

# ORDINANCE

## Title

Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois

## Sponsors

1. Desmon Yancy — 5th Ward
2. Andre Vasquez — 40th Ward

## Co-Sponsors

1. Daniel La Spata — 1st Ward
2. Brian Hopkins — 2nd Ward
3. Pat Dowell — 3rd Ward
4. Lamont Robinson — 4th Ward
5. Derrick Curtis — 18th Ward
6. Monique Scott — 24th Ward
7. Walter Burnett Jr. — 27th Ward
8. Jason Ervin — 28th Ward
9. Timmy Knudsen — 43rd Ward
10. Angela Clay — 46th Ward
11. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth — 48th Ward

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# ORDINANCE

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago ("City") is a home rule unit of government by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970, and as such, may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs unless specifically prohibited by state law or preempted by the Illinois General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the City owns, for the benefit of the public, the public ways within the City of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party ("HPS") seeks authorization from the City of Chicago for the installation of Heritage Trail historical markers at designated locations in the public way; and

**WHEREAS**, HPS is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization dedicated to researching, documenting, preserving, and presenting the history of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party through historic preservation, scholarship, public history, educational programming, landmarking, and related activities; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2023, HPS's historic preservation work resulted in the Black Panther Party in Illinois being added to the National Register of Historic Places through a thematic listing documenting the historical significance of the Black Panther Party in Illinois during its active years of 1968 through 1974 and establishing a framework through which eligible extant properties associated with that history may be individually nominated to the National Register; and

**WHEREAS**, HPS developed the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois ("Heritage Trail"), a statewide, place-based public history initiative that identifies, documents, and provides historical interpretation of places associated with the Black Panther Party in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Heritage Trail, HPS proposes to install permanent historical markers consisting of cast-bronze plaques measuring 18 inches wide by 12 inches high ("Plaques") at significant sites to identify these places and preserve their history for residents and visitors, including at locations where the structures associated with the Illinois Chapter no longer exist, and the nine Plaques comprising the first wave of Heritage Trail installations are depicted in Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, HPS proposes that the Plaques be installed horizontally within the public way, either centered within a section of black or standard concrete incorporated into the sidewalk or, where appropriate to the site, installed within a landscaped or grass area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plaques may identify by name, in a consistent script and size, the sponsor (entity or person) providing funding for the Plaque, but may not include advertising or corporate symbols; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party at its founding established its headquarters at 2350 West Madison Street, making the 2300 block of West Madison Street an important geographic center of the Chapter's political organizing and activities in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, during its active years of 1968 through 1974, the Illinois Chapter established offices, survival programs, meeting places, political organizing centers, and other sites throughout Chicago, many of which were located in Chicago communities established by the first and second waves of the Great Migration, and many of which have since been demolished and therefore cannot themselves be individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party was established in Chicago in 1968 and became a significant political organization in the history of Chicago and Illinois, engaging in political organizing, political education, survival programs, activism, and coalition-building while confronting poverty, class inequality, police violence, government surveillance, and political repression; and

**WHEREAS**, many members of the Illinois Chapter and the organizations with which it worked were teenagers and young adults who sought meaningful participation in the political process and worked to educate, organize, and politicize Chicago communities around issues affecting their lives and to encourage participation in the political process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Chapter's work and influence extended through the original Rainbow Coalition and other organizing relationships with the Young Lords Organization, Young Patriots Organization, Students for a Democratic Society, Rising Up Angry, the Intercommunal Survival Committee, and other organizations and activists, creating political relationships that extended across Chicago communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the People's Law Office was established in Chicago in 1969 and represented members of the Black Panther Party in Chicago and throughout Illinois, including serving as counsel in the landmark civil litigation arising from the December 4, 1969 raid that killed Illinois Chapter Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton and Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark, and became an enduring civil rights and legal institution in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago sites of the Heritage Trail span multiple wards, neighborhoods, and communities and collectively document the geographic breadth of the Illinois Chapter's history and activities throughout the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, in recognition of the historical significance of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and the importance of preserving and presenting this history to the public, accepts ownership of the Heritage Trail historical markers installed at the designated locations in the public way; and

**WHEREAS**, the terms and conditions governing the installation, ownership, maintenance, repair, replacement, and other responsibilities associated with the Heritage Trail historical markers located in the public way will be set forth in an agreement between HPS and the City, drafted by the City's Department of Law; now, therefore,

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

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

**SECTION 2.** The appropriate City official or officials are hereby authorized, with the approval of the City's Corporation Counsel as to form and legality, to negotiate, execute, and deliver an agreement between HPS and the City governing the installation, ownership, maintenance, repair, replacement, and other responsibilities associated with the Heritage Trail historical markers located in the public way, and such other supporting documents as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this ordinance.

**SECTION 3.** The City is hereby authorized to accept ownership of the Heritage Trail historical markers installed in the public way at the locations identified in Exhibit B, attached hereto and made a part hereof. Where a location in Exhibit B is identified by an intersection, block, or other general geographic description, the precise location for installation of the historical marker within the public way shall be determined in consultation with the appropriate City department or departments and HPS.

**SECTION 4.** The Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation, or another appropriate City official, is further authorized to approve additional Heritage Trail historical marker locations within the public way that are not identified in Exhibit B, subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement authorized by Section 2 of this ordinance.

**SECTION 5.** If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 6.** All ordinances, resolutions, motions, or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 7.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

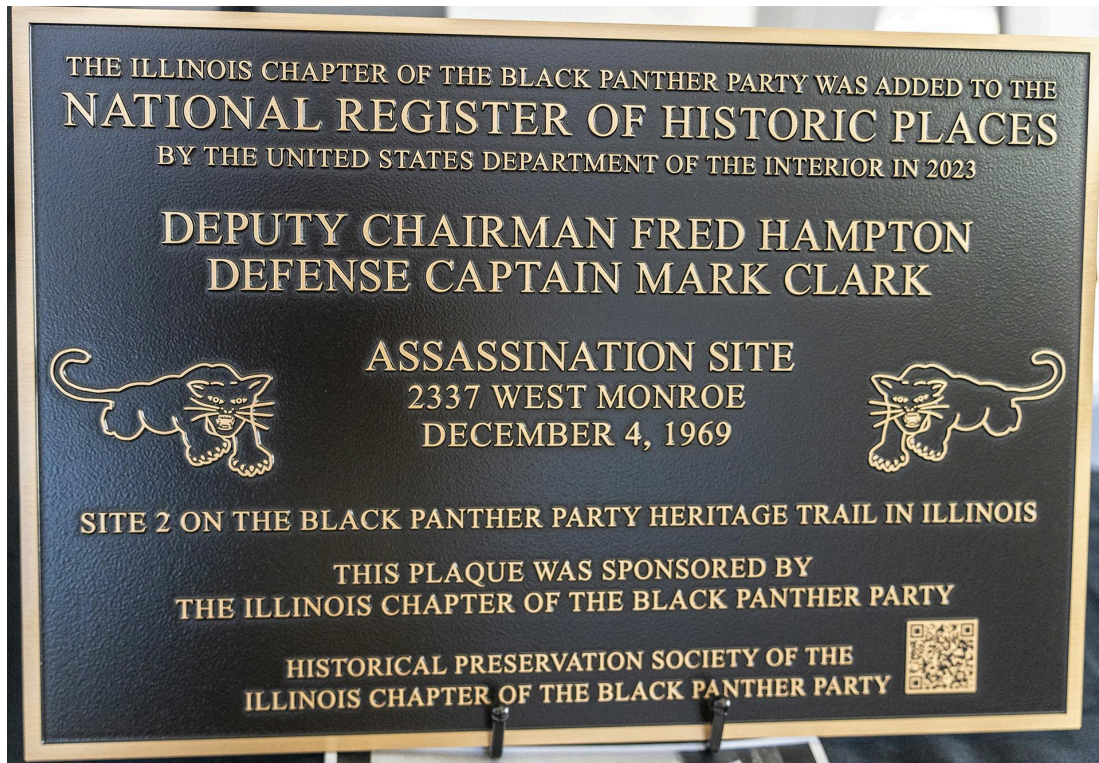
## EXHIBIT A

### BLACK PANTHER PARTY HERITAGE TRAIL IN ILLINOIS

#### First Wave of Heritage Trail Historical Marker Installations



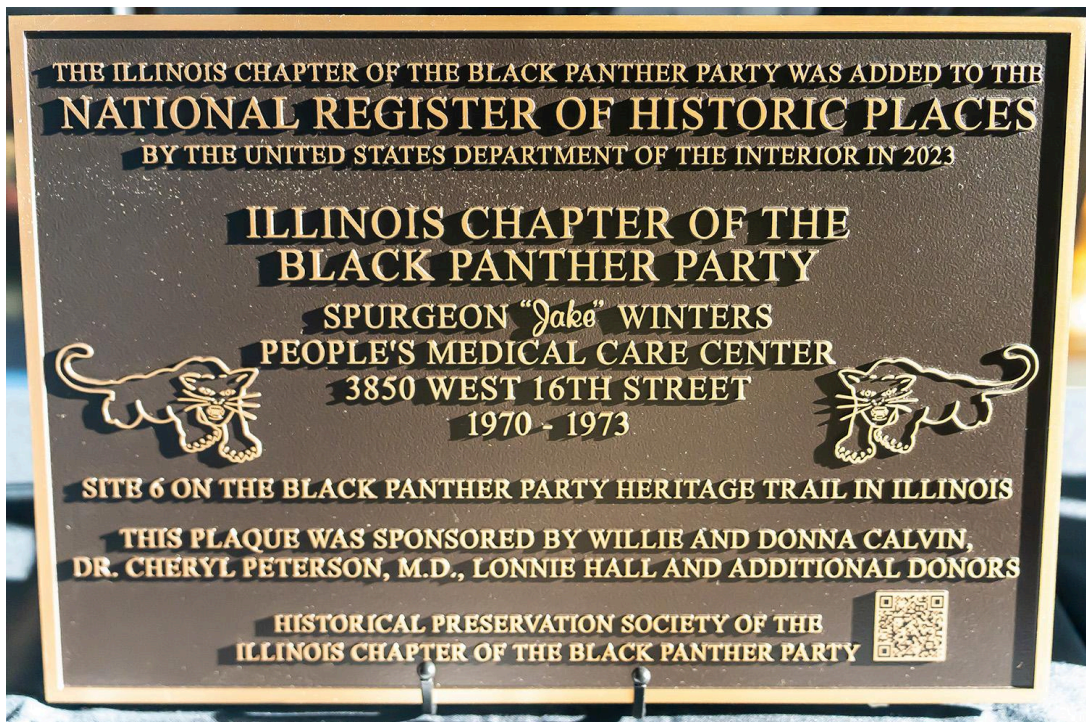
Installation 1



Installation 2



Installation 3

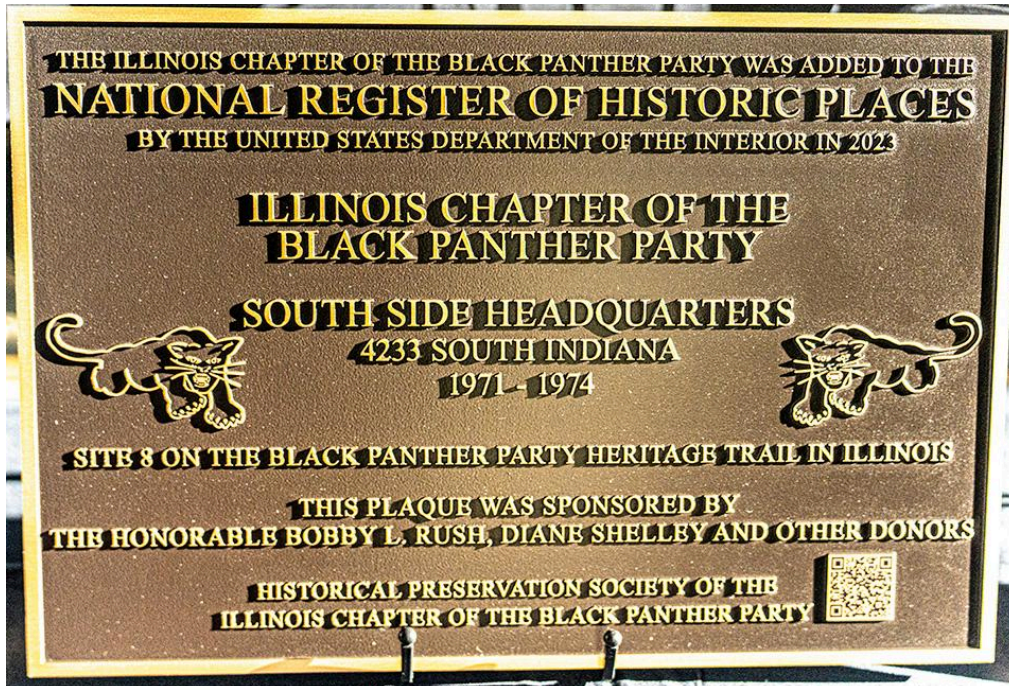


Installation 4



Installation 5

This address should be 253 East 35th Street.



Installation 6

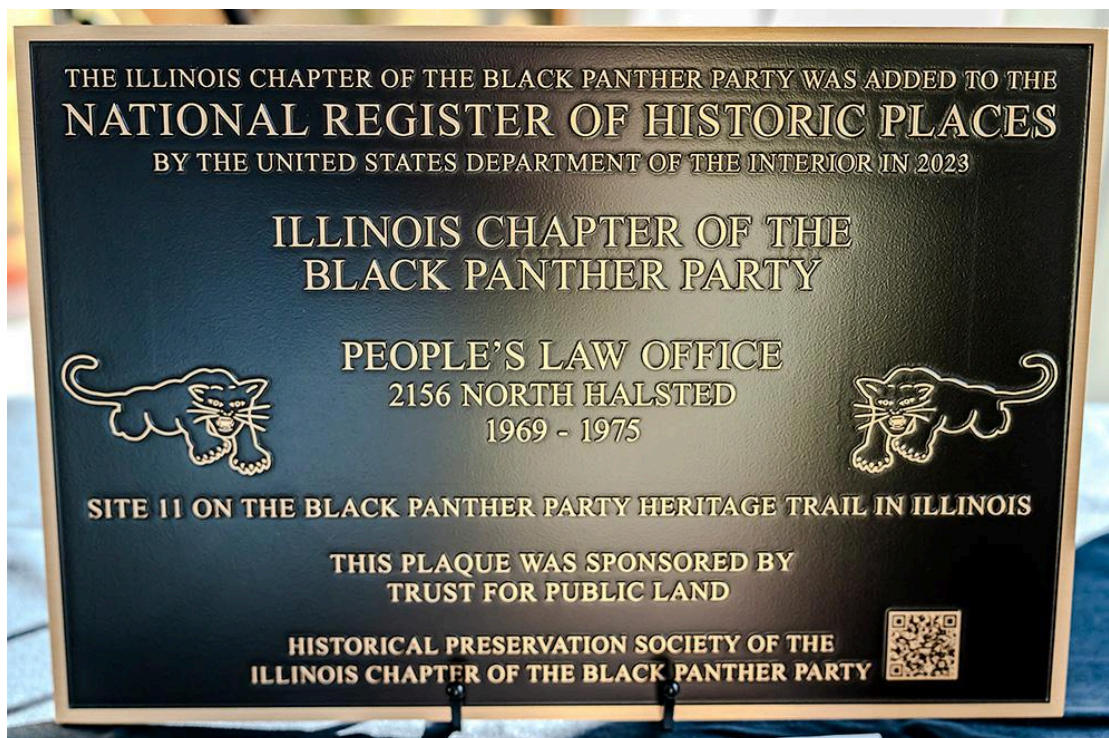


Installation 7

This marker's address has been corrected to 500 East 37th Street (West is incorrect)



