

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS

EESW

An Ordinance No. 197

- 2023

**DECLARING** that Central Parkway at Ezzard Charles Drive in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Dr. O’dell Owens Way” in honor of Dr. O’dell Moreno Owens and in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati through his career in medicine and public service.

WHEREAS, Doctor O’dell Moreno Owens, M.D., MPH, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, grew up in the West End neighborhood, and graduated from Woodward High School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens attended Antioch College and then went on to graduate from Yale University School of Medicine with both a medical doctorate and a Master of Public Health and then was the first African American fellow in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Harvard Medical School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens returned to Cincinnati in 1982 and established the in vitro fertilization program at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and is credited with Cincinnati’s first successful in vitro conception and delivery and the first pregnancy from a frozen embryo; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens was elected as the Hamilton County Coroner in 2004 and reelected in 2008 where he continued his life’s mission to impact the lives of young people to encourage them to stay in school and pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Dr. Owens became president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and later served as the interim Cincinnati health commissioner; and

WHEREAS, as a medical professional Dr. Owens was nationally recognized for his medical knowledge and his innovative procedures with in vitro fertilization and further worked to improve health care access using school-based centers, remedy the opioid epidemic, reduce tobacco use, and improve health equity in the City of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens was also successful in business being on the board of directors for Star Bank which is now U.S. Bank for 29 years and president and chief executive officer of Interact for Health where he retired in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens also served on the boards for the Cincinnati Fire Foundation, the Carl H. Lindner Jr. Family Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, the Ronald McDonald House, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland’s Cincinnati Business Advisory Council, and he was chairman of the Cincinnati Preschool Promise; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens further served on the boards for the University of Cincinnati, the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, Cincinnati Red Cross, Fine Arts Fund, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and further chaired the annual CET Action Auction that supports Cincinnati's public television programming; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce named Dr. Owens one of its Great Living Cincinnatians as a person who has made an indelible and significant impact in the Greater Cincinnati area; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens passed away on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 and was survived by his wife Marchelle and children Christopher, Justin, and Morgan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'dell Owens made a lasting impact in the Cincinnati medical community, the health of the City of Cincinnati's citizens, and his legacy, contributions, and dedication to the City of Cincinnati and its citizens will long be remembered; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Central Parkway at Ezzard Charles Drive in the West End neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of "Dr. O'dell Owens Way" in honor of Doctor O'dell Moreno Owens and in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati through medicine and public service.

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 Central Parkway at Ezzard Charles Drive as "Dr. O'dell Owens 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 Doctor O'dell Moreno Owens 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: June 1, 2023

Jan Michele Lemo Kearney  
Vice Mayor

Attest: Nicole Mawyer  
Acting Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE NO 187-2023  
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 11/13/2023  
Melissa Antley  
CLERK OF COUNCIL