

**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: February 2, 2016

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 21-229, the “Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2016”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 21-229, the “Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On June 2, 2015, Bill 21-229, the “Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015,” was introduced by Councilmember David Grosso and co-sponsored by Councilmember Yvette Alexander to symbolically designate the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as Maverick Room Way.

The Maverick Room was a nightclub located at 2305 4th Street, N.E., just off of Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., that operated during the 1960’s and 70’s. The District’s own late godfather of go-go, Chuck Brown, has said that it was here where the many traditions of go-go music were developed. Traditions such as playing music the entire time on stage, rather than stopping between songs, and the development of the “call and response” style, are said to have been founded and fine-tuned at the Maverick Room.

Of course, the Maverick Room was only one of several go-go clubs in the District, along with Panorama Room, Black Hole, Breezy’s Metro Room, Disco Trés Chic, and Thumpers, but it had a tremendous impact on the popularity of go-go. It was at these clubs that people fell in love

with go-go's unique style gave rise to groups such as Chuck Brown and the Soul Searchers, Rare Essence, Little Benny and the Masters, Trouble Funk, Experience Unlimited, and Junkyard Band. These bands extended go-go's popularity outside of the District's borders nationwide, cementing a musical legacy that the District is proud to call their own.

Not only did the Maverick Room host hundreds of go-go performances over the years, but it has also inspired a book of poetry, sharing the same name as the club, written by native Washingtonian T.S. Ellis. Unfortunately, the Maverick Room and other go-go dance clubs that operated on this block have long since gone out of business, but their legacy still lives on. To preserve and honor this cherished history and their contribution to the District's cultural and musical scene, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 21-229, the "Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2016."

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

June 2, 2015	Bill 21-229, the "Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015" is introduced by Councilmember Grosso.
June 12, 2015	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 21-229 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
October 9, 2015	Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 21-229 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
November 19, 2015	A Public Hearing is held on Bill 21-229 by the Committee of the Whole.
February 2, 2016	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 21-229.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Alice Kelly, Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs Manager of the District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of Bill 21-229.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on Bill 21-229.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 21-229 on Thursday, November 19, 2015. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Sally Hobaugh, ANC 5E10 Commissioner, testified in opposition to the bill, stating that she did not feel there was adequate outreach to the community and the ANC for input.

Kip Lornell, Public Witness, testified in support of the bill, saying that Maverick Room and other clubs on the street helped start the go-go revolution.

Michelle Blackwell, Founder, Our CAPS, testified in support of the bill, saying that go-go music was a “very maverick form of music” while adding the ceremonial designation would be a fitting tribute to the club’s legacy to go-go.

Alice Kelly, Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs Manager, District Department of Transportation, testified that the Executive supports Bill 21-229.

The Committee also received a letter of support from Ron Moten. His letter is attached.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 21-229 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a authorizes the Council to designate a symbolic name for any public space, which is in addition, and subordinate, to any name that is the mailing address for the public space.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is an estimated \$38 per ceremonial sign for fabrication and \$144 for installation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of the Bill 21-229.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates the 2300 block of 4 th Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as “Maverick Room Way.”
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Chairman of the Council to transmit a copy of this act to the Director of the District Department of Transportation.
<u>Section 4</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 5</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 21-229 as introduced.
2. Written testimony.
3. Fiscal Impact Statement.
4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for Bill 21-229.

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 : June 03, 2015

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Legislative Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015", B21-0229

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Grosso

CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmember Alexander

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

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Councilmember David Grosso

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E., between Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., and Bryant Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as Maverick Room Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a 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 and 9-204.03a), the Council symbolically designates the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E., between Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., and Bryant Street, N.E., as “Maverick Room Way”.

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

The Chairman of the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Director of the District Department of Transportation.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,

approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 5. Effective date.

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

Maverick Room 11/19/15

I am speaking this morning as a member of GWU's music department who uses D.C. as a musical laboratory in three of my classes as well as the co-author of *The Beat!* & founder of the D.C. Vernacular Music Archive at GW, and one who has participated in the Go Go in the Schools program. And . . . as the father of two native Washingtonians.

Whether it is disagreements over what a bike lane in Shaw really means or whether we live in the District of Columbia, D.C. or simply the District,, words, phrases and symbols are powerful and important, particularly in our decreasingly and gentrified Chocolate City.

In 2015 its all but impossible for local go go artists to find venues in DC., a trend that began during the era of crack cocaine but that only accelerated in the 21st century. Just look at the contemporary perceived Mecca for black music performance in the District--U Street--and you will find that only The Howard Theater sometimes hosts go go performers.

The Maverick Room, along with the Black Hole, Breezy's Metro Room, and the Panorama Room was among the most significant spots for go go in the 1970s and 1980s. It was located in one of those moderately changing neighborhoods that will almost certainly be largely unrecognizable twenty years from today. The Maverick Room not only hosted hundreds of go go performances, it inspired a book of poetry of the same name, written by T.S. Ellis--a native Washingtonian, photographer, who taught most recently at Sarah Lawrence College and earlier this year won a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The Bill to create "Maverick Room Way" may be symbolic act but, as we all know so well, symbols are important.

