

Series: Local Laws

Box# 050316

Local Law 17

Street name, Walter J. Wetzel  
Triangle, Queens, Int. No.  
1054

1977

**POOR  
QUALITY**

City Planning - 10/19/76 - Copies to City of Ind. Pro requested 12/14/76

January 18, 1977 - Panel

G.O. 1/19/77

AD 1/25/77

LL 1/17/77

**LOCAL LAWS  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
FOR THE YEAR 1977**

**No. 17**

Introduced by Mr. Ward; also Messrs. Katz, Povman, Gacta, Simon, Ms. Friedlander,  
Messrs. Samuel, Gangemi and Stern—

**A LOCAL LAW**

**To amend the administrative code of the city of New York in relation  
to street name, Walter J. Wetzel triangle, borough of Queens.**

*Be it enacted by the Council as follows:*

Section 1. Section B4-80.0 of the administrative code of the city of New York is hereby amended by adding thereto a new designation to read as follows:

§ B4-80.0. **Queens: change certain street name.**—The following street name is hereby designated as hereinafter indicated :

| New name                  | Present name | Limits  |
|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| Walter J. Wetzel triangle | none         | A triangular area bounded on the south by 157th avenue, on the north by 156th avenue and on the west by Cohancy street. |

§2. This local law shall take effect immediately.

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, s.s. :**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on January 25, 1977, and approved by the Mayor on February 10, 1977.

DAVID N. DINKINS, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW SECTION 27.**

Pursuant to the provisions of Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27, I hereby certify that the enclosed local law (Local Law 17 of 1977, Council Int. No. 1054) contains the correct text and received the following vote at the meeting of the New York City Council on January 25, 1977: 38 for, none against.

Was approved by the Mayor on February 10, 1977.

Was returned to the City Clerk on February 11, 1977.

W. BERNARD RICHLAND, Corporation Counsel.

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L.C.# ~~1004~~ 17

The final public hearing is on Introductory Number 1054, sponsored by Councilman Walter Ward and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Katz, Povman, Gaeta, Simon, Friedlander, Samuel, Gangemi, and Stern.

This bill names a triangular area bounded on the south by 157th Avenue, on the north by 156th Avenue and on the west by Cohancy Street - as Walter J. Wetzel Triangle, in the Borough of Queens.

Walter J. Wetzel was born on September 16, 1944. He attended Far Rockaway High School and St. Johns Preparatory School and was very active in school sports. On October 15, 1965 Walter Wetzel joined the United States Army. He was sent to Vietnam on May 8, 1966. Shortly after his arrival in Vietnam, he was part of a group directed to reconnoiter an area. They were surprised by two active machine guns atop a hill they were attempting to navigate. Pfc. Wetzel threw a hand grenade and destroyed one of the guns. Since the other machine gun was still active, Pfc. Wetzel, although wounded and under fire, threw a second grenade destroying the remaining gun and saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. He died on May 29, 1966. For his bravery and valor, Walter Wetzel was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. He was also given the Military Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm from the Republic of Vietnam.

Is there anyone to speak in opposition?

Is there anyone to speak in favor?

There being no one (else) to be heard,

this hearing is closed.

I will sign this bill to honor Walter Wetzel's memory in the community where he was born and raised:

#####

Int. No. 1054

**Report of the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs in Favor of Approving and Adopting a Local Law to Amend the Administrative Code of The City of New York, in Relation to Street Name, Walter J. Wetzel Triangle, Borough of Queens.**

The Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, to which was referred on November 23, 1976 (Minutes, page 355), the annexed local law, respectfully

**REPORTS:**

This proposed law would name a triangular area bounded on the south by 157th Avenue, on the north by 156th Avenue and on the west by Cohancy Street.

Walter J. Wetzel was born on September 16, 1944. He attended Our Lady of Grace School, Far Rockaway High School and St. Johns Preparatory School. He was very active in school sports.

He entered into the service of the United States Army on October 15, 1965. On May 8, 1966 he commenced his tour in Viet Nam.

Shortly after his arrival he and his group were directed to reconnoiter an area. Upon arriving there, they were surprised by two active machine guns atop a hill they were attempting to navigate. Pfc. Walter Wetzel threw a hand grenade and destroyed one of the guns. He was wounded. Since the other submachine gun was still active Pfc. Wetzel, under fire, threw a second grenade which destroyed it and saved many lives.

He died on May 29, 1966.

Walter Wetzel was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor, the Military Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm from the Republic of Viet Nam and the Purple Heart. Governor Nelson Rockefeller awarded him the Conspicuous Service Medal.

The City Planning Commission reports that the description of the new street name conforms to the City Map.

Council members Katz, Povman, Gaeta, Simon, Friedlander, Samuel, Gangemi, Stern were added as cosponsors.

Accordingly your Committee recommends its adoption.

**A LOCAL LAW to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to street name, Walter J. Wetzel triangle, borough of Queens.**

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WALTER WARD, Chairman; LEON A. KATZ, MORTON POVMAN, ANTHONY R. GAETA, STANLEY SIMON, MIRIAM FRIEDLANDER, FREDERICK E. SAMUEL, JOHN F. GANGEMI, HENRY J. STERN, Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, January 18, 1977.

On motion of the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Cuite), and adopted, the foregoing matter was coupled as a General Order for the day. (See ROLL CALL ON GENERAL ORDERS FOR THE DAY.)

GC 1/25/77



T H E C O U N C I L  
REPORT OF LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

INT. NO. 1054

By: Mr. Ward

TITLE: Walter J. Wetzel Triangle, Borough of Queens

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: Amends Section B4-80.0

BACKGROUND & INTENT: This proposed law would name a triangular area bounded on the south by 157th Avenue, on the north by 156th Avenue and on the west by Cohancy Street.

Walter J. Wetzel was born on September 16, 1944. He attended Our Lady of Grace School, Far Rockaway High School and St. Johns Preparatory School. He was very active in school sports.

He entered into the service of the United States Army on October 15, 1965. On May 8, 1966 he commenced his tour in Viet Nam.

Shortly after his arrival he and his group were directed to reconnoiter an area. Upon arriving there, they were surprised by two active machine guns atop a hill they were attempting to navigate. Pfc. Walter Wetzel threw a hand grenade and destroyed one of the guns. He was wounded. Since the other submachine gun was still active Pfc. Wetzel, under fire, threw a second grenade which destroyed it and saved many lives.

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Walter Wetzel was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor, the Military Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm from the Republic of Viet Nam and the Purple Heart. Governor Nelson Rockefeller awarded him the Conspicuous Service Medal.

COMMENT: The City Planning Commission reports that the description of the new street name conforms to the city map.

IR:arp  
1-17-77

# THE COUNCIL

## The City of New York

Int. No. 1054

November 23, 1976

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13 §2. This local law shall take effect immediately.

PRE



MUNICIPAL REFERENCE AND RESEARCH CENTER  
MUNICIPAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007



EUGENE J. BOCKMAN, *Director*

December 30, 1976

Anthony A. Caracciolo, Counsel  
The City of New York  
Vice-Chairman of the Council  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Caracciolo:

Re: Int. No. 1054, Walter J. Wetzel Triangle (Queens)

Please note that we have no information in our files concerning Walter J. Wetzel.

Yours truly,

Devra L. Zetlan  
Acting Chief,  
Reference Service

DLZ:dr

PRC



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

CHAIRMAN:  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE MEMBER:  
FINANCE  
EDUCATION  
MASS TRANSPORTATION

WALTER WARD  
COUNCILMAN, 15TH DISTRICT, QUEENS  
82-17 153RD AVENUE  
HOWARD BEACH, N. Y. 11414  
845-4280

Dec. 9, 1976

Re: Walter Wetzyl  
Dist. # 1054

Dear Anthony —

The enclosed info is what is readily available in my files. I am given to understand that his death came about as follows:

Shortly after arrival in Vietnam his group was sent to reconnoiter a section of territory and they were surprised by two manned machine guns from a hill they were trying to navigate. The entire group was in a very precarious situation and he stood up and threw a grenade destroying one machine gun. He was, however, wounded. The other machine gun was still active and causing great destruction when Walter, even though wounded, threw a second grenade and knocked out the other machine gun thereby saving many many lives.

Should you require anything further please contact me at 843-6089.

Sincerely  
Anne Grossberg

**POOR  
QUALITY**

az. 21

**NAME:** WALTER J. WETZEL  
**ADDRESS:** 158-25 97th Street  
Howard Beach, N.Y. 11414  
**DATE ENTERED SERVICE:** OCTOBER 15, 1955 1965  
**RANK:** PFC  
**DATE LEFT COUNTRY:**  
**DATE COMMENCED TOUR IN VIETNAM:** MAY 8, 1966  
**DATE OF DEATH:** MAY 29, 1966  
**DATE BODY RETURNED:** June 5, 1966  
**SCHOOLS ATTENDED:** OUR LADY OF GRACE  
ST. JOHN'S PREP  
FAR ROCKAWAY H.S.  
**FATHER'S NAME:** WALTER J. WETZEL  
**MOTHER'S NAME:** LILLIAN T. WETZEL  
**SISTERS:** MAURITEN  
KATHLEEN  
PATRICIA  
JUDITH

WALTER WARD

DEMOCRATIC LEADER • 29th Assembly District • Part A • 82-17 153rd Avenue, Howard Beach, N. Y. 11414

August 28, 1967

Hon. Mario J. Cariello  
President of the Borough of Queens  
Borough Hall  
120-55 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, New York 11424

Dear Mr. President:

I have been receiving numerous requests from people in my area asking that a memorial park be established in honor of a valiant young neighbor and soldier who was killed in action in Vietnam on May 29, 1966. The young man in question was Pfc. Walter J. Wetzel, whose parents reside in Howard Beach.

Pfc. Wetzel was a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and also the Military Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm from the government of the Republic of Vietnam.

The site that has been suggested for the park is a truncated triangular plot bounded by 157th Avenue, 99th Street, 156th Avenue and Cohancy Street. The plot will have to be cemented over and curbed. I have been assured that the community, at its own expense, will erect a headstone and flag pole in the park.

Enclosed you will find a map of the area, a Long Island Press obituary regarding Pfc. Wetzel and a U.S. Army notice addressed to his parents.

Hoping that action regarding this matter can be taken in the near future, and with kindest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

Walter Ward

WW/sj  
enc.

COPY

M

AHECA-PA

Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Wetzol  
158-25 97th Street  
Howard Beach, New York

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wetzol:

I have been notified that your son, Walter has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, with "V" device for Valor.

This decoration was established on 4 February 1944, and is awarded for heroic or meritorious achievement in the nation's service. It has been awarded to your son for Valor in combat against an enemy of our country.

As a soldier who understands full well the meaning of this award, I would be honored to present it to you in behalf of your son.

The presentation ceremony can be held at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York, or Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York, or at a place of your choice, and at a time and date convenient to you. If you prefer that a ceremony not be held, then arrangements can be made where either I or a member of my staff will deliver the award to your home.

Request you inform us by letter of your desires or if more convenient, please call Sergeant First Class Caszorro, of the Personal Affairs Office at Fort Hamilton, 836-4100, extension 24117.

Sincerely,

T. R. YANCEY  
Major General, USA  
Commanding





City of New York

## City Planning Commission

2 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10007

December 14, 1976

Mr. Anthony A. Caracciolo, Counsel  
The City of New York  
Vice-Chairman of the Council  
City Hall  
New York City, N. Y. 10007

Dear Sir:

We have your communication dated December 3, 1976,  
relating to the following Local Laws:

Local Law Int. No. 1049

Please be advised that the description of the new  
street name (Olmsted-Vaux plaza), Borough of Manhattan, conforms  
to the City Map.

Local Law Int. No. 1054

Please be advised that the description of the new  
street name (Walter J. Wetzel Triangle), Borough of Queens,  
conforms to the City Map.

Sincerely,

Victor Marrero,  
Chairman

1054

B.P. Queens

C.P.C.

Inventory Ref

Bro -

December 2, 1976

Honorable Walter Ward  
80-20 151 Avenue  
Howard Beach, N.Y. 11414

Re: Int. No. 1054

Dear Mr. Ward:

Kindly furnish this office with a biography of  
Walter J. Wetzel in relation to the enclosed bill introduced  
by you.

Kind regards.

Very truly yours,

AAC/mg  
enclosure

ANTHONY A. CARACCILO,  
Counsel.

December 2, 1976

Honorable Victor Marrero, Chairman  
City Planning Commission  
Department of City Planning  
Two Lafayette Street  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Marrero:

1054  
street name, Walter J. Wetzel ~~trááááááá~~ borough  
off Queens.

1054.

mg

December 2, 1976

Honorable Donald R. Manes,  
Queens Borough President  
120-55 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, N.Y. 11424

Dear Borough President Manes:

of Queens. street name, Walter J. Wetzel triangle, borough  
1054,

1054.

mg

December 2, 1976

Honorable Eugene J. Bockman, Director  
Municipal Reference and Research Center  
2230 Municipal Building  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Director Bockman:

of Queens. street name, Walter J. Wetzel triangle, borough  
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1054.

mg

# THE COUNCIL

The City of New York

Int. No. 1054

November 23, 1976

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IR:pjd

7-1-76

*PRCA*

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IR:pjd

7-1-76

DATE July 2, 1976

TO: Vice-Chairman, Thomas J. Cuite

FROM: Legal Services Division

This is a copy of legislation sent to Councilman Ward

The purpose of the bill is:

Changing of street name: Walter J. Wetzel Triangle, no former name, borough  
of Queens

An abbreviated title would be:

LOCAL LAW

Street name, Walter J. Wetzel Triangle, Borough of Queens

RESOLUTION

IR:pjd

\*Resolutions are self-explanatory.