

**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: November 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 22-219, the “Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 22-219, the “Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017” was referred, reports favorably thereon, with amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On March 31, 2017, Bill 22-219, the “Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017” was introduced by Councilmembers Todd and Evans to symbolically designate the 700 block through the 900 block of G Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as “Paul Devroux Way.”¹ A symbolic naming typically involves designating and posting a name for a street or alley that shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

¹ As introduced, Bill 22-219 officially designated the 800 block of G Street N.W. as “Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way.” However, the Committee Print of Bill 22-219 has been changed to reflect that the designation is a symbolic designation, as the initiator originally intended. The bill has also been modified to designate the 700 block through the 900 block of G Street, N.W. as “Paul Devroux” Way, which is in line with what the initiator and community supporters envisioned for this naming.

Background and Need

Paul Spencer Devrouax, Jr. was an esteemed African American architect, businessman, and mentor “whose award winning structures [helped] create a new spirit in Washington, D.C.”² Mr. Devrouax was born on October 4, 1942 in New Orleans and earned his architecture degree from Southern University at Baton Rouge in 1966. He then served in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. On April 5, 1968, he was deployed to the District of Columbia for duty during the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination riots.³

Mr. Devrouax began his architectural career at an Arlington County subsidiary of Westinghouse and briefly practiced architecture in Miami.⁴ He returned to the District in 1973, and five years later co-founded the architectural firm, Devrouax + Purnell. “Starting in the 1980s, Devrouax, along with his partner Marshall Purnell, led the rebuilding of the national capital after decades of decay, crime, and neglect.”⁵ For nearly thirty-years, the firm undertook major design projects that continue to have a lasting impact on the fabric of the District. Some of these projects include: the Frank D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs, the Verizon Center, the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington Nationals Park, and the Studio Theater.

However, Devrouax + Purnell is most known for its design of Pepco’s headquarters building located at 701 9th Street, N.W. between two District landmarks: the Martin Luther King Jr. Library and the 19th century Patent Office Building, now home to the National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum.⁶ The building is the first building in the District’s downtown known to be designed by an African American architectural firm. Notably, Devrouax and Purnell were the primary architects for this project.⁷ The building was completed in 2002 and boasts a bold, curving façade. Washington Post architecture critic Benjamin Forgey described it as “a fresh wind blowing down Ninth Street on a bright spring day” and “as sure-handed a piece of architectural urbanism as Washington has seen in many a moon.”⁸

Additionally, Devrouax + Purnell’s work extended beyond the District, including the design of the Freddie Mac Campus in McLean, Virginia that “marked the first time a black-led architecture firm had designed a headquarters building for a Fortune 500 company.”⁹ The firm also had projects in California, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and Russia.

² *Our Mission*, PAUL S. DEVROUAX, JR. MEMORIAL LECTURE, <https://www.psdml.org/about> (last visited Nov.16, 2017).

³ Clay Risen, *Paul Devrouax, 1942-2010*, THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER (Apr. 21, 2010) <https://archpaper.com/2010/04/paul-devrouax-1942-2010/>.

⁴ Matt Schudel, *D.C. architect Paul Devrouax led the way for black firms*, WASH. POST (Mar. 28, 2010) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/27/AR2010032702914.html>.

⁵ Clay Risen, *Paul Devrouax, 1942-2010*, THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER (Apr. 21, 2010) <https://archpaper.com/2010/04/paul-devrouax-1942-2010/>.

⁶ *PR Bill 22-219, Paul Devrouax Way Designation Act of 2017: Public Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole*, Sept. 20 2017 (written testimony of Donna Cooper, PEPCO Region President, at 2).

⁷ *Id.* at 2.

⁸ Matt Schudel, *D.C. architect Paul Devrouax led the way for black firms*, WASH. POST (Mar. 28, 2010) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/27/AR2010032702914.html>.

⁹ *Id.*

Mr. Devroux worked to preserve the District's history through various historic preservation efforts and helped with the design of the African American Civil War Memorial and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument.

Mr. Devroux was known as a teacher and mentor to his former associates, family, and friends. Of Mr. Devroux, a colleague wrote, "While Paul's accomplishments are too numerous to name, the highest among them is inspiring an entire generation of African American architects."¹⁰ This sentiment is further illustrated by the fact that "[n]o fewer than 14 architectural firms have been formed by his former associates."¹¹ Although Mr. Devroux passed on March 22, 2010, his legacy and mentorship lives on through the Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Memorial Lecture, a non-profit founded in his honor and "[c]ommitted to providing a forum for dialogue to inform, delight and educate."¹² Mr. Devroux's surviving wife of 37 years, Brenda Devroux and daughter, Leslie Devroux serve on the Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Memorial Lecture Board.

Legal Background

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 *et seq.*) ("Act") establishes procedures for closing streets and alleys, opening new streets and alleys, naming public spaces, and other procedures related to streets and alleys. The Act authorizes the Council to symbolically or officially designate or change the name of any public space in the District of Columbia, including streets and alleys.¹³ In October 2016, the Act was amended to create a clear distinction between official and symbolic street and alley namings and to establish distinct processes and requirements for each type of naming.¹⁴

An "official name" refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,¹⁵ whereas a "symbolic name" for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.¹⁶ An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix "Alley" or "Court."¹⁷ A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix "Way" or "Plaza."¹⁸ As established by Bill 22-219, "Paul Devroux Way" is a symbolic street designation for the 700 block through the 900 block of G Street, N.W., in Ward 2.

The Act also establishes a notice requirement for symbolic designations. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 9-204.23(b), the ANC in which the symbolic designation is located must be put

¹⁰ Letter from Marc H. Morial, President and Chief Executive Officers National Urban League, to Council of the District of Columbia (Sept. 18, 2017).

¹¹ Matt Schudel, *D.C. architect Paul Devroux led the way for black firms*, WASH. POST (Mar. 28, 2010) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/27/AR2010032702914.html>.

¹² *Our Mission*, PAUL S. DEVROUX, JR. MEMORIAL LECTURE, <https://www.psdml.org/about> (last visited Nov. 16, 2017).

¹³ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

¹⁴ See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

¹⁵ D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

¹⁶ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

¹⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹⁸ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.¹⁹ This requirement was met; on August 14, 2017, ANC 2C was put on notice of the September 20, 2017 public hearing for Bill 22-219. Lastly, prior to consideration of a designation by the Council, the Mayor shall provide to the Council a surveyor's plat of the alley or street and adjacent properties.²⁰

After the symbolic street or alley designation legislation becomes law and all conditions required by the Council and the Act have been satisfied, the District Department of Transportation ("DDOT") shall install signage indicating the symbolic name of the alley or street, or portion thereof. Additionally, the Surveyor of the District of Columbia shall record a copy of such act and the Surveyor's plat in the Office of the Surveyor.²¹

Symbolically designating the 700 block through the 900 block of G Street N.W., the seat of the Pepco headquarters building that Mr. Paul Devroux designed, will honor his contributions to the District and serve as a source of inspiration for future generations of African American and young architects. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 22-219, the "Paul Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017."

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

March 31, 2017	Bill 22-219, the "Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017" is introduced by Councilmembers Todd and Evans.
April 4, 2017	Bill 22-219 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.
April 7, 2017	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-219 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
August 11, 2017	Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-219 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
September 20, 2017	A Public Hearing is held on Bill 22-219 by the Committee of the Whole.
November 21, 2017	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 22-219.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Todd McIntyre, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of the street designation. His testimony is summarized below.

¹⁹ Notably, D.C. Official Code § 9-204.23(b) does not specify a time requirement as to when an ANC must be put on notice of a public hearing regarding a symbolic designation.

²⁰ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(g).

²¹ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

On March 13, 2017, ANC 2C unanimously passed a resolution in support of “Paul Devroux Way” to honor the prolific African American Washington Architect. A copy of the resolution is attached to this report.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 22-219 on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

William B. Carter, Public Witness, testified in support of the “Paul Devroux Way” designation. Mr. Carter shared Mr. Devroux’s legacy that includes making the “capital a crown jewel for the nation” and serving as an inspiring role model for generations to come. Mr. Carter also emphasized that Mr. Devroux was a man of great vision who loved this city.

Brenda Devroux, Chair, Paul Devroux Memorial Lecture, testified in support of the “Paul Devroux Way” designation. Mrs. Devroux spoke about her husband’s “extraordinary talents as an Architect and businessman” and his dedication to his family. Mrs. Devroux described how Mr. Devroux paved the way for African American architects and emphasized that a sign in his honor would serve as “inspiration and pride for African American Architects and aspiring young architecture students across our country in the spirit of Yes! We can.”

Leslie Devroux, Public Witness, read two letters in support of the “Paul Devroux Way” designation. The first letter, read on behalf of Mr. Marc H. Morial, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Urban League, discussed Mr. Devroux’s many architectural contributions to the District and emphasized that Mr. Devroux was an inspiring mentor to African American architects. The second letter, read on behalf of Patsy M. Fletcher, Principal, THREAD, LLC, emphasized Mr. Devroux’s “spirit, indomitableness and talent” and discussed his role in building Washington, D.C. to become a world-class city.

Donna Cooper, PEPCO Region President, testified in support of the “Paul Devroux Way” designation. Mrs. Cooper discussed Mr. Devroux’s leadership role in designing PEPCO’s headquarters and stated that it “is the first building in the city’s downtown known to be designed by an African American architectural firm.” She also spoke about Mr. Devroux’s belief in helping to inspire, mentor, and teach young architects; a legacy his family has carried on.

