

**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 24-22, the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 24-22, the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On January 4, 2021, Bill 24-22, the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021” was introduced by Councilmember Pinto. This bill would symbolically designate New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as Jamal Khashoggi Way. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Through his journalism, Jamal Khashoggi was a fierce advocate for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. He was a Washington Post columnist and resident of the Washington metropolitan area. However, on October 2, 2018, he was brutally murdered by agents of the Government of Saudi Arabia in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, sparking worldwide outrage. The Saudi government continues has denied involvement. However United States intelligence assesses that the Crown Prince approved the operation to capture or kill Mr. Khashoggi.

Whenever journalism is under assault, freedom and democracy is under assault. Society cannot effectively function without a free and fair press. The District understands this all too well when, on January 6, 2021, extremist violence erupted at the United States Capitol, and it was journalists covering the events, shining a light on the perpetrators, some of whom also attacked the press. Targeting of journalists in our own city and country is unacceptable. Our values are anathema to this violence whether here at home or on distant shores.

By designating the street fronting of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia after Hamal Khashoggi, the District is creating a memorial in his honor that cannot be covered up or dismantled. Further, the designation serves as an opportunity for the Council, the representative body of our nation's dynamic and inclusive capitol city, to reaffirm support for democracy and freedom of the press, and to send a message of solidarity to those upholding those values around the world. The designation will further serve as a tribute to a fallen neighbor and as an expression of support by the residents of the District of Columbia for the indispensable values of free speech and a free and independent press.

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 24-22, “Jamal Khashoggi Way” is a symbolic street designation for New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F 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. Regarding Bill 24-22, the ANC was notified of the legislation by the Committee on October 4, 2021.

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).

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 names⁷

Conclusion

Symbolically designating New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W., as Jamal Khashoggi Way, will recognize the historic fraternity and its good works in the community. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends Council approval of Bill 24-22, the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 15, 2021 | Bill 24-22, the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021” is introduced by Councilmember Trayon White. |
| January 19, 2021 | Bill 24-22 is officially read at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee of the Whole and referred to the Committee of the Whole. |
| January 29, 2021 | Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 24-22 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| September 17, 2021 | Notice of a public hearing on Bill 24-22 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| November 3, 2021 | The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 24-22. |
| November 16, 2021 | The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 24-22. |

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 24-22. DDOT testified at the hearing that the cost of the signage contemplated in the bill is \$570. 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.

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 24-22 on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. The testimony is summarized below. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Karen Attiah, colleague from The Washington Post, testified in support of the proposed designation and her memories of Mr. Khassogi.

Raed Jarrar, Executive Director, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), testified in support of the proposed designation and spoke of Mr. Khashoggi's work to advocate for press freedom around the world.

William C. McCarren, Executive Director, National Press Club, testified in support of the proposed designation noting the importance of freedom of the press.

Nihad Awad, National Executive Director, Council on American-Islamic Relations, testified in support of the symbolic designation and described Mr. Khashoggi's values and contributions to human rights and freedom.

Sarah Leah Whitson, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), testified in support of the designation and emphasized the symbolic importance of the naming in front of the embassy.

Medea Benjamin, Founder, Code Pink, testified in support of the symbolic designation and described the work of her organization and others organizing vigils and protests to highlight the role of the Saudi government.

Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International, testified in support of the symbolic designation and discussed her investigation into Mr. Khashoggi's murder and the circumstances of his death.

David Barrows, Public Witness, testified in support of the symbolic designation and stated how the naming will remind the whole world that the purpose of embassies is to work for peaceful solutions.

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 United States Representative Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11) in support of the designation (attached).

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 24-22.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 24-22 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01⁸ 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

⁸ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

that is an official name.”⁹ Bill 24-22 symbolically designates New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W., as “Jamal Khashoggi Way.” Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 24-22.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Mr. Khashoggi was murdered on October 2, 2018.

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 \$570 (\$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation), the cost of Bill 24-22 can be absorbed, as noted in the November 15, 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 24-22.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W. as “Jamal Khashoggi 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

⁹ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹⁰ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

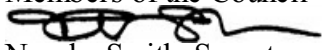
¹¹ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 24-22 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Map of Proposed Designation.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 24-22.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 24-22.
6. Committee Print for Bill 24-22.

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 : Friday, January 15, 2021
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, January 15, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021", B24-0022

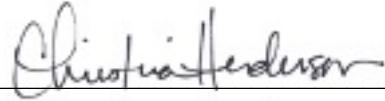
INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Pinto, Silverman, Nadeau, Allen, Henderson, Cheh, Gray, and Chairman Mendelson

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

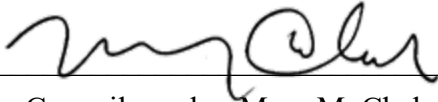
Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



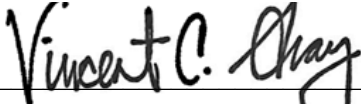
Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Elissa Silverman



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, 405, 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, 9-204.05, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., between F Street N.W. and Virginia Avenue, N.W., in Ward 2, as Jamal Khashoggi Way.

Sec. 3. Applicability.

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20 This act shall apply as of October 2, 2018.

21 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

25 Sec. 5. Effective date.

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



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 106
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

January 14, 2021

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, along with Chairman Phil Mendelson and Councilmembers Elissa Silverman, Christina Henderson, Brianne K. Nadeau, Mary M. Cheh, Charles Allen, and Vincent C. Gray, I am introducing the "Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021." Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation.

This legislation would symbolically designate New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as "Jamal Khashoggi Way". This portion of New Hampshire Avenue N.W. was chosen for the designation as the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, D.C. is located on this portion of New Hampshire Avenue N.W.

Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and resident of the Washington metropolitan area, was murdered by agents of the Government of Saudi Arabia in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2, 2018. His brutal murder sparked worldwide outrage, including here in the United States. The Central Intelligence Agency has concluded with high confidence that his murder was the result of a pre-planned and deliberate action, which was authorized and directed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

Through his journalism, Jamal Khashoggi was a fierce advocate for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. This designation of the street where Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia is located in Washington, D.C. will memorialize the life and memory of Jamal Khashoggi. The designation will further serve as a tribute to a fallen neighbor and as an expression of support by the residents of the District of Columbia for the indispensable values of free speech and a free and independent press.

When journalism is under assault, our freedom and democracy is under assault. We cannot function as a society without a free and fair press. Sadly, journalists who travel to dangerous places to cover the news are now targeted all over the world. Tragically, the events of January 6, 2021, have brought this concern home to us in Washington, DC. Indeed, in a statement on January 12, 2021, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Columbia Michael R. Sherwin was compelled to condemn violence against the media including assaults, threats, and property

damage while they were engaged in covering events unfolding at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. To now see this violence and targeting of journalists perpetrated in our own city and country is unacceptable. We must stand up to this violence and for our values.

Should you have any questions about this legislation, please contact my Legislative Director, Barry Weise, at bweise@dccouncil.us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BE PINTO". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Brooke Pinto

Written Testimony Submitted to the District of Columbia Council
Committee of the Whole
November 3rd, 2021

Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021

Khashoggi Way

Raed Jarrar

Advocacy Director
Democracy for the Arab World Now



Dear Chairman Mendelson and esteemed DC Councilmembers,

Thank you for convening this hearing today to discuss the honorary designation of the 600 block of New Hampshire Avenue NW to become Jamal Khashoggi Way. My name is Raed Jarrar, Advocacy Director of Democracy for the Arab World Now, and proud resident of Ward 1.

I'm joining you today with a simple ask: to vote yes on the designation of the 600 block of New Hampshire Avenue NW as Jamal Khashoggi Way.

I am a proud DC resident and a homeowner in Ward 1. I am also the Advocacy Director at Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), which is the organization that was founded by Jamal Khashoggi before he was murdered by agents of the Saudi government.

Jamal Khashoggi, a fellow resident of the DMV area, As a Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi criticized the militant strain of Islamist extremism and advocated democratic reforms as the most effective way to tackle terror, stop bloodshed and political violence in Arab countries. His advocacy and ideas drew the ire of the powers that be. In November 2016, the Saudi government banned Khashoggi from writing in newspapers, appearing on TV and attending conferences. Rather than remain silent, Khashoggi made the difficult decision to leave his country, moving to the United States in June 2017. As an exile, Khashoggi grew bolder in his criticism of the autocratic policies of the Saudi government and Crown Prince MBS. He also continued to champion democratic reforms for his country and for the entire Arab world.

In June 2018, just months before his murder, Khashoggi and a group of like-minded friends founded Democracy for the Arab World Now, or DAWN. Khashoggi's mission and DAWN's mission were one and the same — to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Arab world. Khashoggi had ambitious plans for the group. Khashoggi and the other founders developed a statement of principles committing DAWN to researching and exposing human rights abuses, advocating for democratic reforms and mobilizing Arab exiles by providing them a platform to debate democratic solutions to the region's problems. In the process, Khashoggi intended DAWN to become a leader in fostering and sustaining the hope of freedom in the Middle East and North Africa.

Khashoggi was murdered on October 2, 2018, before he could make DAWN into an effective voice for change in the Arab world. The organization remained mostly dormant in the wake of

his murder, but it would rise in the Spring 2020, when DAWN's Board of Trustees appointed a new Executive Director. The organization grew rapidly over the next several months.

A few years ago, I joined a petition started by other fellow residents of the DC area, calling on the DC Council to rename the street. The petition has almost 10,000 signatures now. I am including a link and a screenshot of the petition on page 4. I am also including a letter that DAWN helped organize last year asking the DC Council to vote yes on renaming the street. The letter, attached in page 5, is signed by two dozen international and local organizations, including Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Amnesty International, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Pen America, Reporters Without Borders, Article 19, Code Pink, Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Washington-Baltimore NewsGuild-CWA, Empower DC, One Common Unity, One DC, Foggy Bottom Citizens Organization, and others.

I respectfully request that both the petition and the organizational letter, attached here as pages 4 and 5 of my statement, are added to the record of this hearing.

A street name designation may seem like a trivial matter to some folks, but I believe that you all understand how this specific designation will have a profound impact at a local, national, and international level. I ask that the Committee take my remarks with deep consideration when voting to pass this Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Raed Jarrar
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)
Ward 1 Resident

Petition to DC Council


URL:

<https://www.change.org/p/rename-address-of-saudi-arabian-embassy-in-washington-into-jamal-khashoggi-way>

Petition Screenshot:

Rename address of Saudi Arabian Embassy in Washington into Jamal Khashoggi Way



 **Michael Werz** started this petition to Mayor Muriel Bowser

Washington Post contributor and Saudi Arabian dissident Jamal Khashoggi was murdered while visiting his home country's consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

We suggest renaming the street address of the Saudi Embassy (currently 601 New Hampshire Avenue in Washington DC) into Jamal Khashoggi Way to be a daily reminder to Saudi officials that such behavior is totally unacceptable and as an expression of Washington's unstinting support for freedom of the press.

Per rules of the DC Council, a person can have a public street or building named after them only after they have been deceased for two years or more. Given the principles at stake, we urge Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Council to make an exception in this case.

9,940 have signed. Let's get to 10,000!



At 10,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to get a reaction from the decision maker!



Raed Jarrar WASHINGTON, DC, Unit... 

I'm signing because... (optional)

Display my name and comment on this petition

 **Sign this petition**

Letter to the DC Council from International and DC Groups

We, the undersigned, support the campaign to rename the street in front of the Saudi Embassy (currently 601 New Hampshire) Jamal Khashoggi Way in honor of the Washington Post journalist who was brutally murdered at the Saudi Consulate in Turkey in 2018. This campaign began right after Khashoggi's death, with a [petition](#) signed by almost 10,000 people. It has also been supported by dozens of organizations.

Renaming the street after this distinguished and beloved journalist would be a daily reminder of our city's deep commitment to freedom of the press.

The required 2-year waiting period to rename a street in honor of a prominent deceased person will be up, in this case, on October 2. We would therefore be most appreciative if you could move on this matter right away so that we can pay tribute to this wonderful man and show our support for human rights and press freedom.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)
Human Rights Watch
Amnesty International
Committee to Protect Journalists
Pen America
Reporters Without Borders
Article 19
Code Pink
Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Washington-Baltimore NewsGuild-CWA
Empower DC
Metropolitan AMC
One Common Unity
One DC
Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED)
Win Without War
Freedom Forward
Foundry UMC
Dupont Circle Citizens Organization
Foggy Bottom Citizens Organization
Friends of MLK
James Foley Legacy Foundation
Just Foreign Policy
Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain

DC City Council Testimony For Jamal Khashoggi Way, Nov. 3, 2021

Mr. Chairman, Council Members, fellow citizens,

I am William C. McCarren and I am Executive Director of the National Press Club.

The Press Club is: the world's leading professional organization for journalists. It was formed in Washington DC in 1908 and has been in operation here ever since. We have nearly 3,000 members including journalists from every major news organization. In non-Covid times we employ more than 100 persons on a full-time basis and many more on a part time basis. The Press Club built the National Press Building in 1926. It stands as an important symbol of press freedom in the Capital City. The Club has long been an outspoken advocate for journalists in trouble and press freedom.

I support the proposal to name the street in question Jamal Khashoggi Way.

Mr. Khashoggi was the 2018 recipient of the National Press Club's John Aubuchon Award for Press Freedom. The Club recognized Mr. Khashoggi in the year of his death for the purpose of keeping a light on his case in the hope that there would ultimately be justice for him. We find this proposed action to be fulfilling a similar purpose. We think this sends the right signal at the right time. The recent announcement by the Nobel Committee that its famous Peace Prize would be given to two journalists underscores both the significance and value of journalists and journalism in a democratic society and the risks journalists face to do their jobs to help create an informed citizenry.

Journalism and truth are under assault as never before by repressive governments around the world. Mr. Khashoggi was murdered because of what he had written and what he might write in the future. This murder was planned, financed, carried out and covered up by the Government of Saudi Arabia as detailed in a report made public by the U.S. government in February 2021. The Saudi government, which occupies a significant and prominent Embassy here in Washington, should be reminded everyday that the world knows what they did and why and how and that such actions are intolerable and will not be forgotten. Changing the name of the street in question will be a constant reminder to the Embassy staff and all the people who visit them that residents of the District of Columbia want Justice for Jamal. We will not forget the ruthless crime planned and carried out and covered up by the Saudi Government.

This action will send a strong message to the diplomatic community in D.C. It will send a strong message across our city and across our country and indeed around the world. Those who love freedom, and a free press will take pictures of the street sign and share them on social media. Millions of people who will use this information to help understand what America and its capital city stand for: freedom and democracy; free expression and a free press. These are powerful and valuable symbols to a world eager to understand what America stands for now and a reminder -- should there be any question -- that the Star-Spangled Banner still waves over the land of the free.

I thank you for your time.

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Tele 202-488-8787 Fax 202-488-0833
E-mail: info@cair.com URL www.cair.com

November 3, 2021

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Submitted Written Testimony of CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad in Support of Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers:

My name is Nihad Awad and I am the National Executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and a friend of the late Jamal Khashoggi. I write in support of Bill 24-22, the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021, which would symbolically honor the memory and legacy of D.C. city resident, Washington Post columnist, free speech champion, and democracy activist Jamal Khashoggi, by designating New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as "Jamal Khashoggi Way."

I personally commend Councilmembers Brooke Pinto, Elissa Silverman, Charles Allen, Brianne Nadeau, Christina Henderson, Vincent Gray, Mary Cheh, and Chairman Mendelson for their co-sponsorship of this historic measure. I also thank the other Councilmembers that have voiced support for Bill 24-22.

For the past 27 years, CAIR, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, has been headquartered in Washington, D.C., situated two blocks from the United States Congress, employing some 30 staff members who reside in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland, and grown as a nationally recognized organization with more than 25 offices nationwide.

For 25 of those years, I personally knew Jamal Khashoggi and grew to call him a close friend. I watched him plant the seeds of what would become his legacy organization: Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), a nonprofit organization that promotes democracy, the rule of law, and human rights for all of the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Today, I serve as a board member of DAWN.

I personally know that Jamal Khashoggi loved working and living in Washington, D.C. That is why he chose D.C. as the city to establish DAWN's headquarters. From D.C., he believed that he could safely and securely promote the values of freedom and free press in the Middle East.

Like so many, I was personally shocked, saddened, and horrified by the brutal murder of Mr. Khashoggi by agents of the Government of Saudi Arabia in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2, 2018. This planned assassination of a D.C. resident was orchestrated by Saudi officials.

No one should ever have to suffer such a vicious murder, especially at the hands of their own government.

Yet, Mr. Khashoggi was murdered by agents of the government of Saudi Arabia for being an outspoken pro-democracy activist who believed in government transparency and accountability, as well as the fundamental human rights and freedom of all people, no matter which country they live in.

Although three years have passed since his murder, we, Jamal Khashoggi's friends, fellow rights activists, and neighbors have not forgotten him or the government of Saudi Arabia's crime.

While the U.S. government has acknowledged this horrendous crime, it has failed to take any appropriate action against Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman and the government of Saudi Arabia for this murder, and their continued patterns of abuse, harm, and restrictions on the political and religious freedom of its citizens.

That is why we continue to demand justice for Jamal Khashoggi.

By adopting the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021, the city of D.C. will honor Mr. Khashoggi's legacy as a resident of the city by symbolically renaming the street in front of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, as "Jamal Khashoggi Way." By making this designation, the government of Saudi Arabia will finally be held accountable.

By symbolically renaming this street the D.C. City Council will also be sending a powerful message to the world that Washington, D.C. honors the memory of Jamal Khashoggi forever.

Those who value the freedom of the press and the rights of journalist to speak and write freely will owe the D.C. City Council a great debt of gratitude -- should it adopt Bill 24-22 and memorialize our dear friend and neighbor Jamal Khashoggi.

Sincerely,

Nihad Awad
CAIR National Executive Director

November 3, 2021

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Testimony in Support of Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers:

I am a long-term DC resident and a homeowner in Ward 6, as well as the author of a book on Saudi Arabia and founder of the women-led peace group CODEPINK. Our organization has been a supporter of Saudi dissidents for many years, and an admirer of Jamal Khashoggi.

That is why, on behalf of my organization CODEPINK, I want to express our sincere gratitude to you and Councilmembers Brooke Pinto, Elissa Silverman, Charles Allen, Brianne Nadeau, Christina Henderson, Vincent Gray and Mary Cheh for your sponsorship of Bill 24-22, the Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021.

It is so important, in this nation's capital, to honor the memory and legacy of this Washington Post columnist, free speech champion, and democracy activist who believed in government accountability and the basic human rights of all people. It is so important, in this nation's capital, to show that although three years have passed since Jamal Khashoggi's murder, we have not forgotten him nor the heinous crime perpetrated by the government of Saudi Arabia.

Once we learned about Khashoggi's disappearance on October 2, 2018, CODEPINK, along with other human rights and peace groups, began organizing protests outside the Saudi Embassy in Washington DC to demand answers and express our outrage. We also organized many protests at the White House to condemn our government's cozy relationship with the repressive Saudi regime. President Trump bragged about his robust weapons sales to the Saudis—weapons used to perpetrate a catastrophic war in Yemen. Trump also bragged about having rehabilitated Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (known as MBS), who was shunned by global leaders after Khashoggi's murder. Unfortunately, although candidate Biden said the Crown Prince should be treated as a "pariah," President Biden failed to do so once in office, even after U.S. intelligence reports proved MBS's central role in this unforgivable crime.

While we continue to push for our government to recalibrate its relations with the repressive Saudi regime, it is inspiring to see the DC City Council raising its voice to take such a principled stand.

In one of his Washington Post columns, Khashogghi wrote, “I have left my home, my family and my job, and I am raising my voice. To do otherwise would betray those who languish in prison. We Saudis deserve better.”

