

MOTION

Reverend Dr. Richard (Meri Ka Ra) Byrd is the Senior Minister of KRST Unity Center of AfRaKan Spiritual Science in South Los Angeles. He was educated in Kansas City, Missouri, and was ordained by the Association of Unity Churches in 1988. He came to Los Angeles in 1989 to lead the Christ Unity Center alongside his wife, Erica Byrd.

Rev. Byrd was drawn to the ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) origins of Black people and his study, prayer, and research of African history and culture led to the re-founding Christ Unity Center as KRST. He took the name Meri Ka Ra, which means Beloved of the Spirit of God and has served as the purpose for his life.

Since his arrival in Los Angeles, Rev. Byrd has actively served his congregation and the greater Los Angeles community through his leadership, ministry, and activism, leading numerous programs for spiritual and cultural advancement. He was the co-founder of Say Yes to Life, Inc., a non-profit that tutored students to increase math and reading levels for children up to grade level three.

Rev. Byrd also co-founded the Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches (LAM), which organizes, trains, and empowers ministries to be civically and politically engaged. He served as the President of LAM for over ten years, and his advocacy culminated in the passage of State legislation allowing formerly incarcerated individuals to receive their General Educational Diplomas (GED).

In recognition of the Rev. Byrd's contributions to the communities of South Los Angeles and to the City as a whole, it is appropriate that the City name the intersection of W. 78th Street and S. Western Avenue as "Rev. Richard "Meri Ka Ra" Byrd Square."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at W. 78th Street and S. Western Avenue be named as "Rev. Richard "Meri Ka Ra" Byrd Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.



PRESENTED BY: _____
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SEP 2 2 2020

SECONDED BY: _____
JOHN S. LEE (verbal)
Councilmember, 12th District