

High-Level Background & Timeline of Fletcher Johnson Actions

The Late 1800s: Payne's Cemetery was a 13-acre (53,000 m²) cemetery located in the then Benning Ridge (now classified as Marshall Heights) neighborhood of Washington, D.C., in the United States.

- 14,000 burials at Payne's between 1880 and 1919, but there were undoubtedly many more people buried at Payne's than official records showed.
 - Possibly as many as 39,000 people buried at Payne's Cemetery.

The Mid-1900s: Payne's Cemetery Association sold the graveyard to P.D. Badia.

1959: Burials at the cemetery end.

1961: Badia later sold the cemetery to Louis H. Bell, an African American real estate developer who purchased many abandoned and nearly abandoned African American cemeteries in the city.

- Bell claimed to have moved more than 37,000.

1966: In 1966, Bell transferred about 2,000 additional graves to National Harmony Memorial Park to total 39,000.

- Payne's Cemetery was declared abandoned by the city in the summer of 1966.
- The Civic Betterment Association learned that the Payne Cemetery would be cleared and requested that the school board acquire the old cemetery land.

1969: The Committee of 21 was formed to plan the new facility.

Fletcher-Johnson was named after both the late Evelyn B. Fletcher and Dr. Philip T. Johnson, dedicated education servants and active community leaders.

1977: Fletcher-Johnson opened at a cost of \$10 Million and ability to serve 1,000 students.

1978: Official dedication a year after Fletcher-Johnson's grand opening by Mayor Walter E Washington

2008: Fletcher-Johnson was closed in 2008.

2014: A RFO for reuse of the site was first released by the District Government in 2014 where offers were received and evaluated resulting in no award.

- The community submitted a proposal that went unfunded.

2018: At 15.26 acres, Fletcher Johnson is the 4th largest plot of developable District-owned. The community requested the property be transferred to the Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) and remove from the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME) inventory.

- Ward 7 built a coalition of Commissioners and Civic Associations to express the community vision for the Fletcher-Johnson site.
 - All Ward 7 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, 10 Civic Associations within Fletcher-Johnson close proximity, and 6 Community Organizations that serve Ward 7 residents signed on to a declaration letter.
 - The letter was submitted to Wilson Building, DME, and DMPED.
- Ward 7 Council Member held a Fletcher-Johnson Listening and Brainstorm Session
 - Attorney General Racine confirms that the Landrieu Act's (DC Code §38-1802.09 also known as the "First Right to Refusal"), requirement has already been satisfied since DME released an RFO for this project previously without selecting an awardee/contractor in 2014.
 - The community expressed a desire to create a Ward 7 Lead Fletcher-Johnson Task Force.
- Coalition members met to discuss the formation of the Fletcher-Johnson Task Force.
- Mayor Muriel Bowser and Council Member Gray announce that the property transfer to DMPED.

2019: The coalition elects 13 Ward 7 members to serve on the Fletcher-Johnson Task Force.

- DMPED hosts an "ourRFP" meeting regarding the site (March 5th).
- DGS to host a meeting regarding the surplus Fletcher-Johnson land (March 20th).