



Councilmember Charles Allen

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to symbolically designate the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E., in Ward 6, as Gail Cobb Way.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Gail Cobb Way Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) Gail Cobb was a lifelong District resident, growing up on the 1400 block of D Street, N.E., and was one of the first women to become a Metropolitan Police Department officer.

(b) On September 20, 1974, Officer Cobb was killed when responding to an attempted robbery of Eastern Liberty Federal Savings and Loan.

(c) Officer Cobb was the first Black woman killed in the line of duty in the United States, and after her death, her fellow officers lined the 1400 block of D Street, N.E., and the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E., to honor Officer Cobb.

(d) Officer Cobb’s family have been working for more than 25 years to have the 300 block of 14th Place, N.E., named in her honor; in 2000, Councilmembers Sharon Ambrose and Harold Brazil first introduced legislation to designate the block in her honor, and Councilmember Allen introduced Bill 23-609, the Gail Cobb Way Designation Act of 2002, on January 10, 2020.

33 (e) On November 10, 2020, the Council will take a second vote to approve the Gail Cobb
34 Way Designation Act of 2020, passed on 2nd reading on November 10, 2020 (Enrolled version
35 of B23-609), but, based on the anticipated legislative calendar, it is unlikely that the legislation
36 will complete congressional review before the end of 2020.

37 (f) Approving emergency and temporary legislation will ensure that Officer Cobb’s family
38 does not need to wait any longer for the long-awaited recognition of Officer Cobb’s sacrifice to
39 become official, and it will allow the District Department of Transportation to begin preparing
40 signage for the newly designated block.

41 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
42 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Gail
43 Cobb Way Designation Emergency Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

44 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.