

City of Cincinnati
Council




Melissa Autry, CMC
Clerk of Council

Office of the Clerk

801 Plum Street, Suite 308
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-3246
Fax (513) 352-2578

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WE MOVE that the City Administration support Mayor Aftab Pureval's recommendation to give the honorary, secondary street name of "Dr. O'dell Owens Way" to Central Parkway at the corner of Ezzard Charles Drive.


Councilmember Scotty Johnson


Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati mourned the loss of an icon, city leader, fighter for justice, friend to all, and a great man, when Dr. O'dell Moreno Owens, passed on November 23, 2022.

Dr. Owens grew up in Cincinnati's West End, graduated from Woodward High School, and Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and earned an MD at the Yale Medical School, followed by a Masters Degree in Public Health. He was an Instructor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at both Harvard and Yale Medical Schools, and was the first African American physician to receive a Harvard Fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology. Dr. Owens returned to Cincinnati in 1982 to teach at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and achieved Cincinnati's first successful *in vitro* fertilization while serving as a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Director of Reproductive Endocrinology at Christ Hospital while maintaining a successful private practice

Dr. Owens was elected Hamilton County Coroner in 2004, and re-elected in 2008, and used that position to visit schools and inspire young people to make healthy, life-affirming decisions. He served as President of Cincinnati State and Technical College from 2010-2015 and is renowned for increasing the number of high school students attending college classes at Cincinnati State.

Dr. Owens served as the Interim City of Cincinnati Health Commissioner of the Cincinnati Health Department which serves over 40,000 patients annually through its seven primary care health centers, a free-standing dental center, a free-standing vision and dental center, and 13 school-based health centers. He then served as the CEO of Interact for Health, promoting community health and fighting health disparities.

He remained a tireless volunteer in Cincinnati, the city he loved. Dr. Owens was known as a bridgebuilder as he connected communities and diverse populations in Cincinnati through his elected, appointed, and volunteer work. Because of his years of fundraising for CET public television, CET dedicated a mural to Dr. Owens at its headquarters on Central Parkway last year.

Therefore, giving Central Parkway the honorary name of "Dr. O'dell Owens Way," not far from the West End community where he grew up, serves as a reminder of the importance of connecting communities and people across our great city, and providing opportunities for Cincinnatians to live their best lives.

CAL → healthy neighborhoods
J-MCK