Installation 8



Installation 9

## **EXHIBIT B**

# **BLACK PANTHER PARTY HERITAGE TRAIL IN ILLINOIS**

## **Ordinance Site List**

### **Organized by Chicago Neighborhood, Site Name, and Address**

#### **ILBPP's Chapter Offices**

1. Bronzeville: 4233 S. Indiana Avenue
2. Near West Side, Mile Square: 2350 W. Madison Street

#### **ILBPP's Spurgeon "Jake" Winters People's Medical Care Center**

3. North Lawndale: 3850 W. 16th Street

#### **ILBPP's Free Breakfast for Children Program**

4. Altgeld Gardens: Our Lady of the Gardens Church, 13300 S. Langley Avenue
5. Austin: St. Martin de Porres Church, 5112 W. Washington Boulevard
6. Douglas, Bronzeville: Madden Park, 500 E. 37th Street
7. East Garfield Park: Fairfax House, 135 S. Central Park Avenue
8. Grand Boulevard, Bronzeville: Robert Taylor Homes, Trinity Lutheran Church, 4837 S. State Street
9. Near North Side, Cabrini Green: St. Dominic's Church, 357 W. Locust Street
10. Near South, Harold Ickes Housing Projects, 2310 S. State Street
11. Near West Side: Jackson Boulevard Church, 2413 W. Jackson Boulevard
12. Near West Side: St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 48 N. Hoyne Avenue
13. Near West Side: Henry Horner Homes, 124 N. Hoyne Avenue
14. North Lawndale: Better Boys Foundation, 1512 S. Pulaski Road
15. North Lawndale: Marcy Newberry Association, 1539 S. Springfield Avenue
16. North Lawndale: Brotherhood of Boys Republic, 1510 S. Hamlin Avenue

#### **ILBPP's Meetings, Organizing, and Significant Events**

17. Englewood: Messiah St. Bartholomew Church, now Truvine Church, 6720 S. Stewart Avenue, meetings, organizing, Free Breakfast for Children Program, taken over by the Englewood High School Black Student Union
18. Englewood: Our Redeemer Church, 6430 S. Harvard Avenue, meetings, rallies
19. Humboldt Park: 610 N. California Avenue, death of Illinois Chapter member Larry Roberson, September 4, 1969

20. Lincoln Park: People's Church, Holy Covenant United Methodist Baptist Church, 925 W. Diversey Parkway
21. Near West Side: People's Church, Epiphany Center for the Arts, 201 S. Ashland Avenue, major rally location, Political Education class, Free Breakfast for Children Program
22. Near West Side: Christ Temple Apostolic, 14 S. Ashland Avenue, community meetings, organizing
23. Near West Side: First Baptist Congregational Church, 1613 W. Washington Boulevard, People's Inquest, March 8, 1970
24. Near West Side: 2337 W. Monroe Street, December 4, 1969 raid in which Illinois Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton and Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark were assassinated
25. Oakland, Bronzeville: Afro-Arts Theater, 3900 S. Drexel Boulevard, Bobby Rush, Fred Hampton, community organizing
26. Tri-Taylor: Precious Blood Church, 2411 W. Congress Parkway, Political Education class, Free Breakfast for Children Program, meetings
27. Washington Park, Bronzeville: 5801 S. Calumet Avenue, deaths of Illinois Chapter members Spurgeon "Jake" Winters and Lance Bell, November 13, 1969

### **ILBPP's Free Food Program**

28. Douglas, Bronzeville: YWCA, 436 E. Pershing Road
29. North Lawndale: Stone Temple Baptist Church, 3622 W. Douglas Boulevard

### **ILBPP's Free Daycare**

30. Calumet Heights: 8841 S. Merrill Avenue

### **ILBPP's National Committee to Combat Fascism Community Centers**

31. Douglas, Bronzeville: 253 E. 35th Street
32. Englewood: 63rd Street and Racine Avenue
33. Morgan Park: 109th Street and Racine Avenue
34. North Lawndale: Keeler Avenue and 12th Street
35. West Garfield Park: Madison Street and Pulaski Road

### **Young Lords Organization**

36. Lincoln Park: Headquarters, People's Church, Armitage Avenue Methodist Church, 834 W. Armitage Avenue

## **People's Law Office**

37. Lincoln Park: 2156 N. Halsted Street, founding office

## **Students for a Democratic Society**

38. Near West Side, West Loop: 1608 W. Madison Street, national headquarters

- SDS meetings were held at People's Church, Church of the Epiphany, 201 S. Ashland Avenue, location listed under ILBPP's Meetings, Organizing, and Significant Events

## **Rising Up Angry**

- Rising Up Angry medical clinic operated at Holy Covenant Church, location listed under ILBPP's Meetings, Organizing, and Significant Events

## **Young Patriots**

39. Uptown: Uptown Health Service, 4408 N. Sheridan Road

## **Intercommunal Survival Committee**

40. Lincoln Park: Founding Headquarters, 2154 N. Halsted Street

41. Uptown: Headquarters, 1056 W. Lawrence Avenue

42. Uptown: Uptown's People's Law Center, 1222 W. Wilson Avenue