

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS

EESW

An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2026

**DECLARING** that Ninth Street at Central Avenue in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “James Johnson Way” in honor of James L. Johnson, and his lifelong commitment to justice, public service, and mentorship and his enduring impact to the Cincinnati community.

WHEREAS, James L. Johnson was a distinguished legal professional, public servant, and community leader who graduated from Walnut Hills High School and the University of Cincinnati before earning his law degree from The Ohio State University and being admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson’s early career included service as a Probation Officer with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and as the founding director of the Emanuel Bridge Boys Group Home, reflecting his deep commitment to youth development and community service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson dedicated more than 25 years to the City of Cincinnati, serving in the City Solicitor’s Office and later as Assistant to the City Manager and Chief Investigator in the Office of Municipal Investigation, where he upheld accountability and integrity in City government and was a founding member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE); and

WHEREAS, following his retirement from the City, Mr. Johnson continued his service in the Hamilton County Public Defender’s Office, Juvenile Division, advocating for justice and fairness for young people until his retirement in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson’s enduring legacy includes founding the Summer Work Experience in Law (SWEL) program, which has impacted more than 500 students and helped cultivate generations of diverse legal professionals and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James L. Johnson has made a lasting impact to the Cincinnati community and to the City of Cincinnati’s citizens, and his impact on the Cincinnati community will long be remembered; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Ninth Street at Central Avenue in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “James Johnson Way” in honor of Mr. James L. Johnson and in recognition of his impact on the Cincinnati community and his lifelong commitment to justice, public service, and mentorship.

Section 2. That the appropriate City of Cincinnati 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 Ninth Street at Central Avenue in the West End neighborhood as “James Johnson 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 James L. Johnson via the office of Councilmember Scotty Johnson.

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: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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