City of Chicago

O2023-1260

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	3/15/2023
Sponsor(s):	Sawyer (6)
Type:	Ordinance
Title:	Honorary street designation as "Honorary Prince Asiel Ben Israel Way"
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Transportation and Public Way

ORDINANCE

WHEREAS Prince Asiel Ben Israel, formerly known as Warren Brown, was an outstanding and remarkable worldwide spiritual leader who graduated from Dunbar Vocational High School in 1959, and

WHEREAS Warren Brown furthered his education at DePaul University in Chicago and focused on international studies at the University of Ghana, in Accra, Ghana, as well as Makerere University, in Kampala, Uganda. In addition, he received a doctorate from the School of Interactive Theology at the School of the Prophets Institute, in Dimona, Israel; and

WHEREAS Warren brown eventually joined the African Hebrew Israelite Nation of Jerusalem and took the name Prince Asiel Ben Israel and left America with a charter group of 350 African Americans, (mainly from Chicago) for the Holy Land where they settled primarily in the city of Dimona on the outskirts of the Negev Desert. This group that grew to 2,500 adopted Judaism as their principles of living; and

WHEREAS Prince Asiel Ben Israel served as that community's international ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, championing peace and unity in Chicago, Israel, Africa, and throughout the world for more than 50 years. In 1981, Ben Israel and his wife, Yohanna Brown, opened Original Soul Vegetarian, a vegan restaurant in the Chatham neighborhood on 75th & Indiana where it still stands today as Soul Veg City; and

WHEREAS Prince Asiel Ben Israel was president and CEO of Bold Spiritual Initiative, president of Africa Israel Asia, international spokesperson for Straight Talk Economic Roundtable, chairman of First Africa Corporation, a sponsor of the annual Holy Jerusalem Summit Conferences, and a convener of the National Leadership Council of African Americans. Additionally, he has served with Support-a-Child International, Inc., as a board member of the International United Black Fund, a coordinator of the African Development Program's private volunteer organization project (as well as director of its international fundraising projects), as a special economic advisor to the World Conference of Mayors, as an advisor to the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, and as a member of the African American Clergy Network of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, hundreds gathered along with leaders from the Shiloh Institute and the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest at the DuSable Museum to celebrate the long-time alliance between the Black and Jewish communities and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Prince Asiel Ben Israel as a leader of unity; now therefore

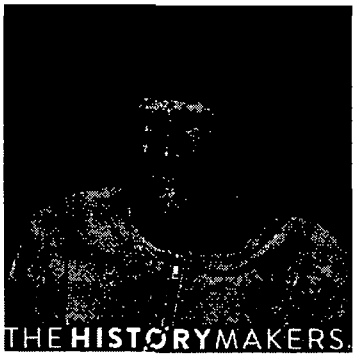
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, which allows erection of honorary street name designations, the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of East 75th Street, between South Indiana Avenue and South Prarie Avenue as "Honorary Prince Asiel Ben Israel Way."

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

RODERICK T. SAWYER
Alderman – 6th Ward

BIOGRAPHY



Prince Asiel Ben Israel was born on April 30, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, as Warren Brown. He graduated from Dunbar Vocational High School (now Dunbar Vocational Career Academy) in Chicago in 1959. He then attended DePaul University, studied international studies at the University of Ghana, in Accra, Ghana, and at Makerere University, in Kampala, Uganda, and received his doctorate from the School of Interactive Theology at the School of the Prophets Institute, in Dimona, Israel.

In 1971, Brown moved to Dimona, Israel, to join Ben Ammi Ben-Israel's African Hebrew Israelite Nation of Jerusalem, soon taking on the name Prince Asiel Ben Israel and serving as the community's international ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. In 1981, Ben Israel and his wife, Yohanna Brown, opened Original Soul Vegetarian, a vegan restaurant on the South Side of Chicago.

Ben Israel served as president and CEO of Bold Spiritual Initiative, president of Africa Israel Asia, international spokesperson for Straight Talk Economic Roundtable, chairman of First Africa Corporation, a sponsor of the annual Holy Jerusalem Summit Conferences, and a convener of the National Leadership Council of African Americans.

Ben Israel also served with Support-a-Child International, Inc., as a board member of the International United Black Fund, coordinator of the African Development Program's private volunteer organization project and director of its international fundraising projects, as a special economic advisor to the World Conference of Mayors, as an advisor to the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, and as a member of the African American Clergy Network of Chicago.

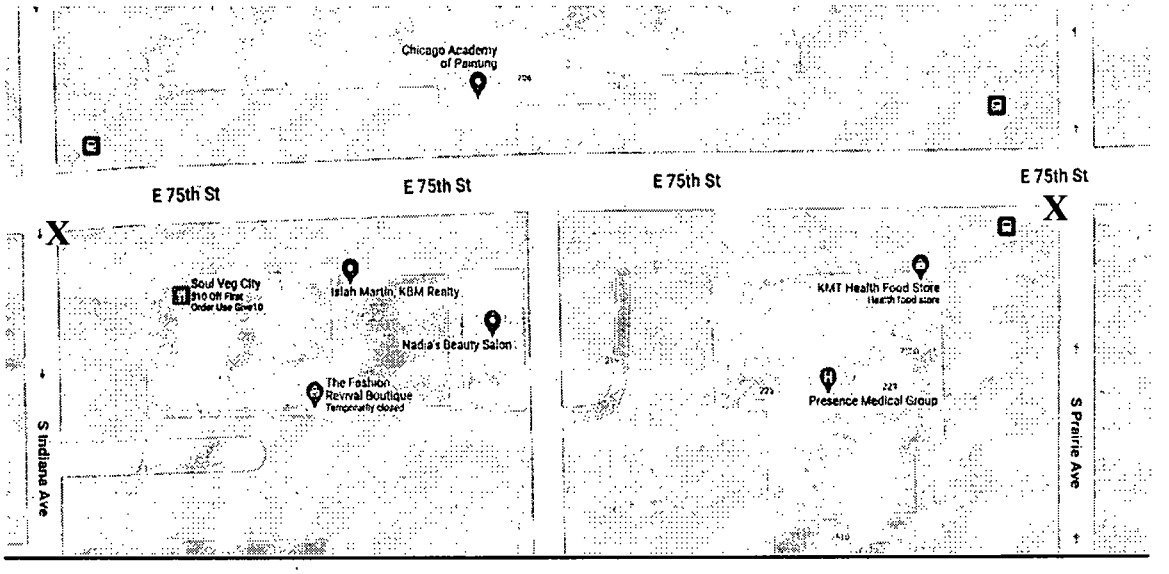
Ben Israel and his wife, Yohanna Brown, lived in Chicago, Illinois, with their children Prince Asiel Ben Israel, Jr., Lori Seay, and Arel Brown.

Ben Israel passed away on August 21, 2022 at the age of 81.

REASON FOR HONORING

Prince Asiel Ben Israel served as that community's international ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, championing peace and unity in Chicago, Israel, Africa, and throughout the world for more than 50 years. In 1981, Ben Israel and his wife, Yohanna Brown, opened Original Soul Vegetarian, now known as Soul Veg City, a vegan restaurant on 75th and Indiana.

MAP



March 15, 2023

Office of Budget and Management
121 N. LaSalle, Room 604
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Roderick T. Sawyer, Alderman of the 6th Ward, hereby authorize the Office of Budget Management to withdraw the funds associated with the cost of installation for this honorary street designation for Prince Asiel Ben Israel Way from my Ward's annual menu program budget upon passage of this honorary street designation ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Chicago Municipal Code.

Sincerely,

Alderman, Ward 6