

Legislative Summary: Ordinance No. 647-2019

Ordinance No. 647-2019 changes the name of “Lawn-Madison Park” located at West 75th Street and Madison Avenue to “Miriam Ortiz-Rush Park.” The citizens of Cleveland want to honor Miriam Ortiz-Rush in recognition of her exceptional devotion to her family, her heritage, and her community.

Miriam Ortiz-Rush was born on May 26, 1953 in Cleveland, Ohio and passed away on July 7, 2017. She was a longtime resident of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood who grew up there and continually served her community.

Miriam attended West High School and continued her education at Cleveland State University’s Marshall School of Law. She grew a passion for her community at a young age. Miriam served on many boards, including Detroit Shoreway Community Development, Julio de Burgos, Roberto Clemente Baseball League, Union de Padres Hispanos (Cleveland Public Schools), Puerto Rican Friendly Day, Call and Post, and organized and served on the Hispanic Bar Association and was a member of the Hispanic Community Development Task Force.

Miriam worked at Fairview Hospital as a nurse from 1970-1973. Miriam worked for the Cleveland Public Schools as an Instructional Technician from March 1980- August 1989. Miriam started El Nuevo Dia Publishing Company Incorporated in July, 1989. It was the first Spanish/English community newspaper in Cleveland. Her office was located in the Gordon Square Arcade. She was a fierce advocate of the Latino community, and the idea of the paper was born out of her desire to bring attention to the Latino community by focusing on promoting small businesses, news and events around the area. El Nuevo Dia was a labor of her love for the community. Miriam worked for Cuyahoga Municipal Housing Association from June 1990-June 1998. Miriam began service with the Cleveland Municipal Housing Court as the Personal Bailiff for the late Honorable Judge Raymond Pianka starting in June 1998 until 2017.

Miriam was married to her beloved husband Daryl Rush, Director of Community Development for the City of Cleveland, for 24 beautiful years. The two of them were extremely passionate about the city of Cleveland and the people. Daryl was the love of her life and they truly complimented and completed each other. Miriam had four children, twelve grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Miriam Ortiz-Rush led an exemplary life, manifesting all the virtues we seek to replicate and will be remembered as a woman whose unwavering commitment greatly impacted those in her community. Miriam demonstrated perpetual compassion and generosity, and those actions showed in her relationships. She has impacted the lives of so many. Miriam was an advocate for social justices and equality even at a young age. She wasn’t scared to go against the grain for what was right. Miriam was the type of person to open her heart as well as her home to those who needed it. Throughout her many works for the community Miriam was a humble person who didn’t need credit; she preferred action.