

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers
FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole
DATE: June 30, 2015
SUBJECT: Report on Bill 21-9, the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 21-9, the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On April 8, 2013, Bill 20-215, the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2013,” was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of Mayor Vincent Gray to symbolically designate the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., in Ward 5, as Ruby Whitfield Way. However, the bill was not taken up by the Council as D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a provides that, with some exception, no public space shall be named in honor of any person who has been deceased less than two years. B20-215 did not satisfy that provision. A duplicate bill, B21-9, the “Ruby Whitfield Designation Act of 2015”, was introduced by Councilmembers Kenyan McDuffie and Charles Allen, with co-sponsors from Councilmembers David Grosso and Elissa Silverman, satisfied this two-year provision of the code.

Ruby Whitfield was born in Columbus, Mississippi, moving to the District when she was a young child. Mrs. Whitfield worked at the Sidwell Friends School cafeteria for more than 44 years, serving lunch and wisdom to the children of several prominent people in the Washington region, including Chelsea Clinton, daughter of President Bill Clinton. After her storied career at

Sidwell Friends, Mrs. Whitfield retired in 2008 to dedicate her life to her husband Thomas Whitfield, her daughter Tasyha Whitfield, and her granddaughter Symone.¹

Unfortunately, Mrs. Whitfield's life was tragically cut short the evening of March 21, 2013 when she was killed by a drunk driver, Joel R. Bromwell, of Annapolis, MD who failed to stop for her in the crosswalk. Mrs. Whitfield had just stepped out of New Samaritan Baptist Church at 1100 Florida Avenue, N.E. following an ushers meeting and attempted to cross Florida Avenue, N.E. in a marked crosswalk when she was struck by an automobile traveling an estimated 15 miles over the 25 MPH speed limit, dragging her 86 feet down the road after failing to stop.²

In the days immediately following the tragedy, Mayor Vincent Gray said he would rename the intersection where Mrs. Whitfield was killed as "Ruby Whitfield Way" and introduced legislation, B20-215, the "Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2013", shortly after.³ The bill was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of Mayor Gray and was subsequently referred to the Committee of the Whole, but the bill was not picked up due to provisions in the DC Code prohibiting the renaming of a public space after an individual that has been deceased for less than two years, with certain exceptions for public officials.

Nearly two years later, at the first Legislative Meeting of Council Period 21, Councilmembers Kenyan McDuffie and Charles Allen introduced B21-9, the "Ruby Whitfield Designation Act of 2015", with co-sponsors from Councilmembers David Grosso and Elissa Silverman. This bill is an exact copy of B20-215 and would rename the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E. to "Ruby Whitfield Way".

In the years since Mrs. Whitfield's tragic death, the District Department of Transportation has focused its attention on the area for traffic calming, including the installation of a HAWK beacon (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon) in front of the church. This advanced traffic signal allows people attempting to cross Florida Avenue, N.E. the ability to stop vehicular traffic and cross with a protected light signal. These beacons have been installed in several locations throughout the District, including in the neighborhoods of Chevy Chase and Cleveland Park, with great success. Studies from the Federal Highway Administration cite a 69% reduction in vehicle/pedestrian crashes after the installation of a signal and 97% compliance rate from drivers, higher than traditional signalized crosswalks.⁴

¹ Peter Hermann, *Hit-and-Run Victim Worked in Sidwell Friends Cafeteria for 44 Years*, THE WASHINGTON POST, March 22, 2013, http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/hit-and-run-victim-worked-in-sidwell-friends-cafeteria-for-44-years/2013/03/22/a00f89e4-9301-11e2-8ea1-956c94b6b5b9_story.html (last visited June 16, 2015).

² Id.

³ Peter Hermann, *D.C. Mayor Promises Traffic Signal at Spot Where Church Usher was Killed*, THE WASHINGTON POST, March 27, 2013, <http://themendelsonpost.com/2015/06/18/mendos-marches-capital-pride/> (last visited June 18, 2015).

⁴ U.S. Department of Transportation. *Safety Effectiveness of the HAWK Pedestrian Crossing Treatment*. By Kay Fitzpatrick and Eun Sug Park. Available at: [http://www.cmclearinghouse.org/studydocs/Safety%20Effectiveness%20of%20the%20HAWK%20Pedestrian%20Crossing%20Treatment%20\(Fitzpatrick%20and%20Park,%202010\).PDF](http://www.cmclearinghouse.org/studydocs/Safety%20Effectiveness%20of%20the%20HAWK%20Pedestrian%20Crossing%20Treatment%20(Fitzpatrick%20and%20Park,%202010).PDF). Accessed June 19, 2015.

However, despite the devices at this location and throughout the District, there are still widespread issues of people in automobiles driving too fast, distracted by cell phones, or impaired by drugs and alcohol and not yielding to more vulnerable users, with often tragic results. Two recent killings⁵ on Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., in Ward 3, in the past weeks have highlighted just how much work has to be done for the District to truly commit to the goal of Vision Zero, the strive to reduce and prevent all transportation deaths.⁶

While the Committee supports the ceremonial street renaming, it also calls on the District Department of Transportation to increase their efforts to achieve Vision Zero in the District through increased traffic calming, lowering the speed limit, better infrastructure for people walking or riding a bicycle, and increased enforcement of traffic violations. The Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 21-9, the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

March 21, 2013	Mrs. Ruby Whitfield is struck and killed by a drunk driver in the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, NE while walking out of her church.
April 8, 2013	Bill 20-215, the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2013” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Gray.
April 12, 2013	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 20-215 was published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
January 6, 2015	Bill 21-9, the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015” was introduced by Councilmembers McDuffie and Allen.
January 9, 2015	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 21-9 was published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
May 8, 2015	Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 21-9 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
June 3, 2015	A Public Hearing was held on Bill 21-9 by the Committee of the Whole.
June 30, 2015	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 21-9.

⁵ Staff, *Pedestrians Call Wisconsin Avenue Crosswalk Dangerous*, WUSA9, June 11, 2015, <http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/local/dc/2015/06/10/pedestrian-struck-nw-dc/71029520/> (last visited June 22, 2015)

⁶ *Woman Hit Killed by Truck in Northwest D.C. Identified*, NBC4, June 16, 2015, <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Woman-Hit-Killed-by-Car-in-Northwest-DC-307071721.html> (last visited June 22, 2015).

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Alice Kelly, Policy Branch Manager of the District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of Bill 21-9.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 5D, in which the proposed designation is located, voted to send a letter of support at its May 13, 2014 meeting stating “the proposed street renaming should move forward as soon as possible with the full support of ANC 5D”.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 21-9 on Wednesday, June 3, 2015. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Bishop Michael V. Kelsey, Sr., Pastor at New Samaritan Baptist Church, expressed support for the bill, testifying about Mrs. Whitfield’s life and the impact of her loss on the community, while emphasizing the safety concerns of Florida Avenue that were brought to DDOT’s attention for several years. Unfortunately, no measures were taken until Mrs. Whitfield’s tragic death.

Barbara Hinton, Public Witness, testified about the installation of traffic signals since Mrs. Whitfield’s death and her experience with her own hit-and-run that she suffered twelve years prior.

Necothia Bowens, Minister at New Samaritan Baptist Church, testified about the need for measures and laws to prevent further pedestrian killings by automobiles like in Mrs. Whitfield’s case, while citing several facts and figures regarding pedestrian safety in the District. Following her statement, Ms. Bowens read a statement from Tasyha Whitfield, Mrs. Whitfield’s daughter, regarding her mother’s life and devotion to family while underscoring the need for further traffic calming measures on Florida Avenue and throughout the District to prevent further pedestrian fatalities from automobiles.

