with a renaming plaque ceremony at the park later this year. Auxiliary Police Officers would be needed for traffic control and for the safety of the participants. Invitations would go out to local, County and State officials as well as news coverage and social media announcements.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this important measure. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to celebrate an esteemed athlete who has left a lasting mark on our community.

Sincerely,

Derrick Thompson

Mount Vernon City Council