

SPONSORS: Barry Tyler Jr., 3rd District Councilman
& the Entire Hammond Common Council

RESOLUTION NO. R04

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING APRIL 28TH AS "ANNIE BURNS HICKS DAY" WITHIN THE CITY OF HAMMOND

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, 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;

RESOLUTION NO. R 04

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING APRIL 28TH AS "ANNIE BURNS HICKS DAY"
WITHIN THE CITY OF HAMMOND

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;

WHEREAS, On April 25, 2022, The Hammond City Council unanimously voted to recognize the historical contributions of Mrs. Burns Hicks by passing Resolution R22-08;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hammond that Mrs. Annie Burns Hicks be recognized for opening doors for other African American educators and leaders while inspiring generations of students and families to be the best they can be in support of their community, by establishing the 28th Day of April as Annie Burns Hicks Day within the City of Hammond.

Adopted this 24th day of April, 20 23

Scott M. Rakos
Scott Rakos, President
Common Council


ATTEST:

Robert J. Golec
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond,
to the Mayor of said City for his approval on the 25th day of April,
20 23.

Robert J. Golec
Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

The foregoing Resolution Number R04 consisting of three (3) typewritten pages, including this page, approved by the Mayor on this 25th Day of April, 2023.



Thomas M. McDermott., Mayor
City of Hammond, Indiana

PASSED by the Common Council on the 24th day of April, 2023, and Approved, by the Mayor on the 25th day of April, 2023.



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk .