

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On January 8, 2020, Bill 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2020” was introduced by Councilmember Todd to symbolically designate the 900 Block of Underwood Street N.W. between Georgia Avenue, N.W. and Piney Branch, N.W. as “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way.” A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Sherman S. Howard was born on December 12, 1926 in Roanoke, Virginia. The second oldest of six children, he assumed the leadership role in his family when his father passed away when Sherman was only 11.¹ He joined the Church of God in Christ in Roanoke and accompanied his pastor Elder I.F. Coles on a number of evangelistic campaigns where he honed his piano skills during services.²

¹ Hamil R. Harris, *Sherman Howard*, THE WASHINGTON POST, December 16, 2014. [hereinafter Post]

² Joseph E. Jackson, Jr., *Celebrating the life and legacy of Bishop Sherman S. Howard*, THE SHERMAN S. HOWARD LEGACY FOUNDATION (Jan. 14, 2020, 2:00 PM.), <http://www.howardlegacy.org>.

Howard was ordained in 1948 and became an associate minister at the Temple Church of God in Christ in Washington where he became a pianist and director of the church's Radio Choir.³ After spending a number of years as one of the first African American male gospel radio announcers in Washington, he started the New Bethel Church of God in Christ in Shaw. In 1972, the church moved to its present location on Piney Branch Road – on the block of the proposed designation.

Sherman Howard attended the Howard University Divinity School and in 1998 became Bishop Howard. He was one of 225 bishops in the Pentecostal denomination Church of God in Christ. He was installed as the jurisdictional prelate of Washington.⁴ He continued his daily radio shows offering up his “Words of Inspiration” live from his Ward 4 sanctuary. He also founded Howard's Pre-school, an affordable childcare and foundational learning center for children in the Brightwood and Takoma neighborhoods.⁵ Bishop Howard passed away in 2004.⁶

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.⁷ 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.⁸

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,⁹ whereas a “symbolic name” for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.¹⁰ An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”¹¹ A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”¹² As established by Bill 23-68, “Bishop Howard S. Sherman Way” is a symbolic street designation for the 900 block of Underwood Street, N.W.

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

³ Post *supra* note 1.

⁴ Post *supra* note 1.

⁵ Bill 23-68 as introduced § 2.

⁶ Post *supra* note 1.

⁷ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

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

⁹ D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

¹⁰ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

¹¹ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹² D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.¹³ Regarding Bill 23-68, ANC 4B was notified of the proposed name on October 28, 2019.

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. Such signage shall be uniform and distinct from signs for official names¹⁴

Symbolically designating the 900 block of Underwood Street, N.W. as Bishop Howard S. Sherman Way will honor the legacy of Bishop Howard. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2020.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

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|--------------------|---|
| January 8, 2019 | Bill 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019” is introduced by Councilmember Allen. |
| January 18, 2019 | Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-68 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| January 22, 2017 | Bill 23-68 is officially read at the regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting and referred to the Committee of the Whole. |
| October 25, 2019 | Notice of a public hearing on Bill 23-68 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| November 26, 2019 | The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 23-68. |
| September 17, 2019 | The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 23-68. |

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Lee Goodall, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the symbolic street naming in Bill 23-68. His testimony is attached and also summarized below.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

ANC 4B, in which the proposed official designation is located, voted unanimously on July 12, 2016 to support symbolically designating the 900 block of Underwood Street as Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills including Bill 23-68 on Thursday, November 26, 2019. The testimony summarized below pertains to Bill 23-68. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Marsha Pender, Public Witness, testified in support of Bill 23-68 and noted that ANC 4B passed a 2016 resolution supporting the designation.

Bishop John H. Daniels, Public Witness, testified in support of Bill 23-68 and spoke to his mentorship under Bishop Howard.

Carolyn Tolbert, Public Witness, testified in support of Bill 23-68 and described Bishop Howard as a father figure and role model.

Pastor Trevis Hall, Public Witness, testified in support of Bill 23-68 and cited Bishop Howard's radio show as drawing him into his ministry.

Lee Goodall, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had "no objection" to the designation.

The Committee received written testimony which is attached to this report. The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 23-68.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 23-68 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01¹⁵ 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."¹⁶ Bill 23-68 symbolically designates the 900 block of Underwood Street, N.W. as "Bishop Howard S. Sherman Way." Additionally, "a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza," such as proposed by Bill 23-68.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ Mr. Howard died in 2014.

V. VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 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 \$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for

¹⁵ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

¹⁶ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹⁷ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹⁸ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

installation, the cost of Bill 23-68 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 23-68.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the alley 900 block of Underwood Street, N.W. as “Bishop Howard S. Sherman 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.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

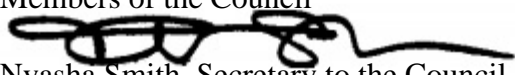
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 23-68 as introduced
2. Written Testimony including ANC 4B Resolution.
3. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 23-68
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 23-68
5. Committee Print for Bill 23-68

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

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : January 10, 2019

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019", B23-0068

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Todd

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

Z.T.F.M

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 900 Block of Underwood Street, N.W., between Georgia Avenue, N.W. and Piney Branch Road, N.W., as Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this act may be cited as the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*), the Council officially designates the 900 Block of Underwood Street, N.W., between Georgia Avenue, N.W. and Piney Branch Road, N.W., as “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way” in recognition of Bishop Sherman S. Howard. Bishop Howard was the founder and pastor of New Bethel Church Of God In Christ for forty-nine (49) years, and was founder of the Howard’s Pre-school, an affordable child care and foundational learning center for children in the Brightwood and Takoma area of Washington, DC. for more than thirty years. For over forty years, Bishop Howard’s outreach ministry through a Sunday live radio broadcast from the sanctuary of Ward 4’s

32 New Bethel Church of God in Christ, brought hope and encouragement into the homes of the
33 sick, shut-in, elderly, and despondent to strengthen their faith and lift their spirits.

34 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

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

37 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

41 Sec. 5. Effective date.

42 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
43 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
44 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
45 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
46 Columbia Register.

Testimony of Marsha K. Pender
PUBLIC HEARING – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
“DESIGNATION OF THE 900 BLOCK OF UNDERWOOD STREET NW
AS THE BISHOP SHERMAN HOWARD WAY”

November 26, 2019

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson, Councilmember Todd and members of the District of Columbia City Council. First, thank you Councilmember Todd for your support today in acknowledging nearly 50 years of service of Bishop Sherman Howard to the Washington DC Community and Ward 4. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Marsha Pender, a Ward 4 resident since 1974, living in the Lamond Riggs neighborhood, currently trustee of the Lamond Riggs Citizens Association, a retired DC Public School counselor, a Licensed Professional Counselor and here to provide testimony in favor of the designation of the 900 Block of Underwood Street Northwest for Bishop Sherman Scott Howard, Founder and Pastor of the New Bethel Church of God In Christ for over 49 years and the Washington DC Prelate for the Church of God In Christ (1998 – 2004). ANC Commission 4B adopted this Resolution #4B-16-0705.

I joined New Bethel in 1975. While a member at Bethel, I gained a closer walk with God. Our pastor's primary concern was the development of our individual relationships with Jesus Christ, but he also recognized the need for us to be active in the community.

As a blessed fellowship of Christian believers, Bishop Howard saw the need for his congregants to be out in the community exemplifying the saying, "To whom much is given, much is required." He was keenly aware that our blessings came with a responsibility to our fellow man.

Some of the community outreach programs included visiting nursing homes and hospitals, providing ministry to prisons, feeding the homeless, organizing toy and coat drives, and distributing Thanksgiving baskets.

Bishop Howard established Howard's Preschool for children age 5 and under. At this time (before many schools had before & after care programs), Howard's Preschool provided transportation for school age children. Bishop Howard recognized the need in the community to provide affordable daycare for working parents.

New Bethel is located near the Old Walter Reed complex on Georgia Avenue. Some of the military personnel heard about "Bethel" through the radio broadcasts, word of mouth, or just by passing by the church. Some of them joined the church, became active members, and worked in the community. After being discharged from the army, several remained in the area, raised their families, and some even went into the ministry. Moreover, other members went out to start ministries in the city and in the area.

Bishop Howard was a pastor who knew the members of his congregation and encouraged them to enter various fields. On a personal note, he encouraged me to be politically active in the ward and in the city. Because of that encouragement and his teachings of how we are to exemplify love of Christ, I currently serve as the Outreach Coordinator for The Holy Church of God In Christ located in the Congress Park Community of Ward 8.

Because of Bishop Howard's spiritual teachings and his commitment to the community, I am in full support of the designation of the 900 Block of Underwood Street Northwest to the Bishop Sherman Howard Way.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions.



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B
Government of the District of Columbia
6856 Eastern Avenue, NW - Suite 314
Washington, DC 20012

RESOLUTION #4B-16-0705
Supporting the Designation of the
900 Block of Underwood Street NW
as Bishop Sherman Howard Way
Adopted July 12, 2016

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (the Commission) takes note of the following:

- Bishop Sherman Howard was instrumental in growing the New Bethel Church of God in Christ from a small storefront church at 1123 S Street NW to the present location at 6440 Piney Branch Road NW.
- Bishop Howard was elevated to Bishop in February 1998 and installed as Jurisdictional Prelate in May 1998.
- Bishop Howard was an active member of the church, supporting its ministries and community programs.
- As founder of the Howard's Pre-school, Bishop Howard made affordable child care and foundational learning available to countless children in the Brightwood/Takoma area of Washington, DC. For more than 30 years, this community-based educational institution enabled neighborhood parents to go to work and feel comfortable about leaving their children in a warm, nurturing environment.
- For over 40 years, Bishop Howard's Sunday night radio broadcast, emanating live from the sanctuary of Ward 4's New Bethel Church of God in Christ, brought hope and encouragement into the homes of the sick, shut-in, elderly, and despondent.
- The annual Thanksgiving basket give-away, started by Bishop Howard, was only one of the many community outreach efforts that proved to be a huge benefit to the Brightwood/Takoma neighborhood. Other projects like

clothing drives, coat drives, and Community Days were also huge benefits to the area.

RESOLVED:

That the Commission recognizes the many valuable contributions of Bishop Sherman Howard as to the welfare of the community and recommends that he be honored by designating the 900 block of Underwood Street NW as Bishop Sherman Howard Way.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Commissioner Scot Knickerbocker, ANC 4B03, is hereby authorized to serve as the Commission's representative in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, if the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out his representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chairperson to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That consistent with DC Code §1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of seven of nine members was present) on July 12, 2016, by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN DANIELS
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILL 23-68
"Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019"
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Good morning Members and Staff of the Council of the District of Columbia. My name is Bishop John H. Daniels and I am the Pastor and Founder of the Great Commission Ministries International, located in Capitol Heights, MD and Secretary of the General Board of Bishops of the International Bibleway Church of Jesus Christ, which is headquartered in Woodbridge, VA and Inman, SC. In addition to these offices, I am a spiritual son and protégé' of the late BISHOP SHERMAN SCOTT HOWARD (1926-2004), who was the Founding Pastor of the New Bethel Church of God in Christ (6440 Piney Branch Road NW). Bishop Sherman Howard was my family's pastor and spiritual leader from 1960 until his demise in 2004.

My parents Elder Elijah E. Daniels and Mother Clara P. Daniels were early members of the ministry and assisted in the growth and development of the Church during the infancy of the church. In addition to my parents, my aunts Frances Purcell, Estelle Covington and Margaret Langston along with their children were early parishioners of the church. Our relationship with this man of God began in 1948 when he was an associate minister and musician at the Temple Church of God in Christ in Southwest Washington, DC under the leadership of Bishop Samuel Kelsey. Our family were consistent supportive members from the time he established the ministry in 1955, through the moves to our second church location at 5714 Georgia Avenue NW to the relocation to the current church at 6440 Piney Branch Road NW.

It was through his ministry that I accepted the Lord as my personal savior and subsequently was baptized into the Christian faith in 1979. As I matured I subsequently accepted my call to the ministry and worked in many capacities: youth leader, audio technician, licensed minister and later an ordained Elder in the Church of God in Christ.

At the age of 16, I was elected as Youth Mayor through the Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute established by Mayor Marion S. Barry Jr. It was through my experience in the Institute that I became deeply involved in community affairs, political involvement and public service. Bishop Howard was a constant source of counsel and support in my efforts to improve the conditions in the Upper Northwest/Ward 4 area of Washington, DC. Bishop Howard would

regularly confer with me his concerns for the neighborhood and the surrounding community.

Bishop Howard was an astute businessman, faithful pastor, a loving father figure to young and old and a man of impeccable integrity and character. He encouraged me to be civic minded, spiritually conscious and compassionate to all. As a young man I was impressed with his ability to reach out of the boundaries of the Church and be a person of influence in the local community and beyond.

Bishop Howard would regularly come to our home and have prayer and Holy Communion with my parents when they advanced in age and couldn't regularly attend services. He was a constant source of counsel, wisdom and encouragement to me as a man and a minister. I shall always be indebted to him for his love, his care and his commitment to me and my family.

TESTIMONY OF CAROLYN TOLBERT
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILL 23-68
"Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019"
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Good morning. My name is Carolyn Tolbert and I would like to thank Chairman Mendelson, Ward 4 Councilman Todd, and the Council for this opportunity. I want to give you some insight into Bishop Sherman Howard's character and the type of person I knew him to be. Let me begin by explaining my relationship to and experience with Bishop Howard.

Biologically, I am Bishop Howard's maternal niece, but truthfully he became a father to me. He did not hesitate to assume the role of a father when my parents were not there for me. Taking on the responsibility of raising a child that is not your own is quite an obligation to undertake, especially when it is not planned. But never, in all my years in his care, did I ever hear him complain or express any regret with his decision to undertake such an enormous responsibility and raise me as his own. He, along with my aunt, always showed me love and compassion as he nurtured and raised me as a daughter with a strict, but loving hand that laid the foundation for who I am today.

I grew up in our home on Farragut Street, NW. which is located in Ward 4. Bishop Howard was there for me as I grew from a child through adolescence to adulthood. He cared for me as I experienced the common childhood illnesses and other medical challenges, such as asthma attacks, rabies shots that were needed as a result of a neighbor's dog bite, and appendicitis. Through my formative years, he encouraged me to study, get an education, and strive to better myself as I attended D.C. public schools. After I graduated from high school, you might think that his generosity would have ended there,

but ultimately, he supported and enabled me financially to pursue a graduate degree in microbiology from Howard University.

Bishop Howard inspired me to strive for greatness in everything I did, both naturally and spiritually. I attribute my success in life directly to his being there for me. As I reflect back over my life, I can truly say I don't know where I would be today if God hadn't placed Bishop Howard in my life.

Not only was he there for me, but I began to realize, from an early age, that I was not the only recipient of his caring and generous nature. I began to understand that I was sharing him with so many other people - namely, the members of New Bethel Church of God in Christ.

Soon, I began to understand that he had accepted God's call on his life and was now a minister and a pastor. At the time, I didn't fully understand what all this meant, but as years went by, I began to comprehend the scope of his pastoral responsibilities.

I found out, through observation, that Bishop Howard was a sincere, thoughtful, selfless, committed, dedicated, and caring pastor. Just like the father I knew and loved. He would heed the call when a member needed his help. Whether it was sickness or a loss of a loved one, you knew he would be there to pray and see you through. Bishop Howard had a pastor's heart for God's people.

In my closing, I have tried to give you a glimpse into the character of a great man; one who I believe deserves the honor of a street named after him to remember his life and legacy.

I would like to again thank Chairman Mendelson, Councilman Todd, and the Council for this opportunity.

TESTIMONY OF TREVIS HALL
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILL 23-68
"Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019"
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Good morning. My name is Trevis Hall and I serve as the pastor of the Abundant Life Church Of God In Christ. Please allow me to thank Chairman Mendelson, Ward 4 Councilman Todd, and the DC Council for this opportunity to speak on behalf of someone who has made such a tremendous impact on our community and upon my life.

I first came to New Bethel Church Of God In Christ and met Bishop Sherman Howard back in 1989 when I was a student at Howard University. It was as a result of his daily radio broadcast and the church's Sunday night live broadcast on WYCB that I was drawn to this ministry. Being a college student so far away from home, I needed a mentor and looked for a place to connect and to grow spiritually. Bishop Howard became that person and provided that place.

To say that Bishop Howard was a unique pastor would be an understatement. I had grown up in church all of my life, but I had never known a pastor who was so involved in the lives of the young people who attended his church and who was so instrumental in molding them for future service. For those of us who were studying here in Washington, DC, Bishop always made sure that we had something to eat, rides back to campus, and even money to get us through the week. I learned that he not only did those things for me, but for countless other young men and women who had chosen the District of Columbia to further their education.

As years passed, Bishop took me under his wings and mentored me as I was a young minister by then. I was able to see firsthand the impact that he had on the community at large as I drove him to appointments and to community functions. I saw his concern for the disadvantaged in our city as he, through our church, spearheaded food collections, coat drives, and other such outreach projects.

When he became the local bishop for our denomination in 1998, this only served to broaden his platform of influence. He was then able to influence other pastors and congregations in and around DC to become community-

mindful in their spheres and to positively affect their neighborhoods and circles of influence.

Because of the many lessons that I learned from Bishop Howard, I have been able to instill in the congregation where I serve, the importance of outreach into the community and taking our ministry beyond the walls of our local church. We have partnered with DC charitable organizations like Emmaus Services for the Aging, the Capital Area Food Bank, Central Union Mission and others.

It has been my pleasure today to give you just a brief testimony of the lasting impact that Bishop Sherman Howard had upon my life and the lives of other students like I was. He is certainly deserving of this honor as a lasting, visible monument to his legacy and impact.

TESTIMONY OF LESLIE PRICE, SR.
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILL 23-68
"Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019"
Tuesday, November 26, 2019

To Chairman Mendelson, the members of the DC Council and to my, Council Member Trayon White, thank you for this opportunity to testify today. My name is Leslie A Price Sr. I am the senior pastor of The Holy Church of God in Christ in Christ in Southeast DC. I am before you to testify for the renaming of the 900 block of Underwood Street alongside the New Bethel Church of God in Christ to Bishop Sherman Scott Howard Way.

Bishop Sherman Scott Howard was a gift from God according to Jeremiah 3:15 and Ephesians 4:11. He was a true man of God that preached and taught the unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bishop possessed the gift of faith and of diverse kinds of ministries. He was a real example of what a gospel preacher should be. He lived the life that he preached about.

He was my superhero! I must admit that I've never seen him move faster than a speeding bullet, or leap a tall buildings in a single bound, and I don't think that he was more powerful than the locomotive but I have seen him feed the hungry. I've seen him clothe the naked. I've seen him provide assistance to those who were most in need. I have seen him lay hands on the sick and I've seen the sick recover.

I joined the New Bethel Church of God in Christ when I was 12 years old. I lived in Congress Park in Southeast DC and commuted to New Bethel in Northwest. During that time, they called DC the murder capital of the world. I've seen my friends shot down in the street like wild animals, but I have never shot anyone because Bishop Howard taught me the golden rule and that I should love The Lord with all my heart and my neighbor as myself. Drugs were easily accessible. You could get drugs from your dealer today and gladly repay him on Wednesday, but I have never taken any illicit drugs because Bishop Howard taught me that there was a difference between clean and unclean and holy and unholy. He taught me that although I was in this world, I was not of this world!

