

City of Cincinnati

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An Ordinance No. _____

- 2020

DECLARING that Oak Street at May Street shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of Bennington-Seiffert Memorial Way, in memory of Cincinnati Police Officer Dennis Bennington and in recognition of his service to the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Officer Dennis Bennington was born on June 18, 1951 to parents Ruth and Robert Bennington; and

WHEREAS, while attending the University of Cincinnati in 1969, Officer Bennington joined the Cincinnati Police Department as a Police Cadet, and was promoted to Police Recruit in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Officer Bennington earned an associate degree from the University of Cincinnati, graduating 14th in his class; and

WHEREAS, Officer Bennington then was promoted to Patrolman, issued Badge 82, and assigned to District 6; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Officer Bennington was assigned to a Robbery Task Force, a position usually reserved for the most exceptional officers, to focus on the annual increase in robbery offenses occurring between Thanksgiving and Christmas; and

WHEREAS, during Officer Bennington's 9½ years on the police force, he worked at Districts 4, 6, and 7 as well as Central Station (City Jail at City Hall), receiving six letters of appreciation and commendation and three official commendations from the Police Chief or Bureau Commander; and

WHEREAS, Police Chief Lawrence Whalen described Officer Bennington as "an excellent, all-around police officer who needs no supervision"; and

WHEREAS, Officer Bennington was dedicated to his family, marrying his high school sweetheart Linda Godfrey in 1969, and becoming the father of two children, Tina and Tim; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 Officer Bennington was featured in the Cincinnati Enquirer as an avid duck hunter and with his wife and children as a "family of campers"; he also enjoyed softball, fishing, and grilling out with his family, parents, and sister Marilyn; and

WHEREAS, Officer Bennington was kind and giving to all he met – police command staff, fellow officers, civilian staff, and the community, doing everything he could to help anyone in need and thus significantly impacting many lives, then and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Officer Bennington lost his life in the line of duty on March 6, 1979; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Oak Street at May Street shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of Bennington-Seiffert Memorial Way by legislative action of the Mayor and City Council in memory of Cincinnati Police Officer Dennis Bennington and in recognition of his service to the City of Cincinnati.

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 Oak Street at May Street as Bennington-Seiffert Memorial 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 Cincinnati Police Officer Dennis Bennington via the office of Councilmember Christopher Smitherman.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: _____, 2020

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk