

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

William Lambert moved with his family to California from the Bronx in 1935. He would go on to earn a bachelor's in history from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1952; and a master's in education from California State University, Los Angeles in 1964.

Mr. Lambert began his career in education in 1955, teaching 5th grade students at Montague Elementary, a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) public school in Pacoima. He would teach 4th and 5th graders for the next seven years at Montague Elementary and Canterbury Elementary. It was here he joined the Parent Student Teacher Organization, beginning his work as an advocate for teachers and reform in our City's public schools.

In 1962, Mr. Lambert left teaching to co-found the Los Angeles Teachers Association, quadrupling its membership to 800 in five years before merging with the Association of Teachers of Los Angeles in 1968 to form the Association of Classroom Teachers Los Angeles, which boasted a 14,000 membership. Two years later, Mr. Lambert would co-found the United Teachers of Los Angeles, which today is the second-largest local teacher's union in the nation.

In his work organizing and advocating for teachers, Mr. Lambert improved benefits and working conditions improved benefits and working conditions for public school teachers, leading the first teacher's strike in 1970 and achieving passage of landmark legislation in 1975 which gave teachers the right to collectively bargain. In 2008, Mr. Lambert retired after 47 years of serving as the Union's Director of Government Affairs.

Mr. Lambert also led efforts to repeal discriminatory laws that excluded people of color from serving on the LAUSD board and hired diverse organizers for the unions he led. In 1991, he founded "Children of the Dream," which was an international student exchange program formed to improve race relations in Los Angeles high schools that operated for 12 years and would spread to other cities across the country.

Today, Mr. Lambert, who is now 92 years-old, continued his volunteer efforts to improve our local schools after retirement and through his late 80s, helping implement early reading programs that used advance technology to diagnose vision coordination. In light of Mr. Lambert's laudable career bolstering public education in Los Angeles for over 55 years, it is appropriate that the portion of Linnet Street that runs the length of Gaspar de Portola Middle School in Tarzana, where Mr. Lambert resides, be legally renamed as "Bill Lambert Way."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Engineer be directed to initiate the process of changing the name of Linnet Street from Crebs Avenue to Yolanda Avenue to "Bill Lambert Way."

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, District Three

SECONDED BY:




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