

## **MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 5(A)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** April 16, 2024

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution codesignating and  
approving the City of Miami's  
codesignation of that portion of  
NW 19th Avenue from NW 54th  
Street to NW 55th Street as  
"Reverend Canon J. Kenneth  
Major Way"

Resolution No. R-315-24

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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/uw



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** April 16, 2024

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 5(A)

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(A)  
4-16-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-315-24

RESOLUTION CODESIGNATING AND APPROVING THE CITY OF MIAMI'S CODESIGNATION OF THAT PORTION OF NW 19TH AVENUE FROM NW 54TH STREET TO NW 55TH STREET AS "REVEREND CANON J. KENNETH MAJOR WAY"

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major, D.D. ("Father Major") was born in Miami, Florida on January 4, 1936, the son of immigrant parents, Joseph Wakefield Major and Alice Rebecca Taylor from Long Island, Bahamas; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major was baptized and later confirmed at St. Agnes Episcopal Church in Overtown; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major received his elementary school education at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School and graduated from Booker T. Washington Junior-Senior High School, where he was elected president of the Student Government Association, in 1955; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major was awarded a full college scholarship from Wometco Enterprises with the stipulation that he return to Miami to serve his community; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1959, Father Major graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was inducted as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was then admitted to Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University to study for the priesthood, where his studies were interrupted when he accepted a position as a social caseworker with the New York City Department of Social Services; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1960, Father Major married Peggy Currin and they had three children together who they adored, Allison, Kenneth, Jr., and Karen; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major then resumed and completed his studies in theology at Mercer Seminary, Garden City, Long Island, New York in June 1968, and was ordained to the diaconate at St. Philip's Church, Brooklyn, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 1968, Father Major arrived in Miami as Curate to assist with the pastoral work at the Church of the Incarnation, located in the heart of Miami's Model Cities, and in August of 1968, a few days after his arrival, rioting broke out when the Republican National Convention convened at Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major had the task of trying to bring calm to the Liberty City streets during the day, and at night spent countless hours monitoring the local jail to ensure the safety of those who had been arrested; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major was subsequently ordained a priest on January 25, 1969, at the Church of the Incarnation, was elected as Vicar of the congregation on April 15, 1969, and was instituted as the first rector of the parish on June 2, 1974, where his first noteworthy contribution was elevating the church to a self-sustaining parish by paying off its outstanding debt; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1977, the Board of Directors elected Father Major president and chairman of the Board of Directors of Economic Opportunity Family Health Center (now known as Jessie Trice Community Health Center), a position he held for more than a decade from 1977 to 1988, during which time he successfully advocated for the construction of the first "state of the art" community health center in the Model City area to replace the old, dilapidated trailers where it was previously located; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 14, 1980, Father Major married Betty Jean Davis in Miami, Florida and had a daughter, Nicole; and

