

**City Planning Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

**PRELIMINARY STAFF REPORT**

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**To:** City Planning Commission

**Prepared by:** Nicholas Kindel

**Date:** January 14, 2015

**Street Name Change # 02/15**

**Consideration:** A request to consider the re-naming of a section of LaSalle Street, between Earhart Boulevard and Simon Bolivar Avenue, to be changed to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way. (PD 2)

**I. Why is City Planning Commission (CPC) Action Required?**

The CPC's Administrative Rules, Policies and Procedures require a CPC recommendation on all street name change requests prior to City Council action. The goals and objectives of the CPC's Street Naming Change Policy are as follows:

1. Preserve historic and significant street names that add to the City's cultural, architectural, and historic ambience;
2. Maintain the continuity of street names throughout the City;
3. Improve the clarity of the City's street name change system where possible, especially with respect to the identification of locations by those agencies with public safety and emergency services;
4. Provide a clear, efficient, and transparent procedure for the consideration of requests to rename streets and assist applicants through the process.

**II. Analysis:**

The criteria for evaluation of street name changes are provided in Section C of the City Planning Commission's Street Naming Policy. Each of the criteria is copied below, followed by a brief analysis by the staff.

- 1. Streets may be named after historically significant actions, as part of a theme, or after a person who has made a demonstrable and significant positive impact on the City, State, or Country. In order to reduce any perception of misconduct, favoritism, or bias, no street shall be renamed to honor a person who has been deceased for no less than five (5) years.**

The requested name is proposed to recognize Rev. John C. Raphael Jr., the late pastor at New Hope Baptist Church. John Raphael Jr. was a New Orleans police officer before becoming the pastor at New Hope Baptist Church in 1988. Pastor Raphael was an anti-violence crusader and did missionary work overseas.<sup>1</sup> New Hope Baptist Church is located at 1809 LaSalle Street, near the center of the proposed street name change request.

Pastor Raphael, the son of a New Orleans police officer and a public school teacher, grew up in New Orleans. He attended McDonogh #35 High School and Dillard, Loyola, and Southern universities. He received a theology degree from Union Baptist Theological Seminary and was awarded an honorary divinity degree from Christian Bible College. John Raphael Jr. spent 14 years serving in the New Orleans Police Department. In April 1988, he became the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

Pastor Raphael expanded the reach and the ministries of New Hope Baptist Church. He organized the New Hope Community Development Organization, which provided housing initiatives, classes, clothing and food distribution efforts, employment skills workshops, substance abuse counseling, and many other programs.<sup>2</sup> Pastor Raphael went to Haiti, Ghana, the Virgin Islands, and Panama on missionary trips. At home in New Orleans, Rev. Raphael crusaded to stop violence in Central City, by posting "Thou Shalt Not Kill" signs around the city, holding night vigils and overnight campouts in the Claiborne Avenue neutral ground, and fasting between Christmas and New Year's Eve.<sup>3</sup> Rev. John Raphael Jr. died on June 25, 2013 at age 60.

Streets may be named after a person who has made a demonstrable and significant impact on the City, State, or Country. The staff believes that John Raphael Jr. meets this standard; however, no street shall be renamed to honor a person who has been deceased for less than five (5) years. John Raphael Jr. died less than two (2) years ago; therefore, the proposed street name change does not meet this requirement.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *The Times- Picayune / nola.com*, "Rev. John C. Raphael Jr., police officer-turned-minister who crusaded against violence, dies at 60," [http://www.nola.com/religion/index.ssf/2013/06/rev\\_john\\_raphael\\_anti-violence.html](http://www.nola.com/religion/index.ssf/2013/06/rev_john_raphael_anti-violence.html)

<sup>2</sup> Source: *Obituary John C. Raphael, Jr.* (provided by the applicant).

<sup>3</sup> Source: *Louisiana Weekly*, "N.O. loses another fearless anti-violence crusader," <http://www.louisianaweekly.com/n-o-loses-another-fearless-anti-violence-crusader/>, July 1, 2013.

2. **No fragmentation of the name of any continuous street shall be permitted. All street renaming shall occur in such a manner that one of the following two criteria are met: 1) the entire length of a continuous street shall be renamed, or 2) a section of a street shall be renamed only where such section is physically separated or obstructed from other sections of the same street by structures, parks, canals, interstates, rivers, bayous, or other significant objects, or as a result of shifts in the City's street grid pattern that causes a portion of a street to be clearly disconnected from other portions of the street.**

LaSalle Street is named after the French explorer Robert de La Salle who explored the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico. LaSalle Street was originally named Howard Street, but the name was changed to LaSalle Street between 1909 and 1937.<sup>4</sup> Portions of LaSalle Street extend from Canal Street in the Central Business District to Loyola University Uptown.<sup>5</sup> LaSalle Street is not a continuous street as it is broken up into a number of portions. LaSalle Street stretches from Canal Street to Dave Dixon Drive where it ends near the Union Passenger Terminal. LaSalle Street picks up again on the other side of the Pontchartrain Expressway at Earhart Boulevard for one block where it ends for two blocks at Clio Street and the former Guste Apartments.<sup>6</sup> LaSalle Street starts again at Thalia Street and runs upriver to Lusher Charter School. After State Street, LaSalle continues for three more blocks as LaSalle Place before ultimately ending at Loyola University.

The proposed location of the street name change is an eleven (11) block portion of LaSalle Street between Earhart Boulevard and Simon Bolivar Avenue. This portion of LaSalle Street is a minor street with two-way traffic that serves mostly the nearby residents, businesses, and institutional uses in the area. There is currently construction as part of the redevelopment of Guste that breaks up this section of LaSalle Street. Once the construction is complete, this portion of LaSalle Street will be continuous from Earhart Boulevard to Simon Bolivar Avenue. There are one hundred twelve (112) parcels that front this portion of LaSalle Street and one hundred sixteen (116) addresses on LaSalle Street that would be impacted by this proposed street name change.<sup>7</sup>

This criterion prohibits fragmentation of any continuous street. All street name changes shall meet one of the two criteria. Either the entire length of the street shall be renamed, or a section of the street to be renamed shall be physically separated from other portions of the street. The first criterion is not meet because only a portion

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<sup>4</sup> According to Sanborn maps from 1909 Vol.4 and 1937 Vol. 4.

<sup>5</sup> LaSalle Street ends at Lusher Charter School, but a three (3) block portion continues as LaSalle Place before it ends at Loyola University.

<sup>6</sup> As part of the redevelopment Guste, LaSalle Street is being restored. After construction is complete, LaSalle Street will run continuously from Earhart Boulevard to Lusher Charter School.

<sup>7</sup> As estimated by the staff using LAMA, the City's land management system.

of the street is proposed to be renamed. This portion of the street may meet the second criterion, so it is important to look at the exact language which is included below:

*2) a section of a street shall be renamed only where such section is physically separated or obstructed from other sections of the same street by structures, parks, canals, interstates, rivers, bayous, or other significant objects, or as a result of shifts in the City's street grid pattern that causes a portion of a street to be clearly disconnected from other portions of the street.*

This section of the street is physically separated from the Central Business District section of the same street at the Earhart Boulevard end of LaSalle Street by the Pontchartrain Expressway and the Union Passenger Terminal. This is not the case on the Simon Bolivar Avenue end of LaSalle Street. From Louisiana Avenue to Simon Bolivar Avenue, La Salle Street is a major street with a neutral ground and with two traffic lanes and one parking lane in each direction. When traveling in the downtown direction, near First Street the major street veers to the right and changes its name to Simon Bolivar Avenue. At this point, LaSalle Street veers to the left and continues as a minor street. There is nothing that physically separates (structure, park, canal, interstate, etc) LaSalle Street at Simon Bolivar Avenue. There is a shift in the City's street grid pattern as LaSalle Street turns from a major to a minor street and slightly changes direction. However, the staff does not believe that this shift in the street grid causes this portion of LaSalle Street "to be clearly disconnected from other portions of the street." Since a vehicle heading in the uptown direction does not need turn onto another street to continue from the minor to the major portion of LaSalle Street, there is no clear disconnection at this point. Therefore, the staff finds that the proposed street name change request would cause fragmentation in the LaSalle Street name and does not meet this requirement.

The staff recommends working with the Department of Public Works to find other ways to honor Pastor Raphael. One option, which is often used in other cities, is to place honorary street name sign(s) above or below the actual street sign(s) on the block of LaSalle Street with the New Hope Baptist Church.<sup>8</sup> The honorary signs would recognize Pastor Raphael without changing the official name of the street or the official addresses of the residences and businesses on the street (see Figure 1 below). Another option includes the erection of a statue or a plaque near the New Hope Baptist Church on LaSalle Street.

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<sup>8</sup> The existing street name signs are blue, so the staff recommends that the honorary signs be different color, such as brown which is often used for historical and cultural markers.

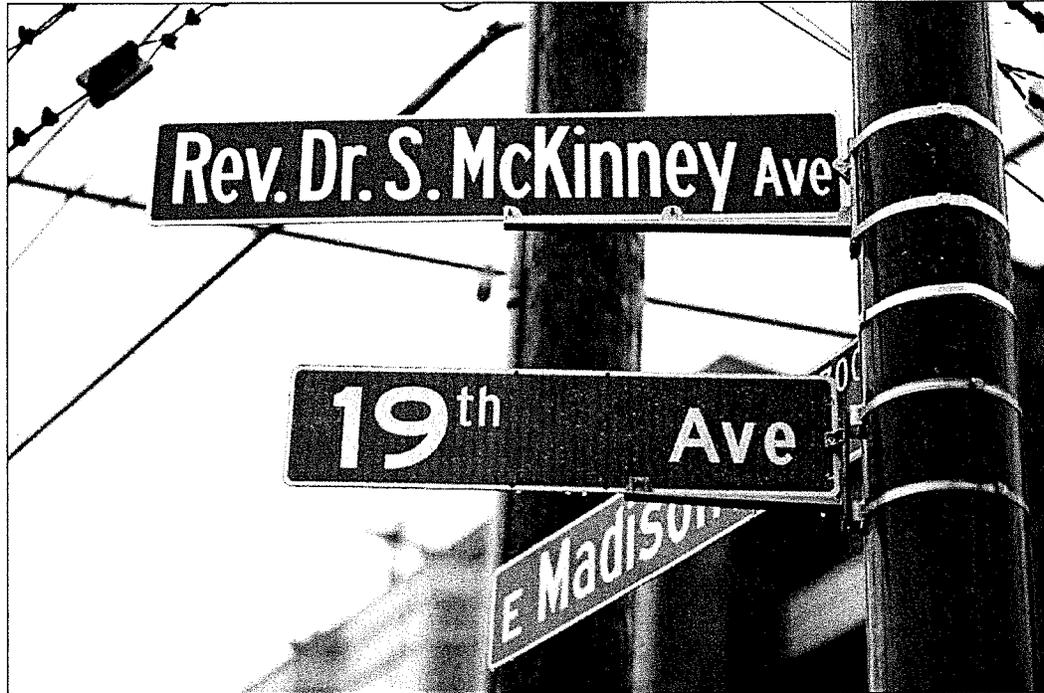


Figure 1: Honorary street name example from Seattle, Washington<sup>9</sup>

3. **The creation of duplicate street names shall not be permitted, and preference shall be given to requests for the renaming of existing duplicate street names. Street names shall be considered duplicate even if their suffixes (Street, Road, Circle, Boulevard, etc.) are different or if they have similar spellings (Claire Avenue and Clare Court) or pronunciations (Rayne Drive and Reynes Street).**

There are a few streets that are similar to portions of the proposed street name change to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way, such as John Churchill Chase Street, Johnson Street, and Raphael Semmes Street. However, the staff did not identify anything similar to Raphael or John Raphael Jr in the City. Therefore, the proposed street name change request would not create a duplicate street name.

4. **In order to provide for consistency in the naming of streets and to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the community, all street names shall conform to the following standards:**
  - a. *A pre-directional indicator may be included as part of a street name. When used, pre-directional indicators must precede all other components of a street name, and the use of the predirectional indicator shall be consistent with the pattern established by the City (for example, with respect to Canal Street).*

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<sup>9</sup> Street signs are green and honorary sign is brown. Source: *SeattlePI.com*, "Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney honorary street sign unveiling," <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/slideshow/Rev-Dr-Samuel-B-McKinney-honorary-street-sign-81092/photo-5964037.php>

*Only the directions North, South, East, and West shall be used as pre-directional indicators. No postdirectional indicators or other direction following a name shall be permitted;*

There are not any pre-directional or post-directional indicators proposed as part of this street name change request.

- b. The use of punctuation marks, including but not limited to the following, are prohibited: apostrophes, brackets, colons, commas, dashes, ellipses, question marks, exclamation marks, hyphens, parentheses, periods, quotation marks, semicolons, and slashes;*

There are a number of punctuation marks in the proposed street name change to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way. Since punctuation marks are prohibited, including periods, the staff would recommend modifying the street name change to removal all punctuation, if approved.

- c. Diacritical marks (for example, ç, é, ô, etc.) and hyphens may be used;*

There are not diacritical marks proposed as part of this street name change request.

- d. The use of abbreviations (for example, Cath., Geo., Wm., etc.) are prohibited, except as provided below;*

There are not any abbreviations as described above proposed as part of this street name change request.

- e. The use of titles (for example, Empress, Honorable, King, etc.), prefixes (for example, Dr., Mr., Rev., etc.), and suffixes (for example, Esquire, M.D., Ph.D., etc.) are prohibited, with the exception that suffixes forming part of the legal name of a person, and which are necessary to distinguish between two people with the same name, may be used. In such cases, the suffixes Junior and Senior shall be abbreviated Jr and Sr. No comma shall be used to separate such suffixes from the other portions of a name, and no period shall be used following such a suffix;*

The proposed street name change to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way does include the use of the Rev. title, which is specifically prohibited. The proposed Jr suffix is part of the legal name of the person and may be used. The proposed periods shall not be used. If approved, the staff recommends modifying the street name change to remove the title.

- e. *The shortest meaningful version of a proposed street name should be given preference;*

If approved, the staff recommends modifying the street name change to Raphael Street. Most street names in the city named after people contain only the person's last name; therefore, the staff advises using Raphael rather than John Raphael Jr. In addition, most roads in the City use the suffix Avenue or Street;<sup>10</sup> therefore, the staff would recommend the use of Street over Way. If approved, the staff prefers changing the name to Raphael Street than John Raphael Jr Way. Given the policies above, the staff recommends removing all punctuation, removing the title, and shortening the name; therefore if approved, the staff recommends modifying the street name change to Raphael Street.

- f. *No new street name shall be permitted to exceed a length of thirty (30) characters. For this purpose of this standard, each letter, hyphen, numeral and space between words with a street name, including any pre-directional prefix (for example, North South etc.) and any street type suffix (for example, Avenue, Boulevard, etc.) shall be counted as an individual character. However, no diacritical mark shall be counted as a separate character from that of the letter to which it is added.*

The requested street name change to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way has twenty-five (25) characters including letters, punctuations and spaces. The staff proposes modifying the street name change to Raphael Street, which has fourteen (14) characters. The proposed street name change meets this requirement.

- 5. **The City Planning Commission may consider and recommend to the City Council any modification to a proposed street name that is deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of the Street Naming Policy or to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. However, the City Planning Commission shall not recommend any changes to the name of a street or right-of-way that is outside the bounding streets or other boundaries specified on the request submitted to the City Planning Commission by the City Council.**

To meet the street name standards in criteria 4, the staff recommends shortening the name and eliminating all punctuation. Therefore, the staff recommends modifying the street name change to Raphael Street, if approved.

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<sup>10</sup> Avenue is typically used for larger roads that have a neutral ground, while Street is typically used for the smaller roads.

6. **The City Planning Commission may waive any of the evaluation criteria in this section as part of its recommendation when doing so is deemed necessary in order to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the community.**

The City Planning Commission staff does not find it necessary to waive criteria 1 and 2 to promote health, safety and general welfare of the community.