Pedro Alfonso, Public Witness, testified in support of the “Paul Devroux Way” designation and shared Mr. Devroux’s reputation as not only a leader in the DC business community, but also as a true leader among small minority businesses. Mr. Alfonso testified that the location of the designation, adjacent from the Pepco Headquarters, is especially fitting to preserve and memorialize Mr. Devroux’s legacy.

Standford Britt, Public Witness, testified in support of the “Paul Devrouax Way” designation. Mr. Britt discussed Mr. Devrouax’s many architectural contributions to the District, highlighting Devrouax + Purnell Architects’ role as the first African American Architectural firm to be the lead architect and sole designer of a major building in the District’s Central Business District, the Pepco headquarters.

Sharon R. Goods, Public Witness, testified in support of the “Paul Devrouax Way.” Mrs. Goods spoke of Mr. Devrouax’s many building projects in the District and emphasized how he broke through racial barriers by designing the Pepco headquarters. She shared that in addition to Mr. Devrouax’s quiet humility and incredible architectural talent, “he is most remembered for treating everyone with warmth and respect.”

Todd McIntyre, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation, testified that the Executive supports Bill 22-219. He stated that DDOT will install signage indicating the designation and stands ready to assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 22-219.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 22-219 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01²² authorizes the Council to name any public space. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(a) authorizes the Council to designate a symbolic name for an alley “that shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.”²³ Bill 22-219 symbolically designates the 800 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 2 as “Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way.” Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as the name proposed by Bill 22-219.²⁴

Lastly, 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.²⁵ Mr. Devrouax passed away in 2010, seven years ago.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. Because the cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is an estimated \$60 per official sign for fabrication and \$110 for installation, the cost of Bill 22-336 can be absorbed, as noted in the Fiscal Impact Statement (attached).

²² Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

²³ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

²⁴ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

²⁵ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 22-219.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 700 through the 900 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 2 as “Paul S. Devroux Jr. Way.”
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this act to the Mayor, the District Department of Transportation, and the Office of the Surveyor.
<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

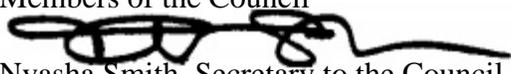
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 22-219 as introduced
2. Written Testimony
3. ANC 2C Letter in Support
4. Updated Plat
5. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 22-219
6. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 22-219
7. Committee Print for Bill 22-219

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 : April 03, 2017

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, March 31, 2017. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017", B22-0219

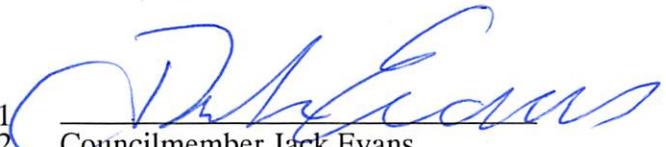
INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Todd and Evans

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

215.FM


Councilmember Jack Evans

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To officially designate the 800 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 2, as Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to 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 *et seq.*), the Council officially designates the 800 block of G Street, N.W., between the blocks of 8th and 9th Streets, N.W., in Ward 2, as “Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way” in recognition of Paul Devrouax and his firm Devrouax & Purnell Architects, architect for the Pepco Building, and many of the city’s recent landmarks including the Verizon Center, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Reeves Center, and the restoration of the Carnegie Library, and for being the District of Columbia’s first African American architect to design a building downtown.

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

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

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

33 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
34 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
35 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

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.

Testimony for **Paul S. Devrouax Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017**

Good morning.

Paul Devrouax was my next-door neighbor. He was also my architect. But I am here this morning primarily because he was my friend. I don't think I even knew that Paul was an architect for the first few months of our acquaintance. We were much more focused on our kids, our families and the wonderful block on which we lived. We talked a lot about how we had the smartest, best-looking two kids who ever lived. We acknowledged that all the other men in the city must have been envious because we had the most intelligent and beautiful wives. We lived in a special neighborhood of the city known as Shepherd Park and Paul and I rejoiced that we lived in the very best corner of Shepherd Park. Paul knew that he lived a blessed life and that he was blessed to live in Washington, DC, unquestionably the best city in the world.

I start my comments this way because you need to understand that Paul Devrouax could never accept "OK" or even "good". Paul always insisted on Excellent. Excellence was what he believed in, what he demanded of himself and what he always knew that Washington deserved. And he wanted to be part of making the capital a crown jewel for the nation.

I will leave the architectural details and the other parts of Paul's professional life to those who can speak more authoritatively. Although I must mention that the beach house Paul designed for me was a spectacular award winner! I am here to simply give witness to the spirit that drove Paul Devrouax to be a role model for any young person who aspires to dream big, who believes deep inside that they can be somebody who makes a difference. This is the legacy that he leaves behind. This is the legacy that we celebrate by naming the 800 block of G Street for him. This downtown block that he loved so. He used to talk with great pride that Devrouax & Purnell was right in the business heart of the city. He thrived on being at the center of the action where he could help to design projects that could shape the District.

Paul S. Devrouax Jr. was a man of great vision. He was a man of style who loved life and loved this city. And Devrouax Way is an excellent way to celebrate and continue his legacy.

William B. Carter, Chevy Chase, MD
former neighbor & friend

Testimony of

Brenda Stallworth Devrouax
Widow of Paul S. Devrouax, Jr.
Chair of The Paul S. Devrouax Memorial Lecture

On
Bill 22-219
Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017

The Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia

Wednesday
September 20, 2017

My name is Brenda Stallworth Devroux, widow of Paul S. Devroux, Jr, FAIA, NOMAC, founding partner and principal of the Washington DC firm, Devroux and Purnell from 1972 until his death in 2010.

I recently opened an issue of one of the design magazines and a lovely 30 something architect with piercing blue eyes and blond hair, was describing the construction of her dream house on the Chesapeake Bay.

I realize it's a "different world" from when Paul was 30 and arrived in Washington, D.C, determined to build his own company. I was 27, we were just married, and I worked so that there was a steady paycheck in our household.

He faced many a hurdle to establish his firm and to get contracts, and to be paid for the work!

He was not born with a silver spoon.

He was, nonetheless confident in his extraordinary talents as an Architect and businessman.

He did not give up.

By the time he was 30 something, we did buy our 1st and only house on 12th Street in Shepherd Park, far from the Chesapeake Bay.

Our house served us well, as it was collateral many times for a line of credit for Paul's business. That's because African American business owners were held to a different standard when it came to getting advances from bankers.

African Americans were also were held to a different standard with the mainstream professional organization that had a history of exclusiveness and a major influence on who got to design the buildings in our city.

African Americans in the profession of architecture today are less than 2% , according to Architectural Record. It is one of the hardest for people of color and women to excel in.

They are rarely given accolades.

Things are looking up this year. African American Architect, Paul Williams, FAIA, who passed away 37 years ago in 1980, was awarded the American Institute of Architects 2017 gold medal.

Given the Stony Road,

Paul's trek was by no means an easy one, and I dare to say that he did not even think of a dream house.

His dream was to make a mark in his profession

To that end, we see his work in many areas in Washington DC, and in Penn Quarter.

His offices occupied a space at 717 D Street, his company has left their mark here in the District, beginning at the Convention Center, moving south to Carnegie Library (Renovation,) to The Luxury Suites at Verizon Center, to the Crown Jewel, The Pepco Building, Edison Place, where a plaque was unveiled this past May, citing the historical significance of this edifice.

I offer thanks to Pepco Holdings President Donna Cooper and CEO Dave Valesquez for embracing the vision of Preserving Legacy at Edison Place, the first building in downtown Washington DC designed by African American Architects.

I think the things Paul achieved in this city sometimes amazed him!

As I have said,
He was not given a passport into the profession.
Everything he achieved came from his Spirit to succeed, against all odds.
He held fast to his beliefs and never waived, which sometimes had its price.

He was totally driven.
He was dedicated.
He always gave back.

I shared a lifetime of 37 years, with Paul, witnessed his triumphs and letdowns and basked in his light as an extraordinary father, an amazing husband as well as a proud Washingtonian, who walked the walk.

He loved seeing his name in print.

This would be the coup,
to walk along the section of G street between Eighth and Ninth, and see in letters
“Paul Devrouax Way”.

It would bring full circle the Plaque adjacent at Edison Place and would be a place of inspiration and pride for African American Architects and aspiring young architecture students across our country, in the spirit of Yes! We can.

It is time to celebrate our heroes!
With respect to legacy and history,
I submit that the 800 block of G Street be designated
Paul Devrouax Way

I Thank You.



**National
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

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District of Columbia Council
Committee of the Whole
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, #410
Washington, DC 20004

September 18, 2017

Dear Committee Members,

As president and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation's largest historic civil rights organization dedicated to the economic empowerment of African Americans, I write to offer my support in designating "Paul Devrouax Way" at the 800 block of G Street NW, in recognition of the great contributions made by Mr. Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. and his firm, Devrouax + Purnell, to the District of Columbia, the field of architecture and African Americans around the country.

As you may know, Paul Devrouax spent most of his career in Washington, DC. As a young architect, Paul was driven by the goal of addressing affordable housing for underrepresented communities--not realizing at the time his desire would lead to amassing an incredible body of work that would result in his firm leaving their unique mark on the capital's landscape and skyline through such projects as the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Nationals Parks, the African American Civil War Memorial, and the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center.

The Pepco Headquarters signifies a defining achievement in his career and in the District, as the first downtown building in a then-majority black city to be designed by African American architects. While Paul's accomplishments are too numerous to name, the highest among them is inspiring an entire generation of African American architects. I cannot think of a greater honor to one of DC's most renowned architects than naming a street or building in his memory. It is only fitting that he posthumously receives "Paul Devrouax Way," solidifying his contributions to Washington for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League
cc: ka

THREAD, LLC

Training Historical Research & Economic Development, LLC

Patsy M. Fletcher, Principal

3949 1st Street, SW

Washington, DC 20032

202-561-0314, 202-441-5229 cell

202-561-0314 (fax), plmfletcher@aol.com (e-mail)

September 14, 2017

To The Committee of the Whole of the DC Council:

I support without reservation the renaming of the 800 block of G Street, NW to Paul Devrouax Way.

The City has many street sections named after individuals who have contributed mightily to Washington and the District – artists, musicians, community heroes. Why not an architect?

However, Paul Devrouax was not just any architect – he was first an African American struggling in a field that was pretty much closed to people like him, and being awarded large commissions such as the PEPCO Building in downtown DC was unheard of. Yet through his spirit, indomitableness and talent, he and his firm, Devrouax & Purnell, were the first African Americans to be named designers of a Post-Modern era building downtown. He succeeded beautifully with a tasteful and functional structure. In addition, his work was an inspiration to other architects of color in Washington.

As a resident of Ward 8 but a frequent visitor to downtown for business as well as pleasure, I take great pride in viewing the structure and knowing that it was created by a Black person. Sometimes I have visitors with me and when I point out the Devrouax-designed edifice, they are in awe and disbelief.

Renaming the street would be an honor not only to the memory of Mr. Devrouax, but it would also be an honor to residents of this city and to those long gone but who labored unrecognized to build this now world-class city.

If I can be of a further assistance, or provide you with further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patsy M. Fletcher

Patsy M. Fletcher, MS, MA

Independent Scholar

Principal, THREAD, LLC

plmfletcher@aol.com

THREADConsultants.com

202.561.0314

TESTIMONY OF

DONNA M. COOPER

PEPCO REGION PRESIDENT

ON

BILL 22-219

“PAUL S. DEVROUAX, JR. WAY DESIGNATION ACT OF 2017”

BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Good Morning, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole. My name is Donna Cooper and I am the Pepco Region President. By way of background, the Pepco Region consists of the District of Columbia, portions of Prince George's County, Maryland, and portions of Montgomery County, Maryland. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Bill 22-219, the "Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017." On behalf of Pepco, I am testifying in support of the subject legislation which proposes to designate the 800 block of G Street, NW, adjacent to Pepco's headquarters building at 701 – 9th Street, NW, as "*Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way*". Pepco supports the proposed legislation and encourages its approval.

As you may know, the architectural firm of Devroux and Purnell began designing Pepco's headquarters building in 1998, something about which we are quite proud. Our pride is not just that the building is beautifully designed. Or, that it sits between two Washington landmarks: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library and the 19th-century Patent Office Building which now houses the National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum. Or, that when it was completed *Washington Post* architecture critic Benjamin Forgey called it "a fresh wind blowing down Ninth Street on a bright spring day."¹

Of course, we are proud of our building for all of these reasons. However, mainly, our pride is in the fact that the Pepco headquarters building is the *first* building in the city's downtown known to be designed by African American architectural firm. It is important to note that Devroux and Purnell were the primary architects for this project and not subcontractors. This work would lead to other major projects for Devroux and Purnell, including the Washington Convention Center and Washington Nationals Stadium.

¹ **Matt Schudel, *The Washington Post*, March 28, 2010**

In May of this year, the Paul S. Devroux, Jr., Memorial Lecture hosted a panel discussion at the Pepco Edison Place Gallery to focus on the life and legacy of Mr. Paul Spencer Devroux. The panel included individuals who had either participated in Pepco's decision to select Devroux and Purnell as the building's lead architects or who had worked on the actual design, including Marshall Purnell and Anthony Brown. Michelle Joan Wilkinson, Ph.D, Museum Curator for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, was also a panelist. Former Pepco Holdings' Chairman and CEO (1997-2003) John Derrick discussed how then-Pepco Senior Vice President Beverly Perry suggested he sit in on a presentation by the architects. Mr. Derrick said he left the meeting with no doubt whatsoever that Devroux and Purnell were preeminently qualified for the job and hired them, practically, on the spot.

Following the Lecture, Pepco Holding's current President and CEO Dave Velazquez unveiled a plaque now prominently installed at the building's entrance, commemorating their outstanding work and its historical significance. It is important to note that the plaque not only honors the work of Devroux and Purnell but also clearly establishes Pepco's headquarters building within the city's architectural history.