**WHEREAS**, when riots erupted again in May 1980 and December 1982, Father Major worked with others to bring calm to the area; he was humbly proud of rescuing a man, who happened to be white, who was pulled from his car by a crowd after mistakenly driving into Overtown; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1988, Father Major was invited to attend a seminar at Canterbury Cathedral in England during Holy Week, and he preached in the cathedral while there; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1993, Father Major was appointed by the Metro-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to serve as a Board Member at Jackson Memorial Hospital Public Health Trust, a position he held for two terms, until 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure at Church of the Incarnation, the congregation was transformed into a vibrant center of outreach where programs such as the Helping Hands, the Caring Hearts, and Affirmative Aging ministries were established, and forums and musical programs were hosted featuring choirs of such universities as Florida Memorial, Fisk, Xavier, and Bethune-Cookman; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major introduced an annual service commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr., formed the Coalition of Episcopal Congregations of Greater Miami, and secured their sponsorship of the Annual Series of the Joint Lenten Services, with the collected offering given to needy domestic or foreign causes; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major maintained that one of his proudest moments was when the congregation built and moved into a new building, which was dedicated in October 1995, and converted the parish's former edifice into the parish hall which now bears his name: J. Kenneth Major Hall or JKM Hall; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major served his entire ministry at the same congregation for nearly half a century, until his retirement in 2010, where the vestry bestowed the title of Rector Emeritus upon him in 2012—the only priest in the parish to receive this honor; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major was named a Living Legend by the Booker T. Washington National Alumni Association in 2003, and an AT&T Miami-Dade County African American History Calendar honoree in the 2008/2009 calendar; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major’s additional ministry through the church, the community, and the diocese included the Board of the Model Cities Community Revitalization District Trust, the Episcopal Church Commission for Black Ministries, Dean of the North Dade Deanery, Chairman of the Companion Diocese Commission, Clergy Deputy of the Episcopal Church General Convention, the Diocese’s Standing Committee, the Executive Board of the Diocese and Examining Chaplain, Directors of Economic Opportunity past board member of the Youth Industries, Inc., founding board member of Opportunities Industrialization Center, President and founding board member of the Charles L. Williams Memorial Scholarship Foundation, and President of the Advisory Board of C.O.P.E. Center; and

**WHEREAS**, a longtime advocate for social justice, Father Major was a person of faith, who was committed to the liberation of oppressed people and who, with God’s help, embraced every assignment with complete dedication and served as a “father” to many, was well known for his story telling and quick wit, and was deeply loved by many; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Major passed away on February 16, 2023 and is greatly missed by many; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of Father Major, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami, on February 22, 2024, passed Resolution R-24-0072, which codesignated NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street as “Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way”; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of Resolution R-24-0072 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**, NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street, west of the centerline, is a County-maintained road located in unincorporated Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street, east of the centerline, is a City-maintained road located in the City of Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board would like to honor Father Major by both codesignating the County-maintained portion of NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street as “Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way,” and also approving the City of Miami’s codesignation of the City-maintained portion of NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street as “Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way”; 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.** Having considered this matter at a public hearing, codesignates the County-maintained portion of NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street as “Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way”.

**Section 2.** Approves the City of Miami’s codesignation of the City-maintained portion of NW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue from NW 54<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 55<sup>th</sup> Street as “Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way”.

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit 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 County Police Department, the City of Miami Police Department, the City of Miami Department of Fire-Rescue, and the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department.

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

	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	<b>absent</b>	
	Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	<b>aye</b>	
Marleine Bastien	<b>aye</b>	Juan Carlos Bermudez	<b>aye</b>
Kevin Marino Cabrera	<b>aye</b>	Sen. René García	<b>aye</b>
Roberto J. Gonzalez	<b>aye</b>	Keon Hardemon	<b>aye</b>
Danielle Cohen Higgins	<b>aye</b>	Eileen Higgins	<b>aye</b>
Kionne L. McGhee	<b>aye</b>	Raquel A. Regalado	<b>aye</b>
Micky Steinberg	<b>aye</b>		



The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024. 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

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AGM", is written over a horizontal line.

Andrea Gonzalez Mateo



**AGENDA ITEM COVER PAGE**

**File ID: #14898**

**Resolution**

**Sponsored by: Mayor Francis Suarez, Commissioner Christine King**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION CODESIGNATING NORTHWEST 19TH AVENUE BETWEEN NORTHWEST 54TH STREET AND NORTHWEST 55TH STREET, MIAMI, FLORIDA AS "REVEREND CANON J. KENNETH MAJOR WAY," PURSUANT TO SECTION 54-137, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED; FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE HEREIN DESIGNATED OFFICES.



**City of Miami**  
**Legislation**  
**Resolution**

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

**Enactment Number: R-24-0072**

**File Number: 14898**

**Final Action Date: 2/22/2024**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION CODESIGNATING NORTHWEST 19TH AVENUE BETWEEN NORTHWEST 54TH STREET AND NORTHWEST 55TH STREET, MIAMI, FLORIDA AS "REVEREND CANON J. KENNETH MAJOR WAY," PURSUANT TO SECTION 54-137, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED; FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE HEREIN DESIGNATED OFFICES.

