



CITY OF HAMMOND ORDINANCE

No. _____ C. .S.

**An Ordinance to Name the Softball Field in Martin Luther King, Jr Park
in honor of Leon “Blue” McCray**

WHEREAS, Leon “Blue” McCray was the third of nine children (five boys and four girls) born to Moses McCray, Sr. and Samella Vernon in Hammond, Louisiana. His nickname came from a family member, who upon seeing him right after his birth, said “that baby looks blue;” the nickname stuck, but he grew into a handsome light brown man; and

WHEREAS, After serving in the U. S. Navy (1944-1946), “Blue” enrolled in Grambling College, studying photography and tailoring. While at Grambling, would meet and many Ms. Elizabeth Miles (1926-2006) before returning to Hammond to start their family; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his full time jobs at Hammond Wholesale and Southeastern Louisiana College, “Blue” was an entrepreneur, a photographer, and a winemaker (some of the best strawberry wine in South Louisiana); and

WHEREAS, “Blue” taught by example; he was a hard worker, disciplinarian, mentor, coach, and fishing guide and had a profound and positive impact on the lives of his three sons, his nieces and nephews, and other neighborhood kids; and

WHEREAS, “Blue” was the owner/player-coach of the Hammond Berries semi-pro baseball team. As the owner, he did everything, including building the ballpark, cutting the grass, lining the field, cleaned up after games and designed and distributed the promotional posters for their games; and

WHEREAS, His work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit inspired all who came into his sphere; several of whom have become entrepreneurs, coaches, teachers/mentors, and other professionals; and

WHEREAS, the life of Leon “Blue” McCray should be honored and memorialized by the naming of the Softball Field in Martin Luther King Jr Park in his honor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Hammond City Council that:

- 1. The Softball Field in Martin Luther King, Jr Park shall be named in honor of Leon “Blue” McCray.

The above and foregoing ordinance having being duly submitted to the Hammond City Council in writing; introduced at a public meeting on _____, 2026 of the Hammond City Council and discussed at a public meeting held on _____, 2026.

On a motion by _____ and second by _____ the foregoing ordinance was hereby declared adopted on _____ by the following roll call vote:

VOTE: Kip Andrews (), Carlee White Gonzales (), Sam DiVittorio (), Steve Leon () Devon Wells (). Motion _____

WHEREFORE the above and foregoing ordinance was declared duly adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2026 at Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

Kip Andrews President,

Honorable Pete Panepinto, Mayor

Hammond City Council

Lisa Cockerham, Clerk Hammond City Council