

**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: September 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 25-174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 25-174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On February 28, 2023, Bill 25-174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023” was introduced by Councilmember Zachary Parker. This bill would symbolically designate N Street, N.W. between Kirby Street, N.W. and 1st Street, N.W. as Rayford Logan Way. The location is in Ward 5. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Rayford Logan was born on January 7, 1897 in the District. He attended Williams College on a scholarship and graduated in 1917. He joined the United States Army during the first World War where he served as a lieutenant in the 93rd Infantry Division in France. After the war ended, he stayed in France and absorbed its culture and language and went on to co-ordinate the Pan-African conference in Paris in 1921 working closely with W.E.B. Du Bois. The Pan-African conference was a movement that advocated for racial equality, an end to colonial abuses in Africa, and full civil rights for African Americans. It is considered an important precursor to the U.S. civil rights movement. He returned to the United States and taught at Virginia Union University.

In 1930, Mr. Logan went on a fact-finding mission to Haiti to examine education outcomes on the island that was at the time occupied by the United States. He documented his findings in the *Journal of Negro History* – namely that education was not improving in large part due to the installation of Southern white Marines as country administrators bringing their Jim Crow views to the country. That year he also began his graduate studies at Harvard University, earning his Masters degree in 1932 followed by a Ph.D. in 1936. He went on to be a professor at Howard University until 1965. In 1932, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Mr. Logan to his “Black Cabinet” – a group of over 40 African Americans advising the President and working in Federal agencies. Logan drafted Roosevelt’s executive order prohibiting exclusion of African Americans from the military during World War II. He went on to be the Director of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and was the 15th General President of Alpha Phi Alpha.

During most of his time in the District, Logan resided in the Brookland neighborhood on the street of designation proposed in this bill. His home is a site on the District’s African American Heritage Trail.

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 25-174, “Rayford Logan Way” is a symbolic designation of N Street, N.W. between Kirby Street, N.W. and 1st 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.

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 names.⁷

Symbolically designating the street where Mr. Logan used to reside will be a fitting tribute to his legacy and will provide a prominent memorial to his contributions to the United States and worldwide. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends Council approval of Bill 25-174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| February 28, 2023 | Bill 25-174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023” is introduced by Councilmember Zachary Parker. |
| March 7, 2023 | Bill 25-174 is officially read at a Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official. |
| March 10, 2023 | Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 25-174 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| June 23, 2023 | Notice of a public hearing on Bill 25-174 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| July 13, 2023 | The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 25-174. |
| September 19, 2023 | The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 25-174. |

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Brant Miller, Interim Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the symbolic street naming of a portion of N Street, N.W. after Rayford Logan. His testimony is attached.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills, including Bill 25-174 on Thursday, July 13, 2023. The testimony summarized below pertains Bill 25-174.

Harry Thomas, Jr., Public Witness, testified in support of the designation.

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

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 25-174.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 25-174 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 that is an official name.”⁹ Bill 25-174 symbolically designates N Street, N.W. between Kirby Street, N.W. and 1st Street, N.W. as Rayford Logan Way. Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 25-174.¹⁰ 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. Logan passed away on November 4, 1982.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to the September X, 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement of the Chief Financial Officer, funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Because the cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is estimated at \$380 (\$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation for four signs), the cost of Bill 25-174 can be absorbed.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 States the short title of Bill 25-174.

Section 2 Symbolically designates N Street, N.W. between Kirby Street, N.W. and 1st Street, N.W. as Rayford Logan Way.

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

⁹ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹⁰ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹¹ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.

Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

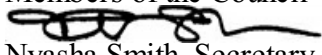
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 25-174 as introduced.
2. Testimony for Bill 25-174.
3. Map of Proposed Designation.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 25-174.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 25-174.
6. Committee Print for Bill 25-174.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Monday, March 6, 2023
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023", B25-0174

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Parker

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

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 102
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

ZACHARY PARKER
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Facilities and Family Services
Health
Hospital and Health Equity
Housing
Transportation and the Environment

February 28, 2023

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the **Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023**. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation. This bill will symbolically designate the 100 block of N Street NW in Ward 5 in honor of Rayford Logan, African American historian, 15th General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and first lieutenant in the all-Black 93rd Infantry Division during World War I.

At the end of the war, Rayford Logan remained in France and went on to partner with W.E.B. Dubois to coordinate the second Pan African Congress. He returned to the United States in the 1920s and began teaching at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. As an activist, Rayford Logan called for ending colonial European abuse of Africans, and organized for African American civil rights. Rayford Logan later became the NAACP's consultant on colonial affairs. He also helped organize voter registration drives and citizenship schools during the 1920s and 1930s, pioneering a program to teach Black southerners how to resist white intimidation at the polls.

