

CITY COUNCIL VOTE REGARDING "HAMPTON WAY"

21 March 2006

Dear Members,

In reference to the City Council considering naming a street after the late Fred Hampton, we have been informed that the vote will not take place on March 29th. Alderman Tom Allen, Chair of the Transportation and Public Way Committee, assured the Lodge today that he will not call the ordinance out of Committee at the March 29th meeting. Any attempt to call the ordinance up from the floor will be futile due to the fact that it cannot be done until 60 days have passed from the time it was presented in Committee. This means that as long as the Chairman does not call it up for a vote, no one else can do so until after 28 April.

The renaming of a portion of a street on the west side after former Black Panther Chairman Fred Hampton was proposed by his then Panther Defense Minister and now Congressman, Bobby Rush. Along with Rush in this attempt is Fred Hampton's son who was recently paroled from prison after being convicted of firebombing businesses in the Englewood Community. These individuals, through their actions, are attempting to re-write history of what the Panthers stood for based on their "feelings and opinions".

The Lodge has taken the position it has based on fact rather than opinion. The facts show that Hampton was killed in the course of a search warrant by members of a team headed by the then Cook County States Attorney. While executing the warrant, the Law Enforcement Officers were fired upon and the ensuing gun battle left Hampton and Mark Clark dead and others on both sides of the battle wounded. A federal grand jury investigated the shooting, based upon the complaints of then Defense Minister Rush and others, and cleared all that had been accused by the Panthers.

A total of nine Law Enforcement Officers have been killed by the Panthers across the country with countless others wounded. Their mantra of "offing the pig" poisoned the minds of young and often feeble-minded members of the community. To make the argument that it was being done to fight the injustices is a slap in the face to the true leaders of the Civil Rights Movement in this country.

We will keep you posted as to when this issue will come for a vote in City Council and we ask that you stand with us in opposing this tragedy. We not only owe it to the families who had their loved ones taken, we owe it to ourselves and the integrity we all possess as Police Officers.

The Board of Directors

Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7