



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL PROPOSES RENAMING OF STONY ISLAND AVENUE  
TO REVEREND BISHOP BRAZIER AVENUE**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today proposed to City Council a plan to rename Stony Island Avenue, from 56<sup>th</sup> Street to 130<sup>th</sup> Street, to "Reverend Bishop Brazier Avenue" in honor of the late Dr. Arthur M. Brazier, the civic leader and founder of the Woodlawn Organization.

"Bishop Brazier was a spiritual and community leader on Chicago's South Side, fighting against crime and poverty, while advocating for better housing and schools," Mayor Emanuel said. "By renaming Stony Island Avenue in his memory, we are honoring a man who influenced generations of pastors and parishioners to spiritual worship with community activism."

Dr. Brazier (July 22, 1921 – October 22, 2010) was pastor of the Apostolic Church of God in Woodlawn for more than 48 years. He built a congregation of nearly 20,000 members before handing church leadership over to his son, the Rev. Bryon Brazier, in 2008.

"Bishop Brazier was an advocate not only for his congregation, but for African Americans all across the City of Chicago," said Alderman Michelle Harris (8<sup>th</sup>). "This renaming is only a small testament to his legacy as a faith and community leader for this City, but I am extremely pleased with this announcement."

He was also a prominent civic leader, real estate developer and founder of the Woodlawn Organization, which was influential in Chicago's civil rights movement in the 1960s. Brazier marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King to demonstrate against racial injustice.

Brazier was youngest of Geneva and Robert Brazier's five children, raised on the South Side of Chicago. He attended Douglas Elementary School and Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood.

"Arthur M. Brazier was my Pastor, Bishop, Mentor, Board Member, Advisor, Supporter and one I admired. His earthly journey was impactful in just about every area of community development

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and Civil Liberties on could imagine. He was a man whom I could be comfortable with providing me with life directions and spiritual direction,” said Alderman Willie B. Cochran (20<sup>th</sup>). “His impact on public administration and human rights will be realized for years to come. The naming of this major Chicago street after him is truly an honor the Mayor has bestowed upon a champion of Chicago and the United States of America. I am proud to be part of this great honor and look forward to future generations speaking his name and seeking his legacy.”

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