

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS

EESW

An Ordinance No. _____

- 2024

DECLARING that Court Street at Mound Street in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Wilbert Longmire Way” in honor of Wilbert Longmire and in recognition of his contributions to the City of Cincinnati as a nationally recognized jazz musician.

WHEREAS, Wilbert Longmire was born in Alabama in 1940 and moved to Cincinnati when he was three years old; and

WHEREAS, growing up in the West End neighborhood, Mr. Longmire started as a singer in a street corner symphony and was violinist in his school orchestra; and

WHEREAS, after buying his first guitar, Mr. Longmire turned to playing jazz and by the end of his career became a widely recognized jazz guitarist and musician; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Longmire played in the early 1960s music scene in Cincinnati, including working as a session musician for the King Records’ studio and participated in 225 jazz recording sessions between 1963 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Longmire’s first album was recorded in 1969, titled Revolution and he release further albums in the 1970s and 1980s including This Side of Heaven (1976), Sunny Side Up (1978), Champagne (1979), and With All My Love (1980); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Longmire’s music contributed to the genesis of the musical styles of Jazz Funk, Smooth Jazz, Soul Jazz, and Acid Jazz; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mr. Longmire was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cincinnati Area Pop Music Awards, and he was inducted into the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Longmire’s career saw him play with many great musicians such as Jack McDuff, Billy Eckstine, Lou Rawls, Jimmy Smith, Art Farmer, Herbie Hancock, and Larry Coryell; and

WHEREAS, as valuable member of the Cincinnati Jazz music scene, Mr. Longmire supported and mentored other local musicians, including offering Bootsy Collins one of his first jobs; and

WHEREAS, Wilbert Longmire has made a lasting impact to the Cincinnati community and to the City of Cincinnati’s citizens, and his contributions and dedication for jazz music and its impact to the City of Cincinnati will long be remembered; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Court Street at Mound Street in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Wilbert Longmire Way” in honor of Wilbert Longmire and in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati through his musical talents and impact on the City’s music scene.

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 Court Street at Mound Street in the West End neighborhood as “Wilbert Longmire Way” in accordance with the Department of Transportation and Engineering’s procedures relating to street designation and related signage.

Section 3. That a copy of this ordinance be sent to the family of Wilbert Longmire via the office of Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

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 allow the Department of Transportation and Engineering to move forward with the administrative requirements related to the honorary naming of streets to provide for the ceremony and dedication of the honorary street name at the earliest possible time.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk