

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

---

**TO:** All Councilmembers

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

**DATE:** October 20, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

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

**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On July 8, 2020, Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020” was introduced by Councilmember Brandon Todd. This bill would symbolically designate the 3800 block of 10th Street, N.W., as “Earl Wright, Jr. Way.” This block runs between Quincy and Randolph Streets, N.W. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.<sup>1</sup>

Earl Wright, Jr. was a Ward 4 resident for over 50 years, living in the Petworth neighborhood where he meant so much to his local community. He was known for his tireless efforts in helping the underprivileged, and for helping people get back on their feet as he provided his time, attention, skills, and own funds to help and support people in need in his community. Mr. Wright was known to hold an annual community fish fry focused on assisting homeless and

---

<sup>1</sup> As introduced, the legislation referenced the designation as an official designation, however the intent was that the designation be symbolic. A memo from Councilmember Todd to Chairman Mendelson clarified that the intent was that the designation be symbolic. That memo is attached.

substance-dependent individuals for over 10 years. That annual even took place on the 3800 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. – the same block now proposed to be designated.

Mr. Wright devoted his time and energy to working with returning citizens, those experiencing homelessness, and those with substance abuse problems, teaching them valuable life skills such as how to paint, plaster and garden. He was a huge supporter of the 10th Street Block Club where he would voluntarily offer his painting services to neighbors who were unable to afford such services (He had been a painter and plasterer at Howard University for over 30 years). He also worked tirelessly to improve the safety and community spirit of his Petworth neighborhood by organizing community meetings and taking personal responsibility for upkeep and beautification of the entire block, again using his own funds without ever asking for repayment. Mr. Wright was an exceptional role model for all Washingtonians and no doubt touched the lives of so many that he helped. He is the embodiment of what it means to be a good neighbor, going above and beyond for those in his community, with special attention to those who needed it most. Earl Wright, Jr. passed away on April 11, 2017.

### ***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>2</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>3</sup>

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,<sup>4</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>5</sup> An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”<sup>6</sup> A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”<sup>7</sup> As established by Bill 23-839, “Earl Wright, Jr. Way” is a symbolic street designation for the 3800 block of 10th 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 on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.<sup>8</sup> Regarding Bill 23-839, ANC 4C was notified directly of Bill 23-839 containing the proposed name on August 6, 2020.

---

<sup>2</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

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

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

<sup>6</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

<sup>7</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

<sup>8</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>9</sup>

Symbolically designating the 3800 block of 10th Street, N.W. as Earl Wright, Jr. Way, the same block where Mr. Wright sponsored many community activities, will honor the accomplishments and legacy of a man who was the embodiment of civic commitment and neighborliness: Earl Wright, Jr. This also is a statement that we value and urge more citizens to be like Mr. Wright. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

June 20, 2013	Bill 20-350, the “Earl “June” Wright, Jr. Court Designation Act of 2013” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
July 8, 2020	Bill 23-839, the “Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020” is introduced by Councilmember Brandon Todd.
July 17, 2020	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 23-839 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
January 21, 2020	Bill 23-839 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 23-839 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
September 15, 2020	The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 23-839.
October 20, 2020	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 23-839.

## 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 23-839. His testimony is attached and also summarized below.

---

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

#### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions regarding this bill.

#### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills including Bill 23-839 on Thursday, September 15, 2020. The testimony summarized below pertains to Bill 23-839. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

*Donna Wright-Miller, Daughter*, testified in support of Bill 23-839, and detailed her father's accomplishments in support of the community.

*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 23-839.

#### VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 23-839 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01<sup>10</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>11</sup> Bill 23-839 symbolically designates the 3800 block of 10th Street, N.W. as "Earl Wright, Jr. Way." Additionally, "a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza," such as proposed by Bill 23-839.<sup>12</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>13</sup> Earl Wright, Jr. died in 2017.

#### VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 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 23-839 can be absorbed, as noted in the Fiscal Impact Statement.

---

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

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

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

<sup>13</sup> See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

### VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 23-839.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 3800 block of 10th Street, N.W. as “Earl Wright, Jr. 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

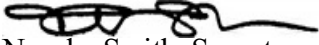
### X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 23-839 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Proof of Notice.
4. Map of Proposed Designation.
5. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 23-839.
6. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 23-839.
7. Committee Print for Bill 23-839.

**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 : Monday, July 13, 2020  
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Wednesday, July 08, 2020. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020", B23-0839

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Todd

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

Attachment  
cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services

2-17-FM

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 A BILL  
9  
10  
11  
12

---

13  
14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
15  
16  
17

---

18 To officially designate the 3800 block of 10th Street, N.W., between Quincy, Randolph  
19 and 10th Streets N.W., as Earl Wright, Jr. Way.

20  
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
22 act may be cited as the "Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020".

23 Sec. 2. Pursuant to the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982,  
24 effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*), the Council  
25 officially designates the 3800 block of 10th Street, N.W., between Quincy, Randolph and 10th  
26 Streets N.W., as "Earl Wright, Jr. Way" in recognition of Earl Wright, Jr. Originally from  
27 Laurens, South Carolina, Mr. Wright was a resident of Ward 4 for over 50 years with his loving  
28 wife Sarah who he was married to for 66 years. An Army veteran, retired painter, and legend in  
29 the community, Mr. Wright was an inspiration to many, a loving husband, father, advisor,  
30 mentor, teacher, and servant to the community. An avid fisherman, Mr. Wright gathered his  
31 flock at his famous community alley fish fry's featured in the Washington Post by journalist  
32 Courtland Milloy. His fish fry's brought the community together, fed the souls of his special

33 guests, the less fortunate who he gave special attention to, and provided an opportunity to check  
34 in on everyone's spiritual well-being. Mr. Wright provided a warm welcome home, jobs, and a  
35 bridge to the community for returning citizens, people with substance abuse challenges, and the  
36 homeless. He encouraged them, fed them, taught them how to fish, and set the standard for what  
37 it means to be a good neighbor. In support of their independence and a promising future,  
38 Mr. Wright taught them how to plaster and paint to give them a professional skill, and how to  
39 garden to take care of themselves. His pride and joy were his alley, and his home and community  
40 gardens. He took great care to keep the alley clean, made it sparkle, and shared his garden yield  
41 with the community.

42       Sec. 3. Transmittal.

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

45       Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

49       Sec. 5. Effective date.

50       This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
51 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
52 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
53 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
54 Columbia Register.



### **Testimony of Donna Wright-Miller**

I would like to thank Brandon Todd and his staff and all of the neighbors and friends who took the time to assist our family in bringing this day of recognition for my father Earl Wright Jr. to reality! A very special thanks to our neighbor Betty Jean Roberts who initially suggested the idea of honoring my father by having the alley named in his honor.

The late Earl Wright Jr. was born on February 14, 1928 in Laurens, South Carolina to the late Rev. Earl Wright, Sr. and Magnolia Wright. He passed on April 11, 2017. Earl migrated to Washington DC over 60 years ago to pursue a career in painting and plastering, trades that were taught to him by his father. He retired from HU after 24 years of service working in the Physical Facilities Department.

My father believed in spending quality time with his family, and he made sure that his family was financially stable. He was very active in the Ward 4 community for over 50 years, and physically resided at 3828 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW. He would assist neighbors and friends with various tasks and would tell you that he had no problem with helping you, as long as you were willing to help yourself. The Petworth neighbors knew that my father was a jack of all trades, and that he was capable of fixing almost anything. He was always available when called upon to assist when needed in the neighborhood.

My dad took tremendous pride in keeping his neighborhood alley and streets clean for many years, and would often be seen picking up trash in and around the neighborhood. He also enjoyed working in the neighborhood garden located behind his home where he would frequently cut the grass and prune the rose bushes and weeds while engaging in conversation with the neighbors.

My father loved to fish which was one of his favorite hobbies. On September 20, 2000 Courtland Milloy featured my dad in the Washington Post thanks again to neighbor Betty Jean Roberts. The article spoke about how my father would catch fish and serve fish sandwiches and dinners to the less fortunate in the Petworth community. The article also mentioned how my dad mentored young men in the community, and how he taught them how to plaster and paint. This article further mentioned how my father would often share produce that he grew in the garden with the neighbors.

Mr. Wright was a beacon of light in the Petworth community, and he shared his wisdom with those he encountered.

Thank you for your consideration with this matter and moment in history

## Filling Stomachs, Feeding the Soul

**E**arl Wright Jr.'s alley fish fry was held again last weekend and featured two ice chests filled with croaker and spot. Wright and his neighbor Leroy Nelson had just caught the fish near Point Lookout Island and Deale in Maryland.

The guests of honor this year, as at the first fish fry last year, were the homeless, the alcoholic and the drug-addicted people who roam the streets near Wright's home in the 3800 block of 10th Street NW.

When most residents see such people in their neighborhoods, holding a fish fry for them is not the first thing that comes to mind. But Wright is one of those rare souls who believe that what the less fortunate need most is more understanding and sympathy, not more grief.

"To me, every man is a man, and an addiction is something that can be worked out," said Wright, a 72-year-old retired painter. "I see people out on the streets that I knew before they got into trouble. They are not bad people. I don't call them misfits. They come by and talk. They say, 'I'm trying to do the right thing. Just give me a little time.' And I believe them. I give them a couple of bucks, if I can spare it, or give them some work to do, and I throw this fish fry for them."

Some of the men Wright helps are newly released from prison. Others are just out of some drug rehabilitation program. To those who are willing to learn, Wright will teach them how to paint and plaster, or how to plant a garden so they can grow their own food.

"He gives me little jobs," said George Whitner, enjoying a fish sandwich that Wright had served him. Whitner, 53, has been down on his luck lately and has relied on Wright to

See MILLOY, B7, Col. 4



BY COURTLAND MILLOY—THE WASHINGTON POST

Earl Wright Jr., left, and Leroy Nelson serve a sandwich during the fish fry.

## A Banquet for the Soul

MILLOY, From B1

give him a helping hand.

"Mr. Wright is very generous," said Faye Johnson, who accompanied Whitner to the fish fry. "He'll help you out in any way he can, even feeds you when you're hungry."

Wright serves as the designated handyman for the 10th Street Block Club. He'll paint any house on his block that needs touching up. He also maintains a garden on a small courtyard where two alleys intersect behind his house.

"I had enough tomatoes for everybody who wanted some this year," Wright said proudly. He also raised an abundance of cucumbers, squash, string beans, butter beans, collard greens, okra and peas.

At the fish fry, the faces of the 12 guests transformed dramatically upon receiving their food. Hard looks, including some menacing expressions, turned soft and even childlike as Wright and Nelson handed them hot, home-cooked meals along with words of encouragement.

"From a spiritual perspective, I think this is phenomenal," said Earl Wright III, Wright's son.

"He's not just feeding them. He's teaching them how to fish, so to speak, so they can eat for a lifetime. Plus, there is no monetary gain in this. My dad is doing this out of the kindness of his heart. These are some big fish, and my dad could easily sell them at a profit."

The elder Wright said he just enjoys bringing smiles to the faces of men and women who are having a hard time in life.

"I like to plant things and watch them grow, and I like to help people and watch them grow," he said.

The result has been a sense of mutual respect between Wright and all of his neighbors, regardless of their station in life. Wright, for instance, owns a classic 1967 Pontiac Bonneville. Nobody messes with it. Indeed, there are very few instances of break-ins and robberies on his

street—and no crime at all involving his home.

"Sometimes I'll tell the guys that I'll be away fishing for a while and they'll say, 'Don't worry, Mr. Wright, your house will be under surveillance 24 hours a day.' They keep an eye on the garden, too, because they know that what's growing is partly for them."

In retrospect, Wright's caring for the down-and-out probably has made his block in the Petworth neighborhood safer than any that relies solely on police for protection.

"Mr. Wright represents the spirit of our community. He's a good role model for young men and he leads by example," said Betty Jean Roberts, president of the 10th Street Block Club. "He tries to guide young men the right way and instill a sense of pride in them."

Quite a few of the young men he has helped over the years have recovered from their addictions and gone on to become painters and landscapers, independent and self-respecting citizens. And for the hardest cases, Wright never gives up. He seems to have an endless supply of patience and kindness.

"I saw one young fellow who grew up in the neighborhood, and he still looked terrible," Roberts recalled. "But he still had respect for Mr. Wright. That's because he knew that he was still welcomed, that Mr. Wright would always ask him, 'How are you? Are you getting any help?'"

Said Wright, "Whether they are high or drunk, they're still ours."

I asked Sarah Wright, Earl Wright's wife of nearly 50 years, how her husband had developed such a beautiful attitude. She said it was the result of Wright being raised the old-fashioned way, in Laurens, S.C., where unity in the community was not just a slogan but a way of life.

"He believes in sharing and looking out for his neighbor," Sarah Wright said. "He got that from his mother, and he's just passing it on."

Sept. 20, 2000

**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.

**Council of the District of Columbia**  
**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
**MEMORANDUM**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

---

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
**FROM:** Councilmember Brandon T. Todd  
**RE:** Request to treat street renaming as symbolic.  
**DATE:** July 27, 2020

B.T.M.

This memorandum serves as notice that I am requesting that B23-839: Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020 be treated as a symbolic street renaming.

Please contact my Legislative Assistant, Sam Stephens, with any questions, at [sstephens@dccouncil.us](mailto:sstephens@dccouncil.us) or (202) 724-6663.



## Committee of the Whole (Council)

---

**From:** Cash, Evan W. (Council)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** ANC 4C Office (ANC 4C); Hilley, Bennett (SMD 4C06)  
**Cc:** Stephens, Samuel (Council)  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on B23-839: Wright Way  
**Attachments:** 9.15.20 Public Space Namings.pdf; Earl Wright Jr. Way memo to Mendelson.pdf; B23-0839-Introduction.pdf

Dear Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4C:

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(b), this communication puts ANC 4C and its Commissioners on notice of an upcoming Committee of the Whole Public Hearing on Bill 23-839 the “Earl Wright, Jr. 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 23-839 is to symbolically designate the 3800 block of 10th street NW, between Quincy, Randolph, and 10th Streets, N.W. as Earl Wright, Jr. 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, a clarifying memo from Councilmember Todd, 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

