



# City of Newark

City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 20-1274, **Version:** 1

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**Dept/ Agency:** Offices of Municipal Council/City Clerk

**Action:** ( ) Ratifying (X) Authorizing ( ) Amending

**Type of Service:** Ceremonial Street Designation

**Honoree:** John Arthur Thomas

**Date(s):** Saturday, October 10, 2020

**Official Street Name(s):** Intersection of Summit Street and Sussex Avenue

**Ceremonial Intersection Name:** John Arthur Thomas Way

**Sponsor:** Council President, Mildred C. Crump

**Additional Information:**

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance 6PDF-e, adopted on May 20, 2015, authorizes the designation of an intersection, etc. for honorary and ceremonial purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, John Arthur Thomas, noted Newark educator and co-founder of the famed Newark's Crispus Attucks Day Parade, the first Statewide parade celebrating the accomplishments of African-Americans, and the genesis of not only present day African-American parade celebrations, but also other ethnicities celebrating their respective cultural heritage and contributions to America's history and founding; and

**WHEREAS**, John Arthur Thomas, who was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, was a renowned educator and beloved history teacher at Newark's Central High School, whose passion and commitment to educating his students on the unmasking of African and African-American contributions and influence on world history showed no bounds; and

**WHEREAS**, he was a proud member of "America's Greatest Generation", serving in the Pacific Theater for the United States Army during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946. Shortly thereafter, he went on to earn several degrees in education, including Bachelor and Master Degrees from Rutgers University and graduate credits from the prestigious Columbia University. He began his illustrious teaching career with the Newark Board of Education in 1952 and later taught at Rutgers University School of Education and the Rutgers University African-American Studies Department.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

1. The Municipal Council hereby authorizes the honorary and ceremonial renaming of the intersection of Summit Street and Sussex Avenue as "John Arthur Thomas Way".
2. The official name of the said streets shall remain Summit Street and Sussex Avenue in their entirety.

**STATEMENT**

This resolution authorizes the renaming of the intersection of Summit Street and Sussex Avenue as “John Arthur Thomas Way” for honorary and ceremonial purposes.