



**CITY OF HAMMOND  
ORDINANCE No.**

**An Ordinance to Rename Mooney Park to Gibson Memorial Park**

**WHEREAS**, Rudolph Paul Gibson was born in Natchitoches, Louisiana to the late Roy and Octavia Dixon Gibson and departed this life on May 23, 1997. He served as a faithful member at Greenfield Missionary Baptist church where he was a longtime deacon. He also served as Grand senior warden of the Prince Hall Masons for the State of Louisiana, a member of Eureka Consistory No. 7, grand inspector general 33rd of United Supreme Council of the ancient and accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, Prince Hall affiliation of Southern Jurisdiction, a member of Oak Grove Lodge No. 117 and Evening Star Chapter No. 46.

**WHEREAS**, Rudolph Paul Gibson received his bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Southern University and his master's degree in administration and supervision from Jackson State University. He then received his education specialist degree from Southeastern Louisiana University.

**WHEREAS**, Rudolph Paul Gibson was a retired teacher, coach, principal and supervisor for the Tangipahoa Parish School System with 41 years of service. His last position was Student Welfare and Attendance. Families relied heavily on him to assist with their children attending school. He impacted the lives of many families and many still have fond memories of him still today.

**WHEREAS**, Idella Wright Gibson was the youngest of nine children, born to the late Willie and Fannie Gordon Wright on June 19, 1928 in Amite, La. and departed this life on June 12, 2015. She was married to the late Rudolph P. Gibson for 40 years and from that union three children were born, Roderick, Chris and Vinita.

**WHEREAS**, Idella Wright Gibson received her elementary and high school education at the Tangipahoa Parish Training School in Kentwood, LA. The late O.W. Dillion was the principal. After graduating from high school she enrolled at Grambling State University and received a B.S. degree in Elementary Education. She received a Master's of Education and a Certificate of Supervisor of Student Teaching at Southeastern Louisiana University. She had 31 years of teaching experience with the Tangipahoa Parish School System. She enjoyed bumping into her former students when she saw them while shopping in Hammond. She was a member of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association and the Grambling Alumni Association.

**WHEREAS**, Idella Wright Gibson served as a faithful member at Greenfield Missionary Baptist church. She sang in the Mass choir, taught Vacation Bible School and was a member of Sunday school Class #2, which she really loved. Her philosophy for life was "If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living shall not be in vain.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson was born to Rudolph P. and Idella W. Gibson on February 9th, 1967 in Hammond, Louisiana and departed this life on January 2, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson proudly attended Southeastern Lab school from Kindergarten to 8th grade and developed lifelong friendships. He was an excellent football and baseball player breaking several records cementing his foundation of his love for sports. Chris hit many home runs at Zemurray Park in Hammond, Louisiana. He grew in his faith and was a member of Greenfield Baptist Church where he was baptized by the late Rev. Nolan Clayton. He played football at Hammond High School as defensive tackle and won a scholarship to attend The Grambling State

University, following his mother's alma mater. Chris met his wife in college and moved to Dallas, Texas to pursue a career in serving his community as a Dallas Police Officer.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson was a community treasure and worked for the Dallas Police Department for 25 years. He was the definition of a protector and displayed this into the community, schools, and family. In addition to protecting the city of Dallas at night, Chris worked his days as a School Resource Officer (SRO) for Lake Highlands High School among an abundance of other schools within the Richardson, Plano, and Dallas area. He was loved by administration, faculty, staff, students, and community members. He was committed to providing an optimistic, safe, and orderly school environment for thousands of students and educators.

**WHEREAS**, If you knew Christopher D. Gibson you felt his passion for music and would often experience him singing loudly to Earth, Wind & Fire, Stevie Wonder, and the late great Prince. Chris loved vacationing often with sand between his toes, traveling to new cities, and enjoyed watching and attending all sports games.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson also loved to try new recipes on his off days by grilling on a nice sunny day and would maximize his time off from work by watching Sanford & Son and Andy Griffith, eating, and embracing the quiet and simple times with his loved ones.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson was a proud New Orleans Saints fan and there was no way to persuade him otherwise.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson was a God-fearing man, a husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin, friend, co-worker, protector, and the best mentor.

**WHEREAS**, Christopher D. Gibson was hilarious and would without fail find a way to bring humor into any scenario.

**WHEREAS**, Roderick Paul Gibson was born to the late Rudolph Paul and Idella Wright Gibson on November 7, 1959 in Covington, Louisiana and departed this life on March 12, 2019. He was married to Cathy Dryer for 30 years and from that union one child was born, Kelsea Cordella Gibson Wood.

**WHEREAS**, Roderick Paul Gibson was baptized into the Greenfield Baptist Church under the leadership of Nolan Clayton.

**WHEREAS**, Roderick Paul Gibson graduated from Hammond High School in 1977. After graduating from high school he enrolled at Grambling State University where he played baseball and received a B.S. degree in Criminal Law. He later went on to receive his law degree from Southern University. He practiced law and later became a professor at Grambling State University.

**WHEREAS**, For the last 13 years of his life, Roderick Paul Gibson he was a devoted Finance Manager at Nissan of McKinney.

**WHEREAS**, Roderick Paul Gibson Roderick was a member of the Prince Hall Masons & Omega Psi Phi Organization.

**WHEREAS**, the life and memory of Rudolph Paul Gibson, Idella Wright Gibson, Roderick Paul Gibson and Christopher D. Gibson are an inspiration to the citizens of Hammond and should be respected and admired.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of Hammond, Louisiana, that Mooney Park be renamed Gibson Memorial Park.

The above and foregoing ordinance having being duly submitted to the Hammond City Council in writing; introduced at a public meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 of the Hammond City Council and discussed at a public meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022; after motion and second was submitted to the official vote of the Hammond City Council.

On motion by Councilman \_\_\_\_\_ and Second by Councilman \_\_\_\_\_ the foregoing ordinance was hereby declared adopted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by the following roll call vote:

**Votes: Councilman Wells ( ), Councilman DiVittorio ( ), Councilman Andrews ( ), Councilwoman Gonzales ( ), Councilman Leon ( ).**

**WHEREFORE** the above and foregoing ordinance was declared duly adopted on the \_\_\_\_ **day of**  
\_\_\_\_\_, **2022**, at Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

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**Kip Andrews**  
**President, Hammond City Council**

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**Honorable Pete Panepinto**  
**Mayor, City of Hammond**

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**Lisa Cockerham, Clerk**  
**Hammond City Council**