

Statement of Introduction
Woodson Way Designation Act of 2022
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
Thursday, October 13, 2022

Today, along with Councilmembers Elissa Silverman, Christina Henderson, Kenyan R. McDuffie, Robert C. White, Jr., Janeese Lewis George, Anita D. Bonds and Trayon White, Sr., I am introducing the Woodson Way Designation Act of 2022, to symbolically designate the 500 block of 55th Street, N.E. as Woodson Way.

Howard Dilworth Woodson Senior High School (H.D. Woodson), located at 540 55th Street, N.E. in Ward 7, was named after Howard Dilworth Woodson to honor his work as a civic leader in the Far Northeast/Deanwood neighborhood. In the 1950s, Mr. Woodson began advocating for a public high school along with other residents of far Northeast as students in that area had to go across the Anacostia River to Spingarn or Eastern High Schools, or much farther south to Anacostia High School. H.D. Woodson Senior High School opened in 1972, ten years after Mr. Woodson's death.

This year, the alumni and community celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. H.D. Woodson Senior High School has a rich legacy of providing a quality education to learners across the District of Columbia, using an intentional focus on college and career readiness to prepare its scholars to be competitive in their post-secondary pursuits and maintains an environment where scholars feel loved, challenged, and prepared. The school is also well-known for its championship athletic programs.

The "Woodson Way" is also part of the school. It is the phrase coined by the former Principal James Curry which means:


"The extra mile. Or after all of us complete the daily required routines, we must put in extra time and extra effort. The Woodson Way!"

Fittingly, this bill will symbolically designate the 500 block of 55th Street, N.E., the block in which the school sits, as "Woodson Way" at the request and with the collaboration of representatives from the H.D. Woodson Alumni Association.


I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this measure.

1 
2 Councilmember Elissa Silverman


Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

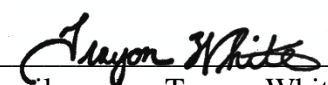
3 
4 Councilmember Christina Henderson


Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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6 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.


Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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8 Councilmember Anita D. Bonds


Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

9 A BILL

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

13 To symbolically designate the 500 block of 55th Street, N.E. as Woodson Way.

14
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
16 act may be cited as the “Woodson Way Designation Act of 2022”.

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 500 block
20 of 55th Street, N.E. as “Woodson 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 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.