

November 7, 2025

**Honorable City Planning Commission
Cincinnati, Ohio**

SUBJECT: A report and recommendation on the proposed renaming of “Mercy Health Place” to “Patricia McCollum Way” in Bond Hill.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Location: Mercy Health Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

Applicant/Owner: Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio
138 E. Court Street, Room 603, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

EXHIBITS:

Provided in addition to this report are the following exhibits:

- Exhibit A Location Map
- Exhibit B Cincinnati Enquirer Article – September 9, 2024
- Exhibit C Cincinnati Enquirer Article – October 30, 2024
- Exhibit D WCPO 9 Article – February 28, 2025
- Exhibit E 2003 Committee of Names Resolution

BACKGROUND:

The City Planning Commission is being asked to consider the renaming of Mercy Health Place, a street approximately 0.14 miles long, to Patricia McCollum Way. This is the access road to the old Mercy Health headquarters, now the future home of various Hamilton County departments, including the Job and Family Services department.

Mercy Health opened its Bond Hill headquarters in 2016, having received \$36.7 million from the City of Cincinnati to spur catalytic development. Mercy Health planned to employ 1,250 people between 2019 and 2023. However, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted those plans. By September of 2024, only about 100 people were in the building. On September 3, 2024, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners voted to buy the building and move 1,400 jobs into the office space (Exhibit B). As the building will no longer be home to Mercy Health, and streets should not be named for private companies located along them according to the 2003 Committee of Names Ordinance (Exhibit E), a new name is needed for this street.

Patricia McCollum was a social worker known throughout Hamilton County for her work in the foster care sector. She personally fostered over 70 children and supported families toward reunification. Ms. McCollum adopted DJ McCollum when he was 7 years old after an incident burned 85% of his body and left him with developmental disabilities. With Ms. McCollum’s support, he graduated from Woodward High School’s program for teens with disabilities. Ms. McCollum had seven kids, many grandchildren, and countless people that she cared for throughout her social work and foster care.

In October 2024, Ms. McCollum was tragically killed alongside her son DJ McCollum and daughter Kaydence McCollum. Family and community members throughout Hamilton County grieved their passing at a candlelight vigil held at the Holloway House and Resource Center followed by a visitation and funeral services (Exhibit C).

Seeing the impact Ms. McCollum's passing had on the community, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners sought to honor her legacy and felt the relocation of the Job and Family Services department presented a great opportunity. At the State of the County address in February 2025, Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus announced the County's intention to rename Mercy Health Place in honor of Patricia "Pat" McCollum (Exhibit D).

ENGAGEMENT:

Hamilton County initially engaged Ms. McCollum's family regarding the idea of renaming the street in her honor. With the family's support, the Board of Commissioners of Hamilton County decided to move forward with the street renaming application process.

After receiving Hamilton County's application to rename the street, it was brought to the attention of Department of City Planning and Engagement staff that the Bond Hill Community Council (BHCC) had not yet been engaged regarding this proposal. Hamilton County staff attended the September 4, 2025, meeting of the BHCC to discuss the proposal and listen to the community's discussion regarding other members of their community they would like to see honored. Commissioner Driehaus had additional discussions with the BHCC President and expressed a desire to find alternative sites on the campus, such as meeting rooms, to honor residents of Bond Hill who have positively impacted the community.

A virtual staff conference was held on October 1, 2025, to gather community feedback about the proposal. At that meeting, the BHCC President Jacqueline Edmerson confirmed she had spoken with Commissioner Driehaus about the alternative options to honor Bond Hill residents and as a result does not oppose the proposed name change of Mercy Health Place to Patricia McCollum Way. Notice of the City Planning Commission meeting was sent to the Bond Hill Community Council, Paddock Hills Assembly, and adjacent property owners. No correspondence was received.

ANALYSIS:

The City of Cincinnati's Committee of Names (CON) is comprised of employees from the City's Department of City Planning and Engagement, Department of Transportation and Engineering, and Law Department as well as the Library Manager at the Cincinnati History Library and Archives. The CON met on October 13, 2025, to discuss the proposal and found the proposed name "Patricia McCollum Way" to be a suitable name that meets all "general criteria" and "criteria specific to names identified with individuals" as outlined in Resolution 0016-2003 establishing the procedures and criteria to be used by the Committee of Names (Exhibit E). The name is not composed of several parts or difficult to pronounce, a duplicate or too similar to an existing street in Hamilton County, or considered not in good taste by current community standards. It is in the public interest to honor the person for historic or commemorative reasons and honors a person associated with the area in which the facility is located—Hamilton County.

CONSISTENCY WITH PLAN CINCINNATI (2012):

The proposed name change is consistent with the Live Initiative Area of *Plan Cincinnati* (2012), particularly within the Strategy to "Create a welcoming civic atmosphere" (p. 153) because it honors and celebrates a woman who dedicated her life to supporting children and families in Hamilton County's foster care system.

RECOMMENDATION:

The staff of the Department of City Planning and Engagement recommends that the City Planning Commission take the following action:

APPROVE the proposed renaming of “Mercy Health Place” to “Patricia McCollum Way” in Bond Hill.

Respectfully submitted:

Handwritten signature of Sophia Ferries-Rowe in cursive script.

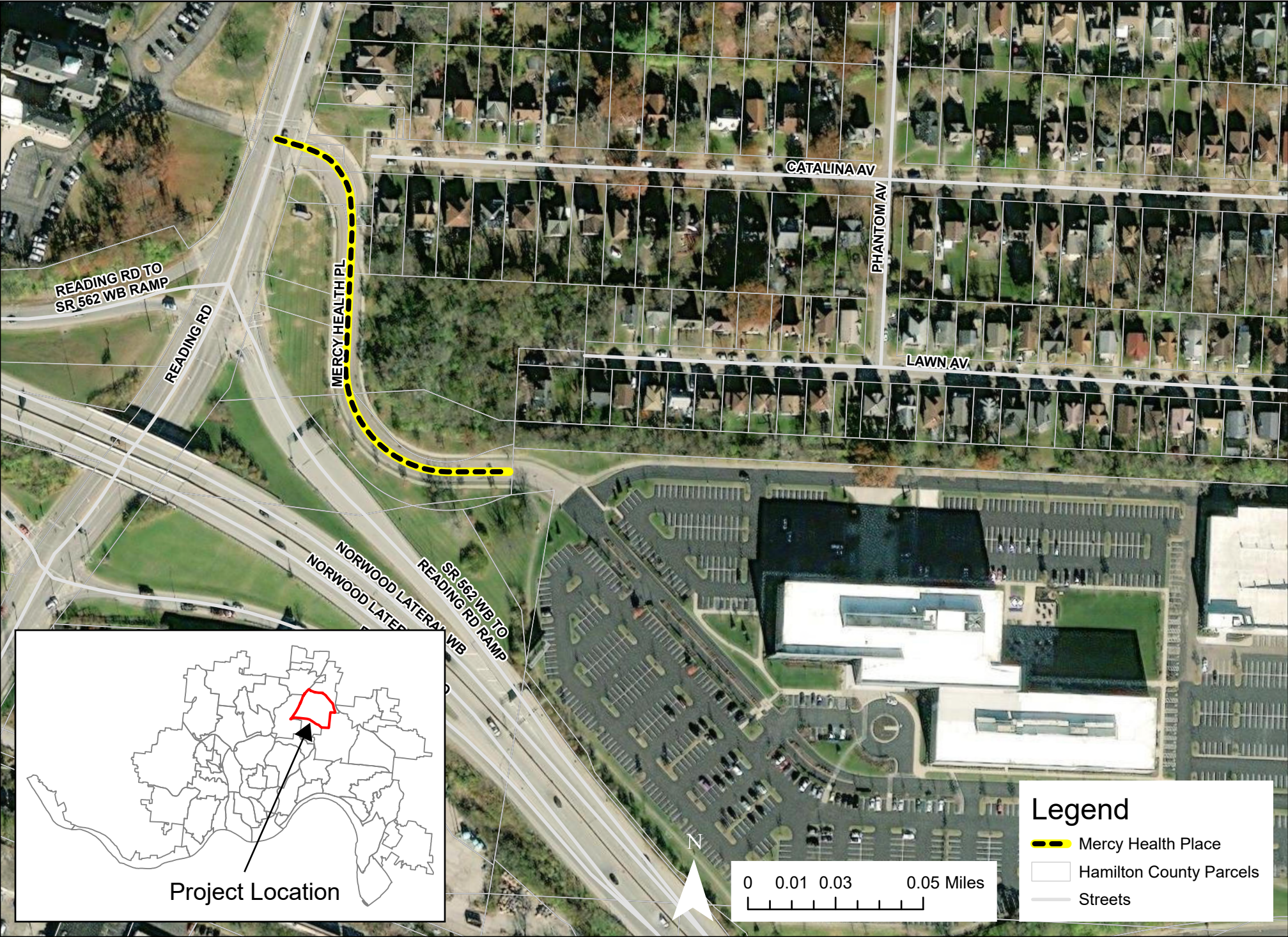
Sophia Ferries-Rowe, City Planner
Department of City Planning and Engagement

Approved:

Handwritten signature of Katherine Keough-Jurs in cursive script.

Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director
Department of City Planning and Engagement

Proposed Street Name Change of "Mercy Health Place" to "Patricia McCollum Way" in Bond Hill



POLITICS

Hamilton County commissioners agree to buy Mercy Health building worth \$95 million

**Scott Wartman**

Cincinnati Enquirer

Sept. 9, 2024 | Updated Sept. 10, 2024, 4:36 p.m. ET

The three Hamilton County commissioners Tuesday voted unanimously to buy a massive office building in Bond Hill where they will move [hundreds of Hamilton County workers](#).

The county will buy the Bon Secours Mercy Health building worth \$95 million. The county has agreed pay \$65 million, while Mercy will pay the remaining \$30 million to purchase the building from the owner, the Chicago-based Bond Hill Funding Company.

The county plans to move about 1,400 jobs into the Mercy Health office building. Several county departments will relocate to the Bond Hill facility, including the county's largest, Job and Family Services. Job and Family Services employs 850 employees who deal with welfare and the foster care and adoption system.

Other departments moving in include Developmental Disabilities Services, Hamilton County Public Health Department, the Veterans Service Commission and the county's environmental services department.

The county will still keep its headquarters in the Todd B. Portune Center for County Government in Downtown. As part of the deal, the county will sell other buildings it owns.

This includes the 146-year-old [Alms & Doepke](#) building on Central Parkway that houses Hamilton County Job and Family Services.

"We own and operate a large number of buildings and many of those buildings are old," said Hamilton County Administrator Jeff Aluotto. "When you have buildings approaching 140, 145-years-old, it gets difficult."

On an average day, the county will have [500 to 600 employees on the Bond Hill on a daily basis](#).

It's a different fate for the [the Mercy Health building in Bond Hill](#) from what Cincinnati officials originally envisioned for the building. Mercy Health opened the building in 2016 with the promise to the city of employing 1,250 people in the office building each year from 2019 to 2023. The organization currently employs 100 people in the Bond Hill office, according to spokeswoman Lisa Dyson.

[Cincinnati gave Mercy Health \\$36.7 million](#) in city money and tax incentives to spur the development that then-Mayor John Cranley called "catalytic and transformative" for Bond Hill.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and people began working from home. As of July 2024, Mercy had about 100 jobs located in the Bond Hill office and will completely exit the property by March 2025, Mercy Health spokeswoman Lisa Dyson told The Enquirer.

Mercy Health also paid the [city back \\$7 million in tax incentives](#).

Cincinnati.com | The Enquirer

NEWS

'Everybody's caretaker, everybody's mom:' Remembering Patricia, DJ and Kaydence McCollum



Cameron Knight

Cincinnati Enquirer

Oct. 30, 2024 | Updated Oct. 31, 2024, 8:02 a.m. ET

At her 70th birthday party, they played "I was here" by Beyonce. The song opens with the lyric, "I want to leave my footprints in the sands of time."

Patricia McCollum did just that, according to her friends and family. She [fostered over 100 children and trained foster parents to take care of hundreds more](#). She was a social worker, a relentless advocate for families and even a candidate for city council.

"She was living her legacy," said Rosemary Oglesby-Henry, a longtime friend. "She was iconic."

Ms. Pat, as she was known, was [fatally stabbed on Oct. 24](#) along with her adopted son DJ McCollum, 32, and adopted daughter 11-year-old Kaydence McCollum. She was 78.

Police said it was 66-year-old Anthony Mathis, Ms. Pat's son-in-law, who killed them. He died that same day from self-inflicted knife wounds, according to investigators.

She was survived by another three adopted children and two biological children, but she would have never labeled them that way. They were all just her kids, her grandson Jamaican McCollum said. There are too many grandkids to count and well over 100 people whom she cared for through fostering, he said.

