

City of Cincinnati



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Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

March 4, 2024

MOTION

WE MOVE that the Department of Planning and Community Engagement convene the Naming Committee to begin the process of changing the permanent name of Bank Street in the West End to Rep. William L. Mallory Street.


Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

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STATEMENT

Former Ohio legislator William L. Mallory, who was the state's first Black House Majority Leader and longest-serving in its history.

Elected to the Ohio House in 1966, the Rep. Mallory served 28 years in the Legislature, with two decades as the Democratic leader in the House.

The Cincinnati native worked his way through Central State University, then held various jobs including juvenile court employee, welfare case worker and highway inspector. He taught in Cincinnati Public Schools and was a leader in the city's West End neighborhood.

As a legislator, he pushed successfully for drug prevention efforts, more public transportation, senior citizen issues and civil rights. After leaving the Legislature, he served on the Ohio Elections Commission, founded a nonprofit center for community development in Cincinnati, and taught political science and African American studies at the University of Cincinnati.

The son of a laborer and domestic worker, Mallory had an early interest in politics, reading

newspaper opinion pages and talking politics with Black city councilman R.P. McClain, according to the Cincinnati History Library and Archives. He was in student government in high school, while working a variety of jobs before dropping out to help support his family.

He later resumed his education and then went to Central State. There, he met his future wife, Frannie, and they were married in 1955. Mallory graduated with honors with a major in elementary education. He helped pay his way by painting dormitories and working in the school cafeteria.

Mallory was elected president of the West End Community Council in 1965, leading to his election to the House the next year. Eight years later, he was elected majority floor leader. By his retirement in 1994, he had become the longest-serving majority leader and longest-serving Ohio representative from Hamilton County.

CAL → Healthy Neighborhoods
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