Maverick Room 11/19/15

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3) In 2015 its all but impossible for local go go artists to find venues in DC., a trend that began during the era of crack cocaine but that only accelerated in the 21st century. Just look at the contemporary perceived Mecca for black music performance in the District--U Street--

4) The Maverick Room was, along with the Black Hole, Breezy's Metro Room, and the Panorama Room was among the one of the most significant spots for go go in the 1970s and 1980s.

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3) Whether it is disagreements over what a bike lane in Shaw really means or whether we live in the District of Columbia, D.C. or simply the District,, words, phrases and symbols are powerful and important, particularly in our decreasingly Chocolate City.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing:

Bill 21-134, Tip's Way Designation Act of 2015;
Bill 21-228, Fieldstone Lane Alley Designation Act of 2015;
Bill 21-229, Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015;
Bill 21-341, Carry's Way Designation Act of, 2015;
Bill 21-342, Guethler's Court Designation Act of 2015; and
B 21-421, Theodore "Ted" Williams Alley Designation Act of 2015

Testimony of
Alice Kelly
Manager

Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs
Office of the Director
District Department of Transportation

Before the

Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia

Thursday, November 19, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Room 412

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004



Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. I am Alice Kelly, Manager of the Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). I am here today to testify regarding Bill 21-134, Tip's Way Designation Act of 2015; Bill 21-228, Fieldstone Lane Alley Designation Act of 2015; Bill 21-229, Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015; Bill 21-341, Carry's Way Designation Act of, 2015; Bill 21-342, Guethler's Court Designation Act of 2015; and B 21-421, Theodore "Ted" Williams Alley Designation Act of 2015.

Bill 21-134, Tip's Way Designation Act of 2015 as currently proposed would designate the alleyway behind 7th Street, N.E., and 8th Street, N.E., and between A Street, N.E., and East Capitol Street, N.E., located in Ward 6, as Tip's Way in acknowledgment of Tip Tipton's dedication to the improvement of this alley.

Bill 21-228, Fieldstone Lane Alley Designation Act of 2015 as currently proposed would designate the alley that is entirely within Square 2258, running parallel to the 4600 block of Broad Branch Road N.W., located in Ward 3, as "Fieldstone Lane".

Bill 21-229, Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015 as currently proposed would symbolically designate the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E., between



Rhode Island, N.E. and Bryant Street, N.E., located in Ward 5, as “Maverick Room Way”.

Bill 21-341, Carry’s Way Designation Act of 2015, as currently proposed would designate the alleyway that runs north and south between D Street, S.E. and E Street, S.E., located in Ward 6, as Carry’s Way in recognition of the Carry Ice Cream Company, located on this site in the 1900’s.

Bill 21-342, Guethler’s Court Designation Act of 2015, as currently proposed would designate the alleyway that runs east and west, perpendicular to the north-south alley that runs between D Street, S.E. and E Street, S.E. in Ward 6 as Guethler’s Court, named for John E. Guether, who owned and operated a brewery on this site in the late 1800s.

B 21-421, Theodore “Ted” Williams Alley Designation Act of 2015, as currently proposed would designate the alley bounded by Irving Street, N.W., and Columbia Road, N.W., and 11th Street, N.W., and Sherman Avenue, N.W. in Ward 1, as Theodore “Ted” Williams Alley.

DDOT does not foresee any operational impact that these designations would have on the District-wide transportation network. Therefore, DDOT supports each of these symbolic designations and the department 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 enacted.



This concludes my testimony. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today and I am available to answer any questions that you may have.



Testimony By Ronald Moten: D.C. M.U.S.I.C.
November 11, 2015.

Supporting Maverick Room Way

Movement Uplifting Safe Independent Communities is a organization comprised of local musicians, networks tied to the entertainment industry, patrons and community activist. Our mission is to preserve our music, culture and history and use it as a vehicle to educate and unite what has become a very devise city.

Our members have made sincere effort to help our community like helping produce recent video's to encourage youth not to use K-2, using our music and venues similar to the maverick room to broker truces or producing songs like "Bang No More," by Rare Essence, "Stop The Violence In The Streets," by CCB and "Cease fire Don't Smoke The Brothers" by the Backyard Band. Our Members have partnered with me to produce several Annual Go-Go Awards & Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies where one highlight was when we inducted Chuck Brown, the Godfather and creator of Go-Go Music into the Go-Go Hall of Fame in front of 4,000 people while he was still here with us.

I would like to thank Councilman David Grosso and those on the city council who have supported our music and culture. It's vital for legislators to understand the importance of preserving our history and culture as the city is changing faster than a world-class athlete on steroids.

I was happy to see the historical Anacostia Trail and it made me take this legislation more serious because it showed the history before Black people were allowed East of The River known as Anacostia. What Mr. Grosso is doing in my eyes is showing the other side of history when blacks were allowed to buy property on this side of the river at time when many stand to get pushed out. This legislation starts the process to makes us all whole and transparent regarding preserving history in the Nations Capitol. Our children deserve to know this history and those who make D.C. their new home should know this history

I understand the concerns of a few who might not understand the history of the Maverick Room, which was a favorite spot of the Godfather of Go-Go Chuck Brown. Therefore, they followed the unfair narrative that has always been associated with the Go-Go Music and it's historical venues as being violent infested institutions which is like following the narrative that black men don't go to college or want to work. If we would have continued to follow that narrative today there would be no revival of the Howard Theatre of awareness of Go-Go's Music history on U Street. There would be no Little Benny Way next to the Masonic Temple or Streets named after Chuck Brown as you drive along the Howard Theater where Go-Go Band perform at peaceful concerts on a regular basis.

We can never say enough about the venues that helped D.C.'s underground industry who helped our economy thrive when nobody wanted to be here. Natives know go-go music industry kept businesses like Ben's Chili Bowl and Oh's and Ah's going and it help other business thrive along with thousands urban entrepreneur's such as including musicians, sound technicians, managers, security companies, producers, PA tape and CD producers, studios, print companies, promotion teams and violence and allowed many people with a special skill and love for our homegrown music to live well in Washington, DC. If something does happen lets understand venues and music don't start violence

If we were to fast forward 50 years and the new H Street were to transform again, it would not be remembered by the few people who get drunk and fight or urinate in the public on H Street! It would be remembered as a vibrant and diverse community where people socialized and ate great food. We must do the same for this particular venue and culture that will always be the heart of our city.

This is our history and it must be told as we ask this council not to allow it to be hidden in the shuffle of the new DC. Diversity and culture is what makes this city great, lets preserve it. We look forward to working with the council and sharing some of our initiatives we are planning to preserve our history culture and music by exposing it to the world.

Lastly I say don't let it stop here as I propose that the Barry Farms Rec Center should be named after Buggs from the Junkyard Band where they were born and raised and when we remove the name of the documented racist Frank Ballou from Ballou High School, if we decide not to name it after Marion Barry, I say name It after Chuck Brown since all of his students and mentee's like Sugar Bear of E.U, Jas Funk Funk of Rare Essence and Buggs of JunkYard attened this historic school with most of them being brought together by the Mighty Majestic Ballou Knights Marching Band.

Once again thank you for your time and courage to introduce such legislation because this means a lot to the people I represent and they will be made aware of all you who support this and make it happen as we can't thank you all enough and if my testimony is not enough please read the book " The Death of Chocolate City" by Natalie Hopkinson who was a former writer for the Washington post and is a fellow with Interactivity Foundation.


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: December 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015

REFERENCE: Bill 21-229, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on December 3, 2015

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Implementation of the bill will cost approximately \$290 in fiscal year 2016.

Background

The bill symbolically designates the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E. (located between Adams Street, N.E. and Bryant Street, N.E.) as Maverick Room Way. The Maverick Room was located at 2305 4th Street, N.E. and is known as one of the District's musical venues that helped develop go-go music.¹

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2019 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The ceremonial designation of Maverick Room Way requires two installed signs. The sign installations cost approximately \$290, which the District Department of Transportation can absorb within its existing resources.

¹ Maverick Room Go-Go Heritage Recognition Resolution of 2015, effective June 2, 2015 (ACR 21-60; 62 DCR 11062).



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 4
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 724-8026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Ellen Efros, General Counsel *EAE*

DATE: December 11, 2015

RE: Legal sufficiency determination for Bill 21-229, the
Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2015

The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed bill would designate symbolically the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E. between Adams Street, N.E., and Bryant Street, N.E., as "Maverick Room Way," pursuant to sections 401 and 403a, and notwithstanding sections 407 and 408, of the Street and Alley Closing Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, 9-204.07, and 9-204.08).

I am available if you have any questions.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**

2 Committee of the Whole

3 February 2, 2016

10 A BILL

13 21-229

16 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

18 _____
19
20 To symbolically designate the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E., between Adams Street, N.E., and
21 Bryant Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as Maverick Room Way.
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
24 act may be cited as the “Maverick Room Way Designation Act of 2016”.

25 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition
26 Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-
27 204.01 and 9-204.03a) (“Act”), and notwithstanding the requirements of sections 407 and 408
28 (D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.07 and 9-204. 08), of the Act, the Council symbolically designates
29 the 2300 block of 4th Street, N.E., between Adams Street, N.E., and Bryant Street, N.E., as
30 “Maverick Room Way”.

31 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

32 The Chairman of the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effectiveness, to
33 the Director of the District Department of Transportation.

34 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

38 Sec. 5. Effective date.

39 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
40 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
41 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
42 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
43 Columbia Register.