

**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:** October 20, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On January 10, 2020, Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020” was introduced by Councilmember Charles Allen to symbolically designate the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E., as “Gail Cobb Way.” A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Gail A. Cobb was born on August 17, 1950 in Washington, DC to Clinton and Gloria Jones Cobb. Her parents met at Cardozo High School. Her father applied to the Metropolitan Police Department in 1953 but was rejected due to his height. He went on to work at the Department of Corrections in 1955, becoming an instructor at the training academy and night shift captain of the DC Jail until 1973. Gail Cobb was raised at 1421 D Street in a strict home with a “solid faith in the Catholic Church and in law enforcement.” She attended Elliot Jr. High School, Eastern High School, and graduated from and St. Cecilia’s Catholic High School in 1969.

Ms. Cobb began working for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in 1973 as one of the first female police officers in the Department. MPD was amongst the first large police

departments to hire women as patrol officers which began in 1972. Cobb was admitted to the police training academy after MPD reduced the height requirement to 5 feet in an effort to recruit more female officers.<sup>1</sup> During her brief tenure with the Department, Officer Cobb served the District of Columbia with loyalty and distinction.

On September 20, 1974, Officer Cobb was tragically shot and killed during the attempted robbery of the Eastern Liberty Federal Savings and Loan office at 21<sup>st</sup> and K Streets, N.W. Two suspects had been approached by officers outside of the bank and got into a physical altercation with the responding officers. The suspects fled the scene while shooting at the officers with a sawed-off shotgun. After a foot chase, the suspects evaded the responding officers. One of the suspects entered a parking garage a few blocks away, and Officer Gail Cobb was alerted to the suspect. During a search of the garage, Officer Cobb encountered the suspect, John Bryant, coming out of a restroom. Officer Cobb ordered Bryant to put his hands on the wall. As she called for backup, Bryant suddenly drew a gun and fired at Officer Cobb. The bullet went through her wrist and into her heart. She was rushed to George Washington University where she was pronounced dead. Another officer apprehended Bryant. As crowds gathered to see what was happening, Officer Gary Hankins drove a sound car through the area asking the public for information that may be helpful in finding the second suspect. The second robbery suspect was eventually identified and arrested.<sup>2</sup>

**Officer Gail Cobb**



*Source: Cobb Family*

Officer Cobb is often cited as the first female police officer killed in the line of duty in the United States, however there were others before her according to the National Law Enforcement

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<sup>1</sup> DR. WILLIAM WILBANKS, HEROINES: POLICE WOMEN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, 1916-1999 29 (2000).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Memorial. However, she was the first African American female officer killed in the line of duty.<sup>3</sup> On the day of her death, the 1400<sup>th</sup> block of D Street, N.E. and the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E. were lined with police cruisers as the men and women of the Metropolitan Police Department paid their respects to Officer Cobb, their fallen comrade.<sup>4</sup>

Officer Cobb's death was recognized by United States President Gerald Ford, District of Columbia Mayor Walter Washington, and other local and national government officials. Officer Cobb was not only a heroine to her colleagues in the Metropolitan Police Department and to her city, but she continues to serve as a role model for young women across the country who wish to serve their communities.<sup>5</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>6</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>7</sup>

An "official name" refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,<sup>8</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>9</sup> An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix "Alley" or "Court."<sup>10</sup> A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain the suffix "Way" or "Plaza."<sup>11</sup> As established by Bill 23-609, "Gail Cobb Way" is a symbolic street designation for the 300 block of 14th Place, N.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 on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.<sup>12</sup> Regarding Bill 23-609, ANC 6A was notified directly of Bill 23-609 containing the proposed name on August 6, 2020. ANC 6A had already indicated support for the designation by letter dated November 12, 2019.

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

<sup>4</sup> Bill 13-673, Designation of Gail Cobb Place, N.E., Act of 2000, Council of the District of Columbia (2000).

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

<sup>6</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

<sup>7</sup> See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

<sup>8</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

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

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

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

<sup>12</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.

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>13</sup>

Symbolically designating the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E. as Gail Cobb Way, near her family home and where Officer Cobb’s colleagues staged their vigil after her death, will honor her legacy, having made the ultimate sacrifice while making safe the streets of the District. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

April 5, 2000	Bill 13-673, the “Designation of Gail Cobb Place, N.E. Act of 2000” is introduced by Councilmembers Sharon Ambrose and Harold Brazil. A public hear was held that fall, but the bill did not move and was not reintroduced.
January 10, 2020	Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020” is introduced by Councilmember Allen.
January 17, 2020	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 23-609 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
January 21, 2020	Bill 23-609 is “read” at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
August 7, 2020	Notice of a public hearing on Bill 23-609 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
September 15, 2020	The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 23-609.
October 20, 2020	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 23-609.

## 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 23-609. His testimony is attached and also summarized below.

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<sup>13</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

#### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

ANC 6A, in which the proposed official designation is located, voted unanimously on October 10, 2019 to request the symbolic designation of the 300 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Place, N.E. as Gail Cobb Place, N.E. A letter memorializing the ANC's support is attached to this report. ANC 2A in which Officer Cobb was killed voted unanimously on September 18, 2019 to support the commemoration in her honor on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing. A letter memorializing the ANC's support is attached to this report.

#### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills including Bill 23-609 on Thursday, September 15, 2020. The testimony summarized below pertains to Bill 23-609. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

*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 a message from Denise Cobb-Jackson, sister of Officer Cobb, in support of the designation (attached). The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 23-609.

#### VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 23-609 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01<sup>14</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>15</sup> Bill 23-609 symbolically designates the 300 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Place, N.E. as “Gail Cobb Way.” Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 23-609.<sup>16</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>17</sup> Officer Cobb died in 1974.

#### VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement 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

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<sup>14</sup> Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

<sup>15</sup> D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

<sup>16</sup> D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

<sup>17</sup> See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

installation), the cost of Bill 23-609 can be absorbed, as noted in the October 16, 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement.

### VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 23-609.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E. as “Gail Cobb 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

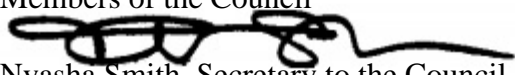
1. Bill 23-609 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. ANC Supporting Letters.
4. Proof of Notice.
5. Map of Proposed Designation.
6. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 23-609.
7. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 23-609.
8. Committee Print for Bill 23-609.

**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 : January 13, 2020

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, January 10, 2020. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020", B23-0609

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Allen

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



Councilmember Charles Allen

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A BILL

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To symbolically designate the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E., in Ward 6, as Gail Cobb Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That  
this act may be cited as the "Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020".

Sec. 2. Designation.

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  
Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 300  
block of 14th Place, N.E., in Ward 6, as "Gail Cobb 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 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 5. Effective date.



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

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



Public Hearing on  
Bill 23-532, the “Dr. Montague Cobb Way Designation Act of 2019”  
Bill 23-533, the “Lucy Diggs Slowe Way Designation Act of 2019”  
Bill 23-538, the “Elaine M. Carter Way Designation Act of 2019”  
Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020”  
Bill 23-680, the “Cecelia's Way Designation Act of 2020”  
Bill 23-787, the “Black Lives Matter Plaza Designation Act of 2020,” and  
Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020”

Testimony of  
Lee Goodall

Chief of Staff  
District Department of Transportation

Before the  
Committee of the Whole

Council of the District of Columbia

Tuesday, September 15, 2020  
9:00 a.m.

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 the 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 seven bills, which are Bill 23-532, the “Dr. Montague Cobb Way Designation Act of 2019,” Bill 23-533, the “Lucy Diggs Slowe Way Designation Act of 2019,” Bill 23-538, the “Elaine M. Carter Way Designation Act of 2019,” Bill 23-609, the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020,” Bill 23-680, the “Cecelia's Way Designation Act of 2020,” Bill 23-787, the “Black Lives Matter Plaza Designation Act of 2020,” and Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020.”

