

Statement of Introduction
Cain's Way Designation Act of 2023
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
December 1, 2023

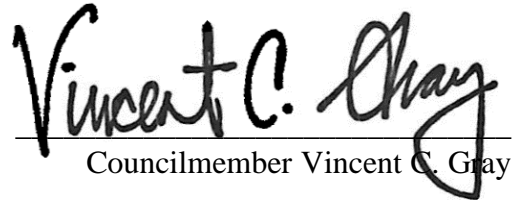
Today, I introduce the Cain's Way Designation Act of 2023 to symbolically designate a portion of the public alley system in Square 1071, bounded by 15th Street, S.E., East Capitol Street, 16th Street, S.E., and A Street, S.E., as Cain's Court, S.E.

The Cain family moved to A Street S.E., in 1957. At the time, the Cains were one of the first African American families on A Street, S.E. Like the other African American families who moved onto the street at the time, they rented their home from a Mr. Raphael G. Urciolo, who then was a civil rights lawyer, businessman, and local champion for housing equality for African American families in the District. Mr. Urciolo, in his capacity as a real estate broker, would regularly purchase homes with racially restrictive covenants and sell them to African Americans. Upon retirement, Mr. Urciolo urged the Cain family to purchase their property from him, which they did.

While living at A Street S.E., the Cain family learned to play basketball, football, swing, and climb in the alley on the other side of the street. At the back of their home there was a men's social club, which provided sports and playground equipment to the families from the block, so that children could have a place to play during their summers.

Today, the Cain family home is still frequently visited by friends, families, and those who wish to stop by and remember the neighborhood and the families who used to live on the block. The Cain family's continued residence on A Street, S.E., is a testament to the work done by all who fought to end the racist practice of race-based covenants.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to successfully pass this legislation.


Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To symbolically designate a portion of the public alley system within Square 1071, bounded by
2 15th Street, SE, East Capitol Street, 16th Street, SE, and A Street, SE, as Cain’s Way.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
5 act may be cited as the “Cain’s Way Designation Act of 2023”.

6 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and
7 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
8 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates a portion of
9 the public alley system within Square 1071, bounded by 15th Street, SE, East Capitol Street,
10 16th Street, SE, and A Street, SE, as “Cain’s Way”.

11 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

15 Sec. 4. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
17 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
18 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
19 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
20 Columbia Register.