

**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: March 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon, with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On November 1, 2017, Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Way Designation Act of 2017” was introduced by Councilmember McDuffie to symbolically designate the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., in Ward 5, as Israel Baptist Church Way. Typically, a symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Israel Baptist Church was founded in the fall of 1880 by a small group of visionaries who saw a vast and immediate need to increase the number of churches in the northeast section of Washington, D.C. to accommodate African Americans who walked far and wide due to limited transportation.¹ The first place of worship for Israel Baptist Church was at 7th and A Streets, N.E. In the early 1890s, the Church rented a two-story house with a church front at 635 11th Street, N.E. that it eventually purchased. Later, the Church acquired land to construct a new church home at

¹ Our Brief History, ISRAEL BAPTIST CHURCH, <http://www.israelbaptistchurch.org/history> (last visited Mar. 9, 2018).

1251 Saratoga Avenue, N.E. where Israel Baptist Church has stood as a pillar in the Brookland-Edgewood-Brentwood communities since 1984.

“The Church has provided a place of comfort, worship, support, and services that reflect the needs of the community.”² In 1996, the Church established Israel Manor, Inc. to expand the educational, health, and affordable housing programs administered by the church. Under this non-profit, they operate an accredited Child Development Center, including before and after school care. In 2015, the Church held a dedication service for the Reverend Dr. Morris L. Shearin Sr. Community Life Center. This contemporary state of the art facility includes health care services on two floors provided by Unity HealthCare. These services include primary care, dental, behavioral health, and other specialty services to over 10,000 patients annually. The third floor is home to Israel Manor Inc’s Capital City Hall of Distinction, which the community may use at no cost to host large scale events and meetings. Later, in 2016, Israel manor Inc., opened a senior housing building, Visionary Square located off Rhode Island Avenue in the Brentwood Neighborhood. Visionary Square offers 47 units of modern, secure, and convenient living for senior citizens.

At the February 26, 2018 hearing, it became evident that the Church flourished under the late Reverend Dr. Shearin’s leadership and development of comprehensive programs to enhance the overall vitality of the community. Rev. Dr. Shearin served as the ninth Pastor of Israel Baptist Church from October 1988 until his passing on November 18, 2017. Rev. Dr. Shearin received numerous accolades including: 2013 Honoree of the Washington, DC Hall of Fame Award; past-president, D.C. branch of the NAACP; past-president, Howard University National Theological Alumni Association; 2008 African American Labor Leaders Economic Summit on Labor and Religion; 2005 outstanding citizen award, Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO. Rev. Dr. Shearin has been described as “a pillar of our community and his selfless contributions touched countless lives.”³ Thereby, the designation will also serve as a way to honor the late Rev. Dr. Shearin’s legacy for generations to come.

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.⁴ In October 2016, the Act was amended to create a clear distinction between

² B22-557, *Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2018: Public Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole*, Feb. 26, 2018 (written testimony of Michael Crawford, Chief of Staff, Unity Health Care).

³ *Statement of the Passing of Rev. Shearin, Pastor of Israel Baptist Church*, Councilmember Kenyon McDuffie, Nov. 18, 2018, available at <http://www.kenyanmcduffie.com/statement-on-the-passing-of-rev-shearin-pastor-of-israel-baptist-church/>.

⁴ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

official and symbolic street and alley namings and to establish distinct processes and requirements for each type of naming.⁵

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,⁶ whereas a “symbolic name” for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.⁷ An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”⁸ A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”⁹ As established by Bill 22-557, “Israel Baptist Church Way” is a symbolic street designation for the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E. in Ward 5.

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 on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.¹⁰ On January 17, 2018 ANC 5C was put on notice by the Committee of the Whole.

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.¹¹ This has been done. 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.¹²

Symbolically designating the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., in Ward 5, as Israel Baptist Church Way will commemorate Israel Baptist Church’s 136-year presence in the District and its countless community contributions. Additionally, the naming will celebrate the legacy of the late Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin Sr. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2018.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- November 1, 2017 Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Church Way” is introduced by Councilmember McDuffie.
- November 7, 2017 Bill 22-557 is “read” at a legislative meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.

⁵ See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

⁶ D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

⁸ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

⁹ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(g).

¹² D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

- November 10, 2017 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-557 is published in the *DC Register*.
- January 19, 2018 Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-557 is published in the *DC Register*.
- February 16, 2018 Revised Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-557 is published in the *DC Register*.
- February 26, 2018 A Public Hearing is held on Bill 22-557 by the Committee of the Whole.
- March 20, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 22-557.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Todd McIntyre, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of the alley naming of Bill 22-518. His testimony is summarized below.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

No Advisory Neighborhood Commission provided comments on Bill 22-557.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 22-557 on Monday, February 26, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Michael Crawford, Chief of Staff, Unity Health Care, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Way designation. He testified that the designation is an incredible way to recognize the Church's significant contributions to the community and the legacy of Reverend Shearin. Mr. Crawford also spoke about Unity Health Care's Brentwood Health Center at Israel Baptist Church's Community Life Center that provides healthcare services to 10,000 patients annually. He noted that without the collaboration of Israel Baptist Church, the health center project would not have materialized.

Dr. Jeffery Fleming, Assistant to the Pastor, Israel Baptist Church, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Way designation. He attributed the late Reverend Shearin's teaching, wisdom, and vision to Israel Baptist Church's impact. He also highlighted the many community services that Israel Baptist Church provides.

Jeanette Mobley, Public Witness, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Church Way designation. Ms. Mobley described the designation as quite fitting as Israel Baptist Church has been at its current location on Saratoga Avenue for the past 30 years and has contributed to the welfare of the Ward 5 community under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Morris Shearin. She

also emphasized the many ways that Israel Baptist has served the community including its poverty alleviation efforts and its educational, health services, and affordable housing programs.

Stewart Hubbard, Chair, Deacon Board at Israel Baptist Church, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Church Way designation. Mr. Hubbard shared the service of the church within its surrounding community. He also expressed that the designation is a perfect way to honor the Church's past leadership and a wonderful way to commemorate the Church.

Geraldine Feaster-Bethea, Israel Baptist Church, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Church Way designation. She testified on behalf of the "incredible work of Israel Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin Sr." She described the many community outreach efforts that Israel Baptist has undertaken over the past 29 years and attributed these efforts to Rev. Dr. Shearin's leadership and ability to collaborate across the religious, social, and political arenas.

Veronica Harrison, Israel Baptist Church testified in support of the Israel Baptist Church Way designation. Ms. Harrison summarized Israel Baptist Church's community involvement and partnerships with various organizations. She testified that the designation will exemplify the impact of Israel Baptist Church over the years and reinforce the values of the District of Columbia.

Dorothy Drakeford McKelvin, Israel Baptist Church, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Church Way designation. Ms. Drakeford highlighted the many services that Israel Baptist Church provides to the community, including programs for children and seniors, health services, and community meeting spaces.

Tondalaya G. Reed, Israel Baptist Church, testified in support of the Israel Baptist Church Way designation. Ms. Reed described Israel Baptist church as a pillar of the Brookland, Edgewood, and Brentwood communities in Ward 5. She also highlighted Manor Inc., the non-profit arm of Israel Baptist Church and the many services it provides. Ms. Reed added that the naming would reinforce the Church's stability and visibility in the community.

Todd McIntyre, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation, testified that the Executive has no objection to Bill 22-557. 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 comments in opposition to Bill 22-557.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 22-557 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01¹³ 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

¹³ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

that is an official name.”¹⁴ Bill 22-557 symbolically designates the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., in Ward 5, as “Israel Baptist Church 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 22-557.¹⁵

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2021 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 22-557 can be absorbed, as noted in the Fiscal Impact Statement (attached).

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <u>Section 1</u> | States the short title of Bill 22-557. |
| <u>Section 2</u> | Symbolically designates the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., in Ward 5, as “Israel Baptist Church 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 22-557 as introduced
2. Written Testimony
3. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 22-557
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 22-557
5. Committee Print for Bill 22-557

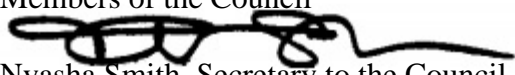
¹⁴ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹⁵ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

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 : November 03, 2017

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2017", B22-0557

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember McDuffie

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., in Ward 5, as Israel Baptist Church Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2017”.

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”), the Council symbolically designates the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., as “Israel Baptist Church Way”.

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Director of 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 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the

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



Testimony of Michael Crawford, Chief of Staff
Unity Health Care
B22-557 Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2017
February 26, 2018

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson. My name is Michael Crawford, and I am the Chief of Staff of Unity Health Care, Inc. I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of Bill 22-557 "Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2017." Further, I would like to thank Councilmember McDuffie for introducing this legislation.

Founded in 1985, Unity is the largest provider of primary care in the District of Columbia, caring for more than 100,000 patients per year with more than 600,000 annual return visits. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Unity provides a comprehensive range of health services, including internal medicine, pediatrics, family practice, obstetrics/gynecological medicine, dental services, mental health services, substance abuse services, and numerous specialty services.

Mr. Chairman, Unity deeply appreciates your extraordinary leadership and long-standing commitment to improving access to high-quality health care for the District's medically underserved. From Unity's beginning, as the Health Care for the Homeless Project, this objective has been our guiding mission. Consistent with our commitment to the Brookland-Edgewood-Brentwood community, Unity enthusiastically supports Bill 22-557. We deeply believe that designating a portion of Saratoga Avenue, NE after Israel Baptist Church is an incredible way to recognize the Church's significant contributions to the community and the legacy of Reverend Shearin.

Israel Baptist Church has been a pillar of the Brookland-Edgewood-Brentwood community since 1984. The Church has provided a place of comfort, worship, support, and services that reflect the needs of the community. Israel Baptist Church has flourished under Reverend Shearin's leadership and developed comprehensive programs to enhance the overall vitality of the community.

In 2015, Unity proudly opened our new Brentwood Health Center at Israel Baptist Church's Community Life Center, where the community can engage in activities associated with renewing the mind, body, and spirit. The Brentwood Health Center provides primary care, dental, behavior health, and other specialty services to over 10,000 patients annually. Without the collaboration of Israel Baptist Church, this health center project possibly would not have materialized.

Conclusion

It is Unity's honor and privilege to support Bill 22-557. Thank you for providing me an opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Good Afternoon Chairman Mendelson and members of the committee of the whole:

I am Jeffery Fleming and hold a PhD in Mathematics from Howard University – 2001. In addition to my doctoral experience, I returned to Howard University's School of Divinity and completed a Master of Art in Religious Studies in 2006.

In June 2004, I joined Israel Baptist Church located at 1251 Saratoga Ave, NE under the loving leadership of the Reverend Doctor Morris L Shearin, Sr.

Shortly thereafter, in January 2005, Pastor Shearin appointed me to the Youth Minister's position where I grew in devotion to God, compassion for Israel Baptist Church youth and families, and grace in understanding that this church family, my church family, accepted and loved me as a member; in which, I went from servant to friend.

Under Pastor Shearin's leadership and guidance and with the love and support of my Israel Baptist Church Family, I was ordained in the ministry in 2008 and in January 2012, I was appointed to the position of Assistant to the Pastor.

As I have grown in grace, compassion, and love, I have watched Israel Baptist Church form relationships and partnerships that have permitted us to feed and clothes those in need, provide fellowship for the seniors, and an education – a head start program - for pre-K and a safe space and aftercare program for families who need these additional supports.

In November 2017, Reverend Shearin passed away. My mentor, my friend, my pastor died; however, his teachings, his wisdom, and his vision for Israel Baptist Church did not die with him. For he taught us, "only what you do for Christ will last."

Because of his wisdom, instructions, and knowledge, Israel Baptist Church continues to have an impact on the community, compassion for its members and friends, to be of service for its neighbors throughout Ward 5 and vicinity where we are committed to serve the least, last and the lost and to raise up a people made whole through Jesus the Christ.

Because of these characteristics and attributes, I fully support this bill to symbolically designate the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E., in Ward 5, as Israel Baptist Church Way.

Humbly Submitted,

Jeffery Fleming, Ph.D
Assistant to the Pastor,
Israel Baptist Church

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE ISRAEL BAPTIST CHURCH WAY DESIGNATION ACT
OF 2017-BILL 22-557**

Good Afternoon Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Committee. My name is Jeannette Mobley and I am here to give my support to the ceremonial street renaming of the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue, NE to "The Israel Baptist Church Way-Bill 22-557.

My testimony is my own and does not represent any organization. As you know, I also live in Ward 5.

This tribute is quite fitting as Israel Baptist Church has been at this location for the last 30 years and has contributed to the welfare of the Ward 5 community under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Morris Shearin who was installed as the Pastor in 1988.

While I have always known of Israel Baptist, I became more knowledgeable of its commitment to the community while serving in my former role as Chief of Staff for Councilmember Mc Duffie.

The church reached out to our office to let us know that they had an on-site commodity food bank program for Ward 5 impoverished residents, so we were able to refer individuals needing this service to them. Dr. Shearin and the Church also partnered with our office on three occasions for our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive and helped to distribute turkeys to needy families in Ward 5 and the neighboring Brentwood and Brookland Manor communities. They also opened their doors and allowed us to host our first full Public Community Crime Prevention meeting with MPD and the various judicial branches. They continue today to open their doors to community events and meetings free of charge. Most recently, they held a city-wide job fair on their premises that was sponsored by the Mid-City Corporation. This job fair yielded jobs for several job seekers.

In 1996 they established Israel Manor, Inc, to expand their educational, health services and affordable housing programs of the church. Under this umbrella, they operate an accredited Child Development Center, including before and after school care. In 2015, they held dedication services for The Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin Sr. Community Life Center at Israel Baptist Church. This contemporary state of the art facility includes health care services on two floors provided by Unity HealthCare. The third floor is home to Israel Manor Inc's Capital City Hall of Distinction. Once again, they allow the community to use this room for large scale events.

In 2016, Israel Manor Inc., opened a senior housing building, Visionary Square @ Rhode Island Ave. Washington DC.

Dr. Shearin received numerous awards through dedication to God's work in the church and community. A few of his past accomplishments include: Member, Judicial Nominating Committee, Washington, D.C.; 2013 Honoree of the Washington, DC Hall of Fame Award; 2008 African American Labor Leaders Economic Summit on Labor and Religion; Past-President, Baptist Convention of D.C. and Vicinity; Past-Member, National Board of Directors of the NAACP; Chairman, NAACP National Convention (2006); Chairman, Project Labor Agreement Task Force, Washington, D.C., Past-president, D.C. branch of the NAACP; and the outstanding citizen award, Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO (2005). The ceremonial renaming of this street will honor the legacy of Dr. Shearin and hopefully, we can come back in two years and change the designation to his name. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Jeannette Mobley
3725 17th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018

From: Geri Feaster-Bethea <feastg9142@verizon.net>
To: feastg9142 <feastg9142@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Introduction
Date: Sat, Feb 24, 2018 9:31 pm

Greetings to the Whole council

I am Geraldine (Geri) Feaster-Bethea, a fifty year member of Israel Baptist church. I have been privileged to serve in many leadership roles and a member of many ministries at Israel Baptist Church.

I am humbled by the opportunity to testify on behalf of the incredible work of Israel Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin Sr! What a visionary and advocate for social justice Dr. Shearin was; as evidenced by his life's work and his tenure as pastor of Israel Baptist Church. For more than 29 years he served Israel Baptist Church with dedication and passion through his leadership in changing lives in the church, the local community as well as the wider world. Although his work as a pastor focused on uplifting the people and leading them to Christ, Pastor Shearin's talents in leadership and administration truly shone when we look at the tremendous impact his ideas, plans and execution had on the church community, the District's Ward 5 and many other major initiatives through which he served the wider community.

Pastor Shearin strived for excellence in whatever effort he engaged and he worked hard to enhance the lives of members of the congregation and community. His wide reach across different sectors was amazing as he collaborated with renowned leaders in the religious, social and political arenas. His desire to lead a holistic ministry in the community he served continues to ring true in the programs he implemented such as the NAYCE accredited child care program, the Senior Housing Project and the first class Primary Health Care Facility located in his signature project: The Rev, Dr. Morris L. Shearin Sr. Community Center.

Dr. Shearin was a humble, but strong leader who had a very progressive approach for the services offered at Israel Baptist Church. He was always seeking opportunities to enhance the outreach of the church programming. And because of his charisma and communication style, he had a way to accomplish what other may seem impossible. Rev. Dr. Shearin appeared to be following orders from a spirit of which the rest of us were not aware. The continuing programs of Israel Baptist Church in this community speak volumes about his legacy and will have an lasting impact on the lives of people who had the opportunity and honor of working with him during his journey. We pay homage to his vision and his legacy, this day, by naming this portion of the city after the place into which he poured his thoughts, energy, hopes and dreams. We honor him by naming this block of the city Israel Baptist Church Way.

Testimony of Veronica Harrison
Re: Ceremoniously Naming of Israel Baptist Church Way
February 26, 2018

Good morning/afternoon. To the esteemed Chair Mendelson, Ward 5 Council Member McDuffie, and all Council Members, my name is Veronica Harrison and I am before you to speak in support of the pending bill to ceremoniously name the 1200 block of Saratoga Ave. NE, Washington DC 20018 to Israel Baptist Church Way. As a native Washingtonian raised in Ward 5, I am no stranger to the benefits of having a strong spiritual presence in the community that can serve as an oasis of encouragement, empowerment, and spiritual renewal for all who would seek refuge. Israel Baptist Church has been and continues to be such a stalwart.

As a 33-year member of Israel Baptist Church (IBC), current board member, and former Chairperson of Israel Manor Inc., I am privileged to have both witnessed and participated in many church outreach efforts designed to positively affect the spirit, the residents, and the environment of the local community. Diligently focused on its mission to reclaim the least, the last, and the lost, Israel Baptist Church has opened its doors and extended itself over the years to organizations such as the NAACP, local government agencies, Children's National Medical Center Foundation, and countless other local community and national organizations. On the civic front, IBC took a strong stand with the community in actively opposing the presence of the waste facility just two blocks from its doors. Moreover, notwithstanding the ever-diminishing presence of quality childcare options available in the community, Israel Baptist Church, through its affiliate entity Israel Manor Inc., has persevered in not merely sustaining its nationally accredited Child Development Center, but in evolving and expanding it. On the premises of the church, the Center serves infants, toddlers, and children while simultaneously maintaining its accreditation for the delivery of quality and spiritually grounded early child development services for low- and moderate-income families.

More recently, the church realized its vision to serve the largely un- and under-addressed health needs of the community by forging a powerful and lasting partnership with Unity Health Care to bring

VERONICA HARRISON

Testimony of Veronica Harrison
Re: Ceremoniously Naming of Israel Baptist Church Way
February 26, 2018

affordable, high-quality, comprehensive health care services directly into the community. Add to this realization of the church's vision to provide affordable housing to our senior jewels of the community @ Visionary Square, and support for the proposed honor is made clear.

More personally, on August 10th 2017, my 17-year old god-daughter, *Jamahri Rome Wallace Sydnor*, was brutally and fatally killed by gunfire, just two blocks from Israel. The church stood then and continues to stand firm with Council member McDuffie and other city officials in doing all that is necessary to rid our streets of violence and create an environment where healing, hope, and community pride is restored. I, on behalf of Jamahri's memory am grateful for Israel Baptist Church and Israel Manor Inc. for opening its arms and its doors to allow the family and community to celebrate Jammi, promote organ donation, and proactively re-commit to being the city we all want to see.

I could go on as these are but a few of the reasons I support the ceremoniously naming of Israel Baptist Church Way. Despite challenges and opposing forces along the way, the leaders and members of this branch of Zion have endured. IBC has remained steadfast in its civic responsibility, genuinely committed to the betterment of the community, and faithful in service to the Divine mission to which we are called. This honor will not only serve to exemplify the impact of Israel Baptist Church over the years and to publicly reinforce the values of this great city; but, it will also serve to refresh the challenge for the church to remain steadfast in its mission, unmovable by the storms that rage, and faithful to the work that is divinely placed before us -- both now and for generations to come. I strongly urge the affirmative passing of this legislation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

VERONICA HARRISON

Testimony from Tondalaya G. Reed

Hearing on Bill 22-557 the Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2017

Scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018

Good morning,

Let me start by thanking you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Israel Baptist Church and Israel Manor Inc. My name is Tondalaya G. Reed. I am first and foremost a proud member of Israel Baptist Church. Israel Baptist Church has been a staple of worship and stability in this city for more than 137 years. For 31 of those years, Israel Baptist Church has stood as a pillar of the Brookland, Edgewood, and Brentwood communities in Ward 5 of Washington, DC. We have labored in love and service as a church family for our members and our community.

