

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** September 18, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	3
III.	Position of the Executive .....	3
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions .....	3
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact on Existing Law .....	4
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	4
VIII.	Section-by-Section Analysis .....	5
IX.	Committee Action.....	5
X.	Attachments .....	5

**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On September 18, 2018 Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018” was introduced by Councilmember Nadeau to symbolically designate the 1300 Block of W Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as Anthony Bowen 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.

Anthony Bowen was one of four children born into slavery on October 8, 1809 in Prince George’s County, Maryland. He was allowed to engage in his own paid work as a painter and a bricklayer. By 1826, he had saved enough money to buy is freedom.<sup>1</sup> He moved his family to the District where he found work with the Federal government in the United States Patent Office where he rose from a laborer to a clerk.<sup>2</sup> He also became a community activist. He helped many slaves escape to freedom by adding an extra attic in his Southwest home to create an “Underground Railroad Station.”

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<sup>1</sup> TOM LEWIS, WASHINGTON: A HISTORY OF OUR NATIONAL CITY, 318 (2015).

<sup>2</sup> Geneva C. Taylor, *For Whom is Your School Named?*, 22-23 NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN 116 (Feb. 1959).

In 1839, he helped open a meeting house at 7<sup>th</sup> and D Streets, S.W. and in 1840 he was awarded a Federal government contract allowing him to hire other African-Americans for “Making and Filling Seed Packets.” In 1861, Mr. Bowen assisted in forming building association to help free African-Americans obtain homes.<sup>3</sup>

Some of Mr. Bowen’s most important accomplishments were with respect to education, particularly of young African-American men. He organized the Sunday Evening School in 1841 where free African-Americans learned reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling. Mr. Bowen organized and became the first president of a Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) geared toward African-American youth. In 1856, Mr. Bowen and other community leaders organized the St. Paul A.M.E. Church which served as an underground railroad station, a school, and a place of worship. He worked with the then city council to ask Congress for funds for a public school open to African-American children. In 1867, Congress appropriated funds to build the first free public school in Southwest – then called the “E Street School” but later renamed the Anthony Bowen School. His name would continue to be borne by future iterations including the Anthony Bowen Elementary School and Amidon-Bowen School in Southwest Washington. Anthony Bowen was elected to the then city-Council a year before his death which occurred in 1871.<sup>4</sup>

While Mr. Bowen has been recognized through the naming public buildings over the years, The proposed symbolic designation in this legislation recognizes Mr. Bowen’s work with the YMCA. The original YMCA he founded was confined to rented and donated spaces. However, the YMCA he helped for was eventually reorganized as a branch of the official YMCA of the City of Washington in 1905. After that reformation, the YMCA was given a home 1816 12th Street NW in the Shaw neighborhood and served artists and leaders including poet Langston Hughes and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.<sup>5</sup> In 1973 the location was designated as the Anthony Bowen YMCA but closed by 1982 after suffering declining membership and structural building problems. The Anthony Bowen branch reopened in 1988 at 1325 W Street N.W. where it served a changing community for more than 20 years. In 2008 the Anthony Bowen YMCA entered into a development agreement that would create a modern facility incorporated into a mixed-use development. The current Athony Bowen YMCA still sits near 14<sup>th</sup> and W Streets N.W. and provides child-care rooms, a swimming pool, and other important spaces to continue the legacy of Anthony Bowen and the mission of the YMCA.<sup>6</sup>

### ***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

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, *Anthony Bowen History*, (November 16, 2018), <https://www.ymcadc.org/locations/ymca-anthony-bowen/anthony-bowen-history>.

<sup>6</sup> Timothy Wilson, *YMCA to Rise Where Crime Once Ruled*, WASHINGTON POST, October 2, 2008.

officially designate or change the name of any public space in the District of Columbia, including streets and alleys.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,<sup>9</sup> whereas a “symbolic name” for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.<sup>10</sup> An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”<sup>11</sup> A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”<sup>12</sup> As established by Bill 22-953, “Anthony Bowen Way” is a symbolic street designation for the 1300 Block of W Street, N.W. in Ward 1.

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.<sup>13</sup> On October 25, 2018 ANC 1B was put on notice by the office of Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau who introduced Bill 22-953.

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.<sup>14</sup> This has been done, and the plat is attached to this report. 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.<sup>15</sup>

Symbolically designating the 1300 Block of W Street, N.W. as Anthony Bowen Way will honor the legacy of Mr. Bowen and the YMCA’s continued service to the community. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

September 18, 2018 Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018” is introduced by Councilmember Gray.

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<sup>7</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

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

<sup>9</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

<sup>10</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

<sup>11</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

<sup>12</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(g).

<sup>15</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

- September 18, 2018 Bill 22-953 is officially read at the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting and referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- September 28, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-953 is published in the *DC Register*.
- October 26, 2018 Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-953 is published in the *DC Register*.
- November 14, 2018 A Public Hearing is held on Bill 22-953 by the Committee of the Whole.
- December 4, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 22-953.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Dena Iverson, Chief of External Affairs, Office of the Director, District Department of Transportation, testified that the Executive has “no objection” to the street designation. Her testimony is attached as well as summarized below.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B voted 9-0 in support of the symbolic designation contained in Bill 22-953. A letter memorializing that vote is attached.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills including Bill 22-953 on Monday, July 9, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing pertaining to this bill. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

*Lesley Zork, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington*, testified in support of Bill 22-953 noting that the YMCA has played a key role in bringing the Shaw community together and helped achieve closing gaps in race, gender, and social inequality.

*Angie Reese-Hawkins, President & CEO, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington*, testified in support of Bill 22-953 and described Mr. Bowen’s legacy in the District.

*Fitzroy Smith, Member and Former Chair, Board of Directors, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington*, testified in support of Bill 22-953 and discussed the hard work and dedication devoted to the new location which will support the community.

*Roland Hawthorne, Member, Board of Directors, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington*, testified in support of Bill 22-953 and described the changing neighborhood and how the YMCA has been on the front lines of symboling the best of racial and socio-economic diversity.

*Dena Iverson, Chief of External Affairs, Office of the Director, District Department of Transportation*, testified that the Executive has no objection to Bill 22-953. She 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 22-953.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 22-953 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01<sup>16</sup> 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.”<sup>17</sup> Bill 22-953 symbolically designates the 1300 Block of W Street, N.W. as “Anthony Bowen 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 22-953.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> Mr. Bowen passed away in 1871.

## V. VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2022 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 22-953 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 22-953.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 1300 Block of W Street, N.W. as “Anthony Bowen Way.”
<u>Section 3</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 4</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

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<sup>16</sup> Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

<sup>17</sup> D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

<sup>18</sup> D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

<sup>19</sup> See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

**IX. COMMITTEE ACTION**

**X. ATTACHMENTS**

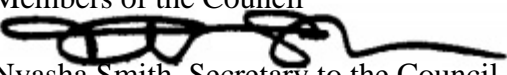
1. Bill 22-953 as introduced
2. Written Testimony
3. Surveyor's Plat
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 22-953
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 22-953
6. Committee Print for Bill 22-953

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

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council

From :   
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : September 19, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018", B22-0953


INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Nadeau

CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmembers Bonds, Gray, Allen, and McDuffie

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services

  
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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6 A BILL  
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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15 To symbolically designate the 1300 block of W Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as Anthony Bowen  
16 Way.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
19 act may be cited as the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018”.

20 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and  
21 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official  
22 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 1300 block  
23 of W Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as “Anthony Bowen Way”.

24 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

28 Sec. 4. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
30 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
31 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December



32 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
33 Columbia Register.

**Testimony – Lesley Zork, D.C. Resident – in support of the  
“Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018”**

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff and District residents. My name is Lesley Zork. As a proud resident of Washington, D.C. for past 35 years, I fully support the designation of the 1300 block of W Street, NW as “Anthony Bowen Way,” and appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of this symbolic change.

What I love about my city is that it is alive, vibrant, and overflowing with history and culture that reflects and appeals to Americans of all backgrounds, and to visitors from around the globe. Although the city may be best known for its tourism and politicians and staffers who come and go, a growing number of people—**like myself**—are putting down roots and calling DC home. In the last decade, the city’s population has seen a huge increase in young professionals coming here to work, and choosing to stay and raise their families in this rich and diverse city, and in retirees from the surrounding suburbs downsizing and returning here to live. Experts project that the city’s population will increase by 47% between now and 2045. All the more reason that we take steps now to preserve our city’s rich and diverse culture and history—which is what renaming the 1300 block of W Street “Anthony Bowen Way” aims to do.

Washington, D.C. played a key role in the civil rights struggle, in addition to the labor, and women’s suffrage movements in this country. The U Street/Shaw neighborhood was at the center of these struggles. It

was also the birthplace of celebrated D.C. hero and jazz musician, Duke Ellington, and was once truly the heart of black history and culture in America.

Much of this is still true of the neighborhood today. The Anthony Bowen Y stands as a galvanizing force within the Shaw community bringing people of different backgrounds together, and closing the gaps in race, gender and social inequality. I love walking through the Shaw neighborhood, and enjoying a meal, or a story slam or a poetry reading at the iconic Ben's Chili Bowl or Bus Boy's & Poets, both of which have been long-standing neighborhood partners and avid supporters of the Anthony Bowen YMCA.

Naming the 1300 block of W Street, NW, "Anthony Bowen Way," honors both the historic and present role of the Anthony Bowen YMCA as an inclusive environment that uplifts and provides a safe place for our members and neighbors to gather. It also pays tribute to the core Anthony Bowen Y principles of Youth Development, Social Responsibility, and Healthy Living. And, finally, it keeps alive—in perpetuity—an important piece of the history and culture of my beloved city.

Thank you, Chairman Mendelson, for allowing me to testify today as a Washington, D.C. resident and on behalf of the Anthony Bowen Y. I thank Councilmember Nadeau and the entire Council in advance for supporting the "Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018."

## Testimony 4 – Anthony Bowen Legacy

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff and District residents. My name is Angie Reese-Hawkins. I am the President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington. I come before you today to present testimony in support of the new “Anthony Bowen Way” street sign designation on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and W Streets NW in Washington, D.C.

I come here today to briefly, share with you who Anthony Bowen was, and his legacy of civic leadership in our capital city.

As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the reopening of YMCA Anthony Bowen, we must remember that in 1809 Anthony Bowen, was born into slavery in Prince George’s County, MD. We must remember that Anthony Bowen never allowed his adverse circumstances to determine or predict his future. And, he purchased his freedom for \$425 in 1830, and later that of his family before moving them to the area, in great part because of the large number of freed blacks who resided here, in Washington DC.

He joined the U.S. Patent Office and eventually became the office’s first black clerk. In 1853, Anthony Bowen organized the first Colored Men’s Christian Association, just two years after the YMCA organization was established in the United States, **and this Y, established in the Nation’s Capital for Colored people was respected in both the white and black communities. Anthony Bowen was also well-known as one of the founding fathers of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, and very active in the Underground Railroad. He also, like you, served this August body.** He was, indeed, a councilmember.

The Colored Men's Christian Association was the first African-American Y established in the world, and It was established here in our nation's capital.

YMCA Anthony Bowen honors the legacy of Anthony Bowen and serves as a symbol of Bowen's life work and mission. His vision for a better world is realized through the programs and services provided at the Y to the ever-evolving Shaw/ U Street Community, the overall residents of our capital city and our neighbors who walk through its doors each day.

"Anthony Bowen Way" is the precipice of the journey that pays homage to the challenges, struggles, and victories of Bowen who became one of nations' capital inexhaustibly productive citizens. **In a real sense, Bowen's journey is intertwined with the challenges, struggles and victories of this great city with all of its potential and promises bursting through like the dawn.**

We have hosted people from all over the world who come to Washington to see and to know Anthony Bowen by visiting his namesake YMCA. Y Anthony Bowen will continue to commemorate the history of Anthony Bowen, not only through the newly revitalized branch, but also with the naming of this street. Our hope is that when Washington, D.C. residents drive or walk down "Anthony Bowen Way," they will know his "way" and continue to be proud of the city many call home.

**Thank you** for allowing us to testify today in support of the designation. Thank you Councilmember Nadeau and her team for your guidance and support during this process.

Thank you, YMCA Board Members for joining in this quest.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**TO: District of Columbia Council**

**DATE: November 14, 2018**

**RE: Anthony Bowen Way**

**TESTIMONY 4: Anthony Bowen Legacy**

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff and District residents. My name is Angie Reese-Hawkins. I am the President and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington. I come before you today to present testimony in support of the new “Anthony Bowen Way” street sign designation on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and W Streets NW in Washington, D.C.

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He joined the U.S. Patent Office and eventually became the office’s first black clerk. In 1853, Anthony Bowen organized the first Colored Men’s Christian Association, just two years after the YMCA organization was established in the United States, and this Y, established in the Nation’s Capital for Colored people was respected in both the white and black communities. Anthony Bowen was also well-known as one of the founding fathers of St. Paul A.M.E. Church, and very active in the Underground Railroad. He also, like you, served this august body. He was, indeed, a councilmember.

**YMCA OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON**

Association Services Office

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P 202-232-6700 F 202-797-4486 [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org)



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The Colored Men's Christian Association was the first African-American Y established in the world, and it was established here in our nation's capital.

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"Anthony Bowen Way" is the precipice of the journey that pays homage to the challenges, struggles, and victories of Bowen who became one of the nation's capital's inexhaustibly productive citizens. In a real sense, Bowen's journey is intertwined with the challenges, struggles and victories of this great city with all of its potential and promises bursting through like the dawn.

We have hosted people from all over the world who come to Washington to see and to know Anthony Bowen by visiting his namesake YMCA. Y Anthony Bowen will continue to commemorate the history of Anthony Bowen, not only through the newly revitalized branch, but also with the naming of this street. Our hope is that when Washington, D.C. residents drive or walk down "Anthony Bowen Way," they will know his "way" and continue to be proud of the city many call home.

Thank you for allowing us to testify today in support of the designation.

Thank you, Councilmember Nadeau and her team, for your guidance and support during this process.

Thank you, YMCA Board Members, for joining in this quest.

Ange Reese-Hawkins  
President and CEO  
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

## **Testimony 1 – Community Impact**

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff and District residents. My name is Fitzroy Smith I am the immediate past Chair of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington Board of Directors and a current member of the Board. I am here today to present testimony in support of the new “Anthony Bowen Way” street sign designation on the corners of 14th and W Streets in Washington, D.C.

To have a street named after Anthony Bowen, a historian and African-American icon, would be the ultimate gift to our rich community. Because of Anthony Bowen’s work many years ago, the Y Anthony Bowen branch has been able to support the Shaw/ U Street Community in lasting ways for over 160 years.

It brings the Y Anthony Bowen staff great joy to witness first-hand the communities that we work with daily flourishing as a direct result of our programs and services. 3,526 members are served at the branch and benefit from programs such as Healthy Kids Day, Fit & Well Seniors, annual holiday coat drive, and turkey basket giveaways.

Social responsibility is an ethical framework which suggests that an entity, be it an organization or an individual, has an obligation to act for the benefit of society at large. The Y Anthony Bowen encompasses this belief through our core values: Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The Y Anthony Bowen is dedicated to improving and enriching the lives of not only our members, but also those in our surrounding communities. The Y Anthony Bowen exemplifies



the Y spirit of working as a team to achieve positive, lasting impacts for those who depend upon us.

At the **Y. We are Better Together** when we work in tandem to invest in the development of our youth and foster healthy communities. The wonderful effects of our work can be seen in and around the Shaw/U Street community. Daily, the Y Anthony Bowen staff equip children and families with much needed programs and services to help them live a healthier lifestyle. Our children and families come to the Y Anthony Bowen branch daily to participate in childcare programs, camp, and cooking and fitness classes, as well as participating in food programs that provide food for the under-privileged and tools for diabetes prevention.

September, 2018 marked the Y Anthony Bowen's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the re-opening of our newly-renovated branch. So much hard work and dedication was poured into bringing the newly-renovated building to fruition. The project was a huge success under the leadership of the President and CEO, Angie Reese Hawkins, our COO, Pamela Curran, our Senior Team, and our passionate Y staff. The newly-renovated branch was our way of pouring back into the community all the love and support the Y has received from the Shaw/ U Street community leaders, partners, members, donors and volunteers. "Anthony Bowen Way" will be another representation of the life-long commitment the Y Anthony Bowen has made to our neighbors, and it will pay homage to the branch's rich history.

In closing, I want to recognize Councilmember Brianne Nadeau and her staff for

their efforts and support during the designation process. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today, and for supporting the designation of "Anthony Bowen Way."

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**Testimony 4 – Roland Hawthorne – Revitalization & Gentrification of the Shaw/U Street Corridor**

Good afternoon Council Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff and District residents. My name is Roland Hawthorne; and I am a member of the Association Board of Directors for the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington and former member of the Advisory Board of YMCA Anthony Bowen. I fully support the designation of “Anthony Bowen Way” on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and W Streets, NW.

In recent years, we have witnessed the revitalization and gentrification of the Shaw/U Street neighborhood. The real estate industry no longer ignores the rich history and the African-American influence, but now acknowledges it by emphasizing the quality of life and the multi-ethnic diversity to attract homeowners and renters to the area.

In the 1960s, a leading Swedish anthropologist and a prominent American anthropologist came to the District to study one of its impoverished neighborhoods. Their work brought them to the Shaw/U Street neighborhood. Their work resulted in two books that changed how people across the globe viewed inner-city African-American life. The community at the time was nearly all African-American and had the city’s highest rate of individuals receiving public assistance, the highest rate of illegitimate live births, the highest rate of births without prenatal care, the second highest rate of people eligible for surplus food, and the third highest rate of

applicants eligible for public health assistance.

In 1970, the Shaw/U Street community was 90 percent African-American. By 2010, African-Americans comprised only 30 percent of its population. While the proportion of the community's African-American residents and business owners declined during the 2000s, the White population rose substantially. The White population increased from 23 percent in 2000 to 53 percent in 2010 in the Shaw/U Street corridor. As the community received an influx of non-African-Americans with higher incomes, property values dramatically increased 145 percent between 2000 and 2010, well above the city's overall rate during the same period.

Today, following investments made by the District Government, community leaders and residents as well as the real estate development community, the Shaw/U Street neighborhood and other neighborhoods with similar history of redlining, segregation and disinvestment have become some of the most desirable places to live in the District of Columbia. Once neighborhoods where poverty, drugs and violence proliferated, these areas have become communities where new and old residents enjoy farmers' markets, coffee shops, dog parks, wine bars and restaurants, which are now quite commonplace.

Like the iconic Ben's Chili Bowl and Busboys and Poets, YMCA Anthony Bowen, prides itself on being inviting and all-inclusive places where people can meet. All three establishments historically have been on the front lines

of the fight to revitalize the Shaw/U Street community for decades and symbolize the best in racial and socio-economic diversity in the District of Columbia.

“Anthony Bowen Way” recognizes YMCA Anthony Bowen’s work to diversify new and existing populations within the newly gentrified Shaw/U Street neighborhood. The YMCA supports community organizations that believe in bringing people of various backgrounds together for shared activities, such as neighborhood gardening efforts or community improvement projects that creates a place that everyone enjoys living in and can call home. YMCA Anthony Bowen will continue its work to maintain a vibrant socio-economically diverse Shaw/U Street neighborhood so that all its residents can be proud to live in this community.

Thank you, Council Chairman Mendelson, for allowing me to testify on behalf of YMCA Anthony Bowen. I also want to thank Councilmember Nadeau for submitting the Bill and the Council of the District of Columbia for supporting the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018.”

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**District Department of Transportation**



Public Hearing on  
Bill 22-879, the “Crowdy Court Designation Act of 2018;”  
Bill 22-880, the “Adelaide Alley Designation Act of 2018;”  
Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018;” and  
Bill 22-965, the “Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018”

Testimony of Dena Iverson  
Chief of External Affairs, Office of the Director  
District Department of Transportation

Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
Phil Mendelson, Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia

Wednesday November 14, 2018  
3:30 p.m.  
Hearing Room 412  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff, and District residents. My name is Dena Iverson, and I am the Chief of External Affairs in the Office of the Director 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 22-879, the “Crowdy Court Designation Act of 2018; Bill 22-880, the “Adelaide Alley Designation Act of 2018;” Bill 22-953, the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018;”and Bill 22-965, the “Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018.”