The stated purpose of Bill 23-532 is to symbolically designate the 600 block of W Street N.W., in Ward 1, as *Dr. Montague Cobb 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 23-533 is to symbolically designate the 2400 block of 4th Street N.W., in Ward 1, as *Lucy Diggs Slowe Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map

highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-538 is to symbolically designate the Frederick Douglass Court, SE in Square 5880, in Ward 8, as *Elaine M. Carter Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires one total sign, totaling \$190.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-609 is to symbolically designate the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E., in Ward 6, as *Gail Cobb Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-680 is to symbolically designate Wiltberger Street, N.W., between S Street, N.W., and T Street, N.W., on the border of Wards 1 and 6, as *Cecelia's Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires one total sign, totaling \$190.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-839 is to symbolically designate the 3800 block of 10th street NW, between Quincy, Randolph, and 10th Streets, N.W., in Ward 4, as *Earl Wright, Jr. Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

Sufficient signage requires 11 total signs, totaling \$2,090. 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.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-787 is to symbolically designate 16th Street, N.W., between H Street, N.W, and K Street N.W., in Ward 2, as *Black Lives Matter Plaza*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Signs have already been installed, pursuant to emergency and temporary legislation that effectuated this symbolic designation. On behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser, I want to take a moment to reflect on the special significance of this designation. Black Lives Matter has been at the forefront of advocating for racial justice, including organizing protests, rallies, and other actions in response to the deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and other Black men and women at the hands of police. In 2020, the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and several other Black men and women sparked new outrage, leading to a wave of protests across the country against racism and police brutality. In response to the protests in the District and across the country, and in recognition of the work that still needs to be done to ensure that Black lives do matter, Mayor Muriel Bowser stated publicly on June 5, 2020, that the portion of 16th Street N.W., between H Street N.W., and K Street

N.W., should be designated as Black Lives Matter Plaza. This designation reaffirms the value of the lives and legacy of the District's Black community and reaffirms our commitment to racial justice and equity.

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.

## Committee of the Whole (Council)

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**Subject:** FW: Fallen Officer Gail A. Cobb  
**Attachments:** 20190810\_143707.jpg

**From:** Denise Cobb-Jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:06 PM  
**To:** [dcfaces@dc.gov](mailto:dcfaces@dc.gov) [REDACTED]; Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL) [REDACTED]; Wynn, Monique (Council)  
<[MBexley@dccouncil.us](mailto:MBexley@dccouncil.us)>; Battle, Mike (COUNCIL) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fallen Officer Gail A. Cobb

Dear DCFACES,

Forty six years ago my sister, Gail A. Cobb, was shot and killed. Gail, a Metropolitan Police Officer, approached an individual attempting to rob a bank on L St. N.W.

Gail is the first female policewoman in the United States to be killed in the line of duty. She was also a native Washingtonian.

I have tried over twenty five years to have the District recognized my sister's ultimate sacrifice.

Bills have passed to name a street in recognition of Gail's sacrifice.....more recently last year. However, for unknown reasons, the actual renaming of a street, (hopefully 14 Place NE), has not happened.

I would very much like to discuss with you, in greater details, more about my sister and my effort to have the district recognized her sacrifice.

Please call me to discuss this. I am very much looking forward to your organization making this 25 + years effort come to fruition.

You may contact me by telephone at 202-321-0817. My address is 1421 D St. NE Washington, D.C.

In advance, thank you.

Denise Cobb-Jackson



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Box 75115  
Washington, DC 20013



November 12, 2019

Councilmember Charles Allen  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW #406  
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Jeff Marootian, Director  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street SE Washington, DC 20003

RE: Request to designate the 300th block of 14th Place NE as Gail Cobb Place, NE

Dear Councilmember Allen and Director Marootian:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on October 10, 2019, our Commission voted 7-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that the 300th block of 14th Place NE be designated as Gail Cobb Place, NE. Ms. Gail Cobb was an MPD officer shot and killed in the line of duty in 1974. She was the first female police officer killed in the line of duty in both the District of Columbia and the nation. Ms. Cobb and her family were raised at their family home at 1421 D Street NE and Ms. Cobb attended school in Ward 6. Her family, with the support of many neighbors on their block, has requested that Ms. Cobb's legacy be honored by designating the 300th block of 14th Place NE as Gail Cobb Place, NE.

Please find attached a letter of support from a resident of the 300th block of 14th Place NE, as well as documentation of a prior request dating from April 2000.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendation of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at [AmberANC6A@gmail.com](mailto:AmberANC6A@gmail.com), to Vice Chair Phil Toomajjan at [PhilANC6A@gmail.com](mailto:PhilANC6A@gmail.com), or to Commissioner Ruth Ann Hudson at [RuthAnnANC6A05@gmail.com](mailto:RuthAnnANC6A05@gmail.com).

On behalf of the Commission,

Amber Gove  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the [anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com), [anc6a@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a@yahoogroups.com), and [newhilleast@yahoogroups.com](mailto:newhilleast@yahoogroups.com), at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org), and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.



## Letter of Support

gary dziekan <ggdziekan1@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jul 1, 2019 at 4:40 PM

To: ruthannanc6A05@gmail.com

Ms. Hudson

I am interested in having the 300 block of 14th place NE renamed as a memorial. Our next door neighbors who have been at their current address since the 1950's and raised 5 children in that home have also reached out with no success.

The Cobb family of 1421 D st NE had 5 children. Their daughter Gail was the first female officer hired by MPD. Unfortunately officer Cobbs life ended a short time into her career as an officer. She was killed in the line of duty by a bank robber. This also made her the first female police officer killed in the line of duty in the United States.

Her family along with mine and many neighbors would like to see this happen. Both of the Cobb family parents are still with us and have longed to have a remembrance of their daughter.

I have already made contact with council member Allen and he is behind this, he's just like you to sign off on it as well.

Thank you

Gary "Zeek" Dziekan

[1423 D st NE](#)

410-490-1176

*Letter to  
Mayor*

SC4 Division One, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
February 21, 2001  
-220

Mayor Anthony Williams  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
Judiciary Building  
441 4th St., N.W. Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Mr. Williams:

My name is Denise Cobb-Jackson. I am a life long resident of the District of Columbia. I am also a District of Columbia employee. I am proud of both.

In 1974 my sister, Gail A. Cobb, a Metropolitan Police Officer was shot and killed by an individual attempting to rob a downtown bank. Gail was also a life long resident of the District of Columbia. At the time of her death Gail resided at her family home located on the corner of 14th Place and D St., N.E. (1421 D St., N.E.).

The day of her death and few days following both streets were lined with Metropolitan Police Department customs. Metropolitan Police Officers and their superiors paid their respect to my sister, their fallen comrade. City officials, the mayor and President Gerald Ford sent expressions of sympathy and support.

This outpouring of support and sympathy from not only the residents of the District of Columbia, but from all over the country was not simply because Washington, D.C. had lost another of its finest. This loss this time was compounded because the city as well as the country had lost its first female officer in the line of duty.

My sister, Gail A. Cobb was the first female officer killed in the line of duty. Although the loss was great, although the lives of Gail's family have been tragically altered, we are proud that our granddaughter, daughter, sister, niece and -yes, even mother is a part of the proud history of not only this city, but this country.

Mr. Williams, I am proposing with high expectations the renaming of 14th Place, N.E. To honor the memory of Officer Gail A. Cobb, the first female officer to give her life for the citizens not only of the District of Columbia, but these United States.

Please forward your response to the parents of Gail A. Cobb- Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Cobb, Sr. 1421 D Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002.

Respectfully,

Denise Cobb-Jackson



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

April 11, 2000

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Cobb, Sr.  
1421 D Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002


Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cobb:

I am pleased to send you a copy of Bill 13-673, the "Designation of Gail Cobb Place, N.E.", which I have just introduced along with at-large Councilmember Harold Brazil. We introduced this legislation at the request of your daughter, Ms. Denise Cobb-Jackson, and with the support of Metropolitan Police Department Chief Charles Ramsey. We are all extremely grateful for what Officer Cobb contributed to the District of Columbia during her lifetime. The naming of the 300th block of 14th Place, N.E. in Officer Cobb's name will be an appropriate recognition of her lasting contributions.

Bill 13-673 will now be referred to the Council's Committee of the Whole, which is only the beginning of the legislative process. This process includes a) obtaining approval from every affected District agency, including, but not limited to, the Department of Public Works, the Surveyor's Office, and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A, as well as from a majority of the owners of property abutting the public space to be re-named; b) holding a public hearing on the legislation and voting it out of Committee; and c) giving the bill two readings in front of the entire Council. Please find attached a copy of D.C. Code Section 7-457, the statute that governs the street re-naming process.

I look forward to moving this bill as quickly as possible and I will keep you apprised of its progress. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Amy Murray of my staff at 724-8072.

Sincerely,

  
Sharon Ambrose  
Councilmember - Ward 6

cc: Chief Charles Ramsey  
ANC 6A11 Commissioner Doris Wallace  
Ms. Denise Cobb-Jackson



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

*“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”*

September 30, 2019

Ms. Denise Cobb  
1421 D Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
[honorofficergaila.cobb@gmail.com](mailto:honorofficergaila.cobb@gmail.com)

**RE: Commemoration for Former Metropolitan Police Department Officer  
Gail Cobb**

Dear Ms. Cobb,

At its regular meeting on September 18, 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Epstein, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on September 20, 1974, Officer Gail A. Cobb of the Metropolitan Police Department was slain in the line of duty in the parking garage of a building at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and L Street NW while pursuing a suspect in a nearby attempted bank robbery,

WHEREAS, Officer Cobb was the first female police officer killed in the line of duty in the United States,

WHEREAS, Officer Cobb came from a family with an extensive track record of government service and left behind – among other survivors – a four-year-old son,

WHEREAS, some of Officer Cobb’s surviving relatives are presently seeking to have the DC Council rename a portion of 14<sup>th</sup> Place NE in her honor, Councilmembers Ambrose and Brazil having previously introduced a bill to this end in 2000, and

WHEREAS, the Commission takes no position on the proposed re-designation of the block in question, since it lies outside the boundaries of ANC 2A and Ward 2, but does support efforts to keep the memory of Officer Cobb alive on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A, recognizing that Officer Gail A. Cobb sacrificed her life in defense of the West End community, expresses its support for a commemoration in her honor to recognize her service on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing.



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

*“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”*

Commissioner Patrick Kennedy ([2A01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A01@anc.dc.gov)) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Vice Chairperson

CC: Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6  
Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2

## Committee of the Whole (Council)

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**From:** Cash, Evan W. (Council)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:11 PM  
**To:** ANC 6A Office (ANC 6A); Hudson, Ruth Ann (SMD 6A05)  
**Cc:** Opkins, Nichole (Council); Laskowski, Christopher "Chris" (Council)  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on B23-609: Cobb Way  
**Attachments:** 9.15.20 Public Space Namings.pdf; B23-0609-Introduction.pdf

Dear Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A:

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(b), this communication puts ANC 6A and its Commissioners on notice of an upcoming Committee of the Whole Public Hearing on Bill 23-609 the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020.” The hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** on the virtual Zoom platform. The stated purpose of Bill 23-609 is to symbolically designate the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E. as Gail Cobb Way. A symbolic designation is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Attached, please find the hearing notice and a copy of the legislation as introduced. Let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Thank you,

*Evan Cash*

*Committee and Legislative Director*  
Committee of the Whole  
Chairman Phil Mendelson

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20004  
Tel: (202) 724-7002


<http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/cow>



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# Bill 23-609, Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020



THE AREA SHOWN THUS  IS SYMBOLICLY DESIGNATED AS GAIL COBB 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:** October 16, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2020

**REFERENCE:** Bill 23-609, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on October 15, 2020

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill designates the 300 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Place, N.E., in Ward 6, as “Gail Cobb Way”.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Required sign installation will cost approximately \$380, which the District Department of Transportation can absorb within its existing resources.



1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 **Committee of the Whole**  
3 **October 20, 2020**

4  
5 A BILL

6  
7  
8 23-609  
9

10  
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
12  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14

15 To symbolically designate the 300 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Place, NE, as Gail Cobb Way.  
16

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

19 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and  
20 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official  
21 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 300 block  
22 of 14<sup>th</sup> Place, NE, as “Gail Cobb Way”.

23 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

27 Sec. 4. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
29 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
30 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
31 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
32 Columbia Register.