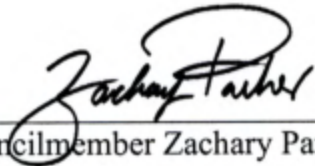
Rayford Logan graduated from Harvard with his Ph.D. in 1936 and was involved with Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and Dubois' efforts to organize Pan African Congress meetings around the globe. He taught at Howard University from 1938 until 1965 and went on to serve as an emeritus professor until 1982.

Rayford Logan was a proud graduate of the former M Street High School (now Dunbar High School), which is located on the street this bill seeks to symbolically designate. I submit this bill in an effort to help preserve the District's history and acknowledge the contributions of notable residents such as Rayford Logan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Parker".

Zachary Parker
Ward 5 Councilmember


Councilmember Zachary Parker

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5 A BILL
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9 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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13 To symbolically designate the 100 Block of N Street, N.W., in Ward 5, as Rayford Logan Way.
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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
16 act may be cited as the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”.

17 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and
18 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
19 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 100 Block
20 of N Street, N.W., in Ward 5, as “Rayford Logan Way.”

21 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

25 Sec. 4. Effective date.

26 This act shall take effect after 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.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on
B25-0171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0172, the “William R. Spaulding Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0173, the “Sterling A. Brown Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0175, the “John Mercer Langston Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0176, the “Edna Brown Coleman Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0177, the “Julius Hobson Sr. Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0178, the “Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way Act of 2023”
B25-0193, the “Jeanette A. Michael Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-0235, the “Catlett Alley Designation Act of 2023”
B25-246, the “Amigos Park Designation Act of 2023”
B25-316, the “Gordon Way Designation Act of 2023”

Testimony of
Brant Miller
Interim Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
District Department of Transportation

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

Thursday, July 13, 2023
11:30 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 Brant Miller, Interim 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 the following ten symbolic street renaming bills, one official street naming bill and a bill officially naming an area of the public right-of-way:

- B25-0171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0172, the “William R. Spaulding Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0173, the “Sterling A. Brown Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0175, the “John Mercer Langston Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0176, “Edna Brown Coleman Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0177, “Julius Hobson Sr. Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0178, “Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way Act of 2023”
- B25-0193, “Jeanette A. Michael Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0235, “Catlett Alley Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-246, “Amigos Park Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-316, “Gordon Way Designation Act of 2023”

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-171** is to *symbolically* designate the 1900 Block of Gallaudet Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as *Alexander Crummell Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1900 block of Gallaudet Street, N.E. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190

(\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-172** is to *symbolically* designate the 1900 though 2200 Blocks of Randolph Street, N.E. in Ward 5 as *William R. Spaulding Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1900 though 2200 blocks of Randolph Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires seven total signs, totaling \$1,330.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-173** is to *symbolically* designate the 1200 Block of Kearny Street N.E. in Ward 5 as *Sterling A. Brown Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1200 block of Kearny Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-174** is to *symbolically* designate the 100 Block of N Street, N.W., in Ward 5, as *Rayford Logan Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 100 block of N Street, N.W. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-175** is to *symbolically* designate the 800 Block of 26th Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as *John Mercer Langston Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map

highlighting the 800 block of 26th Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-176** is to *symbolically* designate the 1400 Block of Morse Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as *Edna Brown Coleman Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1400 block of Morse Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-177** is to *symbolically* designate the 4600 through 4800 Blocks of Queens Chapel Terrace Road, N.E., in Ward 5, as *Julius Hobson Sr. Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 4600 through 4800 blocks of Queens Chapel Terrace Road, N.E. Sufficient signage requires six total signs, totaling \$1,140.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-178** is to *symbolically* designate the 1800 Block of 2nd Street, N.W., in Ward 5, as *Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1800 block of 2nd Street, N.W. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-193** is to *symbolically* designate the 1900 through 2200 Blocks of G Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as *Jeanette A. Michael Way*. For

visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1900 through 2200 Blocks of G Street, N.W.

Sufficient signage requires eight total signs, totaling \$1,520.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-235** is to *officially* designate the public alley system within Square 3015, bounded by Georgia Ave, N.W., Crittenden Street N.W., 9th Street, N.W., and Buchanan Street, N.W., in Ward 4, as *Catlett Alley N.W.* For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated alley system. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed pole is \$270. Sufficient signage requires four total signs and four poles, totaling \$1,840.

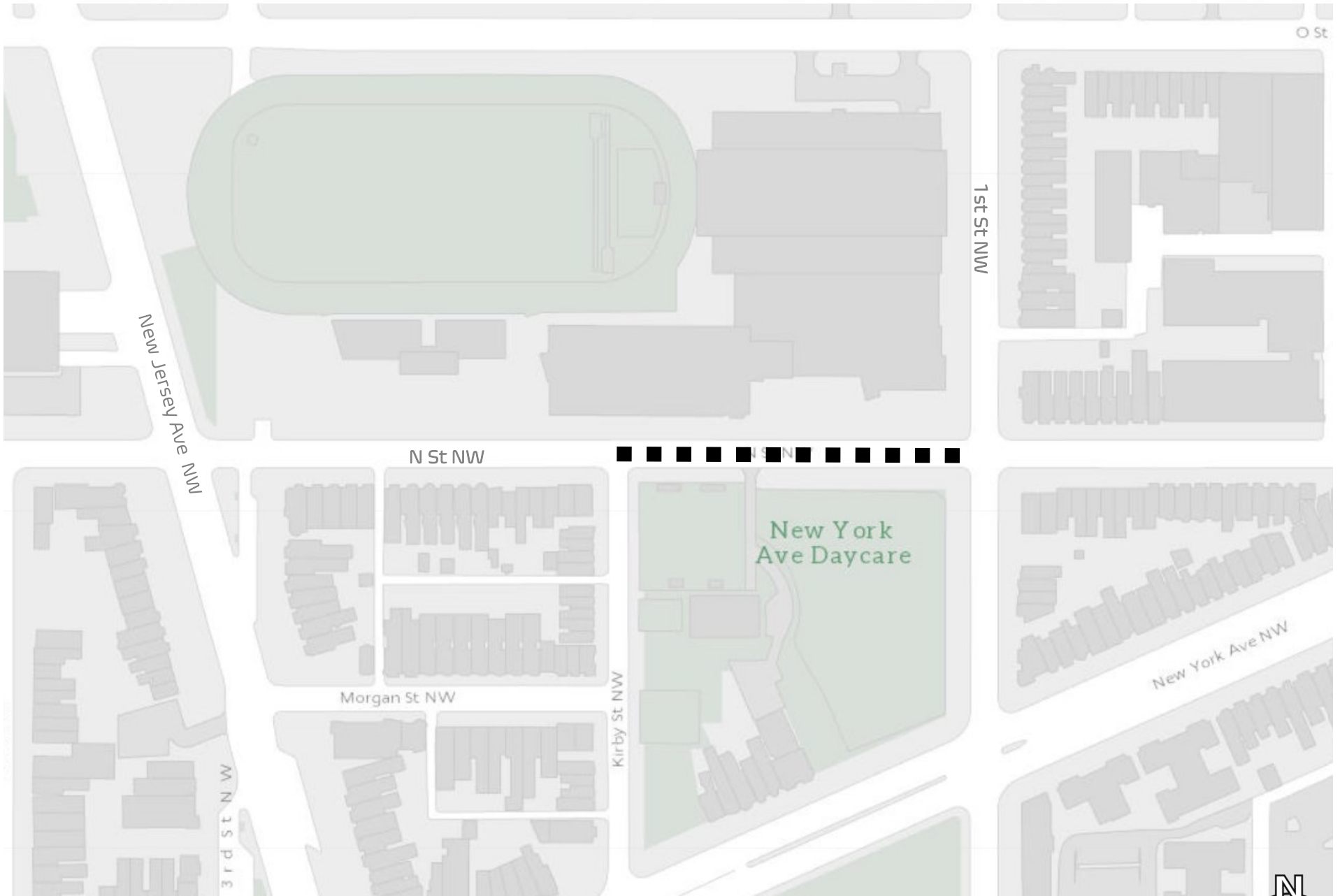
The stated purpose of **Bill 25-246** is to designate the public right-of-way abutting Square 2596, Lot 1057, at the northwest corner of Mount Pleasant Street, N.W., and Kenyon Street, N.W., as *Amigos Park*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated public right-of-way.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-316** is to *symbolically* designate the public alley system within Square 242, bounded by 14th Street N.W., Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Logan Circle N.W., Vermont Avenue N.W., and N Street N.W. as *Gordon Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated alley system. Sufficient signage requires three total signs and three poles, totaling \$1,380.

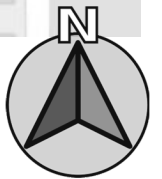
DDOT can absorb the costs of these signs and poles within its current budget and does not foresee any operational impact that these official and symbolic namings would have on the District's transportation network. Therefore, the Administration has no objection to these street, alley and public space namings. 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.

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

Bill 25-174, Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023



THE AREA SHOWN THUS ■ ■ ■ ■ IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED AS RAYFORD LOGAN WAY



1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **September 19, 2023**

4
5 A BILL

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7
8 25-174
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
13 _____
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15 To symbolically designate N Street, N.W. between Kirby Street, N.W. and 1st Street, N.W., as
16 Rayford Logan Way.

17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
19 act may be cited as the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”.

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 N Street,
23 N.W. between Kirby Street, N.W. and 1st Street, N.W., as “Rayford Logan 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.