

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS

EESW

An Ordinance No. _____

- 2026

DECLARING that Ezzard Charles Drive at Central Avenue in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Coach Mark Mitchell Way” in honor of Coach Mark Mitchell and in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in coaching basketball, mentorship of local youths, and his lasting impact on student-athletes and the Cincinnati community.

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell is a legendary figure in Cincinnati basketball, widely respected for his winning record, leadership, mentorship, and positive influence on generations of student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell is a graduate of Princeton High School, Class of 1985, where he was a standout football player and contributed as an offensive tackle to Princeton High School’s 1983 Division I state championship team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell continued his athletic career at Eastern Kentucky University and later earned a professional tryout with the Detroit Lions before transitioning into a highly successful career in basketball coaching; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Winton Woods High School from 2001 to 2003, where he helped lead the Warriors to a Division I State Runner-up finish in 2002; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Coach Mark Mitchell was named head boys’ basketball coach at Taft High School and immediately revitalized a program that had experienced ten consecutive losing seasons, leading the Senators in his first season to a 22-3 record and the 2003 Cincinnati city championship; and

WHEREAS, during his eleven seasons as head coach at Taft High School from 2002 to 2013, Coach Mark Mitchell achieved 221 career victories, the most in school history, captured eight Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference (“CMAC”) Championships, nine sectional titles, four district titles, and the Division III State Championship during the 2010-2011 season with a 25-1 record; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell was recognized for his excellence in coaching by being named CMAC Coach of the Year eight times and Cincinnati Enquirer Coach of the Year five times; and

WHEREAS, following his tenure at Taft High School, Coach Mark Mitchell continued to serve the game of basketball and the community by coaching at Western Hills High School, serving as an assistant coach with The Ohio State University women’s basketball program, and leading Wilberforce University as head men’s basketball coach for four seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell's commitment to athletic excellence and family values is reflected in the achievements of his daughter, Kelsey Mitchell, Princeton High School's all-time leading scorer, a member of The Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame, and the No. 2 overall selection in the 2018 WNBA Draft by the Indiana Fever; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mark Mitchell's career exemplifies dedication to education, discipline, teamwork, and community service, leaving a lasting legacy within the City of Cincinnati and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mitchell passed away in 2024 but his contributions and service in the sport of basketball and its 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 Ezzard Charles Drive at Central Avenue in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of "Coach Mark Mitchell Way" in honor of Coach Mark Mitchell and in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in coaching basketball, mentorship of local youths, and his lasting impact on student-athletes and the Cincinnati community.

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 Ezzard Charles Drive at Central Avenue in the West End neighborhood as "Coach Mark Mitchell 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 Coach Mark Mitchell's family 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: _____, 2026

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk