

**Council of the District of Columbia**  
**Memorandum**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson

**FROM:** Councilmember Charles Allen

**RE:** Request to Agendize Emergency and Temporary Measures for the November 10, 2020 Legislative Meeting

**DATE:** November 5, 2020

I am writing to request that you agendize the following measures for the November 10, 2020 Legislative Meeting.

- “Gail Cobb Way Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”
- “Gail Cobb Way Designation Emergency Act of 2020”
- “Gail Cobb Way Designation Temporary Act of 2020”

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. On September 20, 1974, Officer Cobb was killed when responding to an attempted robbery of Eastern Liberty Federal Savings and Loan. 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. 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. On November 10, 2020, the Council will take a second vote to approve B23-609, but, based on the anticipated legislative calendar, it is unlikely that B23-609 will complete congressional review before the end of 2020. Approving emergency and temporary legislation will ensure that Officer Cobb’s family does not need to wait any longer for the long-awaited recognition of Officer Cobb’s sacrifice to become official, and it will allow the District Department of Transportation to begin preparing signage for the newly designated block.

The measures have been filed with the Office of the Secretary and copies of the measures are attached. Please contact Chris Laskowski, Legislative Director, at 741-0929 or [claskowski@dccouncil.us](mailto:claskowski@dccouncil.us) if you have any questions.