



NORFOLK

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July 23, 2019

To the Honorable Council
City of Norfolk, Virginia

R-08

Re: Resolution to Rename the Norfolk Fitness and Boxing Center at Harbor Park in Honor of Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am presenting this resolution for adoption to rename the Norfolk Fitness and Boxing Center at Harbor Park to the Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker Boxing and Fitness Center at Harbor Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard A. Pishko
City Attorney

Recommendation: Adopt Ordinance

BAW

Form and Correctness Approved:

By *BAW*
Office of the City Attorney

Contents Approved:

By *BAW*
DEPT. Office of the City Attorney

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Resolution

A RESOLUTION TO RENAME THE NORFOLK BOXING AND FITNESS CENTER AT HARBOR PARK THE PERNELL "SWEET PEA" WHITAKER BOXING AND FITNESS CENTER AT HARBOR PARK.

- - -

WHEREAS, Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker was a world-renowned professional boxer and Norfolk native whose achievements in boxing and dedication to his local community have made a lasting impact on amateur boxing in the City of Norfolk and on the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in the City of Norfolk, attending P.B. Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School, and began boxing at eight years old at the Young's Terrace Community Center, located at 804 Whitaker Lane; and

WHEREAS, as an amateur boxer, he won a silver medal in the lightweight division at the 1982 World Championships, followed by gold medals at the 1983 Pan American Games and 1984 Olympics; and

WHEREAS, he went on to compete professionally from 1984 to 2001 and was decorated with many notable accomplishments and honors: he was a world champion at four different weight classes, he currently holds the longest unified lightweight championship

reign in boxing history at six title defenses, he was named Boxer of the Year in 1989 by *The Ring* magazine from 1993 to 1997, and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2006 as well as the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame in 2010; and

WHEREAS, he is now regarded as one of the best defensive boxers of all time and was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2006 as well as the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame in 2010; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from professional boxing, he remained dedicated to the sport by training up-and-coming boxers in the local community; and

WHEREAS, he was also a strong supporter of his alma mater, Booker T. Washington High School, and spoke before City Council in 2017 to advocate for additional funding and improved maintenance for the school; and

WHEREAS, although he departed this world on July 14, 2019, he continues to be missed by all who knew him and his legacy will never be forgotten; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That in recognition and appreciation of the lasting impact he will have on amateur boxing in the City of Norfolk and on the City as a whole, the Norfolk Boxing and Fitness Center at Harbor Park is hereby renamed the Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker Boxing and Fitness Center at Harbor Park.

Section 2:- That this resolution shall be in effect from and after its adoption.