

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS  
AWB

An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2021

**DECLARING** that Celestial Street between Monastery Street and Hill Street in the Mt. Adams neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of Mary Armor Way in honor of Mary Armor and in recognition of her contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Mary Armor was legendary for her parties and social gatherings – in particular her annual Memorial Day Party (“The MDP”) held high atop Mt. Adams on the deck of the Highland Towers, where Ms. Armor lived for many years; and

WHEREAS, The MDP included a host committee of notable Cincinnatians and brought together individuals across the political spectrum including journalists, lawyers, politicians and elected officials, artists, and the City’s most interesting people who shared her passion for the City of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Armor was Cincinnati’s unofficial “social director,” and particularly relished the role of hosting events to connect people from a diversity of backgrounds around a shared interest in improving the City and addressing important issues affecting the people of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, perhaps most notable among her endeavors was Ms. Armor’s lifelong pursuit of equal rights and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, to this end, Ms. Armor served as a member of Stonewall Cincinnati and One Human Family and tirelessly worked on fundraisers and chaired events to further the cause of human rights; and

WHEREAS, a highlight of these efforts was Ms. Armor’s work with numerous City leaders to repeal Article XII of the City Charter that barred equal protection of the law on the basis of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Armor also worked with then-Councilmember John Cranley to expand Cincinnati’s hate crime ordinance to include acts of violence, hatred, and bigotry against individuals on the basis of their gender identity and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Armor worked in furtherance of civil rights for decades at the law firm of Laufman and Gerhardstein, later Gerhardstein and Branch, where she championed potential cases and mentored a cadre of young law student clerks affectionately known as the “L&G Expats” with whom she maintained close relationships as they grew into their professional careers; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Armor also championed the Downtown Hop Around with former and current mayors and civic leaders to bring people into downtown and Over the Rhine to ensure its continued vibrancy; and

WHEREAS, through sheer force of will Ms. Armor led fundraising for and established the Jim Knippenberg Scholarship Fund at the University of Cincinnati upon the passing of her dear friend Jim Knippenberg, a notable journalist and city presence; and

WHEREAS, upon moving to the Edgecliff Condominiums, Ms. Armor quickly created a host committee for monthly birthday celebrations with the dual purpose of introducing residents to one another by bringing them together on a regular basis and to support her friend Chef Jean Robert de Cavel's Le Bar a Boeuf, located within the Edgecliff; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Armor's loving friends Mayor John Cranley, former Mayor Charlie Luken, OKI Manager of Communications and Legislative Affairs Lorrie Platt, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Executive Vice President Brendon Cull, International Theme Park Services Founder and Owner Dennis Speigel, Public Relations Adviser Brooke Hill, Procter & Gamble State Government Relations Senior Manager Bobbi Dillon, City Manager Paula Boggs Muething and many others wish for her generous character, fierce loyalty, zest for life, and tremendous love for Cincinnati to be memorialized in this street naming; and

WHEREAS, her unique ability to bring people together, to find common cause, and to disagree with a laugh and loving spirit make Mary Armor's "way" something for Cincinnatians to strive to emulate; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Celestial Street between Monastery Street and Hill Street in the Mt. Adams neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of Mary Armor Way in honor of Mary Armor and in recognition of her contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That the appropriate City officials are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper to implement the provisions of Section 1 herein, including the generation and installation of appropriate secondary street signage, which shall designate Celestial Street between Monastery Street and Hill Street as Mary Armor Way in accordance with the Department of Transportation and Engineering's procedures relating to street designation and related signage.

Section 3. That the Clerk shall cause copy of this ordinance be provided to Ms. Armor's family via the office of the City Manager.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to bring attention to Mary Armor’s significant contributions to the City of Cincinnati and to allow the Department of Transportation and Engineering to move forward with the administrative requirements needed to construct and implement the secondary signage at the designated location.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk