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PROVIDED BY
FRANCES MEREDITH

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Frances E. W. Meredith – Nov 5, 2013 City Commission Meeting

The proposal is to extend the name Sistrunk Boulevard east of Andrews Avenue through the Flagler Village neighborhood to Federal Highway. This is a great concern to Dorsey Riverbend.

Upon coming to Fort Lauderdale to reside, my family's first residence was in a little wooden house that was raised from the ground with cement blocks, where you could see nothing but dirt on all sides. They came to Fort Lauderdale to better their condition. This is where I was born. Today is November, 2013. I was born November 1943. ...I am thankful to say today, that although both of their lives have expired, my parents built a house and moved all of their children into what is now known as Dorsey River Bend. A community full of pride, and it always has been. It is a reflection of the beginning of their success after coming to Fort Lauderdale in 1942....In 1947 when I was four years old, as a source of income, my father helped to clean the beaches on A-1-A after a hurricane. In 1949 my Father started his own Sanitation service. He worked in our community, on the beaches, and across the railroad tracks. From north to Deerfield, South to State Road 84, and Ravenswood Road; West to Flamingo Rd & Hiatus Rd. He packed and bailed boxes and newspapers, and carried them from big businesses such as Sears Roe Buck and Burdines on Andrews Avenue, and carried bails of paper to Miami. He recycled metal and transported them to be sold, and he had a salvage business on 1st Avenue across the tracks....My Father helped to build Fort Lauderdale, with brick and mortar, and he helped to build highways and to create buildings that we still occupy today. He owned a service station at the corner of N.W. 7th Avenue and N.W. 6th Street, and he owned a used tire service on N.W. 6th Street and 15th Avenue. He worked diligently and helped to finance the House of God Church on N.W. 7th Avenue and 5th Street.

When I was 7 years old, my father came home from work, his skin and clothes covered with cement from work all day. It was one occasion that my Father, mother and some of my siblings had left home to go to church. Instead of going to bed as we were supposed to do, Bob, my brother, and I were up playing in the house while they were out, playing with Bob, I accidentally fell off the back of the sofa in the living room, and my arm was broken. I wore a cast, which Dr. James F. Sistrunk, had placed on my arm to mold my arm in place. How I could feel the itch underneath the cast, but I could never scratch it. I wore that cast a long time, but when the cast was removed, one of my arms was smaller than the other arm, but my arm was mended and I have had no more problems with that arm again. This was around 1951... When I graduated from High school, my occupation was clerk-typist. Since that time, I have raised a family, worked in government positions, earned two degrees, several certificates, and assumed the role of teacher as well as business assistant, and legal assistant. Take notice: because this is the kind of real people who reside in the Sistrunk Boulevard area. Not the people you see walking around doing nothing every day and is implied to live there. We urge you, that since Dr. Sistrunk is so honored, let's make Sistrunk Boulevard even better, by working together to see that it is so. We can start by reasoning. These people don't have money to supply drugs, well who do?... I presented you with prior knowledge of important people I know, because this is the way real people communicate. We, as a community, think it is fitting to not stop Sistrunk Boulevard in the middle of town, but that the street named Sistrunk Boulevard should be extended to the Federal Hwy, as the street ends, which would make the name Sistrunk Boulevard complete, just as he served in his occupation...complete.