

CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R127 - 2025

Introduced by the City Council and the Mayor on September 17, 2025

Renames Valania Park, located at S. 6th and Union Streets in memory of Mr. Clyde Bosket, Sr.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, § 5-29, Dedicating City assets, of the Allentown City creates procedures for dedicating city assets that are conditioned upon council passing a resolution recognizing an exceptional significant contribution of an organization or individual has made to the public life and the well-being of the people of Allentown; and

WHEREAS, City Council and the Administration recognize the significant impact Mr. Clyde Bosket, Sr. has had on the Allentown community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bosket served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bosket was a successful businessman and entrepreneur: after taking residence in Allentown in 1956, he established his first barber shop at 215 S. 5th Street in Allentown. He became the first Master Barber in the Lehigh Valley. In 1992, he became a Certified Barber Instructor with his manager's and teacher's licenses, and established additional barber shops in Bethlehem and Easton, PA, and utilized all three locations to provide teaching, instruction, guidance, and nurturing over 150 barber and cosmetology students - many of whom now own and operate their own successful business ventures. Mr. Bosket also successfully operated "Mr. Clyde's Barber Shop" at the Allentown Fairgrounds for over fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bosket was a faithful member of Union Baptist Church, from 1957 until his passing in 2023; and was Known as Deacon Bosket; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bosket was not only invested in his businesses, faith, family and masonic work, but was also committed to furthering civil rights for all. He was a Gold Life Member of the Allentown NAACP, participated in the March on Washington in 1963, and advocated for Dr. King's vision of equality. He was a consistent attendee and supporter of the Annual "Tribute To A King" celebration held at the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church each January on the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday and was often invited to speak at community and college events on black history and civil rights topics; and

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown and Lehigh County declared February 24, 2023 as "Clyde Bosket Day" as part of their 2023 Black History Month celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in recognition of Mr. Bosket's legacy, Mayor Matt Tuerk and Allentown City Council hereby rename Valania Park, located at S. 6th and Union Streets in memory of Mr. Clyde Bosket, Sr.