The stated purpose of Bill 22-879 is to officially designate the portion of the public alley system bounded by 5th Street, N.W., M Street, N.W., 4th Street, N.W., and New York Avenue, N.W. in Ward 6, as *Crowdy Court*. 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 public alley system within Square 514. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for these designations is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires four total signs, totaling \$680.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-880 is to officially designate the interior section of the public alley system bounded by 16th Street, S.E., D Street, S.E., 17th Street, S.E., and E Street, S.E. in Ward 6, as *Adelaide Alley*. 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 public alley system within Square 1090. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for these designations is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$340.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-953 is to symbolically designate the 1300 block of W Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as *Anthony Bowen 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 block between Square 234 and 235. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for these designations is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two signs, totaling \$340.

The stated purpose of Bill 22-965 is to symbolically designate the 300 block of E Street, S.W., in Ward 6, as *Hidden Figures 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 block between square 537 and 538. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for these designations is approximately \$170 (\$60 for sign fabrication and \$110 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$340.

Sufficient signage requires 10 total signs, totaling \$1,700. 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 these designations, and DDOT stands ready to assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any



ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize as a result of passage of these bills.

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

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B



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November 7, 2018

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Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Honorable Brianne Nadeau  
Councilmember, Ward One  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 102  
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Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau:

Re: Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018 – B22-0953

On November 1, 2018, at a properly noticed public meeting and with a quorum of 9 of 12 Commissioners present, ANC 1B voted 9-0-0 in support of a recommendation by Commissioner Squicciarini to ceremoniously designate the 1300 block of W Street NW as Anthony Bowen Way.

The Anthony Bowen YMCA, founded in 1853, was the first YMCA open to African-Americans in the world. Born into slavery in Prince George's County, MD in 1809, Anthony Bowen never let his adverse circumstances determine his future. After saving enough money, he purchased his freedom for \$425 in 1830, subsequently his wife's freedom, and moved his family to Washington. Inspired by his friend William Chauncey Langdon, founder of the YMCA of the City of Washington, Anthony Bowen was committed to the advancement of African-Americans in social, educational, and religious respects.

In 1912, following the reformation, the 12th Street Branch of the YMCA opened its first home, giving African-American men a place to nurture their potential. For the next fifty years, it was the only YMCA facility in the District serving African-Americans. During this time, the 12th Street Y provided refuge for **African Americans hoping to change the world:**

- Where poet Langston Hughes lived while a busboy at Wardman Park Hotel
- Where Thurgood Marshall designed legal strategies for Brown vs. Board of Education
- Where Dr. Charles Drew built his character as a child
- Where NBA legend Elgin Baylor learned how to play basketball
- Where Marcus Garvey gave inspirational speeches

In 1982, after 70 years at the historic 12th Street branch, the Y moved a few blocks away to a facility that better suited the needs of the community. YMCA Anthony Bowen reopened in 1988 at 1325 W Street, NW, just four blocks from the original branch. After years of redevelopment, the iconic YMCA re-opened in September 2013 with robust programs, equipment, and events.

ANC 1B is thrilled to support the rich history and importance of the Anthony Bowen YMCA and the ceremonial naming of the 1300 Block of W Street.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION,

James A. Turner  
Chair, ANC 1B, Commissioner 1B09

Jon Squicciarini  
Secretary ANC 1B, Commissioner 1B04

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



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** November 29, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018

**REFERENCE:** Bill 22-953, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on November 21, 2018

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2022 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill symbolically designates the 1300 block of W Street N.W., in Ward 1, as “Anthony Bowen Way.”

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2022 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Required sign installation will cost approximately \$340, which the District Department of Transportation can absorb within its existing resources.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**

2 **Committee of the Whole**

3 **December 4, 2018**

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A BILL

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22-953

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To symbolically designate the 1300 Block of W Street N.W., in Ward 1, as Hidden Figures Way.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this

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act may be cited as the “Anthony Bowen Way Designation Act of 2018”.

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Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and

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Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official

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Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03, and 9-204.21) (“Act”), the Council symbolically designates the

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1300 Block of W Street N.W., in Ward 1, as “Anthony Bowen Way”.

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Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal

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impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,

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approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

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Sec. 4. Effective date.

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

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Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as

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provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December

33 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
34 Columbia Register.