"I learned my hustle from her," Jamaican McCollum said. "Five, six, seven, eight jobs. Multiple contracts."

His grandmother's resume proves it. She was involved in a multitude of programs over the years: Off the Streets, Granny's Love, Citizen's Committee on Youth and CITI Camp to name a few. She worked at numerous places as a social worker as well.

Oglesby-Henry knew Ms. Pat nearly her entire life, but when she became pregnant as a teen, she became very close with the McCollum family. She babysat for them, and they eventually babysat for her.

She remembered helping Ms. Pat run for city council and reminding her that voters might be turned off if she kept cussing as much as she did. She remembered her commanding every room she walked into. She remembered her honesty.

"We should definitely lift her up even higher," Oglesby-Henry said. "We do that by supporting her causes: by fostering and adopting, by supporting teen parents."

Peaches Carter-Smith met Ms. Pat in 1979 working with sickle cell patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center where Ms. Pat was a social worker.

Carter-Smith was a computer operator, but Ms. Pat convinced her to pursue social work, and then she would follow Ms. Pat to three or four other jobs.

"She loved life. She loved working with families," she said. Her pride and joy were all of her kids. DJ was just her heart."

DJ McCollum came to Ms. Pat when he was 7. He was suffering from severe disabilities. When he was an infant, another child threw a match into his crib, burning over 85% of his body. The incident took his lower legs and left him with several developmental disabilities, but with Ms. Pat's help, he learned to use prosthetic legs and made it through Woodward High School's program for teens with disabilities.

In a 2012 Enquirer report, she said she knew that DJ would live with her for the rest of his life.

"Either I die first, or he does," she said. "I will never separate from him."

Karen Rumsey is a victim's advocate at the Cincinnati Police Department, but before that, she worked at Hamilton County Job and Family Services where she met Ms. Pat. Rumsey was struck by how she approached people.

"She just worked and cared for people in general, regardless of what was going on and where you came from," Rumsey said. "She was everybody's caretaker, everybody's mom."

Rumsey said foster kids need safety and stability, but they can come with trauma and baggage. Ms. Pat would not only love the kids, but also their parents, she said.

She would work and support the families to get those children reunified, and if that couldn't happen, she'd often just adopt the children, Rumsey said.

"She was a good woman, an honorable lady," Rumsey said. "She'd do anything for anybody, especially if you were a kid."

Jamaican McCollum said his grandmother was his favorite person. He said her door was always open and her house was always full.

"Quiet wasn't for her," he said.

He said she had an over-the-top personality that he thinks he inherited.

"When you walked in the room, you didn't have to wonder who was in charge, because you knew it," he joked.

On Thanksgiving and Christmas, the house would be packed with people. Kids that his grandmother took care of 10 years before would show up out of the blue and get folded right back in. She saw them all as family and her kids and grandkids saw it the same way.

He remembers running through the airport "20 deep" when they would take vacations to Myrtle Beach or Jamaica. He also remembers going on smaller trips as a kid to Findlay Market and Busken Bakery.

"She beat every odd. She helped as many people as she possibly could and she was proud of that," he said. "She accomplished so many things in those 78 years. Her tragedy is part of her legacy too. People will talk about the wonderful Pat McCollum for years and years to come."

When it comes to what happened, Ms. Pat's friends and family are coping in their own ways. Many said they were heartbroken.

"It's so catastrophic that when I close my eyes, I just see her face and feel pain," Oglesby-Henry said.

Jamaican McCollum said he is still processing all of it but wanted people to know that his family is holding on to their faith.

"We believe in God. We have faith in God and we don't question God," he said. "I'm sure she's at peace. She's very forgiving. She'll guide and protect us from the other side."

Now Jamaican McCollum is planning the services for his grandmother.

"We talked about it and she told me how elaborate she wants her funeral to be," he joked.

Vigil and services

On Friday, a candlelight vigil will be held for Patricia, DJ and Kaydence McCollum at the Holloway House and Resource Center at 3864 Reading Road. The vigil will run from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

On Nov. 8, a visitation will be held for Patricia, DJ and Kaydence McCollum from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Corinthian Baptist Church at 1920 Tennessee Ave. Funeral services will immediately follow. At 3 p.m., a repass celebration will begin at Receptions Event Center at 5975 Boymel Drive in Fairfield.