On a more personal note, Mr. Devroux took seriously his belief in helping to inspire, mentor and teach other young architects. It is a legacy his wife Brenda and daughter Lesley, have carried on through mentoring, lectures and various interactive events.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Chairman, Pepco believes that Paul Devroux, Jr., should be commemorated with the proposed designation. And, it is particularly fitting that the 800 block of G Street, NW should be the site, since it sits within a nexus of sorts between Pepco's headquarters building, the Convention Center and the Verizon Center, important buildings in the

city's architectural and cultural landscape for which Paul Devroux, Jr. played a critically important role.

Accordingly, Pepco offers its strong support for this bill and appreciates the opportunity to testify. I am available for questions at this time.

Testimony of
Pedro Alfonso
Before the
Council of the District of Columbia
Committee of the Whole

On

Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Destination Act of 2017

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson and members of the DC City Council.

My name is Pedro Alfonso and I am President of Dynamic Concepts, Inc., Chairman of the National Small Business Association (NSBA), a national small business advocacy group, and on the Board of the DC Hispanic Contractors Association. I am here today as head of my own local small minority business located in Ward 5 & 7 and as a long-term DC resident of Ward Four.

I fully support the passage of the “Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Destination Act of 2017”. DC should celebrate its renowned local pioneers and leaders. Paul S. Devroux was, in his own right, a pioneer in the architectural field. As one of the founders and principals of the firm Devroux and Purnell Architects, he along with Marshall Purnell, forged some of the most creative designs in our city and he did it

at a time when no other Black Architects could state a claim to designing major facilities or were even being encouraged to practice in the Downtown DC.

Paul Devrouax was not only considered a leader in the mainstream of the DC business community but as a true leader among small minority businesses. His firm, known for bringing projects in on budget and on time, set the pace for the high caliber of excellence of DC businesses. Often times, Paul, without hesitation and unselfishly, would personally counseled me as he did many small businesses in the city on how to penetrate the rough and tough DC business market which was not often to kind to minority businesses. He was a testament and an example of the capabilities and high values of DC's minority small business leaders.

Many of his architectural designs would give due credence to justifying this Bill but none more relevant and striking than the design of the new Pepco Headquarters in downtown DC. This design in our city's landscape by an African American architect has been lauded and should be preserved and memorialized by naming the adjacent street in his name.

Paul Devrouax was a true DC pioneer and leader of our community.

Therefore, as a local minority business owner who would proudly follow the leadership qualities of one our best known African American Architects and as a DC resident, I urge the Council to approve Bill 22-219, the "Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way Destination Act of 2017". Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Good Morning _

Chairperson Mendelson and Committee of the Whole.

My name is Stanford Britt. I'm a licensed architect with offices in Ward 4. I'm a past President of the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the National Organization of Minority Architects NOMA. I am here to testify in support of the naming of the 800 block of G Street, NW as **Paul Devroux Way** Bill 22-219.

Chairperson thank you for this opportunity to express my support and I believe the support of many other architects, particularly those that look like me, for acknowledging the work, career and contributions made to the District of Columbia by Paul Devroux. Paul's firm Devroux Purnell Architects, was the first African American Architectural firm to be the lead architect and soul designer of a major building in the District of Columbia's CBD. Not as a "joint venture partner" or "minority Consultant" but as the Prime. His firm has made many other contributions to our urban fabric, including the Verizon Center, Walter E Washington Convention Center, Reeves Center, and the restoration of Carnegie Library. Across this Nation there is only one other major city where an African American architectural firm has designed a major building in the CBD and that's Chicago II. But nothing is comparable to doing it here in our Nation's Capital.

My firm was founded in this City in 1964 by John Sulton and Leroy Campbell one of the first African American architectural firms in the Nation. Not long after joining the firm in 1975 I met Paul. The two firms were both working on the initial buildings at Fort Lincoln. We both dreamed of one day having a major building designed by our firms in the

Washington DC. CBD. Paul's firm did it first and made us all proud. We were competitors but friends first.

I believe this legislation is important and relevant because by naming this portion of G Street NW, Paul Devroux Way it will be an inspiration to many young people in the District of Columbia who see his name and the adjunct PECO Building and think to themselves I can do that.

I am hopeful that this body agreed to this important recognition.

Thank you again!

The stated purpose of Bill 22-219 is to officially designate the 800 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 2, as Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way in recognition of Paul Devroux and, and for being the District of Columbia's first African American architect to design a building downtown.

**SUBMISSION OF
SHARON R. GOODS
1701 REDWOOD TERRACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20012
IN SUPPORT OF NAMING 800 G STREET PAUL DEVROAUX WAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

GOOD MORNING COUNCILMEMBERS. I AM SHARON ROBINSON GOODS, THE OWNER OF ROBINSON ASSOCIATES, PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM AND I APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO COME BEFORE YOU TODAY TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF NAMING THE 800 BLOCK OF G STREET, NW AS PAUL DEVROUX WAY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

PAUL S. DEVROAUX WAS AN ACLAIMED ARCHITECT, A PHENOMENAL BUSINESS MAN, A WONDERFUL EMPLOER, MY GREATER LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON CLASSMATE, MY NEIGHBOR AND MY COLLEAGUE. HE WAS ONE OF THOSE SPECIAL WASHINGTONIANS WHO SHARED HIS ENORMOUS TALENT, CREATIVITY AND HUMANITY WITH US AND WE ARE ALL, THE BETTER FOR IT.

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, PAUL S. DEVROAUX, JR HELPED SHAPE THE URBAN LANDSCAPE OF THE DISTRICT'S ACHITECHTURAL AND MINORITY BUSINESS COMMUNITIES. HIS FIRM WORKED ON SOME OF THE MAJOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDING THE VERIZON CENTER, WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER AND THE NATIONALS PARK.

IT IS FITTING THAT WE HONOR THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECT TO DESIGN A CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, THE PEPCO BUILDING. THIS WAS NO SMALL ACCOMPLISHMENT BACK IN THE LATE 1990S, WHEN THE PRESTIGE, PRIVELEGE AND FINANCING OF LARGE COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDINGS WERE CLOSED TO AFRICAN AMERICANS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR. PAUL AND HIS BUSINESS PARTNER, MARSHALL PURNELL, WERE ABLE

TO BREAK THROUGH THIS BARRIER WITH THE HELP OF PEOPLE LIKE PEPCO'S FORMER CHAIRMAN, JOHN M. DERRICK.

WHEN OUR GREATER LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON CLASS, LEARNED THAT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL WAS CONSIDERING NAMING A STREET AFTER PAUL, THERE WAS AN OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT AND APPLAUSE. MANY PEOPLE SHARED STORIES ABOUT PAUL'S HUMANISM, CREATIVITY AND ABILITY TO WORK WELL WITH PEOPLE WHEN TEAMING ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LIKE THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNION STATION, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL, THE REEVES CENTER, THE AND HIS FIRM'S SUBMISSION FOR THE DESIGN OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE.

WHILE THEY SPOKE OF PAUL'S QUITE HUMILITY AND INCREDIBLE ARCHITECT TALENT, HE IS MOST REMEMBER FOR TREATING EVERYONE WITH WARMTH AND RESPECT.

WE APPLAUD THE COUNCIL FOR HONORING A GREAT WASHINGTONIAN FOR APPROVING NAMING OF THE 800 BLOCK OF G STREET PAUL DEVREAUX WAY.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on
Bill 22-219, Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017,
Bill 22-272, Richard Rausch Way Designation Act of 2017, and
Bill 22-336 Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017

Testimony of
Todd McIntyre

Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
District Department of Transportation

Before the

Committee of the Whole

Council of the District of Columbia

Wednesday, September 20, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Hearing Room 412
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004



Testimony of Todd McIntyre on Bill 22-219, Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017, Bill 22-272, Richard Rausch Way Designation Act of 2017, and Bill 22-336, Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, councilmembers, staff, and District residents. My name is Todd McIntyre, Chief of Staff at 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 Interim Director Jeff Marootian regarding the following three alley designation bills:

- Bill 22-219, Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017
- Bill 22-272, Richard Rausch Way Designation Act of 2017
- Bill 22-336, Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017

The stated purpose of Bill 22-219 is to officially designate the 800 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 2, as Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way. As per the requirements of DC Act 21-489, Section 421(g), I have attached to this testimony a copy of the surveyor's plat showing the 800 block of G Street N.W to be designated as Paul S. Devrouax, Jr. Way.

The cost of each installed sign is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). DDOT is able to absorb the costs of these signs within its current budget, and does not foresee any operational impact this designation would have on the District's transportation network.

Therefore, the Administration supports this official designation. Upon approval by the Council, and following the effective date of the act, DDOT will install signage indicating the official name of the alley. 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's passage.

The next bill I would like to testify on is Bill 22-272, Richard Rausch Way Designation Act of 2017. The stated purpose of this bill is to officially designate the 200 block of 2nd Street, S.W., in Ward 6, between the blocks of Independent Ave S.W. and C Street S.W., as Richard Rausch Way. As per the requirements of DC Act 21-489, Section 421(g), attached to this testimony please find a copy of the surveyor's plat showing the portions of the alley network to be officially designated as Richard Rausch Way.

The cost of each installed sign is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). DDOT is able to absorb the costs of these signs within its current budget, and does not foresee any operational impact this designation would have on the District's transportation network.

