

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 3(A)(2)

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

**DATE:** November 1, 2022

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving the City of  
Miami's codesignation of a  
portion of NW 7th Street Road  
from North River Drive to NW  
9th Court as "Ruth Greenfield  
Way"

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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  
County Attorney

GBK/gh

MDC001



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

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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)(2)  
11-1-22

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF MIAMI'S  
CODESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF NW 7TH STREET  
ROAD FROM NORTH RIVER DRIVE TO NW 9TH COURT AS  
"RUTH GREENFIELD WAY"

**WHEREAS**, on September 13, 2022, the City of Miami passed Resolution No. R-22-0337, which codesignated that portion of NW 7th Street Road from North River Drive to NW 9th Court as "Ruth Greenfield Way"; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of Resolution No. R-22-0337 is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, Ruth Greenfield was born on November 17, 1923, as Ruth Miriam Wolkowsky in Key West and moved to Miami at the age of six months; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Greenfield began studying piano at age five and graduated from Miami Beach High School in 1941; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Greenfield studied for two years at the University of Miami and then obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1940, Ms. Greenfield left Miami for Paris to study music composition; and

**WHEREAS**, upon her return to Miami, Ms. Greenfield was determined to act on the social inequities and segregation that she witnessed in Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1951, Ms. Greenfield founded the Fine Arts Conservatory, one of the first fully integrated schools for music, art, and dance in the South; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Greenfield also taught for 32 years at Miami-Dade College and founded Miami-Dade Colleges' Lunchtime Lively Arts Series; and

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

**WHEREAS**, this Board would also like to honor Ms. Greenfield by approving the City of Miami's codesignation of that portion of NW 7th Street Road from North River Drive to NW 9th Court as "Ruth Greenfield Way",

**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's codesignation of that portion of NW 7th Street Road from North River Drive to NW 9th Court as "Ruth Greenfield Way".

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

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Keon Hardemon It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	
Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Kionne L. McGhee
Jean Monestime	Raquel A. Regalado
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2022. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

mjs

Melanie J. Spencer



# City of Miami

## Resolution R-22-0337

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

### Legislation

**File Number: 12414**

**Final Action Date: 9/13/2022**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, BY A FOUR-FIFTHS (4/5THS) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AFTER AN ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING, CODESIGNATING THAT PORTION OF NORTHWEST 7TH STREET ROAD FROM NORTH RIVER DRIVE TO NORTHWEST 9TH COURT, MIAMI, FLORIDA AS "RUTH GREENFIELD WAY"; FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE HEREIN DESIGNATED OFFICES.

**SPONSOR(S): Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla, Commissioner Christine King**

**"INCOMPLETE (ITEM WAS ADOPTED WITH MODIFICATIONS). PENDING FINAL APPROVAL AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS BY CITY ATTORNEY."**

WHEREAS, Ruth Greenfield was born on November 17, 1923, as Ruth Miriam Wolkowsky in Key West, Florida, and moved to Miami, where she was raised, at the age of six months; and

WHEREAS, while growing up, she was unaware of the pervasive segregation of the time, except when visiting her grandparents in Spring Garden, across the railroad tracks from Colored Town, now called Overtown, a strange other world, in which black people had a servile role, doing laundry for white people; and

WHEREAS, Ruth began studying piano at age 5, studied with Mana-Zucca, who moved from New York to Miami, graduated from Miami Beach High School in 1941, studied for two years at the University of Miami, then obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in music at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, while studying with the renowned pianist Artur Schnabel, Ruth broke racial taboos by dating a classmate who was a young black man from Jamaica; and

WHEREAS, she returned to the University of Miami again to teach piano; and

WHEREAS, in 1940, Ruth left Miami for Paris, France, in order to study composition with Nadia Boulanger, the teacher of successful composers including Aaron Copland and Astor Piazzolla; and

WHEREAS, in Paris, Ruth married Miami attorney Arnold Merwin Greenfield, a graduate of Harvard Law School that enjoyed painting and cooking and listening to his wife play the piano. Her maid of honor at the small Paris wedding was a black pianist, Lois Towles from Arkansas.; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning to segregated Miami, Greenfield wanted to do something about the lack of integration in this community and the South and so, motivated by her friendship with school principal Mary Ford Williams, whose son, James "Jimmy" Ford, a Juilliard

School graduate, had found doors to Miami's music establishment and competitions closed to him, in 1951 she founded the Fine Arts Conservatory, one of the first fully integrated schools for music, art and dance in the South; and

WHEREAS, during the early years, the school moved between black and white neighborhoods, holding classes in such locations as private homes, a Masonic lodge, the Young Men's Christian Association ("YMCA") and the most notorious location, a storage room for caskets that reeked of formaldehyde, in an Overtown funeral home; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 1953, Greenfield's Fine Arts Conservatory student, 15-year-old James Ford performed at an otherwise all-white recital at Miami Memorial Library thanks to Greenfield's having alerted Jack Bell, a Miami Herald columnist who wrote about the issue; and

WHEREAS, by 1961, the Fine Arts Conservatory had raised enough money to buy a small run-down house in the vicinity of Northwest 60th Street and 7th Avenue that served as its permanent headquarters, until it closed in 1978 and eventually expanded to six branches throughout Dade County; and

WHEREAS,. Prominent community leaders, including Mary Ford Williams, Congresswoman Carrie Meek and Dorothy Graham, continued to steer talented students to the school; and

WHEREAS, Greenfield also continued to teach for 32 years at what is today Miami Dade College, Florida's first integrated college and founded Miami-Dade Community College's Lunchtime Lively Arts Series in the late 1970s and made it all-encompassing (including music, theater, and literature) with a wide-ranging list of artists performing that included Isaac Bashevis Singer, Dick Gregory, Odetta, The Ink Spots, Virgil Thomson and Gwendolyn Brooks. In the fall of 2011, the college rededicated its Wolfson Campus auditorium in Greenfield's honor; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, director Steve Waxman released a feature documentary, "Instruments of Change" about Greenfield and her history with the Fine Arts Conservatory that included Miami personalities Eduardo Padron, Marvis Martin, Garth Reeves, Carrie Meek, Judge Wendell Graham, Judy Drucker, and Charles Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to honor Ruth Greenfield's numerous contributions to the City of Miami by co-designating Northwest 7<sup>th</sup> Street Road from North River Drive to Northwest 9<sup>th</sup> Court, Miami, Florida, as "Ruth Greenfield Way";

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

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

Section 2. By a four-fifths (4/5ths) affirmative vote, after an advertised public hearing, the City Commission hereby co-designates that portion of Northwest 7<sup>th</sup> Street Road from North River Drive to Northwest 9<sup>th</sup> Court, Miami, Florida, as "Ruth Greenfield Way".

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

within the newly designated roadways.

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

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS: