

**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: December 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 22-965, the “Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 22-965, the “Hidden Figures 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 October 31, 2018, Bill 22-965, the “Hidden Figures Way Act of 2018” was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson and Councilmembers Allen, Bonds, Cheh, Evans, Gray, Grosso, McDuffie, Nadeau, Silverman, Todd, R. White, and T. White to symbolically designate the 300 block of E Street, S.W., in Ward 6, as Hidden Figures Way to honor the African-American women who contributed to NASA's mission despite racial adversity. Typically, a symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Before the development of electronic computers, the term “computer” was a job title designating individuals at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (referred to in this section as “NACA”), which would later become the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this section as “NASA”), who performed mathematical equations and calculations by hand.

In 1935, Virginia Tucker received notice of her appointment to Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory and joined 4 other women in the first “computer pool” at the laboratory. By 1942, human computers had become essential to operations at NACA, as indicated in a memo dated April of that year which stated that “the engineers admit themselves that the girl computers do the work more rapidly and accurately than they could.” Over the next 30 years, hundreds of women, mostly with degrees in math or other sciences, would serve as human computers;

Human computers played an integral role in aeronautical and aerospace research at the laboratory from the mid-1930s into the 1970s by reading, calculating, and plotting data from tests in the wind tunnels and research divisions at Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory. Most computing work at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory involved reading film, running calculations, and plotting data. This computing work was done by hand, using slide rules, curves, magnifying glasses, and basic calculating machines, like the Marchant or the more popular Friden, which could multiply and calculate square roots.

Human computers also played an integral role during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, employee numbers at Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory increased from 940 to 3,220. In the 1940s, the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory began recruiting African-American women with college degrees – grouped in a segregated section of the laboratory known as the “West Area Computers” – to work as computers. Despite the women having degrees, all African-American computers were required to take a course in chemistry at Hampton Institute before starting as computers at Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory;

The first African-American computers did the same work as their White counterparts, but in a period during which segregation was policy across the South and in the armed services, African-American computers encountered segregated dining and bathroom facilities and barriers to other professional jobs.

Katherine Johnson joined the West Area Computers in 1953, and would go on to join the Space Task Force in 1958, where she calculated trajectories for the spaceflights of Alan Shepard and John Glenn and synched the lunar lander of Project Apollo with the moon-orbiting command and service module. Another computer, Dorothy Vaughan served as the head of the segregated West Area Computing Unit at NACA from 1949 until 1958. Mary Winston Jackson spent two years working the computing pool at NACA before working for engineer Kazimierz Czarnecki in the four-by four-foot supersonic pressure tunnel. In 1958, Mary Winston Jackson became the first African-American engineer at NASA. In 1967, Christine Darden began working as a human computer at NASA. After five years of computing and programming, Christine Darden was transferred to sonic boom research where she would go on to spend 25 years working on sonic boom minimization before being appointed as the director in the Program Management Office of the Aerospace Performing Center in 1999,

Human computers were often overlooked or hidden in history. Even so, they took pride in their work, enjoyed the challenge the work offered, and proved that women could successfully do the work that was required of their positions.

On August 27, 2018, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced legislation in Congress to designate the block in front of NASA headquarters as “Hidden Figures Way.”¹ After collaborating with congressional offices, it was found that it is more appropriate to defer the designation to local legislation, as E Street, S.W. is a District-owned street.

Renaming the street in front of NASA headquarters in as Hidden Figures Way serves to recognize Virginia Tucker, Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, and all of the human computers who dedicated their lives to honorably serving their country, advancing equality, and contributing to the space program of the United States.

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.² 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.³

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,⁴ whereas a “symbolic name” for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.⁵ An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”⁶ A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”⁷ As established by Bill 22-965, “Hidden Figures Way” is a symbolic street designation for the 300 block of E Street, S.W. in Ward 6.

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.⁸ However, the notice was not provided until November 14, 2018. The ANC subsequently provided comments in support of the symbolic designation of the 300 block of E Street, S.W. While the notice did not meet the requirement under the act, the ANC is nonetheless supportive. Thus, the committee print allows the designation to move forward notwithstanding the notice requirement.

¹ United States. Cong. Senate. 115th Cong. S. 3370 *available at* <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3370>. The bill was cosponsored by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), Senator John Thune (R-SD), and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL).

² *See* D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

³ *See* D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

⁶ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

⁸ 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.

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

Symbolically designating the 300 block of E Street, S.W., adjacent to NASA headquarters in Ward 6, as Hidden Figures Way would allow for the legacy of these hidden figures to be celebrated and commemorated. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 22-965, the "Hidden Figures Way Act Designation of 2018."

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- September 18, 2018 Bill 22-965, the "Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018" is introduced by Councilmember Cheh and Chairman Mendelson.
- September 18, 2018 Bill 22-965 is "read" at a Committee of the Whole meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
- September 28, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-965 is published in the *DC Register*.
- October 26, 2018 Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 22-965 is published in the *DC Register*.
- November 14, 2018 A Public Hearing is held on Bill 22-965 by the Committee of the Whole.
- December 4, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 22-965.

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 6D provided comments on Bill 22-965 in support of the symbolic naming. Those comments are attached.

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

¹⁰ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 22-965 on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Dena Iverson, Chief of External Affairs, Office of the Director, District Department of Transportation, testified that the Executive has no objection to Bill 22-965. 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 other testimony or comments.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 22-965 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01¹¹ 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.”¹² Bill 22-965 symbolically designates the 300 block of E Street, S.W. in Ward 6, as “Hidden Figures 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 22-965.¹³

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 22-965 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 22-965.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 300 block of E Street, S.W. in Ward 6, as “Hidden Figures Way.”
<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.

¹¹ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

¹² D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹³ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

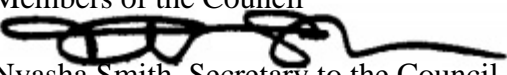
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 22-965 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Letter from ANC 6D.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 22-965.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 22-965.
6. Committee Print for Bill 22-965.

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 : September 21, 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.

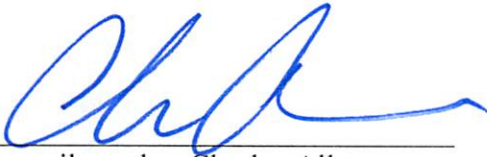
TITLE: "Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018", B22-0965

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Grosso, Bonds, Evans, Todd, Gray, T. White, Allen, Silverman, Nadeau, Cheh, McDuffie, and R. White

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



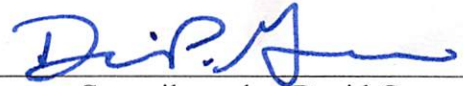
Councilmember Charles Allen



Chairman Phil Mendelson



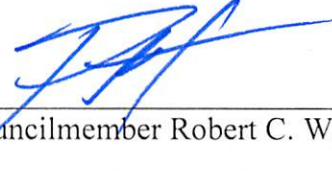
Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember David Grosso



Councilmember Elissa Silverman



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



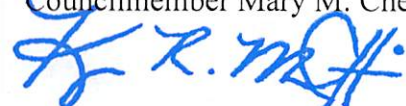
Councilmember Jack Evans



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Brandon Todd



Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 300 block of E Street, S.W., in Ward 6, as Hidden Figures Way to honor the historic women scientists and mathematicians who contributed to NASA's mission despite adversity.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018".

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official

1 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 300 block
2 of E Street, S.W., in Ward 6, as “Hidden Figures Way”.

3 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

7 Sec. 4. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
9 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
10 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
11 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
12 Columbia Register.

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.

SYMBOLIC NAMING OF A PUBLIC STREET

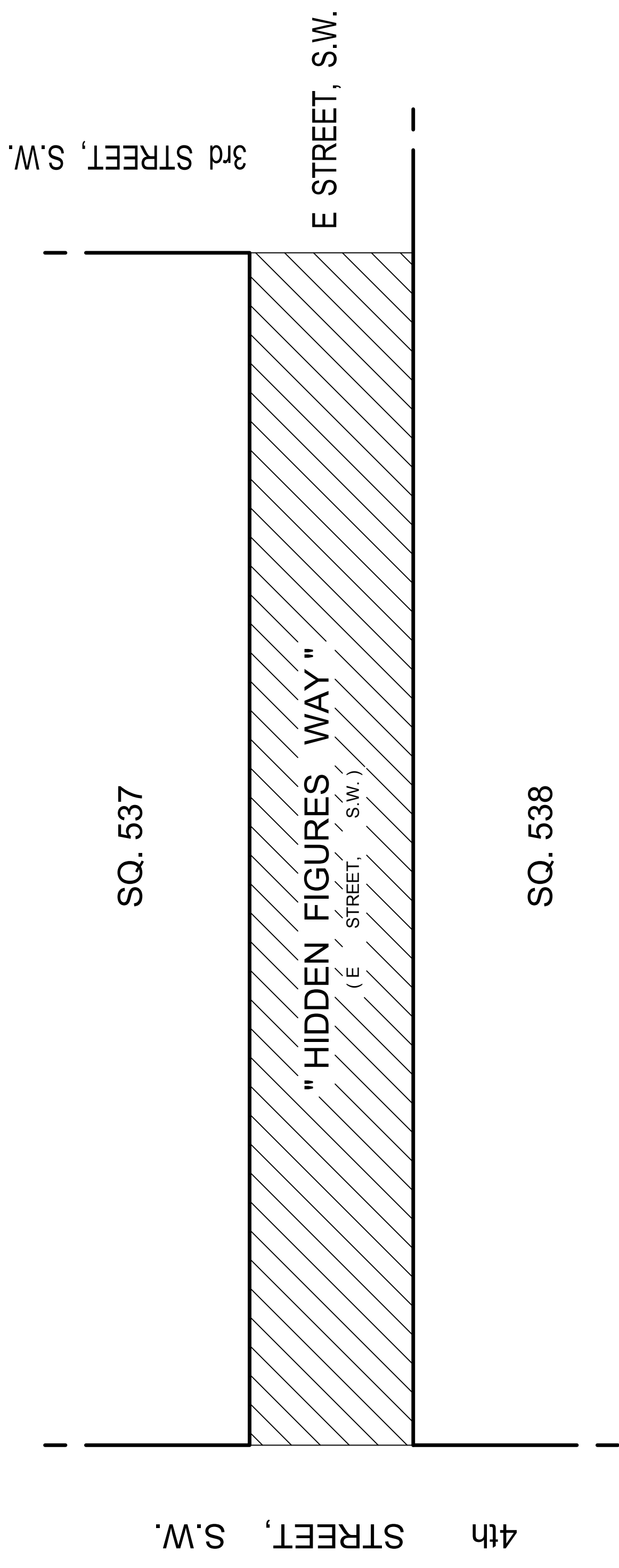
300 BLOCK OF E STREET, S.W.

PURSUANT TO D.C. LAW _____ EFFECTIVE _____,
 THE STREET SHOWN THUS:  IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED
 AS "HIDDEN FIGURES WAY".

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR, D.C.
 _____, 2018

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS CORRECT AND IS RECORDED.

 SURVEYOR, D.C.



SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, D.C.	
Made for: <u>DDOT</u>	Checked by: _____
Drawn by: <u>A.S.</u>	Record and computations by: <u>B. MYERS</u>
Recorded at: _____	Recorded in Book: <u>SR-19-0000</u>
Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet	Page: _____
	File No. 19-11111



Southwest / Navy Yard / Buzzard Point
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D

1101 Fourth Street, SW
Suite W 130
Washington, DC 20024
202.554.1795
Email: office@anc6d.org
Website: www.anc6d.org

November 20, 2018

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

OFFICERS

Chairperson
Meredith Fascett
Vice Chairperson
Andy Litsky
Secretary
Gail Fast
Treasurer
Ronald Collins

RE: Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on November 19, 2018, with a quorum present, a quorum being four Commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6D voted 6-0-0 in support to designate the 300 block of E Street, SW as "Hidden Figures Way" to honor the historic women who contributed to NASA's space exploration and missions.

COMMISSIONERS

SMD 1 *Gail Fast*
SMD 2 *Cara Shockley*
SMD 3 *Ronald Collins*
SMD 4 *Andy Litsky*
SMD 5 *Roger Moffatt*
SMD 6 *Rhonda Hamilton*
SMD 7 *Meredith Fascett*

Sincerely,

Meredith Fascett
Chair, ANC 6D
Southwest, Navy Yard, & Buzzard Point

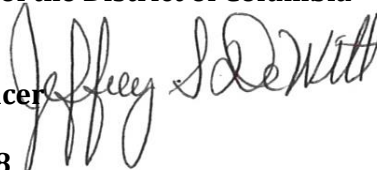
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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 28, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018

REFERENCE: Bill 22-965, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 21, 2018

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 300 block of E Street, S.W., in Ward 6, as “Hidden Figures 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**
4
5
6

7 A BILL

8
9
10 22-965
11

12
13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
14

15 _____
16
17 To symbolically designate the 300 block of E Street, S.W., in Ward 6, as Hidden Figures Way.
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 act may be cited as the “Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018”.

21 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a, and, notwithstanding section 423 of the Street
22 and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law
23 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03, and 9-204.21) (“Act”), the Council
24 symbolically designates the 300 Block of E Street S.W., in Ward 6, as “Hidden Figures Way”.

25 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

29 Sec. 4. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
31 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
32 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.