

**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: November 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 24-11, the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 24-11, the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021” 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	3
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 January 4, 2021, Bill 24-11, the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021” was introduced by Councilmembers McDuffie and Robert White. This bill would symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., in Ward 5, as Alpha Phi Alpha Way. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was established in 1906 at Cornell University in New York. It was the first intercollegiate, Greek-letter fraternity in the country for African American men. Since its founding, the organization has established over 730 active chapters and has over 290,000 members across the world including Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean islands. Alpha Phi Alpha has produced well-known and revered African American civil rights activists, especially during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, including the first African American Supreme Court justice, Justice Thurgood Marshall; the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; NAACP founder, W.E.B. DuBois; comedian, Dick Gregory; District native, Duke Ellington; and Charles Hamilton Houston, “The Man Who Killed Jim Crow.”

The D.C. Chapters of the Alpha Phi Alpha consists of three undergraduate and three alumni chapters, including the Beta Chapter established in 1907, the Mu Lambda Chapter established in 1923, the Omicron Lambda Alpha Chapter established in 1952, the Nu Beta Chapter established in 1977, the Omicron Omicron Chapter established in 1982, and the Omicron Eta Lambda Chapter established in 1985. These six chapters have been actively engaged in the District’s social, civic, and humanitarian issues and have made a significant contribution to the quality of life of District residents. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was directly responsible for the conception, funding, and construction of the MLK Memorial next to the National Mall.

The Mu Lambda chapter was chartered in 1923, and its chapter house is located at 2405 First Street, NW, in Ward 5, the site of the proposed symbolic designation.

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.¹ 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.²

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,³ whereas a “symbolic name” for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.⁴ An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”⁵ A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”⁶ As established by Bill 24-11, “Alpha Phi Alpha” is a symbolic street designation for First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, 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.⁷ Regarding Bill 24-11, the ANC was notified of the legislation by the Committee on October 4, 2021.

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

¹ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

² See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

³ D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

⁶ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

⁷ 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.

(“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 names⁸

Conclusion

Symbolically designating First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., as Alpha Phi Alpha Way, will recognize the historic fraternity and its good works in the community. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends Council approval of Bill 24-11, the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 4, 2021 | Bill 24-11, the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021” is introduced by Councilmember Trayon White. |
| January 5, 2021 | Bill 24-11 is officially read at the regularly scheduled Legislative Meeting and referred to the Committee of the Whole. |
| January 8, 2021 | Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 24-11 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| September 17, 2021 | Notice of a public hearing on Bill 24-11 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| November 3, 2021 | The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 24-11. |
| November 16, 2021 | The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 24-11. |

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Dan Emerine, Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the symbolic street naming in Bill 24-11. DDOT testified at the hearing that the cost of the signage contemplated in the bill is \$950. His testimony is attached and also summarized below.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

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

⁸ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 24-11 on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. The testimony is summarized below. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Byron L. Williams, Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., testified in support of the proposed symbolic designation.

John Wilson, President, Mu Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., testified in support of the proposed symbolic designation.

Rylan Harris, Mu Lambda Foundation Board Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., testified in support of the proposed symbolic designation.

Christopher Ellis, Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., testified in support of the proposed symbolic designation.

Dan Emerine, Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the designation.

The Committee received written testimony from Besty McDaniel, which is attached.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 24-11.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 24-11 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01⁹ 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.”¹⁰ Bill 24-11 symbolically designates First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., as “Alpha Phi Alpha Way.” Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 24-11.¹¹ 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.¹²

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 \$950 (\$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation), the cost of Bill 24-11 can be absorbed, as noted in the November 15, 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement.

⁹ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

¹⁰ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹¹ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹² See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of Bill 24-11.
- Section 2 Symbolically designates First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W. as “Alpha Phi Alpha Way.”
- Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
- Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

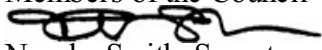
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 24-11 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Map of Proposed Designation.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 24-11.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 24-11.
6. Committee Print for Bill 24-11.

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 : Tuesday, January 5, 2021
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

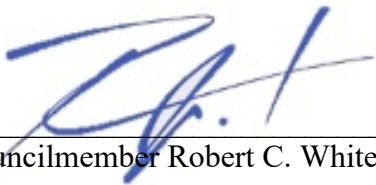
Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, January 04, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

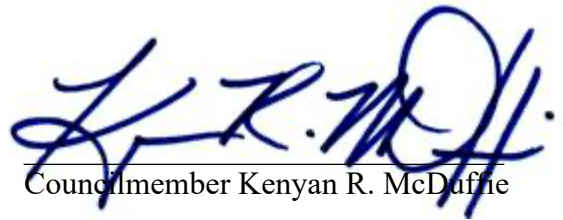
TITLE: "Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021", B24-0011

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers McDuffie and R. White

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

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

1
2 
3 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

4
5
6 
7 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

8 A BILL

9 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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11
12
13 To symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan
14 Avenue, N.W., in Ward 5 as Alpha Phi Alpha Way in Ward 5.

15
16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
18 act may be cited as the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021”.

19 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing
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 First Street,
22 N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W., and Michigan Avenue, N.W., in Ward 5, as “Alpha Phi
23 Alpha Way”.

24 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

28 Sec. 5. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
30 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
31 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act approved December

32 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
33 Columbia Register.

Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021 Bill 24-11

Testimony of
Mr. Byron L. Williams, Member
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Mu Lambda Chapter

Before the
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia

November 03, 2021
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Greetings to DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Chair Pro Tempore Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan R. McDuffie, DC At-Large Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr., other DC Councilmembers, and their staff, and the residents of District of Columbia. A special thank you to the Bloomingdale Civic Association and Ward 5 Advisory Neighborhood Council for their unwavering support of our proposal.

I, Mr. Byron L. Williams, am here to submit testimony as a member of the first African American intercollegiate fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. We have over 700 chapters spanning the United States and international chapters in Bermuda, Germany, Ghana, Liberia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

“Bill 24-11, Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021” seeks to symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., as "Alpha Phi

Alpha Way". Passing this bill would be a gesture towards advancing The Mayor's social justice platform. Alpha Phi Alpha as an official fraternity, since its founding in 1906, has consistently been a beacon of excellence by tirelessly working to make our communities better, far and wide.

We have always been an organization rooted in service and even more so during this COVID-19 pandemic. Alpha Phi Alpha has been on the front lines dedicating countless hours towards 1) peacefully protesting racial injustice, 2) participating in town hall discussions, and 3) distributing personal protective equipment to our elderly.

Alpha Phi Alpha has been present and actively engaged in the DC community as higher education students since 1907 and as working professionals since 1923. We have partnered with numerous community-based organizations advocating for a fair, healthy, and safe DC. Our dedication to our city, its workers, its residents, its families have drawn the positive attention of mayors, councilmembers, and advisory neighborhood councils across the decades.

Our community engagement has included providing scholarships for District of Columbia Public School students, serving meals with local food banks, tackling HIV and AIDS via community forums, honoring the wives and ladies in the community, assisting families through the Grandparent Caregiver Program which helps low-income District of Columbia residents raising their grandchildren, taking pride in our neighborhood via the Adopt a Block program (MLK Ave and Howard Rd SE), and raising much-needed funds for the March of Dimes.

The passing of this bill would mean a lot to our past members such as former Bloomingdale residents and deceased fraternity members Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, prolific attorney Charles Hamilton Houston, and Senator Edward Brooke who all dedicated their lives and careers to advancing equitable housing laws and policy for DC and the nation. In addition, current fraternity members, family, friends, and supporters would appreciate it.

This street designation can be a way to display our organization's perseverance and commitment through the years as we have provided public service to residents of the District of Columbia for 114 years and counting.

And condolences to the family of former DC Ward 5 Councilmember William Spaulding who served 1975-1987, a treasured member of Alpha Phi Alpha. He passed

Thank you for the occasion to convey my thoughts and gratitude on this bill that is rooted in our acts of service to our DC community.

LETTER OF TESTIMONY

John Anthony Wilson
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Mu Lambda Chapter President

To be submitted for review by the DC Council on the Whole, 11/03/2021 hearing

Greetings to DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Ward 5 Councilman Kenyon McDuffie, DC At-Large Councilmember Robert White Jr., other DC Councilmembers, and staff, the residents of District of Columbia, and those who want to be here and those who are able to be here to make their voices heard.

