

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 3(A)(3)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** February 2, 2021

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
Successor County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving the City  
of Miami's codesignation of that  
portion of Northwest 14th  
Avenue from Northwest 62nd  
Street to Northwest 67th Street as  
"Betty Wright Lane"

Resolution No. R-65-21

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Keon Hardemon.



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Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
Successor County Attorney

GBK/jp



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present \_\_\_\_, 2/3 membership \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) \_\_\_\_ ) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 3(A)(3)  
2-2-21

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ R-65-21

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF MIAMI'S  
CODESIGNATION OF THAT PORTION OF NORTHWEST  
14TH AVENUE FROM NORTHWEST 62ND STREET TO  
NORTHWEST 67TH STREET AS "BETTY WRIGHT LANE"

**WHEREAS**, the musical pride and pulse of Miami-Dade County, Ms. Bessie Regina Norris, professionally known to the world as the legendary Betty Wright, ("Ms. Wright"), was born on December 21, 1953 in Miami, Florida and passed away on May 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the daughter of Rosa Akins Brady-Wright and McArthur Norris, Ms. Wright was the youngest of seven children who proudly attributed the fabric of her success to her strong familial, spiritual, and ancestral roots, her humble beginnings as a former resident of the Liberty Square "Pork-and-Bean" Housing Projects, and formal education as a student in the Miami-Dade County Public School System; and

**WHEREAS**, at the tender age of two, Ms. Wright would quickly emerge as a vocal prodigy, beginning her professional singing career in 1956 as a member of her family-based gospel group, "Echoes of Joy", where she received the moniker "Betty Wright" and remained a touring member until the age of 11; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Wright would continue to take the music world by storm, signing her first record deal at the age of 12, releasing her debut solo album "My First Time Around" in 1968 at the age of 14, which included the Billboard 100 Top 40's hit, "Girls Can't Do What Guys Can Do", and would prove to be the first of many chart-topping anthems including "Clean Up Woman",

“Tonight is the Night”, “Where is the Love”, and “No Pain No Gain”, all of which have broken generational barriers and are celebrated to this very day; and

**WHEREAS**, all before her 18th birthday, “Betty Wright” was a bona fide household name; and

**WHEREAS**, a Grammy Award winning artist, pioneer, trailblazer, mentor, writer, producer, singer and the ultimate entertainer, Ms. Wright’s discography would include the distinct honor of her being the first woman to obtain a gold-status album on a self-established independent label, “Ms. B Records”, one notable accolade on her long list of accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS**, her musical DNA and distinct impact are forever etched into the fabric of various genres and notable artists including Gloria Estefan, Joss Stone, Sean “P. Diddy” Combs, Lil Wayne, DJ Khaled, Rick Ross, and countless others; and

**WHEREAS**, greatest of all, Ms. Wright was “more than her music”, as she was a consummate mother to her four children, all the while pouring into the lives of Miami’s inner-city youth, aspiring musicians, and members of the community who needed a listening ear, an encouraging word, or even a place to call home, notably establishing the renowned Miami-based M.O.S.T (“Mountain of Songs Today”) writing camp which ensured that up and coming artists developed and flourished under the guidance of her mentorship and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, to honor the profound memory and matchless legacy of Ms. Wright, the consummate mother to all, woman of faith, woman on the move, and advocate for progress, change, and productivity, that she proved to be for so many, on October 8, 2020, the Commission of the City of Miami adopted Resolution No. R-20-0316, which codesignated that portion of Northwest 14th Avenue from Northwest 62nd Street to Northwest 67th Street as “Betty Wright Lane”; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of Resolution No. R-20-0316 is attached hereto and incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami would like the County to install signage indicating this codesignation on County street signs and traffic signal mast arms; and

**WHEREAS**, in the same spirit of reverence, this Board would like to honor the memory and matchless legacy of Ms. Wright by paying homage to the place of her birth and approving the City of Miami’s codesignation of that portion of Northwest 14th Avenue from Northwest 62nd Street to Northwest 67th Street as “Betty Wright Lane”; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest 14th Avenue from Northwest 62nd Street to Northwest 67th Street is a city-maintained road located in the City of Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, this codesignation is located in County Commission District 3,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

**Section 1.** Approves the City of Miami codesignation of that portion of Northwest 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Northwest 62nd Street to Northwest 67th Street as “Betty Wright Lane”.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami, the United States Postal Service, the Traffic Signs and Signals Division of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Development Services Division of the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department, the City of Miami Police Department and the City of Miami Fire-Rescue Department.





# City of Miami

## Legislation

### Resolution: R-20-0316

City Hall  
3500 Pan American Drive  
Miami, FL 33133  
www.miamigov.com

**File Number: 7822**

**Final Action Date: 10/8/2020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION CO-DESIGNATING THAT PORTION WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI'S LIMITS OF NORTHWEST 14TH AVENUE FROM NORTHWEST 62ND STREET TO NORTHWEST 67TH STREET AS "BETTY WRIGHT LANE", MIAMI, FLORIDA; FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE HEREIN DESIGNATED OFFICES.

**SPONSOR(S): Mayor Francis X. Suarez**

WHEREAS, Bessie Regina Norris, professionally known as Betty Wright ("Wright"), was born in Miami, Florida in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Wright started performing at the young age of two (2) with her siblings in a gospel group called the Echoes of Joy and released an album in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Wright began experimenting with Rhythm and Blues ("R&B") music in 1965 at the age of eleven (11); and

WHEREAS, Wright released her first album at the age of fourteen (14) called *My First Time Around* in 1968 and had her first national hit song "Girls Can't Do What Guys Can Do"; and

WHEREAS, Wright had several successful songs in the 1970s including "Clean Up Woman" and "Tonight is the Night"; and

WHEREAS, Wright won a Grammy for Best R&B Song for "Where is the Love" in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Wright became the first woman in music history to have a gold record on her own label for *Mother Wit* (self-written, arranged, produced, and published) in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Wright was a distinguished songwriter, producer, and vocal coach and had many collaborations with artists in the industry including Sean "Diddy" Combs, Lil Wayne, Joss Stone, and many more; and

WHEREAS, Wright served her hometown of Miami when she cultivated a home-based writing camp called The M.O.S.T. (Mountain of Songs Today) that gave young aspiring artists an opportunity to explore their abilities and receive her guidance and mentorship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami ("City") would like to honor Wright by supporting the co-designation of that portion of Northwest 14th Avenue between Northwest 62nd Street and Northwest 67th Street as "Betty Wright Lane";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

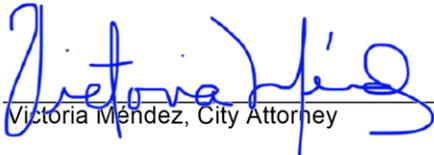
Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. Northwest 14th Avenue from Northwest 62nd Street to Northwest 67th Street, Miami, Florida is hereby co-designated as "Betty Wright Lane".

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Departments of Police, Fire-Rescue, Solid Waste, the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, the United States Postal Service, and, if a State of Florida road, to the Florida Department of Transportation, District One for sign installation within the newly designated roadway.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

  
Victoria Méndez, City Attorney 9/28/2020