Alice Kelly, Policy Branch Manager, District Department of Transportation, testified that the Executive supports Bill 21-9.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 21-9 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a authorizes the Council to designate a symbolic name for any public space, which is in addition, and subordinate, to any name that is the mailing address for the public space. The Act provides that,

with limited exception, no public space shall be named in honor of any living person or in honor of any person who has been deceased less than two years.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is an estimated \$95 per sign for fabrication and \$135 for installation of the new signage.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of the Bill 21-9.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., in Ward 5, as “Ruby Whitfield Way.”
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Chairman of the Council to transmit a copy of this act to the District Department of Transportation.
<u>Section 4</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement
<u>Section 5</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day Congressional review language.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

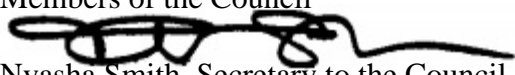
1. Bill 21-9 as introduced.
2. Written testimony and letter from ANC 5D.
3. Fiscal Impact Statement.

4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for Bill 21-9.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : January 14, 2015

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Legislative Meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015", B21-0009

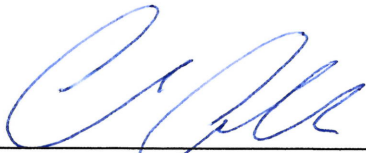
INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers McDuffie and Allen

CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmembers Grosso and Silverman

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., as Ruby Whitfield Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015."

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01 and 9-204.03a) ("Act"), and notwithstanding section 407 of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 9-204.07), the Council symbolically designates the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., as "Ruby Whitfield Way."

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

The Secretary to the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the District Department of Transportation.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

1 Sec. 5. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
3 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
4 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
5 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
6 Columbia Register.



NEW SAMARITAN

Bishop Michael V. Kelsey, Senior Pastor • Elder Sheila B. Kelsey, Co-Pastor

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Councilmember Phil Mendelson
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20004

Chairman Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today regarding Bill 21-9, the proposed name change of the intersection at 11th Street, NE and Florida Ave. NE to “Ruby Whitfield Way”.

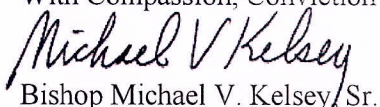
I am honored to have served as the Senior Pastor of the New Samaritan Church (NSBC), located at 1100 Florida Ave. NE, for the past 21 years. Our church has been a part of the District for 67 years and an active presence at our current location in Ward 5 and adjacent to Ward 6, since 1981. New Samaritan is committed to being a Church of ‘Compassion, Conviction and Connection’. We highly value the lives and well-being of our members as well as those in the communities we serve. We strive to meet needs on multiple levels; not only addressing spiritual growth and development, but physical, emotional and economic health. We strategically plan worship services and other events both in and outside of the church that serve all ages from children to senior citizens.

One of our primary safety concerns for many years has been crossing Florida Ave for the many activities we hold throughout the week. The crossing has a very high volume of traffic, often traveling well above the speed limit. Many parishioners live in the surrounding community. NSBC also owns 1105 Florida Ave. NE, on the Ward 6 side of Florida Ave. which houses our community AGAPE Food and Clothing Bank and is also used regularly for classrooms. The general community regularly crosses at this particular intersection. We have requested traffic calming measures for many years but did not receive the HAWK signal and traffic camera until the untimely death of a very active senior member, Mrs. Ruby Whitfield

The tragic loss of Mrs. Whitfield on the night of March 21, 2013 due to a drunk driver greatly impacted our church and the community. Not only was she a long term member of New Samaritan but a lifelong citizen of the District. Mrs. Whitfield was a committed usher at our church, but most importantly a loving wife, mother, grandmother, friend and caring neighbor to many. The impact of this tragedy, witnessed by many, was so severe that we provided grief counselors for both church members and the community to address the trauma they experienced. We believe such a great loss should be memorialized with the promised change of the street name to Ruby Whitfield Way. This will be a constant reminder of the value of human life and the priority of pedestrian safety in the District.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support and the support of the New Samaritan Church Family for the passage of Bill 21-9.

With Compassion, Conviction and Connection,


Bishop Michael V. Kelsey, Sr.
Senior Pastor.

“A Church of Compassion, Conviction, and Connection”

My Name is Barbara Hinton. Thank you to the Council for this opportunity to speak.

It's hard to believe it's been two years since we lost Sister Ruby Whitfield. I am pleased to see the progress that has been made over the last two years with the installment of the Hawk traffic lights on Florida Avenue outside of my place of worship, the New Samaritan Baptist Church. But I'm sure can all agree that more can always be done.

As I was preparing for today, it was hard not to think about my unsolved hit and run accident 12 years ago on March 20th, 2003.

I won't go into all the details but the vehicle that hit me, dragged me from 10th street down to the church. Then the vehicle stopped...rested on my body, backed up, drove around me and fled the scene.

My prayer today is for the councils continued commitment to traffic safety and more partnering throughout the city to ensure these tragedies don't continue.

The Honorable Councilmember Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Council Members of the and the Committee of the Whole:

Thank you for this opportunity to come before you today regarding Bill 21-9, the renaming of 11th and Florida Avenue NE to "Ruby Whitfield Way"

My name is Necothia Bowens, and I serve as Minister and Ministry Lead for the Social Action Leadership Team at New Samaritan Baptist Church, located at 1100 Florida Avenue, NE Washington DC.

As you have heard in previous testimony by Bishop Michael V Kelsey, Sr and Sister Barbara Hinton we want to ensure measures are in place and laws are enforced to stop pedestrian killed by vehicles.

Our commitment at New Samaritan Baptist Church is to ensure we remind drivers on the dangers of drunk driving and the importance of pedestrian safety. Since March of 2013, we host an Annual Prayer Vigil and Awareness in Honor and Remembrance of Sister Ruby Whitfield. Our goal is to partner with DC Council, DC-MPD, the Department of Transportation and other Local organizations on ways to enhance current traffic calming measures, not only on Florida Avenue but throughout the city.

In March of 2013, Jason Broehm, Chair of the DC Pedestrian Advisory Council sent a report to DOT Pedestrian Program Coordinator Mr. George Branyan providing data regarding pedestrian incidents. In a recent report issued by the DCist, the article stated that between January and June of 2012, there were three pedestrian fatalities while, that number rose in 2013 to seven. The report also goes on to state that at least 53 pedestrians have been struck this year alone.

In September of 2014 MPD's Traffic Safety and Specialized Enforcement Branch conducted enforcement actions throughout Wards 3, 5, 7 and 8. Overall, the officers issued numerous citations to drivers who failed to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and/or committed other serious traffic violations (e.g. handheld cellphone use while driving). Although there has been great effort by the city, there is much more Work still to be done.

While we greatly appreciate the installation of the HAWK signal at Florida Avenue and 11th Street NE; we believe further measures need to be taken for pedestrian safety. One such effort, as reported from PAC, would be to install traffic cameras with the HAWK system to capture offenders who do not adhere to/or yield to pedestrians.

Just last night, there was a hit & run of a Child in NW DC. With DC building and developing for more residents, foot traffic is inevitable, and if pedestrian safety is not at the forefront of minds of all, we will need to redevelop for cemetery space rather than living space.

In closing I would to offer a statement from the Daughter of Mrs. Ruby Whitfield...

June 4, 2015

Good morning Chairman Mendelson and Council Members,

My name is Tasyha Whitfield. I am the daughter, and only child, of the late Mrs. Ruby Louise Whitfield. As you may know, my mother's life was taken by a drunk driver on March 21, 2013, as she crossed the street at the corner of Florida Avenue and 11th Street, NE.