I am also the Chairperson of Israel Manor Inc., the non-profit arm of Israel Baptist Church. Israel Manor Inc. was established in 1996 to expand the mission of Israel Baptist Church. Our entities include a Nationally Accredited Child Development Center; Visionary Square, a state-of-the-art 47-unit affordable housing complex for our seniors located in Ward 5 at the corner of Rhode Island Avenue and 10th Street, NE, and the Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Sr., Community Life Center (located next door to Israel Baptist Church). The Community Life Center houses a full-service health center operated by Unity Healthcare on the first two floors and on the third floor is home to the Capital City Hall of Distinction, a multi-purpose venue designed to provide a wide range of health, education, recreation, meeting, banquet, and cultural activities.

Israel Manor Inc. is committed to continuing the expanded outreach mission of Israel Baptist Church as we are intricately joined together in faith and service.

In keeping with the mission of Israel Manor Inc., we have partnered with Israel Baptist Church, city officials, including the Office of the Mayor, our Ward 5 City Councilmember, the Department of Justice, community leaders, law enforcement, fire department, health advocates, and others to provide a venue for community-based outreach services, programs, and activities in our very own Capital City Hall of Distinction. These activities consisted of crime prevention forums, tenant's association meetings for displaced residents of the Brookland Apartment complex as well as other community related activities.

We have used the Capital City Hall of Distinction to offer free to our community, CPR certification training and health screening. We have planned and organized free cultural events to the community such as an African American History Month celebration, a concert conducted by the Kennedy Center's National Symphony Orchestra featuring the music of Mozart, an evening of Jazz, recreation and game time for our students in the after-care program of the Child Development Center, movie nights, sleep overs, and many other church and community related activities. In addition to the many services we provide, we maintain a 16-passenger van for the sole purpose of providing transportation to seniors in our church, Visionary Square and

the surrounding neighborhoods. I could continue to name more of the work being performed in support of Israel Baptist Church and the surrounding community, but I think you get my point.

Now that I have described a lot of the community out-reach work performed by and on behalf of Israel Baptist Church, I hope this will provide you with a deeper perspective of how much our community means to us and how much we mean to our community. There is so much more work to be done and we hope, with your support, to continue down this path for generations to come.

Therefore, in my opinion, changing the name for a portion of Saratoga Avenue to Israel Baptist Church Way reinforces our stability and visibility within the community. Not to mention the source of pride and accomplishment we will feel. This is such an esteemed honor to be bestowed upon our Church. I thank the entire Council from the bottom of my heart for holding this hearing and allowing me and my church family to testify and show our support on behalf of Israel Baptist Church.

Dorothy Drakeford McKelvin

Good afternoon,

Honorable Council Chair, Mendelson; Honorable Councilmember McDuffie; and all other Councilmembers and staff, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak at this Hearing.

My name is Dorothy Drakeford McKelvin. I am happily retired and serve as the Chairperson of Israel Baptist Church's Trustee Ministry.

I joined Israel Baptist Church in 1992 after relocating to Washington DC. Prior to joining Israel, I attended many churches in the city. I felt most at home at Israel because it was a progressive bible teaching church, and had a Pastor, Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Sr. who truly expressed compassion for the members of his congregation, the nearby community, the city, the nation, and our brothers and sisters in foreign countries.

It is my prayer that you will conclude today that designating the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue N.E. as Israel Baptist Church Way is well earned considering the following:

Israel Baptist Church:

- a. Houses much needed child care in the lower level of the church. The center is NAEYC accredited and utilized by the nearby residents.
- b. Hosts summer youth camps and provides summer jobs for youth.
- c. Hosts numerous events for seniors inclusive of partnering with the Department of Aging as a host site for Legal Aid for Seniors.
- d. Provides transportation services to seniors and the disabled. Brookland Manor seniors have used the service to transport seniors on shopping and fun trips.
- e. Established a 47 unit senior housing facility named Visionary Square at Rhode Island Ave, just a few minutes from the church depending on how fast you walk and in which direction.
- f. Served the broader community by providing meeting space for the NAACP, Central Union Mission, and a Mayoral Candidate Forum as just a few examples.
- g. More recently, worked with Mid City Financial and the DC Department of Employment Services to hold a successful Career fair at the church.
- h. Provides wellness seminars through our Health Ministry and Diabetes Support Group in our efforts to improve the lives of our citizens. We've partnered with Medstar Health Washington Hospital Center to conduct health seminars. I am happy to represent the church as a facilitator for Living Well seminars. These seminars are held throughout the City to teach individuals how to manage their chronic health conditions. I've facilitated seminars at Edgewood, Green Valley, and Visionary Square apartments, all of which are in the Northeast corridor. Residents in these

apartments have shown much gratitude for the work that Israel Baptist Church has done in the city

You should know that I have served my country at three Federal agencies and in the private sector in various roles domestically and internationally, but none of those jobs have given me as much pleasure as serving our community through the work I've done with the membership of Israel Baptist Church.

For these reasons and many more that I have not listed due to my limited time, I have faith that you will grant the renaming of the street to Israel Baptist Church Way.

May God Continue to Bless All of you Abundantly.

Dorothy McKelvin

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on
Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Church Way 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

Monday, February 26, 2017
11:30 a.m.
Hearing Room 123
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004



Good morning Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff, and District residents. My name is Todd McIntyre, and I am 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 Director Jeff Marootian regarding Bill 22-557, the “Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2017.”

The stated purpose of Bill 22-557 is to symbolically designate the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue NE in Ward 5 as *Israel Baptist Church 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 square 3988 along the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue NE.

In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). This installation will require two signs. 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 has no objection to this 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. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today. I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

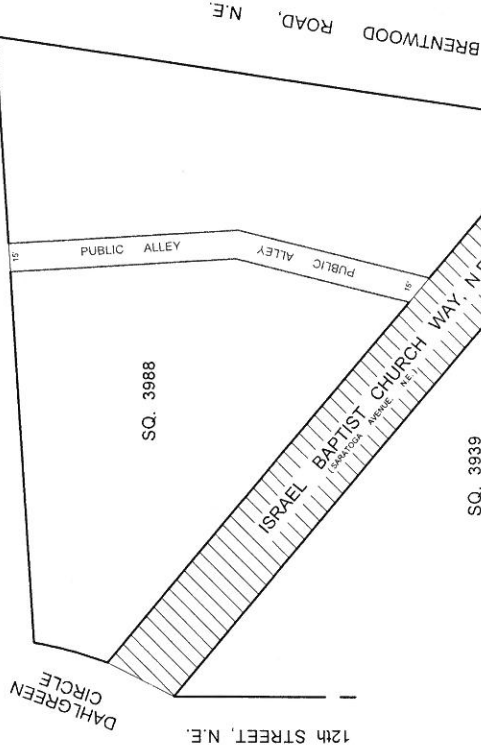
**NAMING OF STREET
1200 BLOCK OF SARATOGA AVENUE, N.E.
SQUARES 3988 AND 3939**

PURSUANT TO D.C. LAW, _____ EFFECTIVE _____
THE 1200 BLOCK OF SARATOGA AVENUE, N.E. (ZZZZ) IS HEREBY
DESIGNATED AS "ISRAEL BAPTIST CHURCH WAY".

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

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS CORRECT AND IS RECORDED.

SURVEYOR, D.C.



SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, D.C.

Made for: 0007

Drawn by: L.E.S. Checked by: _____

Revised and computed by: B. MYSE

Recorded at: _____ Page: _____

Recorded in Book: _____ Sh. 17,0000

Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet File No. 17-1111

2017 STREET NAMING (S-17-001) - SQ. 3988 ISRAEL BAPTIST CHURCH WAY

1 **March 20, 2018**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **Committee Print DRAFT**
4
5
6

7 A BILL
8

9
10 22-557
11

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

17 To symbolically designate the 1200 block of Saratoga Avenue, N.E., in Ward 5, as Israel Baptist
18 Church Way.
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
21 act may be cited as the “Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2018”.

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, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 1200 block
25 of Saratoga Avenue, N.E., in Ward 5, as “Israel Baptist Church 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.