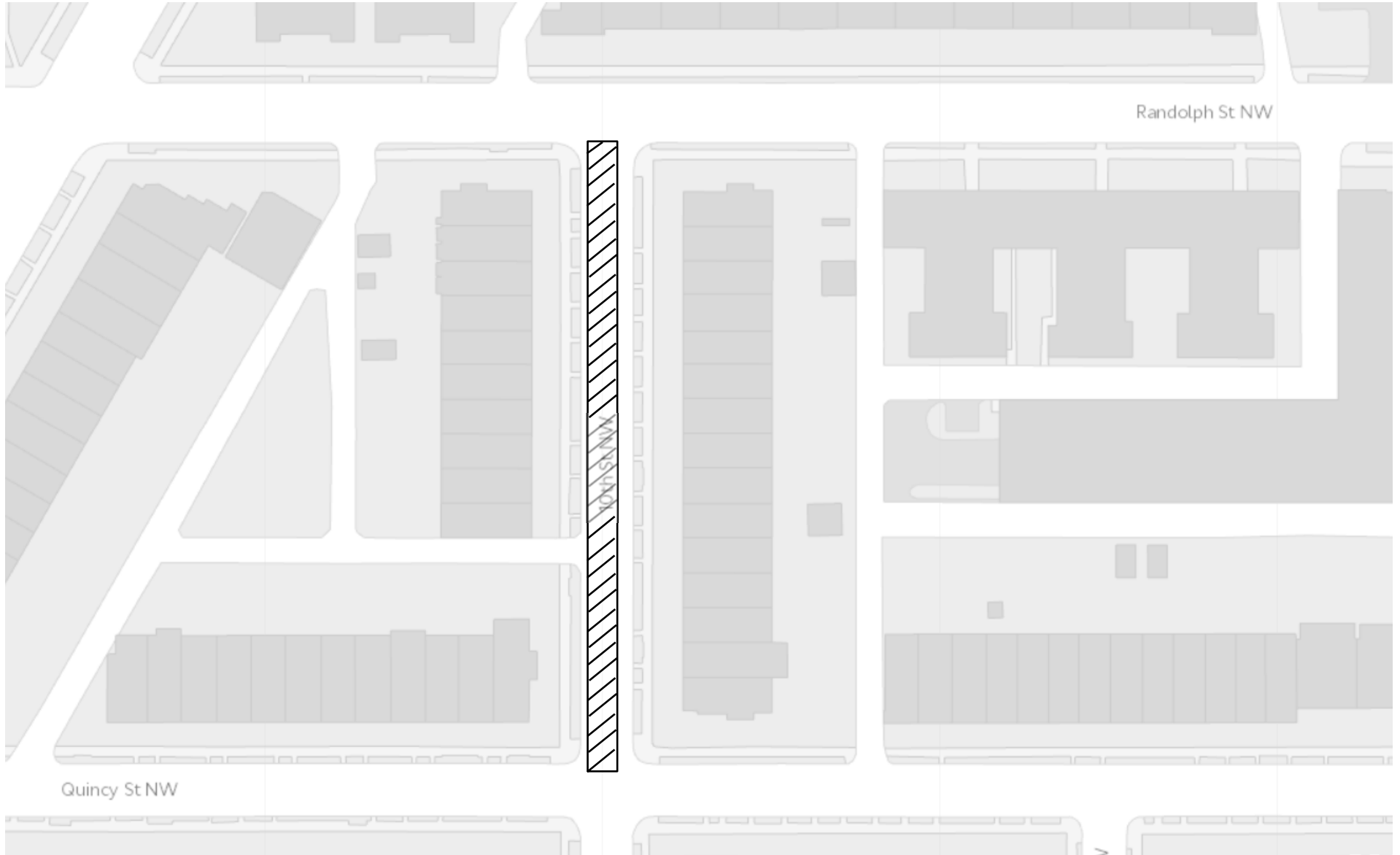
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20004  
Tel: (202) 724-7002

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

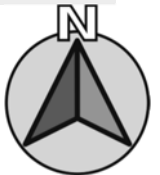


Subscribe to e-mail updates for news and notice of upcoming hearing at <http://chairmanmendelson.com/updates/>.

# Bill 23-839, Earl Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020



THE AREA SHOWN THUS  IS SYMBOLICLY DESIGNATED




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 – Earle Wright, Jr. Way Designation Act of 2020

**REFERENCE:** Bill 23-839, Committee Print provided to the Office of Revenue  
Analysis on October 15, 2020

---

**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 3800 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., between Quincy Street N.W. and Randolph Street N.W., in Ward 4, as “Earl Wright, Jr. 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 23-839  
9

10  
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
12

13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 To symbolically designate the 3800 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, between Quincy Street, NW and  
16 Randolph Street, NW, as Earl Wright, Jr. Way.

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
19 act may be cited as the “Earle Wright, Jr. 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 3800 block  
23 of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, between Quincy Street, NW and Randolph Street, NW, as “Earl Wright, Jr.  
24 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.