[A GoFundMe campaign has been launched to help pay for the funeral expenses.](#)

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS > POSITIVELY CINCINNATI

'She left a beautiful legacy' | Hamilton County rename street after late foster advocate

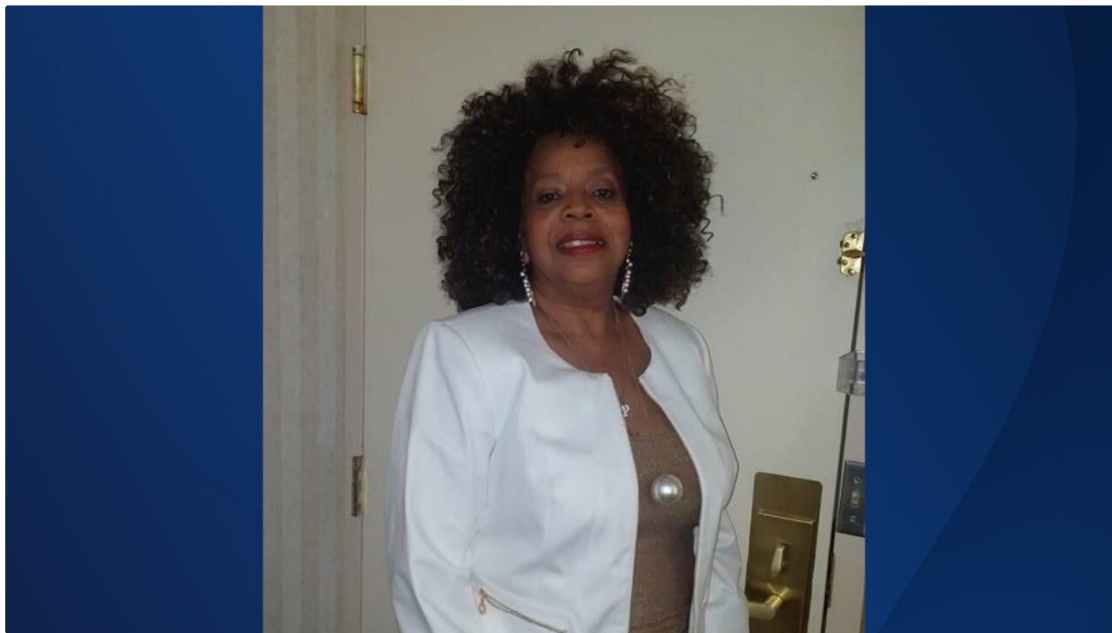


Photo by: DeRonn McCollum

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In October, McCollum and her two adopted children — 32-year-old DJ and 11-year-old Kaydence — were found dead inside her home.

[Read More](#)

00:00

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Police said they were stabbed to death [by Anthony Mathis, McCollum's son-in-law](#). Mathis, 66, died from self-inflicted stab wounds at UC Medical Center after an hours-long SWAT standoff with Cincinnati police.

"She was like our real-life Superwoman," said DeRonn McCollum, her grandson.

Patricia McCollum, who also went by Ms. Pat, was [known for her advocacy for foster children](#). Her family said Ms. Pat adopted more than 60 children throughout her life.

"She was full of love, she spoiled everybody," DeRonn McCollum said.

Hear more about how Patricia McCollum inspired the people around her:



Ms. Pat's daughter, Detra, said her mother was also loving of others.

"I've never remembered a time where we didn't have children around, or somebody," Detra McCollum said.

Detra McCollum said her mother's advocacy for foster children inspired her to foster kids of her own.

Detra and DeRonn McCollum said they're at peace with her death.

"God doesn't make any mistakes, you know, we're born to die." DeRonn McCollum said.

They said they miss her dearly, but added that her memory lives on.

"She left a beautiful legacy," Detra McCollum said.

It's not just Ms. Pat's family that's trying to honor that legacy. On Wednesday at the State of the County address, Driehaus announced the commissioner's plans to honor Patricia McCollum.

Driehaus said the Mercy Health building in Bond Hill would soon become the central campus for county employees. Driehaus said they plan to rename the street leading up to the building "Pat McCollum Way."

"I think it's a reminder to all of us that there's something we can all do to make a difference in the lives of one of these kids," Driehaus said.

Driehaus said they chose to rename that street because the building will soon be the main hub for the county's [Jobs and Family Services](#), a department McCollum worked with often to help foster kids.

