

**September 7, 2021**  
**Report of the Ossining Village Historian**

**RE: Honorary Street naming application for Dream Ioni Shepherd**

My research into the contributions made to the village by Dream Ioni Shepherd was conducted by consulting the following sources: Telephone interviews with Dream's mother Diana Lemon and Althema Goodson; referenced her obituary and reflections taken from speakers at her funeral service, and the obituary published on LoHud.

**RESIDENCY IN OSSINING:** Dream Ioni Shepherd was a life-long resident (16 years) of the Village of Ossining. She lived on both Revolutionary Road and Main Street. She spent a majority of her life residing on Main Street and her residence when she passed on August 21, 2021

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VILLAGE CONTRIBUTION:**

Dream had an incredible commitment to change-making in this world. By the age of 16, Dream had accomplished a great deal more than most people who live to be five times her age. Dream was a true warrior who valiantly fought Sickle Cell Disease from birth until she received a stem cell transplant at the age of 10. Dream endured the harsh recovery processes for years after the transplant. Later, Dream would battle cancer. Dream inspired, and she and her Mom fought for the passage of Dream's Law in New York State, ensuring that medically fragile people receive proper at-home professional medical care once they leave the hospital after transplant surgeries. Most recently, Dream and her Mom were working to pass another law called "Shepherd Patterson" to ensure that parents and guardians with medically challenged children receive the proper information from their doctor regarding special services and accommodations once they enter school, in New York State.

Dream used her medical conditions and life circumstances to fight for better life quality for others is a testament to her spirit. These are gifts to not just the people of Ossining but the people of New York State, that will keep on giving.

As it relates to their incredible engagement in advocacy work (which often required tireless travels back and forth to Albany to lobby lawmakers,) Diana reflects that "Dream was the complete embodiment of resiliency; every brick that they tossed her way, she gently caught and fiercely built with."

Dream was proud of the fact that she could help others, whether she was enacting laws, or supporting a friend, there was a way that she understood that she had the ability to make things better for others. She was proud of her newly discovered green thumb, she was also proud to be a Girl Scout in troop 2233, as she loved that she would consistently sell the most cookies in her troop. She was proud to be present for the delivery of her little sister,

Lorde. In typical Dream fashion, she bravely cut the umbilical cord at age 14; an act that often makes grown men tremble.

Dream's was educated in the Ossining School District and at her passing was a student at Ossining High School. Students, teachers, and administrators reflect on what a beautiful person she was, the smile she kept on her face (despite what she was going through), and the encouraging words she always shared, gave them hope. Hope that they could conquer anything because they saw her do it with such grace.

During her funeral service her Girl Scout Troupe leader reflected on how Dream always wanted to finish what she started. Despite not feeling well or having to take her medication she always wanted to complete her projects. Dream was a brave fighter who was an inspiration to everyone she came in contact with.

Dream Ioni Shepherd did in 16 years, what takes most of us a lifetime. She used her life circumstances to help others. Instead of complaining about her pain, she used her pain to advocate for others. Through her pain, she smiled and offered encouraging words, words beyond her years to inspire, empower and encourage others. Dream left behind to Ossining a legacy of hope, encouragement, love, and light. Assemblywoman Sandra Galef said, "Dream really pulled the whole Ossining community together".

### **ADVOCACY/LEGISLATIVE WORK**

- 2019: Passage of "Dream's Law" in New York State: mandates that insurance companies guarantee safe and continued care for patients with a central venous line after being discharged from the hospital. The bill was quickly expanded to cover others whose medical conditions demanded more post-hospital care than their families could provide on their own.
- 2021: Introduction of "Shepherd Patterson Law": to ensure that parents and guardians with medically challenged children receive the proper information from their doctor regarding special services and accommodations once they enter school, in New York State. Passed the Senate during the 2021 legislative session – her mother will continue this work

### **AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 2015 (age 10) named one of New York State's "Women of Distinction"
- 2016 Recognition from the Town of Ossining
- 2016 Distinguished Service Award
- Grand Marshal in a local hospital parade
- "Announcer of the Day", the Westchester Knicks
- 2017 (age 14) "We Survived Transplant" with Robin Roberts of Good Morning America segment

- Performed at Radio City Music Hall (through Garden of Dreams Foundation)
- Performed at the Beacon Theater with O.A.R. 2.0 chorus

## AFFILIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

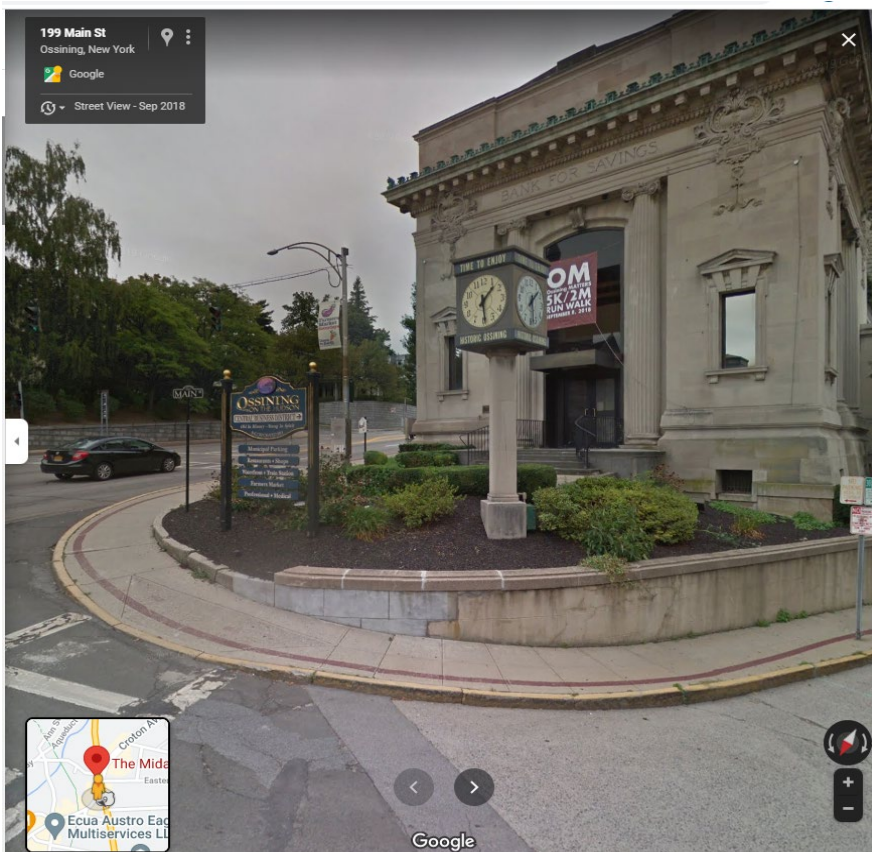
- Ossining Girl Scout Troupe 2233 (since Kindergarten)
- Member of Star Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Youth member of the Ossining NAACP

## SIGNAGE HISTORY OF PROPOSED STREET

It is requested that **Main Street** have the honorary street name "**Dream Shepherd's Way**". Currently, there is no honorary street signage at the location.

## Precedent

There is an honorary street sign in the Historic Sparta District "Joanne Tall Way".





*Proclamation  
In Honor of  
Dream Shepherd*

**WHEREAS**, Dream Shepherd is certainly one of Ossining's most inspiring citizens, and is a great example of perseverance and dedication for important causes; and

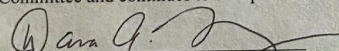
**WHEREAS**, Dream was born with sickle cell disease, causing her to face many challenges at a very young age which she faced with remarkable bravery, while also inspiring her to raise awareness and funds for sickle cell disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Dream's dedication to causes that are important to her exhibits her undeniable passion for helping others, as she can always be found cheering up others battling chronic medical conditions, getting involved in marketing campaigns, Dance-a-Thons, and supporting other advocacy and fund raising campaigns, it is not surprising that Dream was honored by Senator David Carlucci last year at the NYS Senate's Women of Distinction Ceremony and named Grand Marshal of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Go the Distance Walk and Family Fun Day benefiting Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, leading thousands of fellow supporters for the event's "Walk Around Campus"; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Dream's accomplishments that would be remarkable for someone five times her age, she continues to be an active student and Girl Scout, as well as talented artist and musician; and

**WHEREAS**, Dream is a model for us all of how to face life's challenges with courage, spirit, and humility;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Dana A. Levenberg, Supervisor of the Town of Ossining, with the enthusiastic support of the Ossining Town Board, congratulate Dream Shepherd as she receives special recognition by the Ossining Town Democratic Committee and continues to be a pioneer and inspiration for many of her peers.

  
Dana A. Levenberg, Supervisor

Council Members,  
Karen M. D'Attore  
Elizabeth R. Feldman  
Kim Jeffrey  
Northern Wilcher, Jr.



April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016



# Proclamation

## *Dream Shepherd*

**WHEREAS**, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and celebrate Dream Shepherd as a Woman of Distinction, who has significantly added inspiration and encouragement to the people of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS**, From the women's suffrage movement just over 150 years ago to the present day, women have played and continue to play a crucial role in adding strength, understanding and inspiration to the diversity and quality of life of the people of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to individuals of remarkable character, who have shown initiative and commitment in constantly pursuing higher goals for themselves, as well as acting as role models to be emulated by all women; and

**WHEREAS**, History has recorded the many contributions made by women in numerous areas, some of which include: the arts, science, education, medicine and government; and

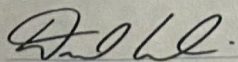
**WHEREAS**, Through their magnanimous efforts, these women are being recognized for their great strength of character and their ability to excel and emerge as a "Woman of Distinction"; and

**WHEREAS**, Women continue to be at the forefront as leaders in industry, business and government; in this tradition, we celebrate those advancements made by these "Women of Distinction" and recognize the sacrifices made in pursuit of those progressions; and

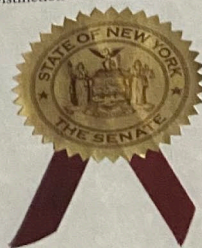
**WHEREAS**, The New York State Senate developed the "Women of Distinction" program in 1998 to pay tribute to the outstanding record of achievements women have made throughout this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS**, On behalf of the New York State Senate, I take this opportunity to congratulate Dream Shepherd as a 2015 New York State Senate Woman of Distinction, to be celebrated on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at the Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony in The Well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, New York; now, therefore, be it

**PROCLAIMED**, That we pause to publicly honor and commend Dream Shepherd upon the occasion of being named and confirmed as a "Woman of Distinction" on this, the fifth day of May in the year two thousand fifteen.



Senator David Carlucci  
New York State Senator  
38<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
May 5, 2015





# Distinguished Service Award

from the

Westchester County Democratic Committee

presented to

*Miss Dream Shepard*

In grateful appreciation for your contribution to  
the betterment of life in Westchester County, NY



April 24, 2016

Date

*Leynald A. LaFayette*

Chairman