

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA



The Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa (HACCC), in collaboration with the North & Greater Richmond Blues Foundation and Supervisor John Gioia, are requesting Contra Costa Public Works to change the name of W. Grove Ave in North Richmond to Jimmy McCracklin Way. The HACCC is the sole proprietor of the properties along the street, which are currently vacant. The street name will not require any additional petition signatures from North Richmond homeowners.

James David Walker Jr. (August 13, 1921- December 20, 2012), better known by his stage name Jimmy McCracklin, was a North Richmond resident, business owner, and internationally acclaimed Blues Artist that traveled the world spreading the joy of his music. McCracklin recorded thirty albums and earned four golden records for his West Coast blues, Jump blues, and R&B songs. McCracklin song "Club Savoy" pays homage to the rich blues music scene in North Richmond during the 1940-1980's. The Club Savoy building still stands today at 217 Chesley Ave. In 2009, Jimmy McCracklin was the first headliner for the famous North Richmond Music Festival, now on its 14th year. HACCC, The North & Greater Richmond Blues Foundation, and Supervisor Gioia are dedicated to preserving the musical roots of North Richmond by renaming W. Grove Ave to Jimmy McCracklin Way.

The North & Greater Richmond Blues Foundation will lead the music history education and community outreach with the support of Supervisor Gioia's office.

Sincerely,

Joseph Villarreal
Executive Director



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