I am John Anthony Wilson, the current president of the Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. The Mu Lambda Chapter was chartered and has been a part of the Washington DC community since October 1, 1923.

In the District of Columbia, Alpha Phi Alpha has made an indelible mark by being involved in social justice, law, diplomacy, politics, education, youth development, and many more professions. One of our fraternity's founders, Nathaniel Allison Murray was a long-time science educator at Armstrong Manual Training High School (also known as Armstrong Tech).

To you, the DC Council, you have the opportunity to review "Bill 24-11, Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021" which seeks to symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., as "Alpha Phi Alpha Way". I ask that you cast your vote as yes on this proposal as it would speak volumes to current and future

generations of our brotherhood along with the communities we fervently serve. We hope you use this opportunity to recognize our love for DC and our deep roots in our Ward 5 community and our work across The District.

Since December 1906 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc has been tenacious in our campaign for equitable rights and civil rights. Alpha Phi Alpha's local chapters and members in the District of Columbia have kept that fire burning ardently. One example is seen in the conception, funding and construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, one of our most well-known members worldwide, by Rev Joseph Lowery, dubbed the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement" and his son, LeRoy Lowery III, the former executive director of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Alpha Phi Alpha has taken our responsibility seriously before and during the current COVID-19 pandemic. We have continued to mentor youth, provided regular assistance to *House of Ruth*, a local women's' shelter, assisting in the Mayor's canvassing efforts to provide vaccination information DC citizens, conducted voter registration drives as part of our "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" national program, distributed personal protective equipment to our elderly and confronted racial injustice peacefully.

Alpha Phi Alpha has been present and actively engaged in the DC community as working professionals since 1923 and we have partnered with numerous community-based organizations

focused on health, safety, and wellness along with initiatives under various mayors, councilmembers, and Advisory Neighborhood Councils.

Our community engagement has included mentoring youth, feeding the hungry, raising funds through the *March of Dimes*, providing scholarships for District of Columbia Public School students, serving food with Martha's Table, building playspaces for children in underserved communities, coordinating clothing drives for itinerant men, addressing HIV and AIDS, teaching self-defense to students on college campuses, hosting an annual Congressional Black Caucus reception, health and wellness initiatives for the community, partnering with the District of Columbia Public Schools to facilitate leadership development programs for youth, honoring the wives and ladies in the community, partnering with *So Others May Eat (SOME)*, civic engagement, and providing Child and Family Service families meals and toys.

Most recently in September 2021 we assisted the Mayor's Office of Volunteerism and Partnerships for the annual "Washington Meal Pack Day" in honor of September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

I am here as part of our fraternity's local leadership to show we recognize that our request can serve as a beacon of light to uplift not only Alpha Phi Alpha but the residents that we serve. It is also an opportunity to show our resilience as an organization that has provided public service to residents of the District of Columbia and Bloomingdale for almost 100 years.

Alpha Phi Alpha way is a monumental goal that we have striven for in the names of members who paved the way for our nation to become better such as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Attorney Charles Hamilton Houston who dedicated his career to making equitable housing laws and policy, the 38th Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, current fraternity members, family, and friends, and supporters such as the Ward 5 Bloomingdale Civic Association and Ward 5 ANC.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to elaborate on the work Alpha Phi Alpha has invested in the DC community, why this bill means so much to us, and express my thoughts.

Rylan Harris, Alpha Phi Alpha

Good Morning and Greetings from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Mu Lambda is the 111th chapter house of the Organization, Chartered October 1st 1923, and is located at 2405 First Street NW in Ward 5, My name is Rylan Harris, I am a 36 year member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and a Native Washingtonian. I am the son of the late Dr.s Rudolph Harris, former President of MuLambda Chapter, and Dr. Janette Hoston Harris, the first City Historian for the District of Columbia.

Chairman Mendelson, Councilman McDuffie, and to the rest of the City Council, Mayor's office, and Residents, I have come before you to support Bill 24-11, the Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021, and to provide testimony on why the symbolic street naming Designation will create a positive landmark within the community.

Today Alpha Phi Alpha continues to lead the effort in supporting the citizens of the District of Columbia through local and national programs, and partnerships.

Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in 1906 by seven college Visionaries known as the Jewels of the Fraternity. In the 98 year history of the Washington DC Mu

Lambda Chapter, there have been many members that have impacted the lives and residents of the District of Columbia .

A few additional past member legacies include:

- 1 Charles Harris Wesley- Historian-College President- AME Zion Pastor in the district,**
- 2 Original Tuskegee Airman Walter “Walt” Kenneth Robinson who Managed the US Post Office Mail Delivery and Collection division for Washington DC,**
- 3 Attorney Thomas Duckenfield the first African American Clerk of D.C. Superior Court,**
- 4 Washington Senators Baseball player Fred Valentine,**
- 5 Washington DC Hall of Famer in Science & Technology Dr. Garnett Elmer Wood,**
- 6 Fmr mayor Marion Barry and**
- 7 Honorary Member Frederick Douglass.**

The Black Lives Matter Plaza of 2020 was an extremely visible Street Naming Project that brought together city residents to gather in the name of social justice and garnered positive National support and recognition.

An affirmative vote for the symbolic street naming of Alpha Phi Alpha Way will further the positive movement and understanding of equality in the city; while historically landmarking, the success members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity have had in the lives of our residents across the District.

A vision of the Future,.....When Douglass Commonwealth becomes the 51st state, we want visitors to our city, to see the beauty in every Ward, and learn about the contributions of its residents. This Street naming bill will symbolically document the influences from residents that are members of Alpha Phi Alpha who have positively impacted the lives of our citizens.

Georgetown, Kalorama, Foxhall, Petworth, Shaw, Deanwood, and Anacostia are neighborhoods to visit, and within Ward 5 and the Bloomingdale community, we want Alpha Phi Alpha Way to become a community landmark where visitors will inquire “what is Alpha Phi Alpha and why is there a street named after them.” Awareness, understanding and contributions to the city social justice, fair housing, leadership and a good community citizen is what they will learn.

Thank You.



DR. WILLIS LONZER, III
GENERAL PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER ELLIS
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

SEAN MCCASKILL
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAMIR HARPER
ASSISTANT REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

EASTERN REGION

LETTER of TESTIMONY

TO: Washington D.C. Council
CC: Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
FROM: Bro. Christopher Ellis, Jr. – Eastern Regional Vice President
Bro. Tamir D. Harper – Eastern Regional Assistant Vice President
DATE: November 3, 2021

Submitted for review by the DC Council on the Whole, 11/03/2021 hearing

Greetings to DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Ward 5 Councilman Kenyon McDuffie, DC At-Large Councilmember Robert White, other DC Councilmembers, and their staff, the residents of District of Columbia, and those present far and wide who are able to take part in this process of engaging our political systems and processes.

I, Mr. Christopher G. Ellis Jr., am here as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Board of Directors and one of five Regional Vice Presidents. Under my leadership of our fraternity's Eastern Region, I am responsible for the overall administration that cover eleven states – Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, DC, and our international areas or Bermuda, Germany, Liberia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. These areas comprise over 18,500 members.

On the table before you is “Bill 24-11, Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021” which seeks to symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., as "Alpha Phi Alpha Way". Voting for this bill in the affirmative would be a great gesture towards advancing The Mayor's social justice platform.

Alpha Phi Alpha as a fraternity, since its founding in 1906, has been a beacon of excellence by tirelessly working to make our communities better far and wide.

During this COVID-19 pandemic Alpha Phi Alpha has been on the front lines by dedicating countless hours towards mentoring the youth, providing regular assistance to a local womens' shelter "House of Ruth", registering DC citizens to take part in the political process through our "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" national program, peacefully protesting racial injustice, participating in town hall discussions, and delivering personal protective equipment to our elderly. Nationally, Alpha Phi Alpha was directly responsible for the conception, funding and construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, who is one of our most well-known members worldwide.

Alpha Phi Alpha has been present and actively engaged in the DC community as working professionals since 1923 and we have partnered with numerous community-based organizations focused health, safety, and wellness along with initiatives under various mayors, councilmembers, and Advisory Neighborhood Councils.

Our community engagement has included mentoring youth, feeding the hungry, and providing scholarships for District of Columbia Public School students, serving food with Martha's Table, building playgrounds in underserved communities, feeding families in need, donating clothes to homeless men, addressing HIV and AIDS, teaching self-defense to students on college campuses, hosting an annual Congressional Black Caucus reception, health and wellness for the community, leadership development for youth, 54 partnering with the District of Columbia Public Schools, March of Dimes, honoring the wives and ladies in the community, partnering with So Others May Eat (SOME), civic engagement, Emancipation Day, and providing Child and Family Service families meals and toys.

Most recently in September 2021 we assisted the Mayor's Office of Volunteerism and Partnerships for the annual "Washington Meal Pack Day" in honor of September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

I am here as part of our fraternity's top leadership to show we also recognize that our request can serve as a beacon of light to uplift not only Alpha Phi Alpha but the residents that we serve. It is also an opportunity to show our resilience as an

organization that has provided public service to residents of the District of Columbia and Bloomingdale for almost 100 years.

The passing of this bill would also mean a lot to our past members such as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Attorney Charles Hamilton Houston who dedicated his career to making equitable housing laws and policy, Ambassador Andrew Young, famed musician Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, current fraternity members, family, and friends, and supporters such as the Ward 5 Bloomingdale Civic Association and Ward 5 ANC.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts and, hopefully, gratitude on this bill that is rooted in acts of service to the DC community.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on
Bill 24-11, the Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021
Bill 24-22, the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021
Bill 24-24, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Way Designation Act of 2021
Bill 24-117, the Armstead Barnett Way Designation Act of 2021
Bill 24-145, the Navy Place, S.E. Redesignation Act of 2021
Bill 24-160, the Willie J. Hardy Memorial Bridge Designation Act of 2021
Bill 24-214, the Alice Washington Way Designation Act of 2021
Bill 24-233, Rebecca Coder Park Designation Act of 2021, and
Bill 24-336, the Wiltberger East Alleys Designation Act of 2021

Testimony of
Dan Emerine

Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
District Department of Transportation

Before the
Committee of the Whole

Council of the District of Columbia

Wednesday, November 3, 2021
10:30 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 Dan Emerine, and I am the Manager of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Division 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 Everett Lott regarding nine bills, which are Bill 24-11, the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021,” Bill 24-22, the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021,” Bill 24-24, the “Ruth Bader Ginsburg Way Designation Act of 2021,” Bill 24-117, the “Armstead Barnett Way Designation Act of 2021,” Bill 24-145, the “Navy Place, S.E. Redesignation Act of 2021,” Bill 24-160, the “Willie J. Hardy Memorial Bridge Designation Act of 2021,” Bill 24-214, the “Alice Washington Way Designation Act of 2021,” and Bill 24-336, the “Wiltberger East Alleys Designation Act of 2021.”

The stated purpose of Bill 24-11 is to symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W., in Ward 5 as *Alpha Phi Alpha 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 five total signs, totaling \$950.

The stated purpose of Bill 24-22 is to symbolically designate New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., between Virginia Avenue, N.W. and F Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as *Jamal Khashoggi Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires three total signs, totaling \$570.

The stated purpose of Bill 24-24 is to symbolically designate Virginia Avenue, N.W., between Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, N.W. and New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., in Ward 2, as *Ruth Bader Ginsburg Way*, and to allow a public space in the District to be named in honor of a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States who has been deceased for less than 2 years. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated street. Sufficient signage requires three total signs, totaling \$570.

The stated purpose of Bill 24-117 is to symbolically designate the 600 block of Division Avenue, N.E., in Ward 7, as *Armstead Barnett 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 24-145 is to officially re-designate the street known as Ellen Wilson Place, S.E., in Ward 6, as *Navy Place S.E.* For visualization

purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated street. Sufficient signage requires three total signs, totaling \$570.

The stated purpose of Bill 24-160 is to officially re-designate the bridge on Benning Road, N.E., located between 34th Street, N.E., and Minnesota Avenue, N.E., in Ward 7, as the *Willie J. Hardy Memorial Bridge*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat highlighting the designated bridge. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of Bill 24-214 is to symbolically designate the 2700 block of Sherman Avenue, N.W., in Ward 1, as *Alice Washington 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 24-336 is to symbolically designate the public alley system within Square 441, bounded by Wiltberger Street, N.W., T Street, N.W., T Street, N.W., Florida Avenue, N.W., 6th Street, N.W., and S Street, N.W. in Ward 6, as *Holzbeirlein Bakery Way*, *Joe and Mae Hurd All Sports Club Way*, and *Wiltberger Club House Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated alleys. Sufficient signage requires six total signs and 5 posts, totaling \$1,315.

Sufficient signage requires 26 total signs and 5 posts, totaling \$5,115.

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.

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee of the Whole Public Hearing
Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021
Statement for the Record, Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

First and foremost, I want to recognize that the decision before the Council to rename the street in front of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is strictly a local issue and should be decided by the Council. I have a long record of fighting for the right of the District and its residents to make their own decisions about how they wish to be governed, including defeating attacks on abortion rights and marijuana legalization in the District and of course decades spent championing DC Statehood.

Today, I provide testimony on the bill currently before the Council, Bill 24-22 the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021, because Jamal Khashoggi was my constituent. In fact, I had dinner with him just months before he was brutally murdered. I am committed to justice and representation for Jamal, and it is with that purpose that I join the Council's deliberations on this legislation.

In February of this year, more than two years after the cold-blooded murder of Washington Post journalist, and my constituent, Jamal Khashoggi, the Director of National Intelligence released a previously classified U.S. intelligence report. The report clearly stated: "We assess that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi." It concluded that "since 2017, the Crown Prince has had absolute control of the Kingdom's security and intelligence organizations, making it highly unlikely that Saudi officials would have carried out an operation of this nature without the Crown Prince's authorization."

We've always known, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman directed the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi. We also know that this operation is part of a broad and ongoing effort to use violence to intimidate and silence dissidents abroad. Furthermore, we know that some of the killers of Jamal Khashoggi were trained in the United States, demonstrating an overwhelming need for reforms to our current arms sales processes and increased accountability. And yet, despite all this, Crown Prince MBS and Saudi Arabia have generally been shielded from accountability, especially by the previous administration, signaling this kind of abhorrent behavior was somehow ok, inviting further atrocities.

That impunity can end with legislation like the bill before the Council today. And we have ongoing legislative efforts moving at the federal level that would do the same.

My bill, H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021, passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support earlier this year and is currently moving as part of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act is targeted and does four things, specifically:

- It limits arms exports to Saudi intelligence, internal security, or law enforcement entities if the President finds that Saudi Arabia has engaged in the following activities:
 - Forced repatriation, intimidation, or killing of dissidents in other countries;
 - The unjust imprisonment in Saudi Arabia of United States citizens or residents or the placing of travel restrictions on them or their family members;
 - And the torture of detainees in the custody of the Government of Saudi Arabia.
- It requires the closure of one or more Saudi diplomatic facilities if the President finds that Saudi Arabia is using diplomatic or consular personnel to harass or harm Saudi nationals in the United States.
- It requires a report on whether Saudi Arabia has been engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against individuals in the United States.
- And finally, it requires a report on whether the US intelligence community fulfilled its duty to warn Jamal Khashoggi of threats to his life.

This legislation has the support of dozens of human rights organizations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders, PEN America, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, Freedom Now, and many others.

When we turn a blind eye to human rights abuses, we embolden friend and foe alike to continue to engage in these horrific violations. We must end this “two-year pageant of impunity” and finally hold Saudi Arabia accountable for their treatment of dissidents and those who stand up for human rights and against autocratic repression. Jamal Khashoggi was not the only one to face the brutality of the Saudi regime and is not the only one who would benefit from the actions the Council and Congress are considering with respect to accountability for Saudi Arabia.

Please add my voice, as Jamal’s Congressman, to the chorus of support for the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021.

Bill 24-11, Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021



THE AREA SHOWN THUS



IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED AS ALPHA PHI ALPHA WAY



1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **November 16, 2021**

4
5 A BILL

6
7
8 24-11
9

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

15 To symbolically designate First Street, N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan
16 Avenue, N.W., as Alpha Phi Alpha Way.

17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
19 act may be cited as the “Alpha Phi Alpha Way Designation Act of 2021”.

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 First Street,
23 N.W., between Bryant Street, N.W. and Michigan Avenue, N.W as “Alpha Phi Alpha Way”.

24 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

28 Sec. 4. Effective date.

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