### **III. Comments from other Agencies:**

The City Planning Commission's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) considered the street name change request at its meeting of December 17, 2014. During the discussion, members of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Information Technology and Innovation (ITI) voiced concerns about the proposed street name change because it would fragment the street name on LaSalle Street. Based on this concern, DPW made a motion of **objection** to the request. The Division of Real Estate and Records seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Summary:**

Street Name Change # 02/15 is a request to consider the re-naming of a section of LaSalle Street, between Earhart Boulevard and Simon Bolivar Avenue, to be changed to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way. To meet the street naming standards, the staff would recommend modifying the street name change to Raphael Street, if approved. The request fails to meet criterion 1 because Pastor Raphael has been deceased for less than five (5) years and criterion 2 because the request would result in the fragmentation of LaSalle Street. Various City Departments objected to the proposed street name change request at the Planning Advisory Committee meeting. Therefore, the staff recommends denial of the requested name change. The staff recommends that the applicant work with the Department of Public Works on other ways to honor Pastor Raphael, such as honorary street signs.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation:**

The staff recommends **DENIAL** of the requested Street Name Change # 02/15.

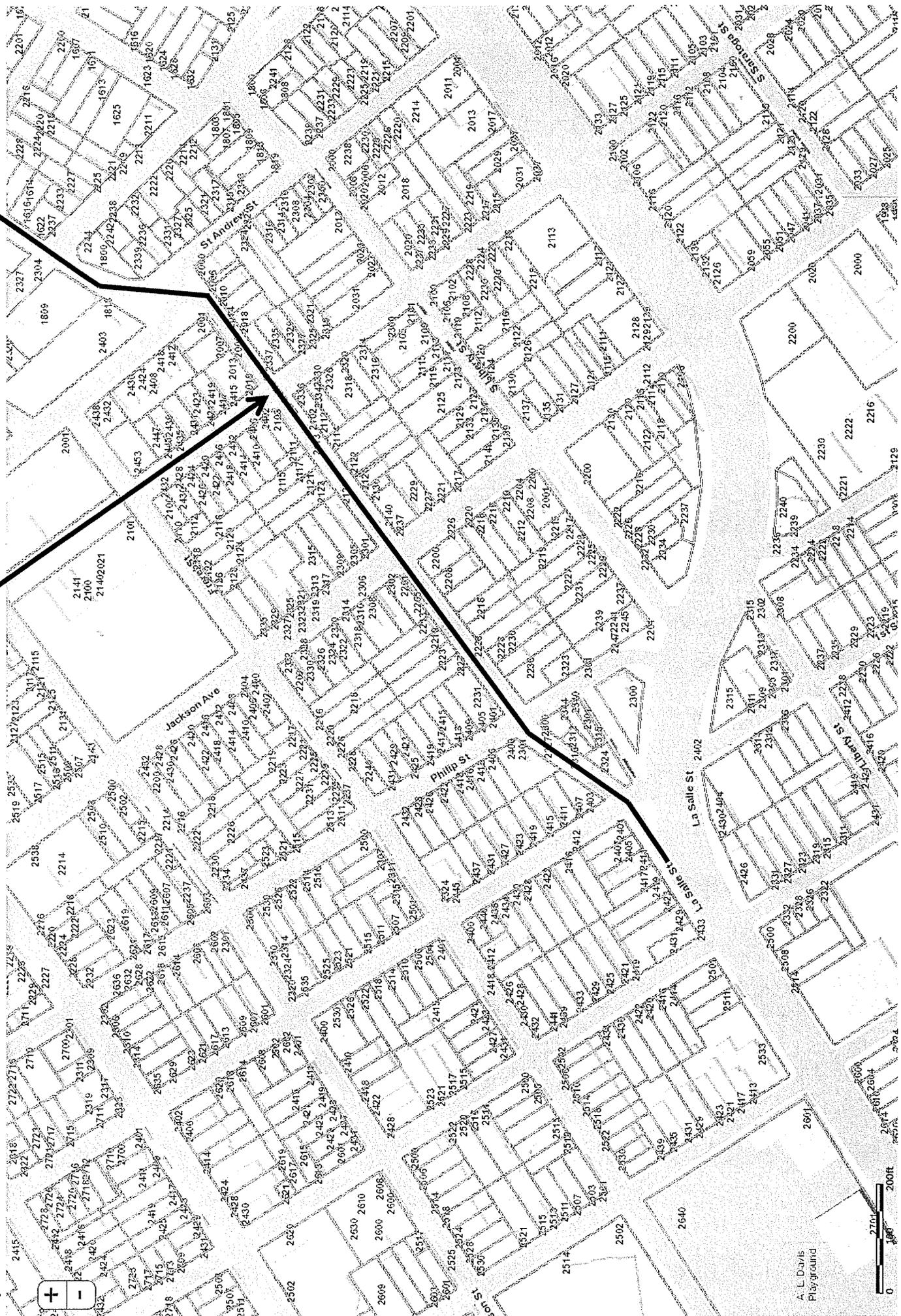
### **Reason for Recommendation:**

1. The street name change would recognize a person who has been deceased for less than five (5) years.
2. The street re-naming will result in the fragmentation of the LaSalle Street name.
3. Multiple City departments and agencies objected to the proposed street name change request at the PAC meeting.



# SNC 02/15: LaSalle Street to Raphael Street

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS PROPERTY VIEWER



A. L. Davis  
Playground







The Council  
**City of New Orleans**

LATOYA CANTRELL  
COUNCILMEMBER - DISTRICT B

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W10  
1300 PERDIDO STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112  
(504) 558-1020  
FAX (504) 558-1025

Mr. Paul Cramer  
Assistant Planning Administrator  
City Planning Commission  
1300 Perdido Street  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mr. Cramer:

I am writing you in support of two street name requests. New Home Full Gospel Ministries and the Blake family are requesting that Carondelete from Felicity to Martin Luther King be changed to Robert C. Blakes, Sr. Drive. According to the applicants, the 19 affected lots include 9 residential lots and 2 commercial lots on the street as well. Bishop Blakes was an outstanding spiritual leader and activist in the city of New Orleans for nearly 50 years. Mrs. Lois Blakes can be contacted at 905-4139.

Additionally, the New Hope Baptist Church is requesting that the 10 blocks of LaSalle between Earhart and Simon Bolivar be changed to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way. According to the applicants, there are 9 single family units, eight double family units, 15 multi-family units, 12 empty lots, 22 blighted houses and three vacant commercial building on the location. Rev. Raphael was an influential anti-violence crusader in the city. Rev. Jamal Weathersby can be contacted at 533-5935.

The applicants have been notified that they will need to contact DPW for a statement of cost to replace the street signs and will need to deposit the funds with the Department of Finance.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LaToya Cantrell".

**LaToya Cantrell**  
Councilmember, District 'B'

# Obituary

## JOHN C. RAPHAEL, JR.

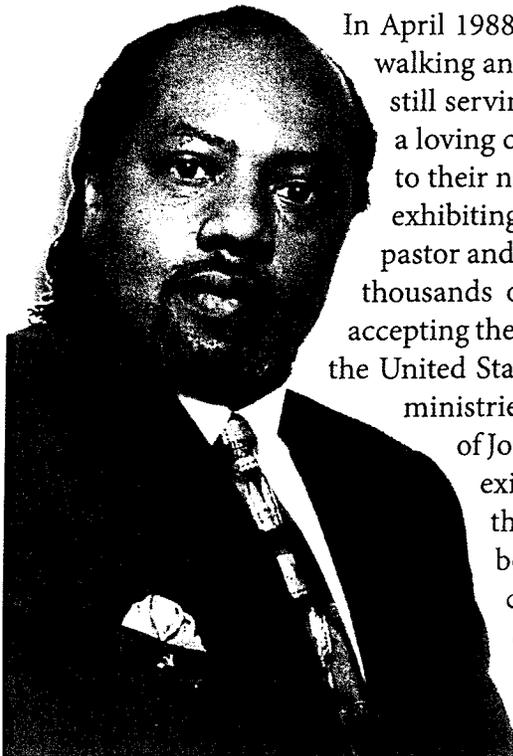
OCTOBER 20, 1952 – JUNE 25, 2013  
A LIFE ORDAINED BY GOD FROM BEGINNING TO END

*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" - Gal 2:20*

Pastor Raphael was the third child and first-born son of John and Laura Mae Raphael. He was educated in the New Orleans Public School System. He graduated from McDonogh #35 Senior High School and went on to collegiate studies at Dillard, Loyola, and Southern universities in New Orleans. He pursued theological studies at Union Baptist Theological Seminary and Christian Bible College earning a Bachelor's of Divinity and an honorary Master's of Divinity degree.

The son of the first African-American policeman in New Orleans since Reconstruction and the grandson of a prominent Baptist pastor, Pastor Raphael's steps were God-ordered in advance. Developing in the womb of his mother, a teacher in the New Orleans Public Schools, was the genetic passion for bringing souls to Christ, encouraging adherence to the laws required for a civil society, and inspiring others to pursue education and full development of their God-given potential. Throughout his young life he befriended and encouraged his age mates, often inviting them home for dinner without notice. The whole neighborhood knew "JC". He loved to go fishing with his earthly father. Unbeknownst to him, his heavenly Father was already shaping him to be a fisher of men. In the early 1970's he committed himself to the work of protecting and serving the people of New Orleans with the New Orleans Police Department. It was an unpopular time for black men in the Second District of the NOPD, but he drew on the experiences of his father and his God-ordained strength persevering for 14 years until God called him to his next assignment.

In April 1988, Pastor Raphael moved from walking and driving the streets in a police car to walking and driving the streets with a Bible in his hand, preaching, teaching, and praying - still serving the people with passion and compassion. He was installed and embraced by a loving congregation that quickly grew both in numbers and in their protective devotion to their new pastor. As time went on New Hope became a big extension of his family ever exhibiting a desire to serve as he served, with resolve and commitment. As the proud pastor and visionary of New Hope Baptist Church, Pastor Raphael's joy and fervor brought thousands of souls to Christ. His magnetic ministry was a catalyst to scores of people accepting the divine call to preach. Many of these individuals now pastor churches throughout the United States. He found new avenues to strengthen existing ministries and initiated new ministries such as Congregational Wellness, Singles' Hospitality, Daughters of Ruth, Sons of Joshua, the Lion-Tamers. Under Pastor Raphael's leadership, New Hope paid off the existing mortgages on all property and purchased two new properties. Recognizing the need for Sunday services other than early morning and evening worships he began a midday service that sent buses and vans throughout the city to transport children and youth. In addition to spiritual nurturing the children received food, clothing, and attention to whatever other needs they presented. Some of the children from distant areas of the city are now faithful adult members of the New Hope family.



Awareness and concern for the streets of New Orleans was not lessened when John Raphael, Jr. the policeman became Pastor John Raphael. His years of experience counseling and admonishing offenders, combating violence and steering individuals to appropriate support venues in the community heightened his awareness of the need for meaningful long-term solutions. As such, he organized the New Hope Community Development Organization that worked with New Hope Baptist Church and other non-profit and government agencies to provide multiple services to the New Orleans metropolitan area. Walking through Central City and other problem areas Pastor Raphael encouraged those he met to take advantage of housing initiatives, GED prep and computer tech classes, clothing and food distribution, afternoon tutorial and summer enrichment programs, employment skills workshops, alcoholism and substance abuse counseling, teen enrichment and many other programs offered at New Hope. To quote Rev. Creal James, "Pastor Raphael had a constant understanding of God's grace." This understanding compelled him to surface the inherent good in all mankind and thereby offer that link between the lost and the saving grace of Christ.

As a young child, Pastor Raphael had been excited by the idea of traveling a long distance to Boy Scout camp in Covington, LA. He did not know that his ordained life's journey would take him hundreds of thousands of miles serving mankind. In the early 1990's in obedience to God's ordained plan for his life, he ignored his fear of flying and accepted the office of Executive Secretary/Director of the Foreign Mission Board for the National Baptist Convention of America Inc, International. He was reverently known in convention circles as "Mr. Foreign Mission." However on the foreign mission field he was fondly known as "Big John". Big in size but bigger in love, Pastor Raphael went boldly to underserved areas in Haiti, Ghana, Jamaica, Virgin Islands and Panama, bringing the good news of Jesus, the ministry of presence, physical sustenance, educational supplies, health needs, theological training and supplies, a kind touch and an open hand. He lifted spirits as he shared his joy and laughter embracing the day-to-day culture of those he visited. His accomplishments include the building of the E. Edward Jones Polytechnical School and the renovation and expansion of the J.C. Sams Children's Hospital in Ghana, West Africa. His efforts were instrumental to the post-earthquake renovation and reopening of the Institut Nouvelle school in Haiti. Pastor Raphael administered scores of church plants, church operations, pastors' support, orphanage support, and field operations in all of the convention mission fields. He committed to personally visiting the fields to encourage the work and ensure that the funds being provided by the NBCA were properly expended and accounted for. Again, his ministry influenced hundreds of people in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean to accept the divine call to preach.

This list of Pastor Raphael's travels, accomplishments, dreams, talents and endeavors could continue for many pages but second to his accepting Christ as his Savior, Pastor's most enduring choice was his marriage to his loving wife of 28 years, Catherine James Raphael. First Lady Raphael often says her job in life was to serve him and that job was done impeccably well. He could never have spent so many countless hours ministering in the dangerous streets of New Orleans, flying internationally, preparing for the spiritual battles that he daily faced without the loving care of a woman who made it her priority to maintain a healthy, happy home that was his place of refuge. In addition to providing for Pastor's needs at home, Sis. Raphael worked by his side in ministry teaching Sunday School, serving the needy every Wednesday, attending New Hope family events with and on his behalf, faithfully visiting and praying for loved ones, and doing other tasks.

Pastor Raphael's love for family is fulfilled in the pride of his life, Rev. John Carl Raphael, III. He nurtured his son with constant and abiding love. He was overjoyed to see his son accept the call of God and join him in the ministry of the Gospel. In August, 2012 he proudly presented his new daughter-in-law, Sherrelle, to his extended family. Pastor went to great lengths to make time to enjoy his two "pretty girls", beloved step-daughter, Tiara Walker (dec) and grand-daughter, Diamond Walker and his step-son Therron Glover. Affectionately known as JC, Uncle JC, Uncle CC, Uncle Parrame, Cousin JC, Pastor Raphael leaves to mourn a host of family, relatives and friends.

He knew that this time was ordained and we can still hear his final instruction to the church:

***"Pray just four words: Thy Will Be Done"***

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" - Romans 8:28*

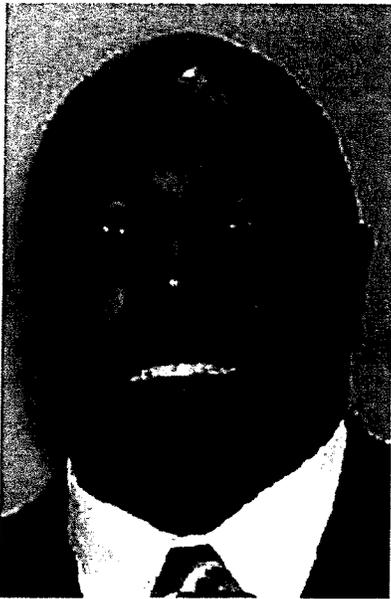
# N.O. loses another fearless anti-violence crusader

1st July 2013 · 0 Comments

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On the same day that a caravan carried the remains of the Rev. Zebadee Bridges, a giant among civil rights ministers, to Summit, Miss., for burial, New Orleans lost another fearless warrior in the struggle to end the scourge of poverty, drug-trafficking and gun violence that threaten the future of the Black community. The Rev. John C. Raphael Jr., pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, succumbed to cancer on Tuesday morning, June 25. He was 60.

Like the Rev. Zebadee Bridges, Raphael was committed to meeting the needs of the community as well as his congregation and was not afraid to walk the streets of Central City after the sun went down to address community issues like drugs, crime and violence.



REV. JOHN RAPHAEL

“He was such a charismatic person, he had a way of befriending people and making them come to him. He was believable because he was real,” Catherine Raphael, Rev. Raphael’s widow, told FOX 8 News Tuesday. widow of Pastor Raphael.

FOX 8 News reported Tuesday that during a Dec. 2008 anti-violence rally, Rev. Raphael talked about his faith and how his calling as a minister compelled him to reach out to those who most needed help on the streets of New Orleans.

“So many have given up on themselves and I want them to know I have not given up on them and really God has not,” Rev. Raphael said.

Rev. Raphael, the son of a police officer and a 14-year veteran of the NOPD, ministered to the faithful at the New Hope Baptist Church in Central City and as a tireless activist who worked relentlessly in a community caught in the grips of poverty, drugs, hopelessness, despair and violence.

After attending Loyola University and Southern University, Raphael earned a bachelor degree in theology from Union Baptist Theological Seminary. He also was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Christian Bible College of New Orleans.

It was his faith and his commitment to effecting positive change in New Orleans that compelled Rev. Raphael to camp out on the neutral ground near the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial statue at the intersection of Claiborne Ave. and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., as well as commit to fasting each year from the day after Christmas until New Year's Eve.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rev. John C. Raphael, Jr.," Congressman Cedric Richmond, D-La. said Wednesday. "They, the parishioners of New Hope Baptist Church, and all the citizens of New Orleans have lost a truly special man who dedicated his life to improving the community. Rev. Raphael was keenly aware of the awful toll of violence and was committed to doing everything he could to bring about peace on our streets. The work he did throughout his life — as a community leader, a 15-year veteran of the New Orleans Police Department, and pastor of New Hope Baptist Church — stands as a testament to his dedication. Those who interfaced with any of his programs, including Yes We Care or the Faith Responders, know firsthand the difference he made in the lives of those he touched. While he did not live to see his dream of a city without violence realized, his efforts brought us closer to that dream. His impact will continue to be felt and he will be deeply missed by all of us who share his goal of a peaceful community."

"[M]y heart is heavy as the City of New Orleans mourns the death of Pastor John C. Raphael, Jr. of New Hope Baptist Church," New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said in a press release Tuesday. "I have personally relied on the wisdom and counsel of Pastor Raphael over the years, not just because of what he said, but because of how he lived. Pastor Raphael will be dearly missed.

"Whether he was preaching on the corner, fasting for days on MLK, mentoring young people, or challenging us all to do more to end the death and violence on our streets, Pastor Raphael was consistent and responsible in challenging us all to do our part to reflect the love of God and improve our city," Landrieu added. "May our thoughts and prayers be with the Raphael and New Hope families."

The congregation of New Hope Baptist Church and family members gathered inside the house of worship Tuesday afternoon to lend support and encouragement to one another. Among them was the activist minister's widow, Mrs. Catherine Raphael, who displayed the kind of grace, strength and courage her husband had become legendary for.

Never one to let someone else carry the mantle of leadership and responsibility, Rev. Raphael used his trademark "Thou Shalt Not Kill" signs posted around the city to raise public awareness of the toll violence has taken on New Orleans as well as night vigils and overnight camp-outs on the Claiborne Avenue neutral ground to draw attention to the issue. Rev. Raphael earned a reputation as a principled and fearless man of God who was willing to do whatever was necessary to save lives and help those in trouble.

His widow told FOX 8 News last week that she often found herself praying for her husband's safety while carrying out his divine mission on the streets of New Orleans.

"Actually I was thinking, 'Lord, please do not let anybody kill this man out here on this neutral ground, sleeping, and I was fearful for him,'" Catherine Raphael told FOX 8 News Tuesday.

Rev. Raphael's humanitarian activities extending far beyond New Orleans, bringing him across the Atlantic Ocean to bring aid to impoverished communities in the Caribbean and West Africa. In addition to building an orphanage in Haiti, Rev. Raphael helped to build a polytechnical college and a hospital in the West African nation of Ghana, according to his sister Aurora Carter.

“His passion for people fueled his compassion for people,” Aurora Carter told nola.com. “He truly loved the Lord and he wanted everybody to know that they could also love the Lord and be blessed.”

“He just had a big impact on everyone, on kids, on me, for sure because I learned from Pastor Raphael, how to love and how to care,” Germaine Steib, one of the musicians at the church who enjoyed Rev. Raphael’s powerful sermons, told FOX 8 News.

Others in the community flocked to the church upon hearing news of Rev. Raphael’s passing..

“There are a lot of people that died in this community without the finances to even bury them. He brought them to this church, did everything to give them a very good send-off,” the Rev. Matthew George, pastor of Berean Presbyterian Church, told FOX 8 News.

Fellow pastors expressed their love for and admiration of Rev. Raphael last week.

“John, and I say John affectionately, John and I grew up together. His grandfather, who was a pastor, and my father was a pastor, [they] were very close friends,” said the Rev. C.S. Gordon, pastor of the historic New Zion Baptist Church, told FOX 8 News.

Rev. Gordon said Raphael was effective in all arenas. “John had passion in the pulpit as well as outside of the pulpit. He could relate to those in the church and those outside of the church,” he said..

Rev. Raphael’s loved ones and members of his congregation said last week that they will continue to do what they can to carry on the work that the minister has quietly done without fanfare or hoopla for years.

“Yes, yes, there’s no reason not to because it’s such great work, and it’s the work of the church... We’ll go on because he would want us to, this is what he would expect of us and after 30 years of walking beside him I’ll have to go on,” Catherine. Raphael said Tuesday

“The enormity of his loss impacts all of us who are very passionate about disadvantaged families and children throughout New Orleans,” the Rev. Tom Watson, senior pastor of Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries, told The Louisiana Weekly Wednesday. “His transitioning from us suggests that we have to be very prayerful about the next generation of leaders who will hopefully be trained the way he was trained — first to be a public servant and then all of a sudden he becomes a giant of a figure in terms of not only public but spiritual leadership.

“His loss is one of immense vacancy, if you will, because it’s a tough void to fill when you have a pastor who understands that his assignment is beyond Sunday morning preaching and Sunday morning celebration,” Watson continued. “He is one that walked the walk, talked the talk and operated in the assignment that God gave him. We will be forever grateful for guys like him who took on an assignment, particularly as it relates to violence in our community, and did everything he could do within his power, strength and limitations to ensure that not only his immediate area would be confronted and dealt with in terms of the issues of crime and violence. But he was a true citywide and global leader based on the mission work he did throughout New Orleans and on the continent of Africa.

“It’s one of those losses that make it very difficult to think about who fills that void,” Watson told The Louisiana Weekly. “I know God will give that congregation the kind of replacement that’s necessary but I would say that it’s going to be tough to find another John Raphael.”

A funeral will be held on Tuesday, July 2, at New Hope Baptist Church, 1807 LaSalle St., 7:00 p.m., preceded by visitation from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A second funeral, with a public viewing from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., will take place on Wednesday, July 3, at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre for Performing Arts.

He will be buried in Providence Memorial Park, 8200 Airline Drive, Metairie, La.

Heritage Funeral Directors is handling the arrangements.

The Rev. John C. Raphael Jr. is survived by his wife, Catherine Raphael; a son, John C. Raphael III of New Orleans; a stepson, Theron Glover of New Orleans; five sisters, Aurora Carter, Keely Bowen and Janna Raphael, all of New Orleans, Sharon Cole of Sterling, Va., and Miriam Montgomery of Montgomery, Al; a grandchild and a host of relatives.

*Additional reporting by Louisiana Weekly editor Edmund W. Lewis.*

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## Pastor, anti-crime crusader John Raphael dies of cancer

Updated: Jul 02, 2013 6:24 PM CDT

Written by: Sabrina Wilson [CONNECT](#)

New Orleans, La. — The Reverend John C. Raphael, a tireless preacher who committed himself to addressing the ills outside of his church's walls, has died of cancer. He was 60.

"He was such a charismatic person, he had a way of befriending people and making them come to him. He was believable because he was real," said Catherine Raphael, widow of Pastor Raphael.

With his deep voice, Rev. Raphael often talked about what he believed he was called to do on the streets of the city and beyond.

"So many have given up on themselves and I want them to know I have not given up on them and really God has not," said Rev. Raphael in December 2008 during a rally against violence.

A former NOPD cop, Rev. Raphael ministered to the faithful at the New Hope Baptist Church in Central City where he served as pastor. He also worked diligently to help those in the community caught in the grips of poverty, drugs, and crime.

"This morning my heart is heavy as the city of New Orleans mourns the death of Pastor John C. Raphael, Jr. of New Hope Baptist Church. I have personally relied on the wisdom and counsel of Pastor Raphael over the years, not just because of what he said, but because of how he lived. Pastor Raphael will be dearly missed," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

He continued, "Whether he was preaching on the corner, fasting for days on MLK, mentoring young people, or challenging us all to do more to end the death and violence on our streets, Pastor Raphael was consistent and responsible in challenging us all to do our part to reflect the love of God and improve our city. May our thoughts and prayers be with the Raphael and New Hope families."

Standing inside the church where members and family had gathered Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Raphael exhibited strength and resolve.

From his signature "Thou Shalt Not Kill" signs posted around the city, to vigils, and even camping out on the Claiborne Avenue neutral ground, Rev. Raphael never shied away from his mission to convince the city's young men and women to stop the bloodshed. A type of fervor that sometimes gave his wife pause.

"Actually I was thinking, Lord, please do not let anybody kill this man out here on this neutral ground, sleeping, and I was fearful for him," she said.

His dedication to humanity stretched to Africa, the Caribbean and other faraway lands.

"He just had a big impact on everyone, on kids, on me, for sure because I learned from Pastor Raphael, how to love and how to care," said Germaine Steib, one of the musicians at the church who enjoyed Rev. Raphael's powerful sermons.

Others in the community flocked to the church upon hearing the news.

"There are a lot of people that died in this community without the finances to even bury them. He brought them to this church, did everything to give them a very good send-off," said Pastor Matthew George of the Berean Presbyterian Church.

And though Rev. Raphael faced a formidable disease, his death has shaken the community.

"John, and I say John affectionately, John and I grew up together. His grandfather, who was a pastor, and my father was a pastor, [they] were very close friends," said Rev. C.S. Gordon, pastor of the historic New Zion Baptist Church.

He said Raphael was effective in all arenas. "John had passion in the pulpit as well as outside of the pulpit. He could relate to those in the church and those outside of the church," said Rev. Gordon.

And as Pastor Raphael walked the streets trying to improve the lives of others, his church members, family and friends say they will continue to do the same.

"Yes, yes, there's no reason not to because it's such great work, and it's the work of the church... We'll go on because he would want us to, this is what he would expect of us and after 30 years of walking beside him I'll have to go on," said Mrs. Raphael.

According to Mrs. Raphael, on Tuesday, July 2, a public viewing at the New Hope Baptist Church will take place

# Thou Shalt Not Kill

## Pastor John Raphael's crusade to stop the violence in Central City

By David Winkler-Schmit



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- Photo by Tracie Morris Schaefer
- Pastor John Raphael helped start Yes We Care in response to New Orleans' out-of-control murder rate. He vows the group will respond to every murder in the city.

The blood has been scrubbed off the sidewalk in front the small shotgun house at 2800 Louisiana Ave. The yellow police tape has been discarded. The detectives have finished investigating the crime scene and there is nothing left to remind anyone a murder took place here less than 48 hours ago — except for the large man grasping a microphone powered by a car battery, addressing a growing group of people. They are gathered just 20 yards from where 26-year-old Ryan Batiste died from a shotgun blast in front of his grandmother's house two nights ago.

"If we don't say his life is valuable, then none of our lives are valuable," Pastor John Raphael tells the crowd of 40 or so assembled around him.

He doesn't need the microphone, as his rich baritone voice fills the air on this sultry evening in late April. Raphael's words are few, and his purpose is simple and direct. "Can't be no other reason than we care because of what every grandmother has to go through," he says.

It's the kind of compassion and understanding this former cop and man of God has given to this city for most of his adult life. Standing 6-feet-4-inches with a barrel chest, the 56-year-old Raphael looks like a man who can carry a large burden — and he does. As the leader of Yes We Care, a burgeoning movement that seeks to stop the killings that plague the African-American community in New Orleans, Raphael wants to prevent violence and murder. When they occur, however, he and his group are there. They call themselves the Faith Responders.

After his opening remarks, Raphael gives the microphone to other pastors and concerned citizens, who offer hope but also beseech the crowd to take a stand. Later, Raphael asks the crowd to form a prayer circle that spills out onto the approaching rush-hour traffic on Louisiana Avenue. This is his intention. The Central City pastor wants to disturb the status quo, the apathy that allows young men to die violently while communities sink into hopelessness.

"Not just this family was victimized, but this entire community was victimized," Raphael preaches, dabbing at his sweat-drenched forehead with a handkerchief. "Remember, Ryan Batiste was a baby in someone's arms."

When Raphael grew up in New Orleans' 13th Ward during the 1950s and '60s, his chief worry was racism, not violence. In his Uptown neighborhood near Magazine Street and Napoleon Avenue, his playmates were both white and black until, as Raphael puts it, his white friends' parents "taught them to not like." Even as a young child, he knew what his boundaries were: There was a black side and a white side at Callahan's Grocery Store, the park was for whites only and, sometimes, even walking down the street could get you in trouble. When he was 7 years old, he was stopped by two New Orleans police officers who claimed Raphael was going to spit on them.

The cops put handcuffs on the skinny wrists of the young boy, but the shackles were too large, so they told him to hold his hands up. What the two officers didn't realize was Raphael's father, John Sr., was also a cop — the city's first African-American police officer. The elder Raphael showed up and the two officers apologized to their colleague. Having a cop for a father also meant Raphael got into his share of scrapes over his dad's occupation, but that was as close as he came to experiencing any sort of violent behavior firsthand.

"I didn't know anyone when I was coming up that lost their life to violence," says Raphael, who this year alone has presided over the burial of nine murder victims.

Young Raphael spent his Sundays at the Second Baptist Church on Laurel Street, where his grandfather, Paul Walker Raphael, was the pastor. The youngster felt a connection to God, and with several generations of Baptist reverends in his family, churchgoing was woven into the social fabric.

"When my group came up, everybody went to church," Raphael says. "I didn't know anybody in the neighborhood that didn't go to somebody's church on Sundays."

Raphael never intended to follow in his father's footsteps. In 1972, he had a good job with South Central Bell. He had taken the NOPD entrance exam just to see how high he could score, but that led to other tests and, eventually, he took a polygraph for the police academy. He failed; the technician administering the test said Raphael was a member of a subversive organization and a heroin dealer. There were only 20 to 30 black officers on the force, and Raphael learned that falsifying polygraph results was how NOPD weeded out African Americans. His father arranged for a retest, and this time Raphael passed.

"Out of spite, I quit a job at the telephone company making twice as much money to take the job with the police department," Raphael says.



[click to enlarge](#)

- [Photo by Tracie Morris Schaefer](#)
- Raphael leads the Faith Responders in prayer at the site where Ryan Batiste was murdered two nights earlier.

He served 15 years with the NOPD, eventually becoming a detective. He met Catherine, his future wife and fellow police officer, while working a Mardi Gras parade route detail. Raphael had never met Catherine, but he had heard of her. Her 18-year-old son had been shot and killed by police. Catherine's loss is something Raphael never forgets.

"I'm doing these funerals and I'm trying to say something to the mothers," Raphael recalls. "I'm thinking, 'What in the world could I possibly say to this mother?' That mother is now sentenced to a lifetime of grief. Every day. My wife, every day she has to think about [her son's death]. And that's my burden."

Catherine introduced Raphael to New Hope Baptist Church. Following his first visit to the Central City-based church, he knew he had found his spiritual home. Not long after he and Catherine were married, he began doing double duty, working as a police officer by day and attending seminary at night. Still, Raphael wasn't training to become a pastor. He was interested, but he didn't feel called to preach — until one night, when he was driving over the Claiborne Avenue overpass after Bible class, a voice — "almost as clear as we're talking," Raphael says — inspired him to leave the badge and get behind the pulpit.

New Hope's pastor at the time, the Reverend F. H. Dunn, gave Raphael one of his first preaching assignments: take the word to the streets. Dunn told him to stand on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Rampart Street and spread the gospel.

"I thought I knew about courage, but I did not," Raphael recalls.

Even though he left the police force to become pastor of New Hope's 1,400-member congregation in 1988, Raphael was still very concerned with the city and his neighborhood's rising crime statistics, especially the murder rate. Even in a poor city like New Orleans, Central City was particularly impoverished, with most residents living at or below the poverty line. In Raphael's view, however, the larger problem was a spiritual one; people had stopped going to church and listening to God.

By 1994, New Orleans had become the murder capital of the United States, with more than one killing per day occurring in the city. One child's story was emblematic of the tragic situation. In late April of that year, James Darby, a 9-year-old boy, wrote a letter to then-president Bill Clinton, appealing to him to help stop the killings. On Mother's Day 1994 — less than a month later — Darby was killed in a drive-by shooting as he walked home from a picnic.

When another boy, 4-year-old Dwight "Mikey" Stewart, died from a stray bullet in July, Raphael and other community leaders organized a public funeral procession that began in Central City and was attended by thousands. Around the same time, the pastor asked his congregation to make what he considered "a \$30,000 act of faith." Without his or the church's name attached to it, Raphael paid for a billboard to be erected at Claiborne Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard with the commandment: "Thou Shalt Not Kill." It was a divine public-service message.

"This why you shouldn't kill, because God says so. ...Hundreds and hundreds of kids every day passed that sign, going back and forth," Raphael says. "There were literally people who came to this church and said to this church, 'I would have killed someone. I made my mind up to do it, and every time I tried to go through with it, I saw that sign.'"



click to enlarge

- [Photo by Tracie Morris Schaefer](#)
- The Yes We Care organization tries to appeal to adults and children. It began in early January and already has attracted several thousand concerned residents.

The entire Central City community, not just his congregation, recognized Raphael as someone who cared. Soon, whenever there was a shooting in the neighborhood, someone would knock on the church's door to let Pastor Raphael know. Instead of investigating crime scenes as a detective, Raphael showed up to offer spiritual help to the victim's family.

At a Yes We Care meeting at New Hope Baptist Church on April 24, members are discussing the group's response to murders: What resources are needed and who should be there? In order to keep the 40 people in attendance focused, the Rev. Aldon Cotton provides a scenario.

"Pastor Cotton's son just got killed," he says. "Within 24 hours, what needs to happen?"

A variety of answers are given: Drug counselors, victims' advocates, neighborhood representatives, trauma experts, ministers and social workers should be contacted and made available to the victim's family and residents in the affected neighborhood. Raphael nods in agreement as he listens to the suggestions. If all of these resources could be on hand, it would be very beneficial, but, he says, it's most important that the lines of communication be open.

"When we get into these communities, it's always hands-off and we need to open those doors," Raphael tells the group.

One woman takes the microphone and says that when Yes We Care shows up in neighborhoods outside of Central City, the community sees them as strangers. A man stands up and says it's vital to build local leadership in these areas. Raphael agrees with both of them. Yes We Care isn't intended to supplant any programs; it wants to support and promote effective resources. Too often, Raphael says, there is competition among different organizations over who is doing what. He wants to avoid that altogether.



click to enlarge

- [Photo by Tracie Morris Schaefer](#)
- Raphael's approach is unabashedly religious because he feels part of the problem is faith-related.

"This isn't an organization," he explains. "This is a movement. ... Our kids are dying while we argue whose organization is the best."

As the meeting continues, it's clear that while the movement has a general direction, its path has not been fully mapped out. Nevertheless, for a group that only began in early 2009, it has already made some significant strides.

When Yes We Care held a rally on March 28 attended by approximately 3,000 people, mostly African Americans, it marked a different approach to the problem of violence in New Orleans. Unlike the Silence is Violence march on City Hall in January of 2007, which enabled citizens to voice their frustration with city government's inability to stop the rising tide of murders, the Yes We Care rally focused on urging the black community to get involved.

"The Yes We Care rally was more of 'Listen, we need to do something to make our society better,' says NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley, who attended both events and met with Raphael and other Yes We Care organizers several times before the rally.

The movement began during impromptu meetings that took place when various reverends kept running into each other at funerals for murder victims. The Rev. Aldon Cotton says the frustrated religious leaders felt it was time for action. Single churches had formed anti-violence programs in the past, but none were widespread enough, and the ministers saw the need for a united message. Raphael would be the spokesman.

"Because of divine positioning, he has been able to bring the voices together of those of us who have the same burden and the same message," Cotton says.

Whether he's divinely inspired, a skilled diplomat or both, Raphael tries to provide a message of hope. He says when the Faith Responders go into an area that's experienced a murder, there will be people asking for help who might not otherwise look for assistance. At a recent Yes We Care faith response in the Calliope housing project, Raphael says there was a line of people who wanted help getting off drugs and assistance with other problems.

When people are asking for something, Raphael knows he has to deliver. That's why he wants to ensure any resource offered by Yes We Care is dependable and trustworthy. For a while, responders were recommending Job One, the city's workforce development program, hoping the organization would assist with job training.

"It got to the point when we'd be out in the communities and every time we'd mention Job One, it was, 'Oh, they don't help anybody,'" Raphael says.

One new resource Raphael feels he can count on comes from someone he has known since his days as a cop: Judge Calvin Johnson, former city justice and current executive director of the Metropolitan Human Services District. MHSD provides a variety of publicly funded mental health services, including assistance for drug abusers.

"I have given him the director of our addiction services," Johnson says. "He has her personal phone number. He can call her on the phone and she will fast-track anyone he identifies that is trying to get into treatment."

An effective resource can be as small as one person, and Yes We Care organizers are reaching out to individuals. This past Thursday, partially in reaction to the murder of 13-year-old Shaka Miller, Yes We Care held a meeting for men only at Walter L. Cohen High School. Raphael wants the men's ideas and suggestions for repairing the community, but he also wants their participation. "We want mentors and we're going to provide the men a list of mentor programs already in place, and we'll create new ones when there is a need," Raphael says.

While Yes We Care's path to healing neighborhoods and stanching the blood flow on the streets has an unabashedly religious tone, some of the nuts and bolts of it are rooted in everyday police work. Residents need to start communicating with the NOPD, Raphael says, so one murder doesn't spiral into one, two or more killings. Raphael knows the first inclination for many witnesses, especially parents, is to remain silent or lie, but he says they need to realize that by coming forward, they could be saving their children's lives. When a mother

says her son was at home during the time of a murder when she knows he wasn't, she could be inadvertently setting him up for a retaliatory killing.

"But he's right back on the street and everybody in the community knows who did it — the friends of the person who was killed, the family of the person who was killed," Raphael says.

He understands it will take time for these kinds of changes, but he is encouraged, even when the source of that optimism comes from a dark place. In April, 19-year-olds Fitzgerald Phillips, a student at Southern University at New Orleans, and Calyisse Perkins, a reading tutor, were kidnapped from Perkins' Algiers apartment and later found slain in an abandoned house in Gert Town. What made this tragedy different, Raphael says, was the cooperation between the police, community and the media: Possible witnesses were brought in for questioning, tips were called in and every detail of the investigation was covered from the time of kidnapping to the discovery of the bodies. Eventually, one of the suspects in the double homicide was brought to police headquarters by his uncle and his father.

On the day the bodies of Perkins and Phillips were found, Raphael made his way to the crime scene. He saw a police chaplain when he arrived, but the chaplain had to leave on another call. Raphael stayed. "I ended up ministering to the families when they came," he says, and later, Phillips' mother asked Raphael to preside over her son's funeral. Yet again, Raphael will face the incomprehensible — What do you say to the mother of a murdered child? — and like so many times before, he will bring comfort. It is his burden.

# Central City pastor fights violence with message of hope

By Bruce Egger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune  
on June 16, 2007 at 10:27 PM, updated June 17, 2007 at 9:23 PM  
Reddit

It was 6:30 p.m., and the shadows had lengthened on a muggy, rain-washed evening in New Orleans as the Rev. John C. Raphael Jr., pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, set out again to stroll the streets, past the teeming stoops, barber shops and storefronts of Central City.

Raphael is a big man, 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighing 260 pounds -- maybe 100 pounds heavier than he was as a cop 25 years ago. He shuffled genially from stoop to stoop down Josephine Street, greeting and being greeted.



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNIFER ZDON

Wednesday, June 13, 2007. The Rev. John C. Raphael Jr. leaves his church, the New Hope Baptist Church, to visit with residents of the Central City neighborhood where the church is located. Rev. Raphael Jr. has been taking his ministry to the front line against crime in hopes of engaging the community by offering help and encouragement. Rev. John Raphael Jr. spends a moment talking with Central City resident Shirley Collins, 79, as he walks around the community.

At 55, he is thickly built, with a massive shaved head and a barrel chest that can shape, on command, a rumbling chuckle or a roar of outrage at the terrifying shootings that too frequently tear the fabric of these close-knit streets.

But there was no outrage this day.

The ambling, intimate contact is the lifeblood of Raphael's ministry.

Week after week, year after year, he and some members of New Hope -- sometimes with other clergy -- have strolled the streets around the church, listening to folks who struggle with the rent or who are trying to protect a child against the pull of the violent streets.

People who drop to the floor in their modest apartments when the staccato sound of gunfire suddenly erupts, and sometimes young people who already bear spidery gunshot scars.

People that Raphael knows because he buried their sons or brothers, then a few weeks later buried their kin's killers, chased down in a self-perpetuating cycle of lethal retribution.

In June 2006, five teenagers were shot to death one morning inside a vehicle a few blocks from Raphael's church -- just the most shocking example of more than two dozen Central City murders past year.

At one level, what he's doing is sowing comfort among the poorest residents struggling against the hardships of post-Katrina New Orleans.

But it's much more than that. He's also trying to sow hope -- and, even beyond that, pride.

He's trying to sow in the numbed, defensively cocooned souls who live in Central City a communal sense of moral outrage at the cheapness of life around them. He and his allies are trying to knit them into a self-aware, united, self-respecting community able to shout back at the young killers a message that Raphael condenses to one word emblazoned on his baseball cap: "Enough!"

"We need to elevate the value of a life," he said recently, "to bring a sense of humanity. We need to prick the conscience of a community that is in large part indifferent."

Raphael has only a few weapons in this fight. Like many pastors, he tries to work his personal contacts to help people find jobs -- a difficult, frustrating enterprise for young people who already have a couple of arrests or can't pass a drug test, he said.

His 700-member church offers an aggressive array of services: youth programs, a summer camp, tutoring. His church and nearby Israelite Baptist Church, led by the Rev. Emanuel Smith Jr., are local powerhouses of help in the neighborhood.

But at bottom, he said, the crisis of Central City is so profound that he is after something even more fundamental than safe streets, jobs and affordable rent: self-respect.

Raphael is trying to convince people -- the mothers who have lost children, the teenagers and young adults sliding toward the violent culture of drugs and vengeance that he calls "the life" -- that they are precious, that their community is precious and deserving of better.

And in that he relies on one thing: "The church can do something not City Hall, not the police can do. The church can do something just because it loves you.

"What people need to know is that they are loved. That somebody cares for them. . . . So I'm thinking, go out there, lift somebody up, make a sacrifice for somebody -- only because you care.

"That's what makes the church so powerful."

Many New Orleanians know Raphael from television. He has become something of a fixture at recurring anti-crime news conferences with the mayor, district attorney and police chief. He is usually the biggest guy in the group, often wearing his "Enough!" baseball cap.

His work long predates theirs. Thirteen years ago, he and members of his church began plastering Central City with signs reading: "Thou shalt not kill."

In December, he and other ministers conducted a public three-day fast, camping out on the cold Claiborne Avenue neutral ground as a public witness against street violence.

In March, he stepped up his church's neighborhood ministry, walking the streets around New Hope every day for a month, as church members do every week even now. Each Wednesday, those walks end at dusk with a hundred or more neighbors praying in a circle in a vacant playground a few blocks from the church.

In January, when 3,000 New Orleanians rose up in fury at the spiraling rate of street shootings and marched on City Hall, it was Raphael who memorably gave voice to their frustrations with a fiery pledge that the city that did not drown in the waters of Hurricane Katrina would not later drown in blood.

Yet look deeper than that furious sound bite, he said. He is not what he appears at first glance.

"People are looking for something genuine, to help them believe in themselves, that they are worth something and they can be helped. It's not just a matter of 'get this crime out of my neighborhood, get this away from me.'

"That's why I don't want to be perceived as a crime fighter.

"I'm not looking to get the criminals out of the community. I'm looking to get the criminals out of the criminals."

Yet time was when officer John C. Raphael Jr. of the New Orleans Police Department very much was trying to get the criminals out of the community.

Raphael spent 15 years as a uniformed patrol officer and detective before retiring in 1988 as head of the Crimestoppers program.

He came to the force after two years at Dillard University, a short stay in Chicago and a brief career as a telephone operator.

Raphael said he took the police exam with a brother-in-law on a kind of competitive lark. He sailed through the application process, until he was screened out by a polygraph test operator who said Raphael had lied about never being a member of a subversive organization or never selling heroin or other drugs.

"I saw what was going on. Even at that time there were only about 30 black police officers in the city," he said. Raphael retook the polygraph and passed.

"Out of spite, I took that job," he laughed.

It turned out the man who one day would preach the Gospel was a pretty good cop, a nice working balance of aggression and people skills, said an old partner, Ronnie Recasner.

"If something happened, he'd take no BS off anybody," Recasner said. "If he thought you were guilty, he'd put you in jail. If not, he'd let you go."

Once, Recasner said, he and Raphael jumped an armed robbery in progress on Gen. Taylor Street.

Panicked, the robber carjacked a truck during his flight, chased by Raphael at the wheel of his cruiser and Recasner calling for backup as he rode shotgun. Raphael and Recasner stayed on the robber's tail. He bailed out near what was then Southern Baptist Hospital, hopped a fence and fired at other officers converging from another direction. The other officers shot him to death, Recasner said.

Raphael saw the deep contrasts of life in the city. One New Year's morning he hurried to a house on Carondelet Street to help a woman in early labor deliver her baby. The infant was crowning as paramedics arrived -- in time for a relieved Raphael to be pulled off the site to go straight to a murder at a nearby bar.

"Guy got shot right under the jaw," he said. "Extremes. You see the extremes."

But Raphael was discovering something about himself as well.

Relations between the black community and the largely white force had been tense for years. Then armed himself, both with a weapon and the full power of the state, Raphael tasted power. His first assignment was in the 2nd District, based at Napoleon Avenue and Magazine Street, only a few blocks from where he'd been reared. As a new cop, he encountered old adversaries as well as old friends.

"To come from a point of powerlessness, and now suddenly you're instilled with power ...," he said. "Now I can do you something. And that was something unusual in my life that I came to understand: that I didn't have to abuse power. That I could have power and use it right."

"There were people in the community who had never, ever had civil conversation with a police officer. So I always tried to handle them as human beings."

Raphael also came to understand that the part of being a cop he most enjoyed was looking after the damaged or poor victims he encountered.

He started a boys club with another partner, and they worked with children in their spare time. "We were in a few situations where we could have taken a life and didn't, like take a sawed-off shotgun off some kid," he said.

"I'm not sure you could do that safely today."

"He was always a pastor, but his season had not yet come," said his wife, Catherine, who met Raphael when both were NOPD officers.

Raphael is the grandson of a pastor, the Rev. Paul Raphael of Second Baptist, Sixth District Church on Laurel Street.

Paul Raphael and his wife, Doris, owned adjacent homes in the 4700 block of Camp Street and made it a tightly knit Raphael family compound.

Paul Raphael's son, John Sr., became a pioneer black police officer in New Orleans. So did John Sr.'s brother, Ernest. All three generations lived together in the family compound.

Raphael's invalid mother died when he was 14, so his grandparents and his father were powerful forces in his life and that of his brother and two sisters.

It was a traditional family: close, warm, protective and stern, said a boyhood friend, the Rev. Arthur Jones, who occasionally found himself swept into the Raphaels' hospitality.

"I'd only seen a family like that on television, in the white community," said Jones. "Here was a black family that would meet every evening, sit down at the table, pray, eat and talk. They'd have a conversation. I'd never seen that in a black family."

In Raphael's telling, it was Jones whose innocent tip one day deflected Raphael onto the road to New Hope.

Jones had dropped by Raphael's home to tell him he'd enrolled in night classes at Union Baptist Theological Seminary, a training ground for some of the city's black pastors. He told Raphael registration for night classes was still open.

Although he was the grandson of a preacher, Raphael said, his grandfather never groomed him for the pulpit any more than his father had groomed him for the police force. He had been a regular church-goer as a boy, but only an occasional church-goer as an adult.

He had a passing acquaintance with Scripture, and more than that, an outsider's intellectual curiosity about the Bible. He and another partner, Robert Lady, used to have long talks about religion and spirituality. "We were looking for answers. Just looking for answers about life," Raphael said.

Raphael enrolled in Union Theological while he was still on the force. "But even when I started going to seminary, I didn't think I was going to preach. I was going to learn."

Raphael even quit once, deciding over an after-hours cold beer at a neighborhood tavern that seminary wasn't for him.

But in 1983, after a divorce, he struck up a conversation on the Bacchus parade route with Catherine James, a police officer in the criminal records division. She was a member of New Hope, a major Central City church then led by the Rev. Freddie Dunn.

She invited Raphael to church. He put it off a few weeks -- the Sunday service was at 6:30 a.m. -- then went alone, arrived late and took one of the last remaining seats in the rear.

Something clicked.

It was Dunn -- and yet it was more than Dunn, he said.

"Sometimes you can be raised in church and be there every Sunday and never hear anything," he said. "You're listening and hearing the words, you know the words, but you just don't see it. That Sunday, I knew I was supposed to be right here."

Raphael continued his seminary studies. He not only continued attending church, he felt pulled to get more deeply involved.

He joined New Hope's staff while still on the force. He began to preach, and he found that he was good at it. In time, word began to spread about him. He began to get feelers from churches looking for a pastor.

By late 1987, now married to Catherine, and with Dunn in poor health, he resolved to make a major change. He turned down a lucrative federal job offer and quit the police force. He would be a pastor, at New Hope or elsewhere.

In early 1988 Dunn died, and New Hope called on Raphael to take over the pulpit.

Walking the streets one day last week, Raphael urged every teenager on every stoop to come by the church that evening for "something special." He was no more specific than that. What he had was a big-screen TV cued up to play a DVD with an anti-hip-hop message.

Raphael is unsparing in his analysis of the crisis facing his community. He sees a culture that glorifies violence and demeans life in general and young women in particular.

"Everybody used to be treated as though they had some value as a human being. But now the social atmosphere is that we value people according to what they have. . . . And sometimes rich isn't much in a poor community. If I only got a gold grill in my mouth and a set of spinning wheels, then I got more than you.

"We've started loving things and using people, instead of using things and loving people."

The result, he said, is a brutal coarsening of life whose victims are more than those young people gunning each other down -- although they are the most spectacular casualties.

Raphael has talked to scores of them.

"They don't see themselves as living past that moment. At any moment their life could be over, and they think there is no way to change that. That's just the way it is. And they'll just struggle to survive while they're waiting for it to come.

"You look at a young man who knows that folk are looking for him. And he goes back and stands out on that same corner. He knows it's coming and there's no way out of it. No way out of it. I've heard that so much."

But beyond that, Raphael said, years of senseless street violence have numbed the broader community to the humanity of the lives lost.

He begs his congregation not to write off murder victims as faceless nobodies who chose their fate.

"If that life's not valuable to me," he told a group gathered in prayer Wednesday night, "that life's not valuable to anyone else, either."

It pained him when, after a white crack addict was shot to death in a suspected carjacking last week, a follow-up story in The Times-Picayune broadcast the grief of those parents and friends who knew the boy who-used-to-be.

They bestowed on him some minimal humanity not afforded the usual victims of Central City.

And that is partly the fault of the numbed community, he said. Who will speak for the lives lost?

"What do we do when there's a shooting?" he asked the crowd last week. "We line up behind the yellow tape. And when the yellow tape is gone, we're gone, too."

One of Raphael's several dreams is to find a way to tell the stories of those lives before they turned bad, to recall the hopes relatives and friends might have had for a mischievous third-grader before he was recruited into The Life, armed himself and ultimately died in a vacant lot.

"I'm dealing with issues that the African-American community has to deal with on its own. The community has to look at itself, at its heart. We have to look in the mirror.

"It's become easy for us to take the lives of one another, because we don't value our own lives -- unless that life is taken by someone outside our race.

"And then our response is still not that we value that life so much as we hate that someone else didn't."

In that way, Raphael said, too many people in his neighborhood are alert to injustice inflicted by outsiders -- brutal cops, greedy landlords, racist employers -- but relatively numb to the injustices inflicted by their own children and neighbors.

Early one Sunday afternoon in March, as the service ended and dozens of members of his congregation idled in front of Raphael's church, a gunfight erupted close by.

Church members ducked and scurried for safety. Bullets spattered against the church. No one was hurt.

"You come into a community in the middle of the day ... and you're going to take an AK-47 and start shooting?" Raphael said. "These are people who cannot see past the anger and hatred of the moment.

"And my problem with the community's lack of response is ... it's not just the person who got shot who's the victim.

"The whole community is the victim. The. Whole. Community.

"It's not like we don't want to get involved in somebody's else's victimization, we don't want to get involved in our own victimization."

Yet Raphael persists, he said, "because I know what can be done."

"The church in this city has not put its best effort forward. We have not used the strength we have. The community has not. The African-American community has not.

"But I have seen what can be done with a little effort. ... I have seen some of the hardest cases, where people strung out on drugs or hard up in the lifestyle of violence -- hurting other persons, been hurt themselves -- but then had their lives totally changed."

Raphael said that ultimately, he and other pastors and other believers can make inroads -- perhaps already have made inroads against violence -- by knitting a community into a whole, connected by pride and love and mutual regard.

He cites a passage from the Book of Acts, a narrative of the early days of the Christian church when, according to Scripture, faith was robust and miracles were alive in the streets.

"As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by."

Said Raphael: "His shadow fell upon them. And they were healed."

*Bruce Nolan can be reached at [bnolan@timespicayune.com](mailto:bnolan@timespicayune.com) or (504) 826-3344.*

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# Rev. John C. Raphael Jr., police officer-turned-minister who crusaded against violence, dies at 60



The Rev. John Raphael Jr., preaching against violence in 2009 (Matthew Hinton, NOLA.com | TheTimes-Picayune archive)

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on June 25, 2013 at 5:35 PM

The Rev. John C. Raphael Jr., a New Orleans police officer who became a pastor and led an anti-violence crusade that included paying for a billboard bearing the commandment "Thou Shalt Not Kill," died Tuesday of cancer at his Harvey home. He was 60.

"My heart is heavy," New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said when he learned of Pastor Raphael's death. "I have personally relied on the wisdom and counsel of Pastor Raphael over the years, not just because of what he said but because of how he lived. Pastor Raphael was consistent and responsible in challenging us all to do our part to reflect the love of God and improve our city."

"Pastor Raphael, who came to New Hope Baptist Church in 1988 after 14 years as a New Orleans police detective, delivered eulogies at funerals of victims of violence, his sister Aurora Carter said. Every year, she said, her brother dramatized his commitment

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## Aurora Carter

college and a hospital in Ghana, Carter said.

Pastor Raphael also worked with people whom others deemed beyond redemption, she said. One such person was a young man whom Pastor Raphael sent to Africa to work with children. The experience transformed the man, Carter said. "He taught orphans how to play basketball, and he painted an orphanage. He was a mentor, something he had never been in his life."

That experience exemplified Pastor Raphael's philosophy, his sister said: "He always thought there was something you could do to reach people." Survivors include his wife, Catherine Raphael; a son, John C. Raphael III of New Orleans; a stepson, Therron Glover of New Orleans; a brother, Benjamin Raphael of New Orleans; five sisters, Aurora Carter, Keely Bowen and Janna Raphael, all of New Orleans, Sharon Cole of Sterling, Va., and Miriam Montgomery of Montgomery, Ala.; and a grandchild.

A funeral will be held July 2 at 7 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church, 1807 LaSalle St. Visitation will begin at 3 p.m.

A second service will be held July 3 at 11 a.m. at the Mahalia Jackson Theater of the Performing Arts. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. Burial will be in Providence Memorial Park, 8200 Airline Drive, Metairie. Heritage Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

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# Rep. Richmond Mourns the Passing of Rev. John C. Raphael Jr.

Jun 26, 2013

**Washington, D.C. - Congressman Cedric Richmond (LA-02)** released the following statement after learning of the loss of Rev. John C. Raphael Jr.:

“My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Rev. John C. Raphael, Jr. They, the parishioners of New Hope Baptist Church, and all the citizens of New Orleans have lost a truly special man who dedicated his life to improving the community. Rev. Raphael was keenly aware of the awful toll of violence and was committed to doing everything he could to bring about peace on our streets. The work he did throughout his life—as a community leader, a 15-year veteran of the New Orleans Police Department, and pastor of New Hope Baptist Church—stands as a testament to his dedication. Those who interfaced with any of his programs, including *Yes We Care* or the *Faith Responders*, know first-hand the difference he made in the lives of those he touched. While he did not live to see his dream of a city without violence realized, his efforts brought us closer to that dream. His impact will continue to be felt and he will be deeply missed by all of us who share his goal of a peaceful community.”

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## Photo Gallery



January 17, 2014



I am just finding out about such a great loss. His work will be lived on through his family and those that he touched.

~ S Muhammad, *Atl, Georgia*

August 05, 2013



"Well DONE thy good and faithful servant". "WELL DONE"

~ Geneva Hitts, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 13, 2013

We are so blessed to have known Pastor Raphael. We are at a lost for words, Pastor and First Lady and the New Hope Family showered us with love in the passing of my grand mother Rosetta S. Gooseberry. I know the angles in Heavens are singing with joy to have Pastor. We love you and will keep you in our prayers. Alex Wilson & Lisa Lowe-Wilson and family!

July 12, 2013

To the Family of Pastor J.C. Raphael,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of a man who truly loved the Lord and lived by His Holy Word. Hearing his teachings and preaching and seeing his light shine continually is what it is all about in serving the Lord. Rest in peace & may God strengthen your love ones left behind and may they accept God's will knowing that JC is doing just fine now with our Father!!! Be Blessed.  
Nate Franklin & Pam Harris Franklin

July 12, 2013

Catherine,

Thinking and praying for you at this time of sorrow. Rev Raphael was a good man with a big heart, and will always be remembered. Take care.

Love and Prayers,

Cindy (former employee of Dr. Picou)

~ Cindy Kitchen

July 10, 2013

We knew him as J.C. in the Second District. Have fond memories of playing basketball with J.C. against Tact Unit and other squads. Partnered with J.C. in '81 for 6 months. Enjoyed watching the card games with Ron W. and Chief Rudy. My condolences to you Peacock.  
WFM

~ William Murray, *Covington, Louisiana*

July 09, 2013

To First Lady Catherine Raphael and The New Hope Church Family; we're members of the St. Mark M.B.C. Family in 5th Ward, Texas. We're deeply saddened to hear of Pastor Raphael's passing. Your family and church family will remain in our prayers you have our deepest condolences.

~ Bro. Steven & Sis. Phyllis Scott & Family, *Fresno, Texas*

July 09, 2013



PASTER RAPHAEL YOU WILL BE MISS,OUR HEART GO OUT TO THE FAMILY WITH ALL OUR LOVE-(LOIS GRANT,JEVON & DALISHA THOMAS)WAS Baptized by Pastor Rapheal-THANK YOU PASTOR!!!

~ Ms.Loie,Jevon,Dalisha Grant, *Houston, Texas*

July 09, 2013

Catherine so sorry for the loss of John. It was truly a pleasure to work with you all at NOPD. You have such powerful strength and may God continue to Bless and keep you and your family.  
Edna Burke, Ret NOPD



~ Edna Burke, *Carriere, Mississippi*

July 06, 2013

To the Raphael family, know that the city of New Orleans is praying your strength. Pastor Raphael was a wonderful minister he will be truly missed but not forgotten.

~ Margaret Chopin, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 06, 2013

MAY GOD BLESS THE MEMORY OF THE LATE REVEREND JOHN C. RAPHAEL A POWERFUL MAN OF GOD. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

~ DELBERT JACKSON, *FORT WORTH, Texas*

July 06, 2013

You will always live in our hearts and prayers.

~ LEON ANDERSON, SR., *NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana*

July 06, 2013

Keeping the Raphael family in my prayers

~ Maricalise Breaux, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 05, 2013

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

July 05, 2013

Our lost and Heaven gain, Pastor Raphael was a one of kind, I meet him at New Hope many years ago I was a young Pastor and he welcome me in his circle. Few years ago we was at WHW conference and this humble giant words will forever be in my heart. Pastor Raphael remarks he say you all honoring me for doing my Job(Pastor) God Bless his family. Love from Las Vegas,NV

~ Rev Anthony Nixon Sr, *Las Vegas, Nevada*

July 05, 2013

All I know is, he didn't hide his candle under a bushel. He held it up high for all to see the light of God's glory in his life. Pastor Raphael was truly a man of God and took his calling as a shepherd very serious when it came to the work of the Lord. May the God he served continue to keep his family and church family comforted

~ E Pierre, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 04, 2013

Rev. Raphael was truly a GAIINT in this community one who loved the Lord Jesus Christ and was not afraid to tell the story.  
Rev. Raphael will truly be missed by everyone who loved and new him. Rest In Peace you have earned your REST!. Well Done?  
Virgie Youngblood Mitchell, Jayess MS

~ Virgie Youngblood Mitchell, *Jayess, Mississippi*

July 04, 2013

I remember his greeting me to his platoon in the NOPD 2nd Dist 36 years ago...John was always a willing helper and mentor...A man among men for his city...May your spirit guide other young men to follow your example...Thanks for being there...Rest easy, John.

~ Louis Lejarza, *Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

His work down here was done, I'm sure the good Lord was pleased, then He saw fit to all him home

July 03, 2013



Pastor you will be missed you were a wonderful man of God who loved his church. You watched us grow and kept us in order I love you.

~ Jahanna Burton, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

My condolences and prayers to Pastor Raphael's family and the New Hope Baptist Church members. Yinna Rhea and family

July 03, 2013



The World has lost a wonderful person! Pastor Raphael was a person that always made time for you. I met Pastor Raphael once, when I called him on short notice with an urgency to talk to him; without hesitation he agreed to meet with me. When my fiancé and I was escorted to his office there stood a tall man with his hand extended outward with a smile on his face. The first words he said was "Hello, How may I assist you? The second statement was, "I only have a few minutes before I have to leave for my next appointment." Nonetheless, those few minutes turned into hours. We talked like old friends. I learned that day that he and my father the late Rev. A. Byrd, Sr was classmate at the Seminary and Comrade in the Ministry. The people of New Orleans has lost "Our Great Sheppard of the deprived, bewildered, and lost sheep." In Jesus name I Pray for Comfort and Peace to the immediate family and the congregation of New Hope Baptist Church. Nadine & Samuel Gable Jr

~ Nadine Briggs, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Rev. Raphael was truly a blessing to many. His memories will continue to bless this community and his family. Thank you for a job well done! Doris James Recasner

July 03, 2013

May the love of friends and family carry you through your grief.

~ Margaret Conerly Andrews, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Sending my prayers and condolences to the entire Raphael Family, Friends, and New Hope Family. Pastor Raphael was not only a Great Pastor, but a Powerful and Well-Respected Pillar of the Community. The City of New Orleans will never be the same. For we know he is Absent from the Body and Present With the Lord. God Bless You All

~ Lynette Lee, *Atlanta, Georgia*

July 03, 2013

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND WATCH OVER YOU AT THIS TIME "I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS, FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP. MY HELP COMETH FROM THE LORD.

~ LELIA SIMMONS, *GRETNA, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

To The Raphael Family:

John and I were classmates at McDonogh35. He was always a great classmate and person. He will definitely be missed! My deepest sympathy to all of you.

~ Jocenta Hawkins Ferrouillet, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

I have a sign "Thou shalt not kill" in my front yard. You were a spiritual giant here on this earth. God Bless you. Pastor Raphael you were a gift from God. Thank you for your message of hope and prayer for peace. May your rest in peace.

~ Pat Hamilton, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.

~ Stacey Picquet, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny and Jocelyn Davis

I thank GOD let you pass our way rest in peace

July 03, 2013

To the Family of of John C. Rapheal Jr. May God be with you all in this time of need. Be strong God has your back.

~ Darlene Phillips, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

To the Family of Pastor Rapheal Jr. may God strength you and the family. I meet your Tari year ago and she always spoke highly of her daddy and mother. You will always be in my prays Sis. Rapheal and Diamond..

We are form resident of New Orleans, La,  
Rev & Sis Shelia Jack of Richmond, Texas

~ Shelia Jack, *Richmond, Texas*

July 03, 2013



~ Wanda Soniat and Family, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

~ Mrs. Verna Robinson Mc Coy, *La Place, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.

~ Mrs. Betty Rhodes Fisher, *Avondale, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

~ Rev. William Robinson Jr, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE RAPHAEL FAMILY. PASTOR YOU WERE A GIFT TO THE WORLD AND NOW AN ANGEL IN HEAVEN. I THANK GOD FOR ALLOWING MY FAMILY AND I TO KNOW YOU. WE LOVE YOU AND YOU WILL BE MISSED.

~ FALISHA BARNES, *HOUSTON, Texas*

July 03, 2013

To the family and to the members of New Hope, may God continue to Bless each and everyone of you, I did not know him, but heard alot about him. I am from Wichita, Kansas. Prayers are with all of you.  
Monica Blair-Burkhalter

July 03, 2013

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

July 03, 2013

God Bless a man that made a difference when no one thought what they do could make a difference. His legacy will live on in the hearts of many.

~ Gravity Pleasant, *Birmingham, Alabama*

July 03, 2013

To the Raphael Family, may GOD continue to bless you and the members of New Hope Baptist Church.

~ Shawn Allen, Sr., *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

To Pastor Raphael family...may God bless you with His awesome love, strength, joy, and peace.



~ Debbie DeLong, *New Orleans, Louisiana, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

MAY GOD COMFORT AND STRENGTHEN YOU SISTER RAPHAEL, THE RAPHAEL FAMILY AND NEW HOPE CHURCH. IT WAS A BLESSING TO BE A MEMBER OF NEW HOPE AND UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A BEAUTIFUL MAN WHO TRULY LOVED THE LORD AND TOUCHED THE LIVES OF MANY (AS HE TOUCHED MINE)...HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

~ SONETHIA (SONIE) BANKS, *FORT WORTH, Texas*

July 03, 2013

May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.

~ Bridget Ruee' Dukes, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

May God continue to bless the Raphael family and all of the members of New Home Missionary B.C.

~ Sherry Williams, *Ama, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Take comfort in knowing that now you have a special guardian angel to watch over you.

~ Gladys Dukes & Family, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Pastor Raphael, Thank you for giving yourself to God, it was through you were i first heard the plan of salvation. You didn't just preach and teach the love of God: you lived it. Truly Christ illuminated from you...and for that i am grateful to God for the time you was were here. Praying for the family.

~ Debbie DeLong, *New Orleans, Louisiana, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Beloved, I join with the masses of believers comprised of pastors and the people of God to express my genuine love and prayers for Sister Raphael, the family and flock of the New Hope Church in the wake of Pastor Raphael's deliverance from the toils of this earthly life. May the consolation of knowing that he is living better now than he has ever lived before strengthen your hearts as you come now to learn life in his earthly absence. (John 14:1-6)

~ Shaun Moton, *MHMC, Killeen, Texas*

July 03, 2013

May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.

July 03, 2013

You have done everything the Lord ask you to do, I know you are resting in the Lord. We will all miss you down here but your just rewards are waiting for you in Heaven just what you derseve. Rest in peace my friend. From the Providence B.C. Family Kenner La. Family be blessed I feel your pain.

~ Felice & Mary McMiller, *Kenner, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

~ Charles DeLong, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Our condolences goes out to the Raphael family.

~ Kim DeGruy, *NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

I will continue to hold y'all in my prayer



~ Victor Vinnett, *St. Rose, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

To the Raphael Family Just ask the Savior to help you Comfort Strength and he'll keep you JESUS is willing to aid you and He will carry you through. Awesome Man of GOD Take you rest Sir. Gwennette Pye, Cora Walker, Nekita Pye New Orleans, LA (FMBC)

July 03, 2013

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

~ Causetta Joseph, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Take comfort in knowing that now you have a special guardian angel to watch over you.

~ Sonata Prater, *Laplace, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013



Even in the midst of a storm, God is still Excellent! As a member of the New Orleans Community & Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, We just wanted the Raphael Family to know that we love you and will pray for you that GOD will give you PEACE. A Mighty Man is sleeping in The LORD. Pastor Raphael will be missed!!!!

~ The Hyde Family, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Pastor Raphael will be sadly missed ... condolences to the Raphael and New Hope Families ... God does know best ... you will all be in my prayers.

~ Melanie Johnson, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

TO OUR 1ST FAMILY AN MY NEW HOPE FAMILY I IIGHT DIS CANDLE IN MEMORY OF OUR PASTOR JOHN C RAPHEAL JR U WILL B TRULY MISSED

~ tara Thomas, *new orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013



I pray that God will comfort this family and give them strength to celebrate the life of Pastor Raphael. Hold to God's UNCHANGIN HAND!!

~ David Fairman, *Fort Myers, Florida*

July 03, 2013

May God comfort & strengthen you always! Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.  
Psalm 116:15

~ Pastor Kevin L. Williams & Branch Bell B.C. Family,  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

To God be the glory. To the pastor's family and the New Hope family, I share in the lost of a great man of God.

~ Vangie Moffett, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013



MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO FIRST LADY & THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF PASTOR RAPHAEL & THE MEMBERS OF NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH THIS NEWS CAME TO ME AS A SHOCK BUT IT'S GOD'S WILL I CAN TRULY TRULY SAID THAT I'M SO BLESSED TO HAVE MET PASTOR THROUGH SOME FRIENDS EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY KNEW PASTOR & LOVED HIM UNCONDITIONALLY HE REALLY CHANGED THE A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVES I KNOW HE CHANGED MINE LORD JESUS I ALREADY KNOW YOU HAVE POWERFUL WINGS WAITING FOR PASTOR JUST UPON MEETING HIM & FIRST LADY I COULD TELL IN MY HEART THAT BOTH OF THEM WAS VERY WARM HEARTED PEOPLE(GOOD PEOPLE) TO THE FIRST LADY NO WORDS CAN EXPRESS HOW YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU & YOUR FAMILY (((((((HUGS)))))) MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU & YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY LIKE I KNOW HE WILL LOVE YA'LL & I WILL PRAY FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY GOD BLESS RIP PASTOR JOHN C RAPHAEL JR. (THE VOICE OF NEW ORLEANS & LASELLE ST. THANK GOD FOR JUST KNOWING YOU REST WELL IN ARMS OF THE ALMIGHTY LORD JESUS CHRIST THY GOD

~ TERRILL RINGO, *NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.

~ Andrew J Hogan, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 03, 2013

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

~ Favorite Family

July 03, 2013

Sis. Raphael, I have know Rev. Raphael over 40 yrs and he has always been there for us. We will miss him greatly. You have our condolences. We know that God has called another STRONG SOLDIER home, but we know in our hearts he will continue to monitor and complete his assignment that was given to him. Continue to be strong and we will keep you in our prayers.

God Bless.

Claudette & Charles Jackson

~ Claudette & Charles Jackson, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

Our prayers are with you, Sister Raphael.

May God give you strength, And hold you in his loving arms. We truly love you.

~ Mr. & Mrs. William Breaux Jr., *Westwego, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013



To the Family of Pastor John Raphael , May God give you strength in this time of bereavement , my heart was sadden when I learned how sick he was I prayed and placed him on the prayer list However today we rejoice in this celebration of Life another soldier gone on home to be with the Lord from Paulette Wright Gospel recording Artist resides in Houston TX

~ Paulette Wright, *Houston, Texas*

July 02, 2013

May the memories of cherished moments wipe away the tears. May the comfort of favorite photos take away the sadness. There will be no answers, no reasons. But there will be memories. And there will always, always be love. My deepest sympathies for the loos of your love one.

~ Shirley Tench, *Vacherie, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

We will miss you dear friend. Please know that all of your great works were not in vain. To the family and



church family God will keep you strong and comfort you. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

~ Vernon & Employees of Fut's Auto Body Repair,  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
July 02, 2013



My prayers are with the family of Pastor Raphael. Stay strong in the Lord

~ Elaine Thomas, Slidell, Louisiana

July 02, 2013

My deepest Condolence to Sister Raphael, the Raphael Family and our great church New Hope. Pastor Raphael touched the hearts of many.

July 02, 2013



Pastor you will truly be missed. You was a GREAT Pastor. Sister Raphael and Diamond may the LORD be with you. We will keep you in our prayers. Love you

~ Royal and Tiralyn Jones, New Orleans, Louisiana

July 02, 2013



U AND UR FAMILY HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY MAY DA LORD B WIT UR FAMILY

~ ANNIE HARTFORD, N O, Louisiana

July 02, 2013

With Deepest Sympathies.

Dolores Gonzales and Deborah Gonzales-Trimble

~ Deborah Gonzales-Trimble, Atlanta, Georgia

July 02, 2013



~ Beatrice Belt, New Orleans La

July 02, 2013

Our prayers and sympathy goes out to the Raphael Family. We thank God for this giant of a man, not just in statue, but in his faith walk with and for the Lord. He is now resting in the Master's care!

~ Pamela Woodridge, MSN, RN, FCN, Gretna, Louisiana

July 02, 2013

I think God for you pastor you showed many of us not only how to be a Christian but how to be a man it seems like yesterday lil John and I were in the office listening to you guide us thru life's ups and downs thanks for putting others before yourself it cause of you i am a man today I'll meet you there

~ demetrius phats erving, killeen, Texas

July 02, 2013

I thank God for the example of Pastor Raphael. I was blessed to be on a mission trip with him to Ghana, and he was such a humble servant. Peace to Sis. Raphael.

~ Vera Wallis Blakes, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

July 02, 2013

I am heartbroken but God is a comforter. I am truly blessed to have crossed your path. It was always a treat when Evening Star would go to the New Hope Church "Best Church on that side of Heaven" and New Hope traveled to the "Best Church on the Westside of Heaven" Lol Good times in deed. I love and will miss your voice.

To the family everything that God does he does it well!! Be encouraged and stay strong.

With a broken Heart

Qiana "KiKi" Holmes

~ Qiana "KiKi" Holmes, Houston (WBNOLA), Texas

July 02, 2013

TO THE FAMILY OF PASTOR RAPHEAL YALL HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY MAY GOD KEEP YALL STRONG JACKIE AND RAYMOND CRYING ALL THE WAY FROM SAN ANTONIO

July 02, 2013

To Sis Catherine Raphael and family and the New Hope B.C.Family, we are praying with you and for you in this your time. I can hoestly say I sympathize with you New Hope. Pastor Rapahel was the Epitome of the word when it said, Go Out!!!! Pastor Rapahel did what NO OTHER Pastor in the city of New Oreleans have done. (I know that many have been affected by the work that he did).

R.I.P. Pastor John C. Raphael, Your Work Truly SPOKE for You. Gone but NEVER Forgotten.

~ Barbara Bender, *Gretna, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

God Bless You

~ Betty Adams, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013



How lucky I am to have had a Pastor like you. Words can't discribe the love and kindness you have shown, such a beautiful spirit. I will forever remember how you walked with me and my family through our tuff times. You will forever be missed. We are standing in prayer with the Raphael family.

~ Greta/Candace Walker, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

The world will miss a Real Teacher Leader and friend, fighting for them you stood up for them in order to "CHANGE THEM FOR THE BETTER AND LEAD THEM TO CHRIST"

Missionary Jacquelyn Williams  
God's House Of Prayer C O G I C

~ jacquelyn williams, *gretna, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

With deepest sympathy

~ kathleen carey, *gretna, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, be with you as you go thru this season. Know that prayer are being sent up daily for your strength in the Lord.

~ Yvonne Johnson, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013



Raphael family, Hold to GOD's Unchanging Hand, during this trying of your FAITH...

~ Thomas J. Franklin, III, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

My prayers are with you Sister Raphael and family and New Hope Family! The world has lost a giant in the Lord, but God has welcomed him home! "Let the work that I have done, speak for me!" He will be missed...he was a true man of God who really had a passion for the lost and to see people come to Christ and to see them grow in Christ. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy will come in the morning!" It is my prayer that God will give you all strength.

~ Pamela Netter, *Houston, Texas*

July 02, 2013



Our deepest condolences to the Raphael family. May God comfort you in your time of bereavement..

~ The Landrum Family, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

To Sis Raphael, Family And The New Chirch Family, We send our prayers and condolences on the Lost of such a Great Man of God. We are praying for you and with you.

~ Donna & Randy Whittington, *Houston, Texas*

July 02, 2013

RIP Pastor, we love you!! May God continue to bless and keep ALL of us. your family. Sis. Raphael, we

love you.

~ Gloria Moore-Williams, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

EARTH HAS NO SORROW THAT HEAVEN CANNOT HEAL. DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE RAPHAEL FAMILY.

~ GERALDINE WASHINGTON, *NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

To the Raphael Family and Sis Raphael, you all are forever in my prayers. Pastor Raphael was a good pastor, person, and friend...I pray for you all daily. E.M. Martin-Johnson and family, South Carolina

July 02, 2013

Our sincere condolences to First Lady Catherine and New Hope Baptist Church. We will truly miss Pastor Raphael.

Missionary Baptist State Convention of TN  
Dr. Frank S. Gordon, General President  
Pastor Delbert R. Brown, 1st VP  
Pastor Adric Lane, 2nd VP  
Sister Wyvonne L. Bell, Secretary

July 02, 2013

A great man is one who leaves others at a loss after he is gone! Pastor Raphael will truly be missed by everyone. We lost a true warrior for the Lord! Praying for the Raphael family and my New Hope Family! From the Shy Family!

~ Eleanor Shy, *Marietta, Georgia*

July 02, 2013

The world has been blessed by you life and is less in your passing. We who remain will continue to walk in the path that you have carved for us. See you in the Cii

~ Sandra Reed, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013

Your Life Told A Story, A Follower Of Jesus Christ... The Work You Have Done Speaks For You.. The Heavenly Melodies Gospel Singers And Evangelist Linda Campbell

~ Evangelist Linda Campbell, *Gretna, Louisiana*

July 02, 2013



To Terrence,Rosa,Charles, Sis. Catherine and the New Hope Baptist Church FAMILY.  
May the Good Lord Bless and Keep ALL OF YOU, With His Strength and Power at  
Such a Time as This, PSALMS 23.,  
WITH LOVE AND SYMPATHY...  
TConnie

~ Connie Mitchell, *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

May the Word of God give the New Hope Church family comfort at this time. I send my sympathy.

~ Clourth Wilson, Sr, *New Orleans,, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

First Lady Raphael and Family, Catherine,  
Remember, God promise that he will never leave you nor forsake you.  
God is still the same God he was yesterday, the same today and will be forever. Keep your hands in his unchanging hands and you will gain the strength you need. The word of God says to cast your cares upon him because he cares for you. God understands and and He will take care of you. My prayer for you and the family is that God will grant you the peace, strength and courage you need at this time.  
Love you family,  
Rhonda (James Hill) Lassere -NOPD

~ Rhonda James-Lassere, *Terrytown, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Greetings from the preston family; cherylyn, bryan, Keisha & corey. it is so hard to say goodbye to one of the greatest pasters this side of heaven. paster JC has labored and dedicated is life for the work of the lord. we will miss you dearly however to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

July 01, 2013

To Sis. Raphael and Family! To the New Hope Church. We The New Hope B.C. of Gretna, LA are in prayer with you. Pastor Raphael was indeed a foot soldier. He had a passion and a drive for souls. God Bless and Pastor, I will see you in the morning!

~ Pastor Warren E. Johnson, *Gretna, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Sis Raphael, this is a candle lit for you in your time of grief. We are praying for you and the rest of the



Raphael family.

~ Charles Williams, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

I loved our pastor, I listened to our pastor, I will miss our pastor, Now God and our pastor are together. I have planned to see our God and pastor one day.

~ Rachel Williams, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Our prayers are with you .

~ Pastor Kenneth and Mrs. Taylor, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013



Absent from the and present with the LORD. Pastor was present with the LORD the moment he took his last breath, we will always luv u and remember what u taught us all about the word of GOD!

~ Tameka Veal, *Harvey, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Truly, my heart is saddened by this transition of my Father in the Ministry

As young boys watch and idolize their Fathers  
I did so with My Pastor

He Baptized, License me as A Minister and i was Ordained under his leadership  
I truly Love and Miss him very much

However

I know God Loves Him More  
And he now Resting in The Lord  
Thank You Dear God

For the Season You allowed Pastor Rachael to be in my Life  
The prayers of myself, my family and The New Covenant B C family are with Sis Raphael, Lil Johnny, Diamond and the rest of Pastor Raphael's family

~ Pastor Kenneth Taylor and the New Covenant B C Church,  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Grief can be so hard, but our special memories help us cope. Remembering you and your loved one today and always.

~ LINDA V. JONES, *LAPLACE, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Pastor John Raphael (JC) a great man of GOD.

Celebrating a life well lived.

~ Jones & McClue Family, *Avondale, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Sis Raphael and family

Our beloved pastor has done his work on earth and I will miss hem dearly. May God comfort you in your time of need. May God bless and strengthen our New Hope Family.  
Cheryl Arnett and Family

July 01, 2013



To the love ones of John Raphael, Jr. you have my condolences on his home going. John and I initially knew each other from his grandfather's church, then elementary school (McD #8), Green Jr. High then in college Dillard Univ. I visited and spoke with him last year reminiscing old friends and times. John Raphael, Jr. was a good man.

~ Ronald Crier, *Houston, Texas*

July 01, 2013

I met Rev. Raphael when he was in a revival at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He left such an impression on my spiritual life. He was such an approachable and humble man of God who never met a stranger. I thank God for allowing me to use him as an instrument and allowing me to hear and receive the word. To Mrs. Raphael and family, you have my deepest sympathy.

~ KaTrena Moore, *Fort Worth, Texas*

July 01, 2013

Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers.

Linda Blackburn and Family

July 01, 2013

To The Raphael family,

Our hearts goes out to the family during this difficult loss. We never lose the people we love. They live the rest of our lives with us in our heart. When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. You have our deepest sympathy and prayers. God Bless!

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...

~ Irene Odom and Tracey Johnson, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

I am grateful to God to have had Rev. John C. Raphael Jr. as my Pastor for 25 years of my life. It was God's will to have you crossover to the other side. I will never forget everything that you have instilled in me as my Pastor, you are gone but will never be forgotten!! Rest on for you are in a better place with the Lord!!!

~ Ashika Brown, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013



I will continue to pray for sister Catherine and the Raphael family, Much love!

~ Linda Duronslet, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Rest in Peace Pastor, Job well done!!! I will miss you deeply my friend.

~ Linda Duronslet, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you. John 14:18

Because He is our Comforter, Jesus understands the pain of loss, and because He's always with us as our Lord and our Comforter, He has the power to touch our hearts and to help us bear the sorrow. With love and sympathy... Pastor Gerald L. Vinnett, Sr. & Fifth African Baptist Church Family

*St. Rose, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

I did not know Pastor Raphael but watched WDSU news and one night he was speaking on violence, he did what ever he could to help the youth (sleeping under a bridge) he inspired me. He will be rewarded for the things he has done. May God forever be with his family during this difficult time

Laplace, La

July 01, 2013



Best pastor ever rest on

~ Shyra Dabney, *new orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

I have been a member of New Hope since I was 9 years old. U have touch my heart n many ways. Continue to watch over us pastor. Rest on

~ Shyra Dabucy, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Rip my beloved Pastor  
You have done your work down here, you will be truly missed.

July 01, 2013

Thank you sister Raphael for the time you allow us to share with your husband and family. May God continue to watch over and keep you.

~ Brown, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

To the family you have my deepest condolences for the lost of husband father and brother may God bless you at this time.

Wilfred J Haynes, Sr and Family  
Grace Memorial Baptist Church  
Washington, DC

July 01, 2013

YOU WILL BE WELCOMED INTO HEAVEN, ANOTHER ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN CALLED HOME. BLESS THE RAPHAEL FAMILY AND NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, GIVE THE FAMILY STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD, AND TRULY BELIEVE, PASTOR RAPHAEL IS IN A BETTER PLACE, SETTING AT THE TABLE WITH GOD.

~ ERVIN TATE, *GREINA, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

We thank God for placing Pastor Raphael in our pathway over the years and may God strengthen Sis. Raphael & family George & Sylvia W. Branon

July 01, 2013

My Prayers Are With The Raphael Family, Be Strong, Know That He Has His Wings In Heaven, Sitting At That Great Heavenly Table, With All That Have Gone Before Him...I Will Not Say Good-Bye, I will Say That I'll See You Later.

July 01, 2013

Catherine, I'll never forget the warm kindness & acceptance you & Rev. Raphael extended to me when I first met you. My prayers are with you daily.  
Barbara Fellus

July 01, 2013

Father God, thank you for sending me his way to join a wonderful church such as New Hope MB. The legacy that (MY) Pastor left behind will live on forever. God never lost a patience so I know without a doubt Rev. John C. Raphael Jr. is in heaven telling Jesus about his wonderful, faithful and loving congregation. Thank you Jesus for what You're doing for and thru the Raphael and the New Hope family. Lord hold us up in the palm of your right hand. In Jesus name and for His sake Amen. "Rest In Paradise Pastor"

~ Qwendolyn & Nathan Garrett, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

You were loved by all who knew you.. I am a better person as a result of being a part of your family.. Honored to have called you Pastor blessed to call you family.. Love Zita Scott

~ Zita Scott, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Condolences From Sis. Carolyn H. Carter my God Bless you and your Family.

~ Carolyn Carter, *Waggaman, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013



My prayers go out to the family, member, and friends. Pray God keep all of you. Rest in peace, you will be missed!

~ Norma Chapman, *N.O., Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Dear Catherine and family, we are very sorry for your loss. John was a wonderful man and has touched so many lives. He has left a great legacy and we know you are proud. God Bless you and your family and we pray for you in this time of sorrow.  
All of us at Picou Family Dentistry

July 01, 2013



MY CONDOLENCES TO SIS. CATHERINE RAPHAEL AND FAMILY. BEING A MEMBER HAS BEEN A GREATER JOY TO HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY A MAN OF GOD. HIS TEACHING HAS MADE A GREAT CHANGE IN MY LIFE. HE WILL TRULY BE MISSED.

~ MARY L ELLIS, *NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013



My sister and I offer our condolences to Sister Raphael and the rest of the Raphael family. We as a church family collectively prayed that God would heal Pastor Raphael and our prayers were answered. I think you all would agree with me when I say I could hear Pastor Raphael saying, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith". 2 Tim. 4:7.

~ Christine & Hillary Honor, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

To: The Raphael & New Hope Families



May your hearts be comforted in knowing that "GOD IS ABLE" to sustain you in this hour. Pastor Raphael was truly a "A MAN OF GOD" who stood boldly on the word. His spirit shall forever live on in the communities and abroad, and he shall be remembered for all of the "WONDROUS WORKS HE HAS DONE". In Love, Norman Nero-Fellowship M.B.C.

~ Norman Nero, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013



To The Raphael Family and the New Hope B.C. family. Our prayers are for you. Another giant has gone home to take a well deserved rest. May the work that Pastor Raphael has done speak for him in years to come. Continue to hold to God's unchanging hand.

John A. Smith, Sr. (The Music Man) & Family.

~ John & Jamie Smith, *Houston, Texas*

July 01, 2013

A great father, Pastor, Mentor and Friend. I will miss you. See you when I get there.

~ Rouald Howard

July 01, 2013

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

~ Charles DeLong, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Pastor Raphael you will be missed A Great man of GOD

~ John, Theresa ,Tracie Davis, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013



My brother and I offer our condolences to Sister Raphael and the rest of the Raphael family. Pastor Raphael baptised my brother and I, 5 years ago and we saw him live a life that a man of God lives no matter where he was and what was before him. I think Pastor would agree that John 17:4 describes his life perfectly, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do".

~ Michael & Matthew Parker, *Kenner, Louisiana*

July 01, 2013

Condolences to Sis. Catherine Raphael & family, to the New Hope Baptist Church family and friends. This is a great loss to the City of New Orleans. the Foreign Mission Field and Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Board.

To the family, stay close, lean on each other and together you can lean on Jesus, for He will see you through.

God Bless

~ Prenellia Thompson, *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

My prayers are with the family. I pray The Lord will give you strength in your time of sorrow. Sincere Blessings

~ Diedre S. Domino, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

Praying for your family (including your church) during this difficult time. God Bless.  
The Prier Family - Hammond, LA

June 30, 2013

To the "RAPHEAL FAMILY" My Wife & I send our condolences to the family and our PRAYERS are with you all stay strong GOD BLESS You!!!

~ Mario & Yvette Cook, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

May the God of all comfort, comfort you in your time sorrow and may He cover you with His peace.

~ Ronald and Phyllis Williams, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013



~ Prenellia Thompson, *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

Sending My Deepest sympathy and Prayers!!! Pastor Raphael was a True man of God doing God's work in the Church and outside in my uptown neighborhood against crime. I will always remember his "Thou Shall not Kill" Ministry in my Neighborhood! R.I.P. Pastor Raphael our Uptown Dr. Martin Luter King!

~ Veronica Asl, *New Orleans/Jackson, Mississippi*

June 30, 2013

~ Helana R. Lenox & Family, *Kenner, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

A Man of God that our community will miss. I have known him as a fellow Police Officer, a Community Leader and a Pastor to New Orleans. Rest in Peace My Friend!

~ Herbert A. Fisher, Jr., *Slidell, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

Welcome to the heavenly choir, we will have a great revival here in heaven!  
On behalf of your great friend , the late Samuel Berfect Sr.

~ Joyce Berfect Shelton, *St. Paul,, Minnesota*

June 30, 2013

I, Sister Patricia Quarels Boyd, Wish to send my condolences and prayers to the family of a Soldier gone home to be with the Lord. As a former member under the guidance and mentorship of Second Baptist Church, I am deeply saddened by his passing from temporary life to eternal life.

June 30, 2013

TO THE RAPHAEL FAMILY MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES. PASTOR WAS TRULY A MAN OF God. Personally I DIDN'T KNOW HIM BUT I KNOW FIRST HAND OF HIS LOVE AND GENEROSITY FOR THE COMMUNITY. BE ENCOURAGE FAMILY EARTH HAS NO SORROW THAT HEAVEN CANNOT HEAL.

~ Evola Matthews, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever.

~ Hazel and christian & christiana Porter,  
*new orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

Sister Catherine, may The Lord our GOD bless you and your household continually. Although we have been out of touch with you and John for many years, our friendship and fellowship remains afresh. I pray that the LORD will allow you to visit the memory of your husband and my friend without visiting the grief. The Promised Land Missionary Baptist Church at New Orleans LA stands in prayer with you. Rev. Dr. H. Theodore, Pastor.

~ Rev. Dr. Herbert Theodore, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

They say he was "long-winded" but i know they cutting up in heaven right now Pastor Raphael is preaching for the first time in months! Through my tears all i can is Thank You Lord for allowing me to apart of a not just a ministry but a church family where we were blessed for 25 years with a real Pastor. I remember at 8yo he and his wife bringing clothes, food and checking on us when my mama was still out there in the world i will never forget that, not too many people can say they felt the love and genuineness from their pastor. the love i have for him i carry it in my spirit, there will never be another John C. Raphael Jr. "God promised deliverance and that's what He did!" Rest in Jesus Arms we love you and will forever remember you.

~ D.j. Watson & Twins, *Algiers, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013



Pastor Raphael will be sadly and greatly missed by all you've touched to many lives with your great works and devotion through God... you were truly a blessing to all whom met, knew and congregated at New Hope Baptist Church..but everyone knows that you will still be continuing your works in heaven...May God bless n keep your family strong at this time of bereavement....Rest In Peace man of God...

~ Kevia Dyer, *Marrero, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

~ E. Celestine, *new orleans, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

Man, JC we played a many yrs. on 47 hundred block of Camp ,  
St. You really grew up to be a Great Man now your going upstairs, man ! sure can use another great Angel

~ John Gourrier, *Baton rouge, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

To The Raphael Family..I will continue to lift you up in prayers..My heart is filled with grief goes out to the family..Pastor Raphael,Jr is gone but never will be forgotten.R.I.P

~ Ms Geraldine M Williams, *Kenner, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013

To the Raphael Family: Pastor Raphael helped my brother when he got into trouble at an early age. His dedication to helping others get their lives together will be greatly missed. He truly lived his life as Jesus teaches and that is being of service to others regardless of their background or mistakes they have made in life. May God's grace continue to be with you always.

~ Barbara Hamilton, *Houston, Texas*

June 30, 2013



To the First Lady, Catherine Raphael and the rest of the Raphael family, I offer my condolences. Gods' garden has the best and the brightest. Pastor Raphael did what God called him to do and Pastor said what God instructed him to say. Healing doesn't always come on this side, sometimes it comes on the other side. Pastor Raphael planted a lot of seeds that will grow from generations to generations. I'll see you on the other side, Pastor Raphael.

~ Mrs. Rose Marie Mitchell, *Kenner, Louisiana*

June 30, 2013



MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY.HAVE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION WITH GOD AT YOUR SIDE "PASTOR RAPHAEL" THANK-YOU DSD NOLA

June 30, 2013

I was baptised by Pastor Raphael. I can still see his hand reaching out to me after coming into my new life! My thoughts and prayers are with the Raphael Family.

~ Ronalyn Johnson, *South East, Texas*

June 30, 2013

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

~ Ruth McGee, *Pascagoula, Mississippi*

June 29, 2013

To the Raphael Family,I am praying for God to give you strength in your time of need. To Mrs .C I know you miss your husband .to my friend Janna ,I know you miss your brother,he's absent from the body and present with The Lord .

~ Crystal Vantry-Lawrence, *Harvey, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

I can't find words to express the way I feel but I LOVE YOU(Sis. Catherine, my First LADY) AND MY Pastor he made a different in my family's life Connie James Clements

June 29, 2013

To Catherine:

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal. We are still praying for you and your family.  
Rev. Irvin and Mrs. Sandy Scales

~ Sandy Wormley-Scales, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

AND I WILL GIVE YOU PASTORS ACCORDING TO MINE HEART,  
WITCH SHALL FEED YOU WITH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING JEREMIAH 3:15.  
JOHNNY PARNELL

~ Johnny Parnell

June 29, 2013



Rest on , We will see you on the other side, you where a blessing in our lives ,

LOVE YOU  
The Lacy Family  
( in Houston , Texas )

~ obie Lacy, *Houston*

June 29, 2013

The Lord doth all things in His own timing. He has called His child home.  
Rev. Raphael had finished his work on earth.  
Raphael family and New Hope trust God continually, God will not leave you.

~ Joyce Berfect Shelton, *St. Paul, Minnesota*

June 29, 2013

Dear Mrs.Raphael,

My prayers are with you and your family during this time of grief.It is my sincere belief that now that he has joined the HEAVENLY CHOIR,he will do even greater things for New Orleans than he did while on earth.Take care and be blessed. P.S.I taught your son Gerard at John McDonogh.

~ Geraldine Levy, *San Antonio, Texas*

June 29, 2013

My prayers are with you during this time of bereavement. Rev. Rapheal was a wonderful Pastor during my membership at New Hope and he will be truly missed.

~ Nicole Jones, *Kennesaw, Georgia*

June 29, 2013

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

~ Angela Jefferson, *Marietta, Georgia*

June 29, 2013

My sincere sympathy to the family & Church family Of Rev. Raphael. I had co-workers who attended his church & I have attended there & loved his sermons. I know he will be missed. The City has lost a great soldier for justice & a great citizen.

~ CORNELIA DUNNINGS, *EAST POINT, Georgia*

June 29, 2013

My sincere condolences to Catherine and the Raphael Family. I've known Pastor Raphael and Catherine for many years. He was a true humanitarian and a great man. The world has loss an angle. R.I.P .

~ ALVIN J. WILLIAMS, *HOUSTON, Texas*

June 29, 2013

Pastor Raphael will truly missed. He has helped me in the past when i was lost. I would just like to say you have my sympathy on your loss. God bless you all and my prayers are with you.

~ Lisa Scott, *Alexandria, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

To The Raphae Family:  
May the peace and love of "God The Father" be with you through these dismal days. A true servant has gone home to receive his reward.

• Greater Mount Carmel B.C. (Rev.Dr. Ernest Johnson, Pastor)

~ Ernest Johnson, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

My Condolences to Pastor Raphael's family. Since I've joined New Hope Baptist Church, Pastor Raphael and the congregation made me feel more than welcome and comfortable. His guidance with God's words has tremendously changed my life for the better. May you Rest In Peace Pastor Raphael.

~ Giselle Ishman, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013



With deepest sympathies on behalf of Laura Dick niece of the late Rev Willie Newman & John Clayton son of the late Rev Willie Newman

~ John Clayton, *Houston, Texas*

June 29, 2013

In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.

~ LAURA DICK, *HOUSTON, Texas*

June 29, 2013

To the Raphael family, know that a God fearing man will be miss. Pastor Raphael touch my son(Brennan Eugene Allen) and I in so many ways, I will forever be grateful to him. May God have grace and mercy on Pastor/Mentor, Raphael soul and may he rest in everlasting peace. Pastor Raphael you will truly be miss.

Eugene Allen Jr.  
Eugene

~ Eugene Allen Jr., *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

Pastor Raphael was a wonderful pastor. He was a kind man and gave from his heart. I am proud to say he was my pastor. He will be miss but his work was done. May he Rest in Peace.

~ patricia Mercadel, *atlanta, Georgia*

June 29, 2013

To JOHN my friend and classmate at McDonogh 35 (class of 70) you will be greatly missed. We know your work is not done yet because we know you will be pastoring up there.

Ameal Cameron, Sr and family

~ Ameal Cameron, Sr, *baton rouge, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

My prayers and thoughts are with the family at this time.

~ Connie James

June 29, 2013



TO THE FAMILY OF PASTOR  
Raphael ; A SERVANT OF GOD

PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEARTFELT  
CONDOLENCES.

MRS. YVETTE ROSE CARTER

June 29, 2013

My heart is deeply hurt, ive known him since i was a child. A gresat man of God powerful, anointed, and truly sent by God! He touched the lives of many all of the world foreign countries in all. He was a soul winner, a kingdom builder, a man who truly loved his calling!! I will truly miss you Pastor J.C. Rapheal Jr. #a member of New Jerusalem B.C. in Bridge City, LA

~ Tonika Barnes, *marrero, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

God's servant RIP "For your labor is not in vain"  
Never met, but believe in your work.

~ Rev. Lloyd Washington, *Hammond, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

May you rest in peace John, you were dedicated to your community, and lead the fight to stop the killings in New Orleans. You will be fondly remembered by all of us that respected you.

~ Bennie Jones, *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

Deepest sympathy is extended to the Raphael and New Hope families. May God strengthen and comfort all of you during this most difficult time.

~ Zion Hill Bapt. Church (Rev. Sidney Joshua, Pastor),  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

My prayer go out to your family .What a great man of God he will truly be miss. May God gave your family comfort.

~ Lucille Simmons, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013



To the Ralpheal Family,thank You for sharing a wonderful man of God with the world.May his works speak for him and his legency live on!

~ The Brown Family, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 29, 2013

May you find peace in knowing that friends and loved ones share in the loss of your dearly beloved..GOD is good ALL THE TIME.

~ Jean Carter- Sanchez, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013

To the family officers and members of New Hope B.C. praying for you all at this time of breavement may the Lord strengthen you all and keep you in his care always.

~ Pammie Garner, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013

To the Rapheal Family,  
The word tells use to cry on the incoming and rejoice on the out going.Even though it may seem short he was able to do a lot of good.It kind of reminds me of Jesus.I have to cherish our days as youth when J C Kenneth,my brother Poncho and I would spend a lot of time playing together in my grandfathers yard on Magazine St.  
and in the neighborhood.Those were the days.

~ Vernon Thomas, *Kennesaw, Georgia*

June 28, 2013

May God be with the family in your time of grief.

~ Brother Eddie Brumfield, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013



My deepest sympathy to the family of Rev. Raphael. Peace and blessings to you.

~ Peggy Davis-Armelin, *Schertz, Texas*

June 28, 2013

From Julius and Mary Newman and the Entire Newman Family, You were a GREAT Pastor, not only to New Hope Baptist Church to the entire New Orleans Community. The trips you scheduled to Africa that was shared and cherished by the attendees and their family; as they enjoy a life changing experience. You baptized my son, who admired your strength and display of peace and reverence. God needed Your Light, Please continue to look over us...RIP, you WILL be missed by ALL!!!

~ Adele Newman, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013

To the Raphael Family,  
God saw his struggles and knew that it was time to bring his child home. On the other day Pastor, Husband, Father, Friend and comforter to many was called home to take his place with our Father. With heart felt sympathy you will be in my prayers.

~ Penny Jones, *Belle Chasse, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013

~ Jessie Marie Smallwood, *New Orleans, LA, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013



MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND I WILL KEEP YALL IN MY PRAYERS  
GOD BLESS.

~ DELJAUNA STEWART, *CYPRESS, Texas*

June 28, 2013



To the greatest pastor in the world!!! You have been an inspiration to me. True example of a man of God!!! Love you always and will miss you. To sis. Raphael and family May the Lord continue to be with you and family. Love you much!!!

~ Talitha James, *baton rouge, Louisiana*

June 28, 2013

with my sincere condolences to you all may the peace of God be with you all. Rev. Michael E. Banks and the Blessed Hope M.B.C.

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US

## Nicholas J. Kindel

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**From:** peter gardner <peter@petergardner.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:55 AM  
**To:** Nicholas J. Kindel  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Re: [NCPRCNO] Street Name Change Proposals: Portions of Carondelet & LaSalle Streets

yes, thanks

On 1/15/2015 9:12 AM, Nicholas J. Kindel wrote:

Hello Peter,

I just wanted to check to see if this was meant to be an official comment that you want me to include as part of the record of these proposed street name change request? Please let me know. Thanks.

nick

---

**From:** Paul Cramer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:41 PM  
**To:** Nicholas J. Kindel  
**Subject:** FW: Re: [NCPRCNO] Street Name Change Proposals: Portions of Carondelet & LaSalle Streets

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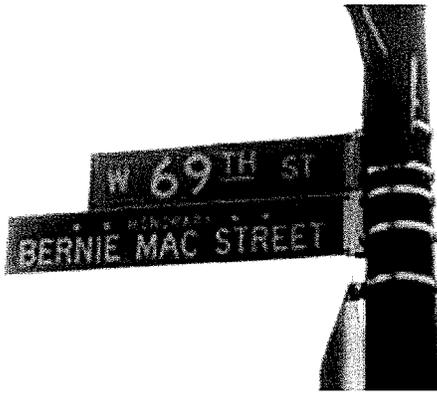
**From:** peter gardner [<mailto:peter@petergardner.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:53 PM  
**To:** louise Martin; felicity Street Redevelopment Project Inc; [info@coliseumsquare.org](mailto:info@coliseumsquare.org); [saturnscreenprinting@gmail.com](mailto:saturnscreenprinting@gmail.com); gad >> Karen Gadbois; LaToya Cantrell; Stacy Head; Jason R. Williams; Michelle Kimball; CPCinfo; Paul Cramer; Timothy Terrell; [nolamillworks@gmail.com](mailto:nolamillworks@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: [NCPRCNO] Street Name Change Proposals: Portions of Carondelet & LaSalle Streets

All, You may have seen this already, but if not, there is a proposal for some name changes to carondelet and lasalle. I'm emailing it to you because it may be relevant to you. Please share this with anyone you think might find this relevant.

I personally think this is inappropriate. If the City or other groups want to honor people they could do an honorary name change where the actual street name is not changed but a supplemental sign would be added. Below is a picture of how Chicago does it, and it seems like a much easier and more palatable solution

Whether you approve or disapprove, please let City Planning and your elected officials know.

Thanks, Peter Gardner



----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Paul Cramer** <[pcramer@nola.gov](mailto:pcramer@nola.gov)>  
Date: Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 11:55 AM  
Subject: Street Name Change Proposals  
To: Paul Cramer <[pcramer@nola.gov](mailto:pcramer@nola.gov)>

**CITY PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015**

**PUBLIC HEARING: 1:30 PM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER (CITY HALL  
-1E07)**

**THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE CPC ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES REGARDING STREET NAMES CHANGES, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015 FOLLOWING THE ZONING PUBLIC HEARING, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER (CITY HALL 1E07), ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED STREET NAME CHANGES.**

**Street Name Change 01/15:** Consideration of the re-naming of a section of Carondelet Street, from Felicity Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard, to be changed to Robert C. Blakes Sr. Drive. (PD 2)

**Street Name Change 02/15:** Consideration of the re-naming of a section of LaSalle Street, between Earhart Boulevard and Simon Bolivar Avenue, to be changed to Rev. John Raphael Jr. Way. (PD 2)

THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES, WILL HEAR ALL PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS TO THE ABOVE PROPOSED STREET NAME CHANGE. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND ALL RELEVANT COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE ENCOURAGED. YOU MAY ALSO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN ADVANCE BY MAIL (1300 PERDIDO STREET, SUITE 7W03, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112 OR BY EMAIL TO [CPCINFO@NOLA.GOV](mailto:CPCINFO@NOLA.GOV)). ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE MONDAY EIGHT DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING DATE.

December 24 and 31, 2014, January 7, 2015

Paul Cramer

Planning Administrator

New Orleans City Planning Commission

1300 Perdido Street, # 7W03

New Orleans LA 70112

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Michelle Kimball, Senior Advocate  
Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans  
923 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
504.390.3209 cell | [www.prcno.org](http://www.prcno.org) | [blog.prcno.org](http://blog.prcno.org)



FORTY YEARS OF  
PROGRESS THROUGH  
PRESERVATION

Posted by: Michelle Kimball <[mkimball@prcno.org](mailto:mkimball@prcno.org)>

Reply via web post • Reply to sender • Reply to group • Start a New Topic • Messages in this topic (1)

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To subscribe, unsubscribe, view old posts or check out the calendar visit the Website at <http://www.egroups.com/group/neighborhoodcouncilprcno>

To send an e-mail message to the group address the message to:  
[neighborhoodcouncilprcno@egroups.com](mailto:neighborhoodcouncilprcno@egroups.com)

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Other informative sites:

Preservation Resource Center: <http://www.prcno.org>

Sprawl-Busters: <http://www.sprawl-busters.com/>

State Historic Preservation Office: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/ocd/hp/ocdhp.htm>

Urban Conservancy: <http://www.urbanconservancy.org>

City of New Orleans: <http://www.new-orleans.la.us>

New Orleans City Council: <http://www.nocitycouncil.com>

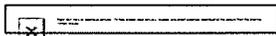
National Trust for Historic Preservation: <http://www.nthp.org>

National Trust Mainstreet Center: <http://www.mainst.org/>

Congress for New Urbanism: <http://www.cnu.org/>

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Thanks,

Peter Gardner  
Gardner Development  
Keller Williams Realty New Orleans  
[504-782-7574](tel:504-782-7574)

--

Michelle Kimball, Senior Advocate  
Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans  
923 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
504.390.3209 cell | [www.prcno.org](http://www.prcno.org) | [blog.prcno.org](http://blog.prcno.org)



--  
Thanks,

Peter Gardner  
Gardner Development  
Keller Williams Realty New Orleans  
504-782-7574

## Paul Cramer

---

**From:** Liz Winston <liz@wirthmoorerealty.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 5:49 PM  
**To:** Paul Cramer; Stacy Head; Jason R. Williams; Susan G. Guidry; LaToya Cantrell; DistrictC; Jared C. Brossett; James A. Gray  
**Subject:** Re: Street Name Change Proposals

Mr. Cramer and Council Members:

Council consideration of street name changes really bothers me. I am certain that a great majority of citizens would feel the same if they were aware of such nonsense.

Renaming of sections of streets causes confusion for citizens, delivery/service people and visitors, and expense to the city, residents and businesses on those sections of streets, mapmakers, etc.

God help those who google directions.

What a waste of time and resources! How about providing street signs where missing before changing ones already in place.

How do these requests even get to be brought before the council? Please inform me of the application process. If you pass these changes, I may consider applying to rename my street. Only a small section.  
Liz Winston



liz winston  
wirth-moore realty llc  
3715 magazine street  
new orleans, la 70115  
usa

C: 504-616-3377  
P: 504-866-3746  
F: 504-218-4188

On Wed, Jan 14, 2015 at 11:55 AM, Paul Cramer <[pcramer@nola.gov](mailto:pcramer@nola.gov)> wrote:

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December 24 and 31, 2014, January 7, 2015

Paul Cramer

Planning Administrator

New Orleans City Planning Commission

1300 Perdido Street, # 7W03

New Orleans LA 70112

## Nicholas J. Kindel

---

**From:** WANDA ADDISON <rwaaddison@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 19, 2015 9:15 AM  
**To:** Nicholas J. Kindel  
**Subject:** Renaming Lasalle Street to John C Raphael Jr Way  
**Attachments:** Lasalle Street.docx

### Renaming LaSalle Street to John C Raphael Jr Way

I think the street should be named for him because he was a pillar of the community. His ministry was not limited to the pulpit. He walked and slept on the streets of New Orleans trying to stop the violence. As the murder rate amongst blacks began to sky rocket, Pastor Raphael would be one of the first people on the scene to console the victims' families. He created the slogans Enough and Thou Shall Not Kill to bring awareness to the senseless killings that were happening in our city. His works were not confined to the City of New Orleans, he traveled to foreign countries to build hospitals, schools and provided medicine for people who did not have the resources to take care of their basic needs.

In 2010 after a major earthquake struck Haiti, Pastor Raphael quickly began to organize mission trips to help the people who were affected by this disaster. He provided shelter to one of the evacuees by bringing him back to New Orleans and allowing him to stay at his home for an extended period of time.

I could say so much more about him, but I pray this brief synopsis is enough for you to rename LaSalle Street to John C Raphael Jr Way.

Wanda J Addison