

**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: July 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 26-280, the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 26-280, the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

Bill 26-280, the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025” was introduced on June 13, 2025 by Chairman Phil Mendelson. This bill would symbolically designate Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., as “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way.” The location is in Ward 8. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Judy Talbert was born in the District on September 6, 1945. She attended Howard University and later the Washington Bible College. Rev. Dr. Talbert was the Pastor of the Faith Tabernacle of Prayer in Southeast, a role she began serving in in 1959. She was a pioneering preacher and community leader dedicating her time to helping at-risk populations including the homeless, returning citizens, and persons living with HIV and AIDS. She was a co-chair of the governing Ecclesiastical Board of the Tabernacle of Prayer.

Rev. Dr. Talbert suffered personal tragedy in 1994 as her 22 year son was diagnosed with an enlarged heart, 22 years after his father had died as a result of a similar ailment. Working as a mother and a pastor, she strived for divine intervention, but also medical solution as she worked to find an effective treatment for his ailment. Unfortunately, Joseph, Jr. passed away before he could receive treatment. Rev. Dr. Talbert would become and advocate for those needing transplants in the years after.

Rev. Dr. Talbert was also an advocate on a number of other fronts, serving as Executive Director of the Reintegrating Alternatives Personal Program, a nonprofit reentry organization focusing on outreach to families affected by incarceration of loved ones. She also founded the Feed and Lead Program which provided weekly food and clothing to needy families and shelters throughout the Washington area. Rev. Dr. Talbert also directed a Fatherhood Initiative program that counseled custodial and non-custodial parents throughout the District. She served as President of the Joe Arthur Talbert, Jr. Foundation founded in memory of her son, to promote organ donor awareness and provide scholarships for young people to further their education. She was a member of Mayor Tony Williams's Faith Advisory Council and served on Presidential Prayer Breakfast Committee for President Clinton. She also served as a member of President Obama's National African American Clergy Network. Rev. Dr. Talbert passed away on August 19, 2018.

Rev. Dr. Talbert was an integral part of the Faith Tabernacle of Prayer which is located along Alabama Avenue between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., the street proposed for designation. This symbolic designation as "Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way" is a fitting way to honor her legacy of leadership in both the church and in the community.

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

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).

“Plaza.”⁶ As established by Bill 26-280, “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way” is a symbolic designation of Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E.,

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. Notice of the hearing was filed with the Secretary to the Council on November 20, 2024 and published in the D.C. Register on November 29, 2024.⁷

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.⁸

Symbolically designating Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E. “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way” will be a fitting tribute. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends Council approval of Bill 26-2801, the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

July 12, 2024	Bill 25-876, the “Reverend Dr. Judy Talbert Street Designation Act of 2024” is introduced by Councilmember Trayon White.
November 29, 2024	Notice of a public hearing on Bill 25-876 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
December 19, 2024	The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 26-876.
June 24, 2025	Bill 26-280, the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
June 17, 2025	Bill 26-280 is officially “read” at regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
June 20, 2025	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 26-280 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
July 1, 2025	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 26-280.

⁶ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

⁷ The hearing was on Bill 25-1036. Bill 26-280 is identical to Bill 25-1036.

⁸ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

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 has “no objection” to the naming of this alley. His testimony is attached.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on Bill 26-280.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills, including Bill 25-923 on Thursday, December 19, 2024. The testimony summarized below pertains Bill 25-876 (which was reintroduced as Bill 26-280). Pursuant to Council Rule 501(a)(2), a separate hearing shall not be required when a hearing on the same or a similar bill was held in the immediately preceding Council Period.

Brant Miller, 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 either Bill 25-876 or Bill 26-280.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 26-280 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01⁹ authorizes the Council to name any public space. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(a) authorizes the Council to designate a symbolic name for an alley “that shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.”¹⁰ Bill 26-280 symbolically designates Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., as Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way. Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 26-280.¹¹ Lastly, the Act provides that, with limited exception, no public space shall be named in honor of any living person or in honor of any person who has been deceased less than two years.¹² Rev. Dr. Talbert passed away in 2018.

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

¹⁰ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹¹ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹² See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to the June 30, 2025 Fiscal Impact Statement of the Chief Financial Officer, funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2028 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Because the cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is estimated at \$380 for installation of two signs, the cost of Bill 26-280 can be absorbed.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

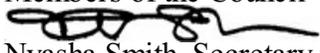
<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 26-280.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., as Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way.
<u>Section 3</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 4</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 26-280 as introduced.
2. Testimony for Bill 26-280.
3. Map of Proposed Designation.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 26-280.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 26-280.
6. Committee Print for Bill 26-280.

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, June 13, 2025
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, June 13, 2025. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025", B26-0280

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

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

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Chairman Phil Mendelson

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., as Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, 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, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., as “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way”.

