



From the Desk of
Ivory Lee Young, Sr.
Retired Sergeant Major United States Army

June 23, 2019

Dear Councilmember Bond:

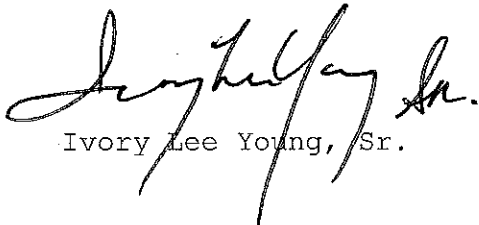
I recently learned about an initiative to rename the Rodney Cook Sr. Park located in Historic Vine City, in the heart of the District previously under the leadership of my late son and namesake, Ivory Lee Young Jr. I felt compelled to let my support be known to preserve the current name for the park.

I have reviewed my son's working papers created for this project and his research connected with Rodney Cook Sr including his direct descendant, John Mims purchase and donation of the land to build the first Atlanta City Hall, Rodney Cook's own resolution on the floor of the Georgia House of Representative to take down the "Peyton Wall", designed to keep black citizens from moving into the white section of Atlanta to the more recent altruistic offer made by the Mims family in 2002 toward District Three's recovery from the flood.

To that end, I stand with the many members of the Civil Rights Community with keeping the park's name as it stands along with its signature of "Peace". Ivory Jr. loved his beloved Vine City Community and fought until his dying day against racism, discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice. I hope you will also respect my son's legacy and stand alongside of Ivory's family to allow the greatness and ideals for which the Honorable Rodney M. Cook fought, reign over the beautiful green space envisioned by the designers as a symbol of peace and love and a true lightning rod for the additional progress that will undoubtedly follow.

In the absence of standing beside you in your effort, I hope you will use this letter as you see fit to allow my position to be known. I thank you for your efforts towards this important cause.

Sincerely,


Ivory Lee Young, Sr.