"It was just a no-brainer," Driehaus said.

Driehaus said county leaders are working with the City of Cincinnati to make sure the street is renamed by the end of the year. She said they hope to move their employees into the building by the end of the year.

In the meantime, McCollum's family said they're grateful that she will continue to be remembered.

"You won't have no choice but to say Pat McCollum," Detra McCollum said.

"They're going to be sending mail to Pat McCollum Way," DeRonn McCollum added.

More Ohio news:

- [Educators speak out against removals on retired teachers' pension fund board](#)
- [Lawsuit questions use of unclaimed funds on stadiums for Bengals, Browns, etc.](#)

WLR

RESOLUTION NO. B-0016 - 2003

EXPRESSING the City Council's approval of a document entitled Committee of Names - 03, setting forth the procedures and criteria to be used by the Committee of Names when it reviews and evaluates proposals for the naming or renaming of city facilities.

WHEREAS, City Council, at its meeting on June 15, 1985, passed Resolution 87-1985 which approved procedures and criteria for a Committee of Names; and

WHEREAS, City Council at its meeting on April 17, 2002, passed Resolution 58-2002 which approved the updated procedures for a Committee of Names; and

WHEREAS, City Council at its meeting on September 5, 2002, passed Resolution 105-202 which approved revised procedures for a Committee of Names; and

WHEREAS, because of the reorganization of the departments of the city administration, it is necessary to further revise the procedures of the Committee of Names; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to declare its approval of procedures and criteria contained in said Committee of Names - 03 document; now, therefore

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

Section 1. That the Council accepts and approves the document entitled Committee of Names - 03, attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof, and requests that it be implemented forthwith.

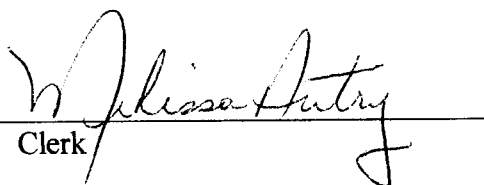
Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Council.

Passed February 26, 2003


Mayor

Attest

Clerk



CITY OF CINCINNATI
COMMITTEE OF NAMES - 03

(Approved by City Council Resolution __ - 2003)

I. INTRODUCTION

This constitutes the general procedures, policies and criteria which will be followed by the Committee of Names when it reviews and evaluates proposals for the naming or renaming of City Facilities.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Title. The Committee shall be called the Committee of Names (the "Committee").

B. Purpose. The Committee is established to make recommendations to the Director of the Community Development and Planning Department (the "Director") regarding the naming or renaming of City Facilities. City Facilities include streets, rights-of-way, alleys, buildings, and land but do not include rooms, hallways, or items of personal property.

C. General Responsibilities.

1. The Committee shall receive, review, and evaluate proposals for the naming or renaming of City Facilities. It shall then make a recommendation to the Director regarding the proposal.

2. The Committee shall not:

- a. initiate proposals to name or rename City Facilities, but may as part of its recommendation suggest alternatives to a proposal it is considering; or
- b. make recommendations regarding the naming or renaming of City Facilities under the control and management of the Board of Health, the Park Board or the Recreation Commission.

D. Composition. The Committee will be composed of the following members:

1 member from the Community Development and Planning Department (who shall act as the Chair)

1 member from the Law Department

1 member from the Department of Transportation and Engineering

- 1 member from the Cincinnati Historical Society Library of the Museum Center
- 1 member from the business community of the City of Cincinnati (public sector member)
- 2 private citizens of the City of Cincinnati (public sector members)

E. Appointments and Terms of Office.

1. Members from the city departments will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of their respective department directors.
2. The member from the Cincinnati Historical Society Library of the Museum Center will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Museum Center's Director.
3. The three public sector members will be appointed by the City Manager to serve staggered three-year terms.

There is currently a Committee of Names constituted pursuant to Resolution No. 105-2002. The current members were duly appointed by a procedure similar to the procedure stated above. Those current members shall remain as members and shall be replaced in accordance with the above procedure as deemed necessary and appropriate by the appointing authority. Further, the current Community Development and Planning Department member (formerly the City Planning Department member) shall become the Chair.

- F. Meetings. The Committee will meet at times and locations determined by the chair and as often as necessary to conduct business in a timely manner.
- G. Quorum. Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- H. Stand-ins. If a Committee member is unable to attend a meeting, the authority who appointed the member may designate a stand-in who shall have full rights as a Committee member for that meeting.
- I. Staffing. The Community Development and Planning Department shall furnish such staff services as needed for the Committee to fulfill its responsibilities.

III. **PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING PROPOSALS**

- A. Proposals to name or rename City Facilities shall be made in writing to the Director. Proposals must contain the necessary information as set forth in Section IV, below. The Committee may, at its discretion, decide to adopt a standard application form. Proposals to name or rename City Facilities to the name of a living person or persons will

not be considered by the Committee.

- B. Upon receipt of a proposal, the Director shall determine if it was properly submitted and contains the necessary information. If so, it will be referred to the Committee. If not, it will be returned to the source of the proposal with an explanation of its deficiencies.
- C. The Committee shall review and evaluate the proposal. The Committee may seek additional information from the source of the proposal or other sources. Such additional information may include, when deemed appropriate by the Committee, an informal survey, conducted by mail, of all persons considered by the Committee to be directly affected by the proposed naming or name change.
- D. The Committee shall make its recommendation to the Director and will provide its reasons for such recommendation.
- E. The Director shall consider the Committee's report and make a recommendation to the City Planning Commission together with any necessary and appropriate legislation. The Director is not bound by the Committee's recommendation but may include a copy of the Committee's report with the Director's report to the Planning Commission. The City Planning Commission shall consider the Director's recommendation and, pursuant to its advisory powers under Article VII Section 9 of the City Charter, make a recommendation to City Council, together with any necessary and appropriate legislation.

IV. INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED

- A. Basic Information. Proposals shall include the following:
 - 1. The specific City Facility being proposed for naming or renaming. A sketch showing the exact location is sufficient for this purpose.
 - 2. The full form of the name being proposed as well as the actual proposed name for the City Facility.
 - 3. The origin, meaning and/or significance of the proposed name.
 - 4. If the proposed name is that of a person, a brief biography, including the birth and death dates (if known).
 - 5. An explanation of why the petitioner feels that the City Facility should be named or renamed with the proposed name,

including, if applicable, an explanation of how the name and/or the person is or has been associated with the City Facility or the area in which it is located.

6. If available, letters from appropriate organizations and individuals which furnish evidence of substantial local support for the proposal.

B. Additional Information. The Director or the Committee of Names may request additional information or documentation in order to assist the Committee in reaching a recommendation.

V. CRITERIA

A. General Criteria. The Committee shall consider the following criteria in making its recommendation.

1. Names composed of several parts or which are difficult to pronounce usually will not be considered suitable since they do not generally gain public acceptance.
2. When a survey has been conducted, the results of the survey shall be considered by the Committee.
3. Where possible, names should provide a useful function such as identifying the City Facility.
4. Names which are unofficial and which do not appear on current maps but which have become established through local tradition will be given priority when selecting an official name.
5. A name proposed for a particular type of facility usually will not be considered suitable if it duplicates or is too similar to an existing name of the same type of facility.
6. Street names should maintain the continuity and identification of streets in order to facilitate 911 identification, emergency response, and mail delivery and the location of addresses.
7. Names that imply discrimination or would be considered derogatory to a particular person or organization or to any race, religion, ethnic group or group of handicapped persons shall not be considered suitable.
8. Names which are considered obscene or blasphemous shall not be considered suitable.

9. Names which, by current community standards, would not be considered in good taste shall not be considered suitable.

B. Criteria Specific to Names Identified with Individuals.

1. Names of persons should be considered only if it is determined to be in the public interest to honor the person or the person's family for historical or commemorative reasons.
2. A person's epithet, nickname or title may be used if it would provide a more appropriate, interesting or enduring name.
3. Full names usually will not be considered suitable unless they are short, euphonic or would be required because using only a part of the name would render it unidentifiable.
4. Names usually will not be considered suitable unless the person was associated with or made a significant contribution to the facility or the area in which the facility is located.
5. Prior ownership of land or a financial contribution to a City Facility alone should not be considered sufficient basis for consideration of an individual's name.
6. The Committee will not recommend a proposal which seeks to rename a City Facility which is already named for a person, if the name of that person has historical significance.

APPROVED: _____
Valerie A. Lemmie
City Manager

Date: _____

WLR
CDP-070