Testimony of Todd McIntyre on Bill 22-219, Paul S. Devroux, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017, Bill 22-272, Richard Rausch Way Designation Act of 2017, and Bill 22-336, Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017

Therefore, the Administration supports this official designation. Upon approval by the Council, and following the effective date of the act, DDOT will install signage indicating the official name of the alley. Again, DDOT will assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize as a result of this bill's passage.

And finally, the last bill I would like to testify on is Bill 22-336 Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017. The stated purpose of this bill is to officially designate the alley in Square 762, bounded by the 200 blocks of 2nd and 3rd Streets, S.E., and the 200 blocks of C Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., in Ward 6, as Lincoln Court. An official naming typically involves the designation of postal addresses and the primary entrance for residences or offices. As per the requirements of DC Act 21-489, Section 421(g), attached to this testimony please find a copy of the surveyor's plat showing the portions of the alley network to be officially designated as Lincoln Court.

DDOT is able to absorb the costs of these signs within its current budget. The cost of each installed sign is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). DDOT does not foresee any operational impact this designation would have on the District's transportation network.

Therefore, the Administration supports this official designation. Upon approval by the Council, and following the effective date of the act, DDOT will install signage indicating the official name of the alley and will assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize as a result of this bill's passage. DDOT will also work with the appropriate District agencies -- including Fire and Emergency Medical Service, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer -- to update the relevant records used for way-finding or address purposes to reflect the official name of the alley.

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

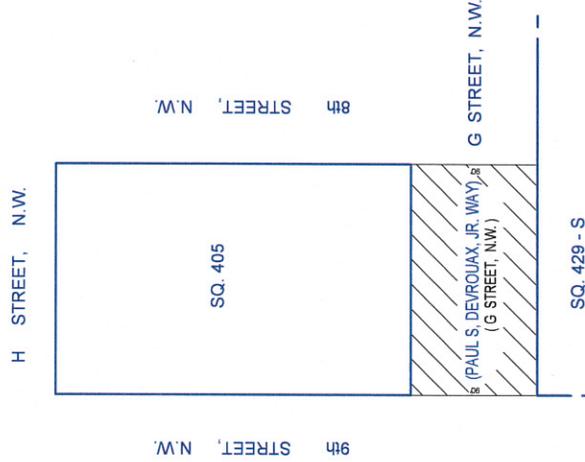
**SYMBOLIC NAMING OF A PUBLIC STREET
UNIT BLOCK OF PAUL S. DEVROUX, JR. WAY, N.W.**

PURSUANT TO D.C. LAW _____ EFFECTIVE _____
THE STREET SHOWN THIS: [ZZZZZ] IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED
AS 'PAUL S. DEVROUX, JR. WAY'.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR, D.C.
_____, 2017

I CERTIFY THAT THE PLAT IS CORRECT AND IS RECORDED.

SURVEYOR, D.C.



SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, D.C.

Map No. 0007
 Drawn by A.S. Checked by _____
 Record and computations by B. MATERS
 Recorded at _____ Page _____ SR# 17-0004
 Scale: 1 inch = 40 feet File No. 17-1111



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

RESOLUTION NO. 102

A RESOLUTION of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C, (ANC2C), Washington, DC relating to the Naming of the Street..

WHEREAS, ANC2C voted on March 13, 2017, at the regularly scheduled duly noticed meeting with a quorum of 3 of 3 Commissioners and the public present.

WHEREAS, ANC2C named G Street, between 8th & 9th Street NW.

WHEREAS, Commissioners voted 3:0:0 to support naming of the Street, “Paul Devroux Way”, after the prolific African American Washington Architect.

THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2C HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- A. The naming of the alley shall be in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth below.
- B. Naming and name changes should occur on exceptional basis only.
- C. The following criteria have been considered:
 1. Neighborhood and Geographical Identification,
 2. Natural or Geological Features,
 3. Historical or Cultural Significance,
 4. Articulated Preference of the Residents of the Neighborhood Surrounding the Alley,
 5. Alley named for a person who made a significant contribution, either in land, money, a lifetime work, or outstanding public service.
- D. ANC2C took public input and recommendations at the meeting.
- E. Following a review of recommendations, suggestions and public comments, ANC2C determined naming of the alley.

ADOPTED this 14th day of March, 2017.

John Tinpe, Chairperson

7 A BILL
8

9
10 22-219
11

12
13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
14
15 _____
16

17 To symbolically designate the 700 block to the 900 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 2, as Paul
18 Devroux Way.
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
21 act may be cited as the “Paul S. Devroux Jr. Way Designation Act of 2017”.

22 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and
23 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
24 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03(a), and 9-204.23) (“Act”), the Council symbolically designates the
25 700 block to the 900 block of G Street N.W., in Ward 8, as “Paul Devroux Way”.

26 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

27 The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Mayor, the
28 District Department of Transportation, and the Office of the Surveyor.

29 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

30 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
31 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
32 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

33 Sec. 5. Effective date.

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