Bishop Howard administered my first communion. He baptized me. He

performed my wedding ceremony. He christened all three of my children. I'm not exclusive; there were hundreds of young people of various ages at New Bethel, during my tenure, whose lives were impacted in the same way. Many have become pastors like me, others doctors, lawyers, CPAs, musicians, or singers. Most all of them are deeply woven into the fabric of our community.

It is said of Pope John Paul II that he should be canonized as Saint John Paul the Great because of the tenure of his papacy. He was Pope from October 1978 until April 2005 (27 years). Bishop Howard pastored the New Bethel Church of God in Christ for nine months shy of 50 years. We are not asking you to canonize him a saint or to make his name great. We are asking that you change the name of that portion of Underwood St., so that the community will know that a Man of God built a legacy in this city that will live on for generations to come.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on
Bill 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019”
Bill 23-88, the “Downs Way Designation Act of 2019”
Bill 23-104, the “Tingey Square Designation Act of 2019”
Bill 23-366, the “Zaire Kelly Park Designation Act of 2019”
Bill 23-449, the “Kappa Alpha Psi Way Designation Act of 2019”
Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019”

Testimony of
Lee Goodall

Chief of Staff
Office of the Director
District Department of Transportation

Before the
Committee of the Whole

Council of the District of Columbia

Tuesday, November 26, 2019
11:30 a.m.
Hearing Room 412
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 Lee Goodall, 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 23-68, the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019”; Bill 23-88, the “Downs Way Designation Act of 2019”; Bill 23-104, the “Tingey Square Designation Act of 2019”; Bill 23-366, the “Zaire Kelly Park Designation Act of 2019”; Bill 23-449, the “Kappa Alpha Psi Way Designation Act of 2019”; and Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019”.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-68 is to symbolically designate the 900 Block of Underwood Street, N.W., between Georgia Avenue, N.W., and Piney Branch Road, N.W. in Ward 4, as *Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-88 is to symbolically designate the 800 Block of Decatur Street, N.E. in Ward 4, as *Downs Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation

is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation).

Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-104 is to officially designate the portions of Tingey Street, S.E., and N Street, S.E., between New Jersey Avenue, S.E., abutting Squares 770, 771 and W-771, in Ward 6, as *Tingey Square*. 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 square and the aforementioned portions of Tingey Street, N Street and New Jersey Avenue in S.E. abutting Squares 770, 771 and W-771. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires four total signs, totaling \$760.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-366 is to officially designate the public right of way located at the corner of 13th Street, N.E., and Downing Street, N.E. in Ward 5 as the *Zaire Kelly Park*. 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 relevant right-of-way adjacent to Squares 3942, 3950, 3952 and 4107. In fiscal terms, Council funded \$150,000 to DDOT to improve the public space including adding lighting, benches, landscaping, and signage so DDOT does not require additional dollars for sign fabrication or installation. I should note, DDOT will maintain its right-of-way in this public space in case a future W Street, N.E. connection is necessary. If so, the agency will engage the Brentwood residents in a

public process for the redesign of W Street, N.E. and any design or siting of a Zaire Kelly Park.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-449 is to symbolically designate S Street, N.W., between New Hampshire, N.W., and 17th Street, N.W. in Ward 2 as *Kappa Alpha Psi Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-455 is to symbolically designate the 1400 Block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E. in Square 5605 in Ward 8 as *Rev. Roy Settles Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

Sufficient signage requires 12 total signs, totaling \$2,280. DDOT is able to absorb the costs of these signs within its current budget and does not foresee any operational impact these designations 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 these Bills 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.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **January 21, 2020**

4
5 A BILL

6
7
8 23-68
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
13 _____
14

15 To symbolically designate the 900 block of Underwood Street, N.W., between Georgia Avenue,
16 N.W. and Piney Branch Road, N.W., as Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way.

17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
19 act may be cited as the “Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2020”.

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 900 block
23 of Underwood Street, N.W., between Georgia Avenue, N.W. and Piney Branch Road, N.W., as
24 “Bishop Sherman S. Howard 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.