By naming the street in front of the Saudi Embassy after Jamal Khashogghi, the great city of Washington DC not only honors his legacy but sends a message to the Saudi rulers that we, like Khashogghi, believe that the Saudi people deserve better. We are also sending a loud and clear message that this city stands up for journalists, for press freedom, for government accountability and for basic human decency.

Thank you for raising your voices for freedom—echoing the voice of our dear champion Jamal Khashogghi.

Sincerely,

Medea Benjamin, Cofounder, CODEPINK for Peace

G St NE, Washington DC 20002

Committee of the Whole's Hearing

November 3, 2021

Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021

Agnes Callamard,
Former Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings
Secretary General, Amnesty International

Distinguished Committee,

My name is Agnes Callamard. I was United Nations Special Rapporteur for extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings from 2016 to 2021. In that capacity, I led an investigation into the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, which concluded that Mr. Khashoggi had been extrajudicially killed by the State of Saudi Arabia, his body dismembered and disappeared, and that this State killing had been planned and premeditated. To date, those who ordered or instigated Jamal's killing have not been brought to justice, including the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Distinguished Committee,

Justice cannot be switched off. It has to be served.

And if we cannot satisfy justice today, we keep the lights on.

Because we cannot let darkness surround us all; for we will fall under its shadow.

Because confronted with the Grotesque violence of his assailants,

We do not turn our back on that which cannot be tolerated.

Because no one should get away with murder

We remember

Because no country should be able to buy their way out of accountability, no matter their influence and strategic relevance; no matter the nature of their friendships.

We demand

Because Justice for Jamal Khashoggi is Justice for Many others

We shine the light

Distinguished Committee,

Remembering Jamal means pushing political actors and institutions around the world out of their self-imposed paralysis.

Justice for Mr. Khashoggi means exposing the killers and all those that support, embolden or protect them and sustain a regime of impunity the world over

Prevention and Protection of journalists, anywhere in the world, is part of our action of memory for Jamal.

Remembering Jamal, we also remember and cry for far too many others

Executed for their critical reporting and independence of mind

Dear Committee,

By changing the name of the street outside of the Saudi Embassy to Jamal Khashoggi Way

You will insist that no one, not even as influential a State as Saudi Arabia can get away with murder,

With the Jamal Khashoggi Way,

You will raise awareness about the many dangers confronted by those, like Jamal, who dare stand up to those wanting complete obedience.

By adopting the Jamal Khashoggi Way,

you will contribute to delivering Justice for Jamal Khashoggi

At times, it may feel as if justice for Jamal and for many others like him hangs by a thread –

But that is the very thread from which human rights and freedom of the press are woven, and democratic revolutions won.

Many thanks

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: David Barrows [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: DC Bill 24-22 re: Jamal Khashoggi Way

By renaming the street adjacent to the Saudi Arabian Embassy the Jamal Khashoggi Way, we residents of the District of Columbia are forever registering our disapproval of a Saudi embassy being used to murder a journalist. Jamal Khashoggi was employed by a highly respected American newspaper. Embassies should be used to advance peace not act as centers for intensely criminal activity. And, even though we citizens here in DC have no voting representation in either house of Congress, we can still make this powerful gesture towards justice, a reminder to those criminals still served by this embassy, that their murder of a journalist serving our people will not go forgotten.

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.

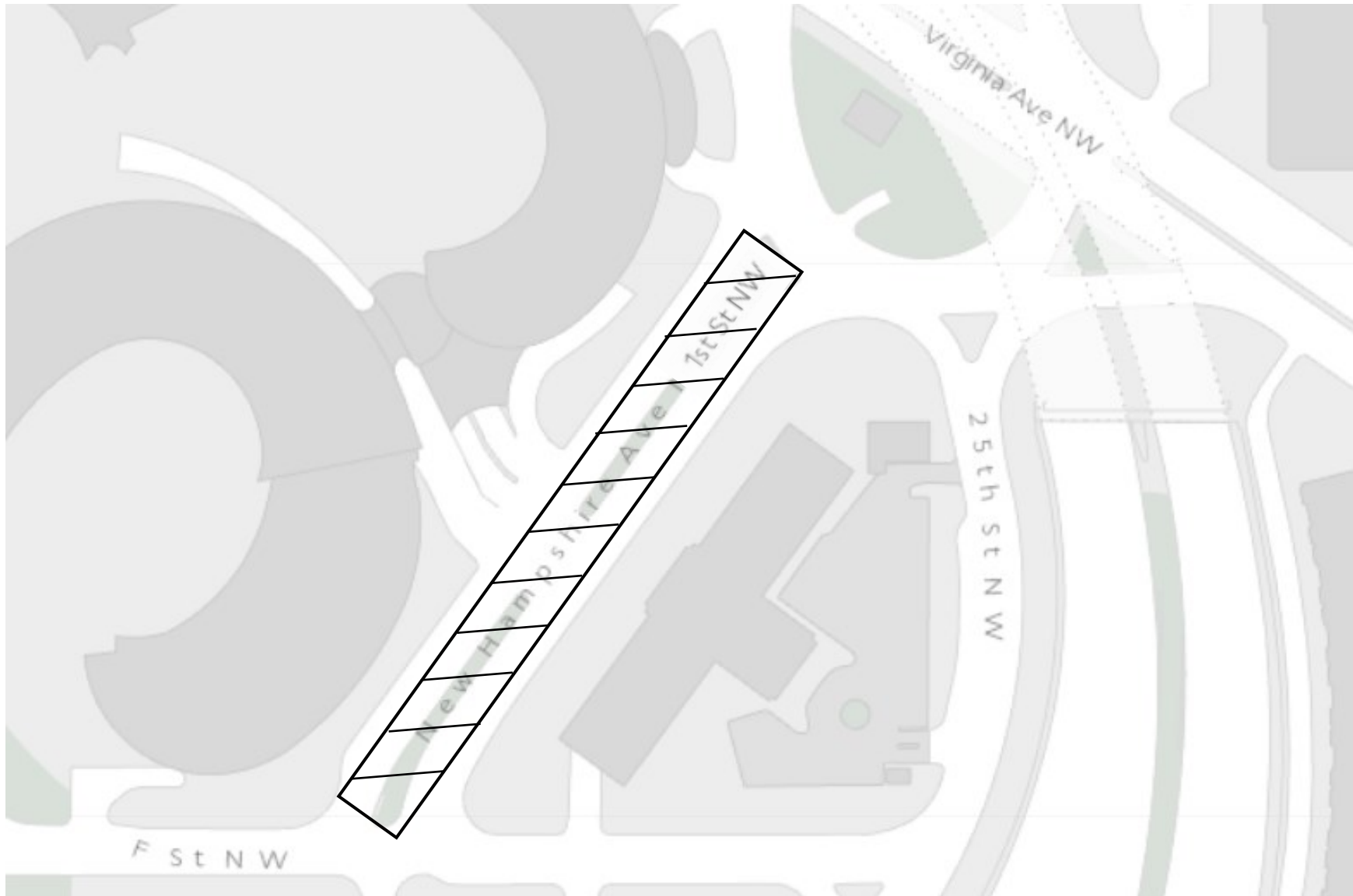
DDOT is able to absorb the costs of these signs within its current budget and does

not foresee any operational impact these designations would have on the District's transportation network.

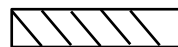
Therefore, the Administration has no objection to these designations, and DDOT stands ready to assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize as a result of these Bills being passed.

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.

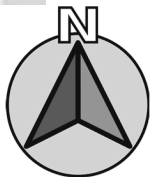
Bill 24-22, Jamal Khashoggi Way Designation Act of 2021



THE AREA SHOWN THUS



IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED AS JAMAL KHASHOGGI WAY



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

4
5 A BILL

6
7
8 24-22
9

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

15 To symbolically designate New Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F
16 Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as Jamal Khashoggi Way.

17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
19 act may be cited as the “Jamal Khashoggi 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 New
23 Hampshire Avenue N.W., between Virginia Avenue N.W. and F Street, N.W., as “Jamal
24 Khashoggi 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.