

A RESOLUTION RENAMING THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 1661 LEFORGE ROAD,
YPSILANTI, MI, IN HONOR OF THE CELEBRATED
CHARLES EUGENE BEATTY, SR.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 4, 2013

WHEREAS, Charles Eugene Beatty, Sr. was born in 1909 and grew up in Detroit, where he attended Northeastern High School; and

WHEREAS, he was a tremendously successful Track and Field athlete in his youth, as he was named Track and Field Athlete of the Year in high school and set world records for hurdles at Michigan State Normal College; and

WHEREAS, Charles became the first African American school principal in the State of Michigan when he attained the position of principal at Ypsilanti's Harriet Street School, later renamed Perry School, where he served dutifully until 1967; and

WHEREAS, Charles pioneered the Perry Preschool Program in 1962, which fostered early childhood education through facilitating parental involvement in each child's education and transformed Perry Elementary School into a site of community activity that hosted wedding receptions, civil rights rallies, and basketball games, among other events; and

WHEREAS, he partnered with Dr. David Weikart of the HighScope Foundation to conduct the HighScope Perry Preschool Study, which was critical in providing scholarly evidence for the importance of early childhood education programs nationwide and increasing support for the Head Start program in its fledgling years; and

WHEREAS, he has educationally nurtured talented individuals and future leaders in education; such as Ypsilanti Principal, Maude Forbes; Head Start Director, Patricia Horne McGee; and National Effective Schools leader, Ron Edmonds; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners resolved on August 7, 2013, to relinquish its role in Head Start to the Washtenaw Intermediate School District and signed a lease agreement that authorized Washtenaw Intermediate School District operations at 1661 Leforge Road in Ypsilanti.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, due to the aforementioned lease agreement, hereby supports the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's decision to rename the building located at 1661 Leforge Road in Ypsilanti to honor the late Mr. Charles Beatty, Sr.

Ronnie Peterson
Washtenaw County Commissioner, District 6