Sec. 3. 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. 4. 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) and a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)).

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on

Bill 25-852, East River Alley Designation Act of 2024
Bill 25-876, Dr. Judy Talbert Street Designation Act of 2024
Bill 25-923, Louise B. Miller Designation Act of 2024
Bill 25-931, Rev. A. Knighton Stanley Way Designation Act of 2024
Bill 25-1036, Girl Scouts' Way Designation Act of 2024
Bill 25-1037, DC Legendary Musicians Way Designation Act of 2024
Bill 25-1002, Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley and Dedication of Land for
Alley Purposes in Square 756, S.O. 24-00310, Act of 2024

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

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

Thursday, December 19, 2024
11:00 a.m.

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
Hearing Room 412 (Track B)

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff, and District residents. My name is Brant Miller, Manager of Policy and Legislative Affairs 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 Sharon Kershbaum regarding the following four (4) symbolic street naming bills, two (2) official street naming bills and one (1) bill to close a portion of a public alley and dedicate land for alley purposes:

- Bill 25-852, East River Alley Designation Act of 2024
- Bill 25-876, Dr. Judy Talbert Street Designation Act of 2024
- Bill 25-923, Louise B. Miller Designation Act of 2024
- Bill 25-931, Rev. A. Knighton Stanley Way Designation Act of 2024
- Bill 25-1036, Girl Scouts' Way Designation Act of 2024
- Bill 25-1037, DC Legendary Musicians Way Designation Act of 2024
- Bill 25-1002, Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley and Dedication of Land for Alley Purposes in Square 756, S.O. 24-00310, Act of 2024

The stated purpose of [Bill 25-852](#) is to *officially* designate the public alley system in Square 5755, Lots 830 and 841, located at 1655-1659 W Street, SE, between W Street SE and Galen Street, SE, in Ward 8, as “*East River Alley*.” For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated alley system. DDOT notes that in addition to new signage, this newly designated alley system will require new poles. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication

and \$125 for sign installation), and \$270 for each new pole installed. Sufficient signage requires one (1) total sign and one (1) pole, totaling \$460.

DDOT understands the stated purpose of [Bill 25-876](#) to be to *symbolically* designate 2465 Alabama Avenue, S.E., between Gainesville Street, S.E. and Hartford Street, S.E., as “Reverend Dr. Judy Talbert Street”. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the relevant block of Alabama Avenue. Sufficient signage requires two (2) signs totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of [Bill 23-923](#) is to *symbolically* designate T Street, N.W., between 12th Street, N.W., and 13th Street, N.W., as “Louise B. Miller Way”. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the relevant portion of T Street. Sufficient signage requires two (2) signs totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of [Bill 25-931](#) is to *symbolically* designate Iowa Avenue, N.W., between Arkansas Avenue, N.W., and 13th Street, N.W., in Ward 4, as “Rev. A. Knighton Stanley Way Designation Act of 2024”. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the relevant portion of Iowa Avenue. Sufficient signage requires two (2) signs totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of [Bill 25-1036](#) is to *symbolically* designate the 3000 Block of Veazey Terrace, N.W., in Ward 3, as “Girl Scouts’ Way”. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 3000 block of Veazey Terrace. Sufficient signage requires one (1) sign totaling \$190.

The stated purpose of [Bill 25-1037](#) is to *officially* designate the north-south public alley within Square 441 bounded by 7th Street, N.W., T Street, N.W., Wiltberger Street, N.W.; and S Street, N.W., as “DC Legendary Musicians Way”. I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated alley system. Sufficient signage requires two (2) total signs and two (2) poles, totaling \$920.

The total cost for sufficient signage (including polls) for these bills is \$2,490. DDOT can absorb the costs of these signs and poles within its current budget and does not foresee any operational impact on the District’s transportation network. Therefore, the Administration has no objection to these street and alley 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.

Lastly, the stated purpose of [Bill 25-1002](#) is to provide for the closing of a portion of a public alley and dedicate land for alley purposes. The applicant seeks to close an existing 270 square-foot portion of public alley that connects 2nd Street

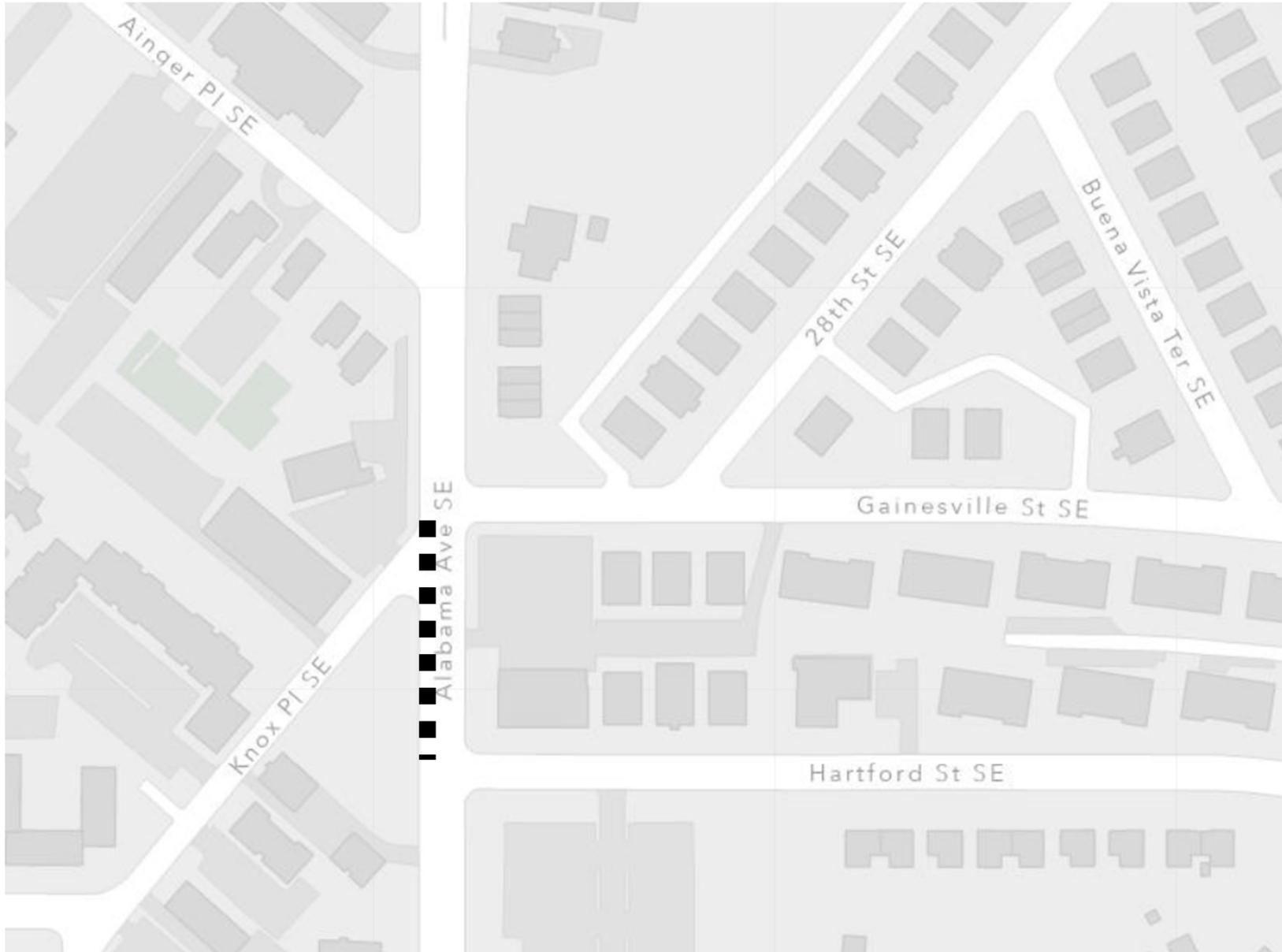
NE to 3rd Street NE and dedicate 105 square feet of new right-of-way (ROW) to the District in Square 756. As outlined in the Surveyor's Order report filed by DDOT with the DC Surveyor on October 10, 2024, the agency supports the dedication and closure, but objects to recordation of the plat until the applicant:

- Paves the dedication area to DDOT standard for either concrete or brick, and;
- Compensates DDOT in the amount of \$9,881.00 for the streetlighting facilities in the existing alley network.

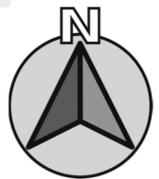
In a letter addressed to DDOT dated December 16, 2024, the applicant accepted these conditions.

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

Bill 26-280, Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025



THE AREA SHOWN THUS ■ ■ ■ ■ IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED AS REV. DR. JUDY TALBERT WAY



1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **July 1, 2025**
4
5

6 **A BILL**
7

8
9 26-280
10

11
12 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
13
14
15

16 To symbolically designate Alabama Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville
17 Street, S.E., as Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way.
18

19 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this
20 act may be cited as the “Rev. Dr. Judy Talbert Way Designation Act of 2025”.

21 **Sec. 2.** Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and
22 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
23 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates Alabama
24 Avenue, S.E. between Hartford Street, S.E. and Gainesville Street, S.E., as “Rev. Dr. Judy
25 Talbert Way”.

26 **Sec. 3.** Fiscal impact statement.

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

30 **Sec. 4.** Effective date.

31 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
32 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto) and a 30-day period of congressional review
33 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
34 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)).