My mother was a devoted wife of 50 years to my father, Tommy Whitfield, and a loving and protective mother and grandmother. Her love for her family overflowed to her community. She was like a second mother to the neighborhood children, a confidant to her friends, and a faithful servant at New Samaritan Baptist Church. She lived her life as a testimony of her faith in God. If she saw someone in need, my mother would give what she had to help, even if it meant she would have to be the one without. It was in service to others that she met her untimely death.

Last year, nearly half of all traffic deaths in DC were pedestrians. Like my mother, these persons were loved by someone. And like my mother, the pain of their loss leaves a void in the lives of their families, friends and community.

My mother's death should not be in vain. She would want her death to save the lives of others by bringing awareness to drunk driving. The passage of Bill 21-9 would not only serve as a tribute to the beautiful life my mother lived, but also as a catalyst for necessary change in drunk-driving laws and pedestrian safety.

My family and I ask that the Council pass Bill 21-9.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tasyha S. Whitfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Tasyha S. Whitfield



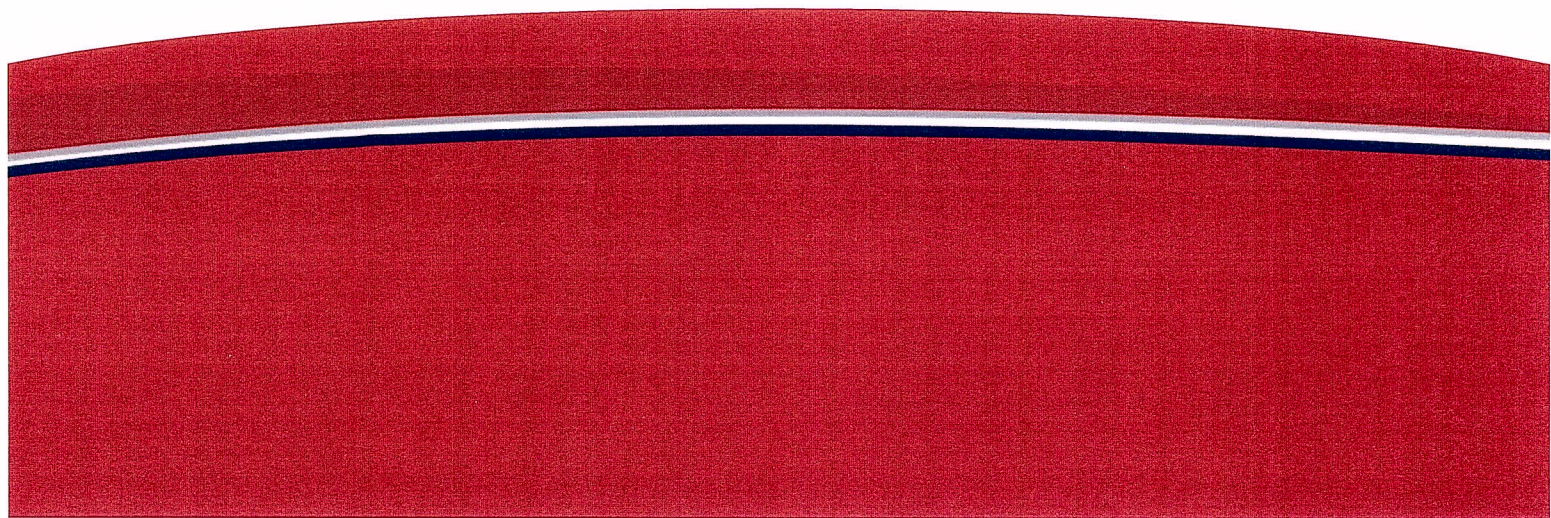
Bill 21-9, Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015

**Testimony of
Alice Kelly
District Department of Transportation**

**Muriel Bowser
Mayor**

**Committee of the Whole
Councilmember Phil Mendelson, Chairperson**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2015
12:00 PM
Hearing Room 412**



Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, Members of the Council, staff and District residents. My name is Alice Kelly and I serve as Manager of the Policy Branch of the District Department of Transportation, commonly referred to as DDOT. I am here today to present testimony on behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser and DDOT Director Leif Dormsjo regarding: ***Bill 21-9, Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015***

The stated purpose of Bill 21-9 is to symbolically designate the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., as Ruby Whitfield Way. Ruby Whitfield was a member of the New Samaritan Baptist Church and was tragically killed when she was struck by an automobile on Florida Avenue while walking across the street from her church.

