

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(B)

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

DATE: July 8, 2021

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution codesignating that
portion of SW 37th Avenue
(Douglas Road) from Grand
Avenue to Charles Terrace as
"Vernon Hawthorne Clark, Sr.
Way"; urging the City of Miami
to join in this codesignation

Resolution No. R-625-21

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

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

DATE: July 8, 2021

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(B)

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. 5(B)
7-8-21

RESOLUTION NO. R-625-21

RESOLUTION CODESIGNATING THAT PORTION OF SW
37TH AVENUE (DOUGLAS ROAD) FROM GRAND AVENUE
TO CHARLES TERRACE AS “VERNON HAWTHORNE
CLARK, SR. WAY”; URGING THE CITY OF MIAMI TO JOIN
IN THIS CODESIGNATION

WHEREAS, trailblazer and activist Vernon Hawthorne Clark, Sr., a Civil Rights pioneer whose indelible mark is etched into the fabric of the Coconut Grove community, died on November 18, 2020 at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, born to Bahamian parents who migrated to the Coconut Grove area of Miami, Florida in the 1920s, Mr. Clark quickly developed an earnest commitment to bettering the community around him at an early age; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark’s strong spiritual foundation under the tutelage of social and political powerhouses Reverend Canon Theodore Gibson and wife Thelma Vernal Gibson as a member of Coconut Grove’s Christ Episcopal Church, similarly played an integral role in cultivating his social and educational ideologies and strong spirit of activism; and

WHEREAS, although the prevalence of segregation and the unfathomable ills that surrounded the Jim Crow South unsuccessfully sought to stifle Mr. Clark’s growth and productivity, he emerged as an unstoppable leader in his own right, advocating tirelessly for improved living and educational standards for the affected residents of Coconut Grove and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark continued to take his rightful place on the frontlines of the Civil Rights Movement by both demonstrating and advocating for the desegregation of Miami's beaches and leading to the establishment of the historic Virginia Key Beach, fair and improved housing conditions such as the establishment of an effective indoor plumbing system for Coconut Grove's Black residents through the Coconut Grove Committee for Slum Clearance, and the desegregation of Miami's public bus services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was a firm believer in worthwhile connections and community, and made sure that the wellbeing of the residents of Coconut Grove remained at the forefront of his plight; and

WHEREAS, he reflected favorably on his life and his ability to see the "fruits of his labor" personified through Miami's desegregation efforts and continued push for collective positive change; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was also a political powerhouse who both challenged and encouraged aspiring political leaders to eradicate and eliminate the racial and socio-economic divide and to cultivate growth in Coconut Grove, Miami-Dade County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his immeasurable contributions to the fabric of Coconut Grove and the greater Miami-Dade County community, this Board seeks to honor the memory, legacy, and tenacity of Mr. Vernon Hawthorne Clark, Sr., and pay homage to a life dedicated to causes greater than his own by codesignating that portion of SW 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) from Grand Avenue to Charles Terrace as "Vernon Hawthorne Clark, Sr. Way"; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this distinct Miami-Dade County road located in Coconut Grove be codesignated to reflect the matchless legacy of Mr. Vernon Hawthorne Clark, Sr., a true testament to Miami-Dade County's rich and diverse history; and

WHEREAS, that portion of SW 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) from Grand Avenue to Charles Terrace is a County-maintained road located in the City of Miami; and

WHEREAS, this proposed codesignation is located in County Commission District 7,

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

Section 1. Having considered this matter at a public hearing, codesignates that portion of SW 37th Avenue (Douglas Road) from Grand Avenue to Charles Terrace as “Vernon Hawthorne Clark, Sr. Way.”

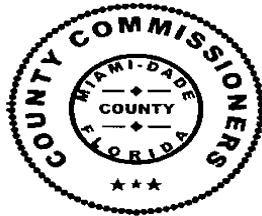
Section 2. Urges the City of Miami to join in this codesignation.

Section 3. 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 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 Police Department, the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, the City of Miami Police Department and the City of Miami Fire-Rescue Department.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8th day of July, 2021. 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: **Melissa Adames**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

NLC

Nykeah L. Cohen