



**Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**  
Councilmember

**202001615**

## MOTION

**WE MOVE** for the entire stretch of Reading Road that is located within Cincinnati City limits, specifically from downtown Cincinnati to the edge of Reading, Ohio at Galbraith Road, to be named “President Barack Obama Avenue” in honor of the 44th president of the United States who became the first African American elected to serve in the highest office in our country when he was inaugurated on January 20, 2009, \* and we request a report by the City Administration.

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama became the first African American elected to the office of United States President in the more than 200-year history of the United States of America, making his election an historic accomplishment for our country, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States was on the brink of economic disaster when President Barack Obama took office in 2009, and under his leadership, the United States avoided a second Great Depression, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama promoted equal access, opportunity, and respect for all Americans, and stated, “There's not a liberal America and a conservative America ... There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America. There's a United States of America.”, and

**WHEREAS**, the first bill that President Barack Obama signed into law, on January 29, 2009, was The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to make it easier to challenge unequal pay and to help address the wage gap between men and women, and

**WHEREAS**, President Obama signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 2014 is signed into law to provide grants to states to allow them to assist low-income families in finding child care for their children, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to give regulators stronger authority concerning breaking up large companies, and the Act to protect the consumer by restricting practices in consumer loans and credit cards, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to save and create jobs and to provide relief to those most affected by the economic crisis of 2008-2009, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 9, 2009 for “his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples,” and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed into law The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act becomes to help jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute hate crimes more effectively, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act became law on March 20, 2010, to increase quality, affordability, and access to healthcare, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama supported veteran education reform by putting into practice the post-9/11 GI Bill to help those who have served in the U.S. military to obtain free or less expensive college tuition, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed into law, Rosa's Law, which changes the terminology of federal statutes that use "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability.", and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed into law The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act becomes law that established new standards so that Americans who are deaf, blind, or live with a visual impairment have equal access and opportunity to new technological innovations, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed into law the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 to fund nutrition and free lunch programs, and set new standards for schools, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama repealed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, thereby allowing individuals to be openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 to increase protection for women under the law by improving law enforcement tools to combat violence, improve services for victims of violent crimes, and increase awareness and violence reduction practices, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama set forth the Climate Action Plan and signed an executive order designed to lower carbon pollution, prepare for the impending effects of climate change, address reversing climate change as a global endeavor, and prepare the United States' readiness for climate change, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed into law the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 to help students with crippling debt, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to protect the rights of LGBT employees in the workforce, and

**WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama signed into law The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act to raise awareness on veteran suicide, increase opportunity for veterans to receive help, and to require the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department to submit reviews of their prevention programs:

**NOW THEREFORE, WE MOVE** that the entire stretch of Reading Road that is located within Cincinnati City limits, specifically from downtown Cincinnati to the edge of Reading, Ohio at Galbraith Road, shall be named “President Barack Obama Avenue” in honor of the 44th president of the United States who became the first African American elected to serve in the highest office in our country when he was inaugurated on January 20, 2009.



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Councilmember Wendell Young

### **STATEMENT**

Councilmember Wendell Young and I began discussing renaming Reading Road after President Barack Obama several years ago, when I was publisher of *The Cincinnati Herald*. Our office received a groundswell of public support. Councilmember Young’s office began the process, but soon thereafter, Councilmember Young experienced some health issues that required him to recuperate before resuming his duties. When I took a seat on City Council, one of the items on my office’s agenda was resuming the process to rename Reading Road after President Obama. The agenda item took a back seat to pressing issues that our City is facing.

However, in July, a young man, Caleb Price, came to City Hall and requested that City Council honor President Barack Obama with the street naming. Mr. Price’s enthusiasm and drive, not to mention his work in collecting thousands of signatures, showed us that now is the time to honor our 44th president, and to let his message of “hope and change” for the betterment of all Americans ring across our city.

Given the cost of the renaming, and the urgent needs of our citizens for City funds during this pandemic, our office will work with Mr. Price and other members of our community to raise funds for this project before asking the City to contribute any additional funding.

Our present goal is to immediately gain approval for the renaming project. Such approval not only will help with fundraising efforts, but will give notice to existing and new developments which could reduce their expenditures for the address change. Upon City Council granting approval, our office will keep Council updated on ongoing plans for the renaming.

We are thankful to Mr. Caleb Price for his leadership in being the impetus behind this project and for letting us see the importance of shining a bright light in the middle of a storm.