

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee

FROM: Commissioner David Richardson

DATE: October 29, 2021

SUBJECT: Referral to the October 29, 2021 Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee of the Proposal to co-name 19th Street after Elie Wiesel

In accordance with the City Code, the above-referenced item is to consider my specific proposal to co-name of 19th Street, located between Meridian Avenue and Muhammad Ali Way, and proximate to Pride Park and the City's Holocaust Memorial, in honor of the late Elie Wiesel.

On September 17, 2021, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2021-4439., amending Section 82-503(c) of the City Code to provide for additional criteria for the co-naming of streets in honor of prominent Jewish figure who made significant civic contributions to Jewish history and/or Jewish-related initiatives, such as Elie Wiesel.

Whenever a request is made to co-name streets or portions thereof, Section 82-503(c)(2) of the City Code requires the sponsor to submit the proposal in writing to an appropriate committee (in this case, the NQLC), which shall include the following: (1) the street, or portion thereof, to be co-named; (2) the proposed co-name of the street, or portion thereof; (3) the reason for the request; and (4) a factual summary confirming that the proposed person falls under the specific criteria outlined in subsection 82-503(c)(1)(a) of the City Code.

Elie Wiesel was a Romanian-born Jewish writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor. Mr. Wiesel authored 57 books, including *Night*, a work based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, which provided the world with an invaluable firsthand account of the horrors that the Jewish people had endured and remains an integral part of Holocaust literature. Elie Wiesel was the Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, and helped establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., which provides for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history.

In 1986, Elie Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for being a "messenger to mankind," and "one of the most important spiritual leaders and guides in an age when violence, repression and racism continue to characterize the world," and dedicated his

Nobel Peace Prize to those who survived the Holocaust. In 1992, Elie Wiesel was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for being a 'keeper of the flame of freedom' and challenging people of all religions to remember the Holocaust.

Co-naming 19th Street after a prominent Jewish figure and a Holocaust survivor would be appropriate and fitting due to its proximity to the City's Holocaust Memorial, a striking, beautiful memorial built for remembrance of lives taken not only during the Holocaust, but for the promotion of tolerance and human rights

As such, I propose to co-name 19th Street, located between Meridian Avenue and Muhammad Ali Way, and proximate to Pride Park and the City's Holocaust Memorial as "Elie Wiesel Street" and request the Committee to provide its advisory recommendation for the Mayor and City Commission's consideration and approval, subject to a public hearing and a 5/7 vote.

Should you have any questions or concerns about any of the foregoing, please don't hesitate to contact me or my aide Luis Callejas.

DR/RAP/FA/ag