

Trayon White

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to officially designate Good Hope Road S.E. within Squares 5769, 5768, 5767, 5766, 5765, 5764, 5763, 5619S, 5718S, 5612, 5611, 5606, 5627, 5763, 5630, 5635, 5631, 5734, and 5633 in Ward 7 and Ward 8 as Marion Barry Avenue S.E., described for tax and assessment purposes as Lot 1034 in Square 5868.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Marion Barry Avenue Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to officially designate Good Hope Road S.E. within Squares 5769, 5768, 5767, 5766, 5765, 5764, 5763, 5619S, 5718S, 5612, 5611, 5606, 5627, 5763, 5630, 5635, 5631, 5734, and 5633 in Ward 7 and Ward 8 as Marion Barry Avenue S.E., described for tax and assessment purposes as Lot 1034 in Square 5868.

(b) The “Marion Barry Avenue Designation Act of 2022” was filed with the Office of the Secretary on October 24, 2022. At the time of drafting, it has not yet been referred to a Committee.

(c) No public space in the District of Columbia shall be given the same name as that given another public space in the District under §9-204.04 of the District of Columbia Code.

This emergency does not endeavor to change existing code. It is an appeal for an exception to be made to honor the life and legacy of the District of Columbia’s “Mayor for Life” Marion Barry with a street bearing his name.

(d) Marion Barry served as the second Mayor of DC from 1979 to 1991 and the fourth mayor of DC from 1995 to 1999. Marion Barry’s first term in office as mayor, was noted for an upturn in the effectiveness of city administration and government services. As mayor, Marion Barry established the city’s popular Summer Youth Program which continues today, providing school-aged residents with opportunities for employment. He was an advocate for affordable housing, equal opportunities, and for District residents to have the right to manage their own affairs free from the rule of Congress.

Marion Barry also served the Council of the District of Columbia for three terms, first as an at-large councilmember on the District’s first elected city council from 1975 to 1979 and then as the Ward 8 Councilmember 1993-1995 and 2005 to 2014. In 1972, he was unanimously elected and served the city as President of the District of Columbia School Board for two years. During his tenure on the school board, he advocated for teacher raises and a larger school budget.

Marion Barry was a civil rights activist in the 1960s. He was the first Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He advocated for the abolition of racially segregated busses and organized voter registration campaigns in the South.

Marion Barry was born March 6, 1936, in Itta Bena, Mississippi, the son of a sharecropper. He completed undergraduate studies at LeMoyne-Owen College in Tennessee and earned a Master of Science in Organic Chemistry from Fisk University. He was awarded a fellowship to the University of Tennessee where he was the only African American in the doctoral chemistry program.

61           After a life dedicated to the people and the city he loved, Marion Barry died on  
62   November 23, 2014. The Washington Post once wrote, “to understand the District of Columbia,  
63   one must understand Marion Barry.”

64           (e) The underlying legislation is in response to advocates for a major thoroughfare in  
65   Wards 7 and 8 commemorating the late “Mayor for Life” Marion Barry and memorializing his  
66   legacy in the communities that he most frequented, called home, and served as both mayor and  
67   councilmember.

68           Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
69   enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
70   “Marion Barry Avenue Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022” be adopted  
71   after a single reading.

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