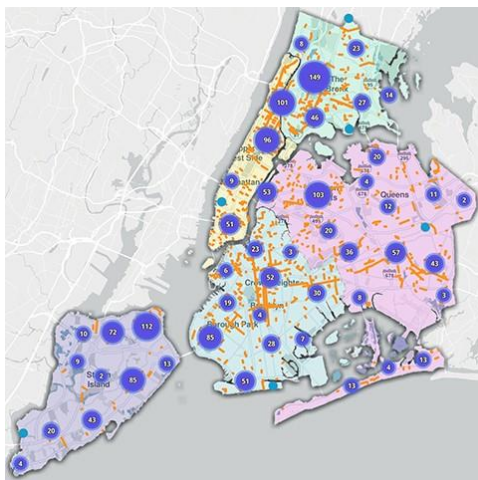


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 4, 2024

CONTACT: Kenneth Cobb kcobb@records.nyc.gov

NEW YORK CITY RELEASES MAP TO HELP CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE STORIES BEHIND CO-NAMED STREETS, PARKS AND OTHER LOCATIONS

Online Tool Allows People to Look Up all Streets That Have Been “Co-Named” After Notable New Yorkers



New York, NY – Diana Ross. Peter Jennings. Run DMC.

What do they all have in common? Each of these celebrities has a New York City Street or playground named after them.

Starting today, you can find where each of their eponymous spots are, thanks to a new [map](#) by the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS). The map helps connect people to the nearly 2,500 streets, intersections and other locations that have been co-named after notable people.

The new tool comes after New York City Mayor Eric Adams designated DORIS as the agency responsible for sharing background information on co-named locations on its website in 2023. Using mapping software from the Office of Technology and Innovation, application developers built an interactive map that allows users to quickly find biographical or background information about the person or entity for whom the name change took place—right from their phones. For example, the map will inform users that the corner of Park Row and Spruce Street in Manhattan, co-named “Elizabeth Jennings Way,” honors Jennings, a Black teacher who integrated the City’s trolleys in 1854 by refusing to “get off” when instructed.

The map showing the biographies of New Yorkers was developed during the summer by the DORIS application development team and the talented interns who entered data for the interactive map.

“Throughout the years, our city has honored New Yorkers for their great achievements and selfless acts by co-naming streets after them, and this map will help us connect to them and their stories,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “As we continue to build a safer, more

affordable city for the New Yorkers of today and future generations to come, we must remember to learn from and uplift the inspiring stories of those who have shaped our history. This new tool, developed via an interagency effort, highlights the stories of the people who have left an enduring mark on our city, and that's something we should all learn about."

There are currently 2,496 entries – 1,610 of those entries are co-named intersections, and 886 are co-named streets. The map is searchable by the name of the individual, zip code, and categories such as "firefighter" or "police officer." Users can reference the website to find out more about each person honored with a co-named location.

In 2002 and 2003, local laws named more than 400 streets for first responders killed on 9/11. Many of those streets lack biographical information. DORIS is working with the Council to gather this biographical information for inclusion in an upcoming local law. All biographical information in the map is taken directly from the enacted local law.

"I live in Park Slope, and I know why the intersection of 12th Street and 7th Avenue in Brooklyn is co-named for Pete Hamill," said **Department of Records and Information Services Commissioner Pauline Toole**. "Our street map will let all New Yorkers and visitors know why the Council honored the nationally recognized columnist, author and journalist for his extensive work and dedication covering New York City."

"I'm proud to have written the legislation establishing this map," said **Gale A. Brewer New York City Councilmember**. "Our City's history is long and deep, and we need tools to remember those who came before us—whether their name is on a building or on a street sign—and why they're being honored. Think of this as Wikipedia for street names!"

"The online map of co-named streets is an excellent resource for New Yorkers looking to better understand the history of New York City and the individuals, loved ones, or cultural references that make this the greatest city in the world," said **NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez**. "Thank you to the Department of Records and Information Services for developing this valuable tool, which makes it easier to locate co-named streets across the city. This map not only highlights the city's rich history but also serves as a guide for those interested in learning more about the individuals and events that have shaped our neighborhoods."

"This interactive digital map places the remarkable stories of our city's greatest historical figures at the fingertips of today's New Yorkers like never before — and, in doing so, illustrates this administration's deep commitment to leveraging technology to make information about our city and government more accessible for all," said **New York City Chief Technology Officer Matthew Fraser**. "I congratulate Commissioner Toole on the release of this map and thank DORIS for their longstanding partnership on citywide tech-related projects."

"New York is in many ways a small-town masquerading as a big city. There are at least 2,000 streets that are co-named to honor New Yorkers who lived, worked in the neighborhood, or had an impact on the community. DORIS's new street naming map will let me find out who these people are and what they did and I look forward to spending many pleasurable hours learning about their stories," said **Abby Suckle, President of Culture Now, Lower Manhattan Historical Association**.

"If you've ever wondered about anything in New York City's history, the Municipal Archives is the place to go for answers," said **Steven Romalewski, Director of Mapping Services at the**

Center for Urban Research at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

“With this map, they provide a new way to learn about special street names that honor New Yorkers who are helping to shape our history now. The map is easy to use, it's accessible anywhere, and it provides a wealth of information you can't find easily anywhere else.”

“The Street Renaming Project brings New York City's history to life, honoring the remarkable individuals that have shaped our 5 boroughs. This map isn't just a guide—it's a living archive, a tribute to our shared past, and a way for each of us to connect with the stories that make our city unique,” said **Kam Singh, Intern Leader, Queens College, City University of New York.**

“This map is an advance in making information available to the public. It allows any New Yorker—or visitor—to quickly learn the story behind a street name without having to click through years of legislative records. Most of the people honored on street signs are not household names. Enabling people to learn about street-name honorees is a service to their memory as well as a service to the public,” said **Gilbert Tauber, a historian of New York City street names.**

About DORIS

Established in 1977, DORIS preserves and provides public access to the historical and contemporary records of New York City government. Learn more at <https://www.nyc.gov/records>.