

**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:** February 4, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon with minor amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On September 27, 2019, Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2020”<sup>1</sup> was introduced by Councilmember Trayon White to symbolically designate the 1400 Block of Minnesota Avenue S.E., between Good Hope Road, S.E. and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, S.E., as “Rev. Roy Settles Way.” A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Reverend Roy Settles was born on June 25, 1926 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He made his way to the District and attended Dunbar High School.<sup>2</sup> He served in World War II in the Pacific theater in the Navy. In total, he served 21 years in the Navy, and worked for another 19 years in a civilian capacity. During his time in the Navy, he began serving in the Gospel ministry at a number of churches in Rhode Island and Virginia. He attended seminary in Jacksonville Florida,

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<sup>1</sup> Originally introduced as the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019.”

<sup>2</sup> *The Pastor*, THE AMBASSADOR BAPTIST CHURCH (Jan. 22, 2020, 5:00 PM.), <http://www.theambassadorbaptistchurch.org/page2.html>. [hereinafter Pastor]

and then the Howard University School of Religion. Upon his return to the District, Rev. Settles he joined the Mt. Paran Baptist Church where he served as the Youth Sunday School Teacher. He then went on to his initial pastorate at St. Matthew's Baptist Church before returning to Mt. Paran.<sup>3</sup>

In 1968, Rev. Howard organized and became pastor of the Ambassador Baptist Church on Minnesota Avenue, S.E., fronting the block of the proposed designation. He led the rebuilding of the edifice of the church in 1980 and later added a licensed Day Care Center, a Community Residence Facility, a 24-hour food distribution center, and number of other amenities for the community including emergency housing for church members.<sup>4</sup> His food distribution center partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank in 1989 to feed residents throughout the Washington metro area.<sup>5</sup> Rev. Settles's community activism in Anacostia were not limited to religious endeavors. He spearheaded beautification of local neighborhoods by planting tree flower boxes. He worked with the District government to clean up nuisance properties and worked with the police and other organizations in the community.<sup>6</sup> Bishop Howard passed away on July 25, 2014.<sup>7</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 officially designate or change the name of any public space in the District of Columbia, including streets and alleys.<sup>8</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>9</sup>

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,<sup>10</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>11</sup> An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”<sup>12</sup> A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”<sup>13</sup> As established by Bill 23-455, “Rev. Roy Settles Way” is a symbolic street designation for the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E..

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

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<sup>3</sup> Testimony of Rev. Wanda Thompson (attached).

<sup>4</sup> Shamia Holloway, *Ambassador of Hope*, CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK (January 22, 2020, 4:00PM), <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/2014/09/19/ambassador-hope/>. [hereinafter CAFB]

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Pastor *supra* note 2.

<sup>7</sup> CAFB *supra* note 4.

<sup>8</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

<sup>9</sup> See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

<sup>10</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

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

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

<sup>13</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.<sup>14</sup> Regarding Bill 23-455, ANC 8A was notified directly of Bill 23-455 containing 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 names<sup>15</sup>

Symbolically designating the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E. as Rev. Roy Settles Way will honor the legacy of Rev. Settles. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2020.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- September 27, 2019 Bill 23-455, the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019” is introduced by Councilmember T. White.
- October 4, 2019 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 22-455 is published in the *DC Register*.
- October 8, 2019 Bill 23-455 is officially read at the regularly scheduled Legislative Meeting and referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- October 25, 2019 Notice of a public hearing on Bill 23-455 is published in the *DC Register*.
- November 26, 2019 The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 23-455.
- February 4, 2019 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 23-455.

## 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 23-455. His testimony is attached and also summarized below.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

ANC 8A, in which the proposed official designation is located, voted unanimously on November 5, 2019 to support symbolically designating the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E. as Rev. Roy Settles Way.

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<sup>14</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>15</sup> 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 23-455 on Thursday, November 26, 2019. The testimony summarized below pertains to Bill 23-455. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

**Rev. Wanda Thompson, Pastor, Ambassador Baptist Church**, testified in support of Bill 23-455 and discussed Rev. Settles's background and the fact that the Church owns much of the property along the entire block proposed to be designated.

**Commissioner Barbara Clark, ANC 8A02**, testified in support of Bill 23-455 and discussed the contributions of Rev. Settles and the Church to the community.

**David Brewer, Former Chair ANC 8B**, testified in support of Bill 23-455.

**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 no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 23-455.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 23-455 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 23-455 symbolically designates the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E. as "Rev. Roy Settles Way." Additionally, "a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza," such as proposed by Bill 23-455.<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. Settles 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 estimated at \$380 (\$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation), the cost of Bill 23-455 can be absorbed, as noted in the Fiscal Impact Statement.

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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.

### VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of Bill 23-455.
- Section 2 Symbolically designates the alley 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E. as “Rev. Roy Settles Way.”
- Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
- Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

### IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

### X. ATTACHMENTS

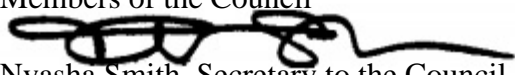
1. Bill 23-455 as introduced
2. Written Testimony including.
3. ANC 8A Resolution.
4. Map of Proposed Designation.
5. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 23-455
6. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 23-455
7. Committee Print for Bill 23-455

**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 : October 01, 2019

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, September 27, 2019. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019", B23-0455

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember T. White

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services

*Trayon White*

Councilmember Trayon White

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To ceremonially designate the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E. in Square 5605 in Ward 8 as Rev. Roy Settles Way.

BE IT ENACTED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403, and 421 of the Street Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03, and 9-204.21) (“Act”), and notwithstanding the requirements of section 421(f) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(f)), the Council:

(1) ceremonially designates the 1400 block of Minnesota Ave, S.E.. in Square 5605 in Ward 8 as Rev. Roy Settles Way.

Sec. 3. Transmittal

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

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

1           Sec. 5. Effective date.

2           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
3 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as  
4 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
5 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813: D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)) and publication in the District of  
6 Columbia Register.

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**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

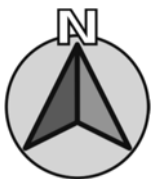
# Bill 23-68, Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2020



THE AREA SHOWN THUS



IS SYMBOLICLALY DESIGNATED AS REV. ROY SETTLES WAY



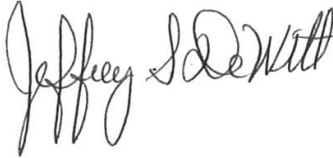
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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:** January 29, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2020

**REFERENCE:** Bill 23-455, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on January 14, 2020

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill designates the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E., between Good Hope Road, S.E. and 165h Street, S.E., in Ward 8, as “Rev. Roy Settles Way”.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Required sign installation will cost approximately \$190, which the District Department of Transportation can absorb within its existing resources.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 **Committee of the Whole**  
3 **February 4, 2020**

4  
5 A BILL

6  
7  
8 23-455  
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10  
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14

15 To symbolically designate the 1400 block of Minnesota Avenue, S.E., between Good Hope  
16 Road, S.E. and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, S.E., as Rev. Roy Settles Way.  
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
19 act may be cited as the “Rev. Roy Settles 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 1400 block  
23 of Minnesota Avenue, S.E., between Good Hope Road, S.E. and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, S.E., as “Rev. Roy  
24 Settles 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.