DDOT does not foresee any operational impact that this designation would have on our District-wide transportation network. Therefore, the Administration supports this symbolic designation and DDOT stands ready to assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize as a result of this Bill being passed.

This concludes my testimony. I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5D



May 15, 2014

Mayor Vincent Gray
Executive Office of the Mayor, Sixth Floor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Renaming a Portion of Florida Avenue N.E. in Honor of Ruby Whitfield

Dear Mayor Gray:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on May 13, 2014, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 5D voted to send a letter of support for the proposed renaming of a portion of Florida Avenue N.E. in front of New Samaritan Church (the 1100 block of Florida Avenue N.E.) in honor of Ms. Ruby Whitfield. Our Commission is aware of your personal investment in this effort given the commitment you expressed to honor Ms. Whitfield in this manner at the community vigil in her honor; the vigil was held shortly after her tragic death the night of March 21, 2013, following a drunk-driving hit and run incident. As you know first-hand from your attendance at the community event at New Samaritan Church shortly after Ms. Whitfield's passing, she was a tremendously loved, respected and valued member of not only New Samaritan, but of our 5D Trinidad community and the Office of Unified Communication. We therefore, believe the proposed street renaming should move forward as soon as possible with the full support of ANC 5D.

Thank you for moving this effort forward to honor Ms. Whitfield and for accepting this letter of support from ANC 5D.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Henderson', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kathy Henderson, 5D05
Chairperson, ANC 5D

Cc: Councilmember Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chairman
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
Marchim Williams, Executive Office of the Mayor
Necothia Bowens, New Samaritan Church

Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: June 18, 2015

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015

REFERENCE: Bill 21-9, as introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 budget and the proposed FY 2016 through FY 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill symbolically designates the 1100 Block of Florida Ave, N.E., as “Ruby Whitfield Way.”

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in FY 2015 budget and the proposed FY 2016 through FY 2019 budget and financial plan. The cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is an estimated \$500 for fabrication and installation of new signage, as well as support at the unveiling ceremony. DDOT can absorb this cost within the agency’s current budget.



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 4
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 724-8026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Ellen Efros, General Counsel *EAE*

DATE: June 19, 2015

RE: Legal sufficiency determination for Bill 21-9, the Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015

The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed bill would designate symbolically the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., as "Ruby Whitfield Way," pursuant to sections 401 and 403a, and notwithstanding section 407, of the Street and Alley Closing Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.07).

I am available if you have any questions.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**

2 Committee of the Whole

3 June 30, 2015

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9

10 **A BILL**

11
12
13 21-9

14
15
16 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

17
18 _____

19
20 To symbolically designate the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., as Ruby Whitfield Way.

21
22 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this**
23 act may be cited as the “Ruby Whitfield Way Designation Act of 2015.”

24 **Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition**
25 **Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-**
26 **204.01 and 9-204.03a) (“Act”), and notwithstanding section 407 of the Act (D.C. Official Code**
27 **9-204.07), the Council symbolically designates the 1100 block of Florida Avenue, N.E., as**
28 **“Ruby Whitfield Way.”**

29 **Sec. 3. Transmittal.**

30 **The Chairman of the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to**
31 **the Director of the District Department of Transportation.**

32 **Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.**

33 **The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement provided in the committee report as the**

34 fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule
35 Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(3)).

36 Sec. 5. Effective date.

37 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
38 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
39 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
40 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
41 Columbia Register.