WHEREAS, Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major, D.D. ("Father Major") was born in Miami, Florida on January 4, 1936, the son of immigrant parents, Joseph Wakefield Major and Alice Rebecca Taylor from Long Island, Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, Father Major was baptized and later confirmed at St. Agnes Episcopal Church in Overtown; and

WHEREAS, Father Major received his elementary school education at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School and graduated from Booker T. Washington Junior-Senior High School, where he was elected president of the Student Government Association, in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Father Major was awarded a full college scholarship from Wometco Enterprises with the stipulation that he return to Miami to serve his community; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Father Major, graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was inducted as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, and was then admitted to Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University to study for the priesthood, where his studies were interrupted when he accepted a position as a social caseworker with the New York City Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Father Major married Peggy Currin and they had three children together who they adored, Allison, Kenneth, Jr., and Karen; and

WHEREAS, Father Major then resumed and completed his studies in theology at Mercer Seminary, Garden City, Long Island, New York in June 1968, and was ordained to the diaconate at St. Philip's Church, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, in July, 1968, Father Major arrived in Miami to assist with the pastoral work at the Church of the Incarnation, located in the heart of Miami's Model City, and in August of 1968, a few days after his arrival, rioting broke out when the Republican National Convention convened at Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, Father Major had the task of trying to bring calm to the Liberty City streets during the day, and at night spent countless hours monitoring the local jail to ensure the safety of those who had been arrested; and

WHEREAS, Father Major was subsequently ordained a priest on January 25, 1969, at the Church of the Incarnation, was elected as Vicar of the congregation on April 15, 1969, and was instituted as the first rector of the parish on June 2, 1974; and

WHEREAS, his first noteworthy contribution was elevating the church to a self-sustaining parish by paying off its outstanding debt; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Board of Directors elected Father Major president and chairman of the Board of Directors of Economic Opportunity Family Health Center (now known as Jessie Trice Community Health Center), a position he held for more than a decade, from 1977 to 1988, during which time he convinced the Dade County power structure to construct the first "state of the art" community health center in the Model City area to replace the old, dilapidated trailers it was previously located; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1980, Father Major married Betty Jean Davis in Miami, Florida and had a daughter, Nicole; and

WHEREAS, when riots erupted again in May 1980 and December 1982, Father Major worked with others to bring calm to the area; he was humbly proud of rescuing a man, who happened to be white, who was pulled from his car by a crowd after mistakenly driving into Overtown; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Father Major was invited to attend a seminar at Canterbury Cathedral in England during Holy Week, and he preached in the cathedral while there; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Father Major was appointed by the Metro-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to serve as a Board Member at Jackson Memorial Hospital Public Health Trust, a position he held for two (2) terms, until 1996; and

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WHEREAS, Father Major introduced an annual service commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr., formed the Coalition of Episcopal Congregations of Greater Miami and secured their sponsorship of the Annual Series of the Joint Lenten Services, with the collected offering given to needy domestic or foreign causes; and

WHEREAS, Father Major maintained that one of his proudest moments was when the congregation built and moved into a new building, which was dedicated in October 1995, and converted the parish's former edifice into the parish hall which now bears his name: J. Kenneth Major Hall or JKM Hall; and

WHEREAS, Father Major served his entire ministry at the same congregation for nearly half a century, until his retirement in 2010, where the vestry bestowed the title of Rector Emeritus upon him in 2012 – the only priest in the parish to receive this honor; and

WHEREAS, Father Major was named a Living Legend by the Booker T. Washington National Alumni Association in 2003, and an AT&T Miami-Dade County African American History Calendar honoree in the 2008/2009 calendar; and

WHEREAS, Father Major's additional ministry through the church, the community, and the diocese, included the Board of the Liberty City Community Revitalization District Trust, the Episcopal Church Commission for Black Ministries, Dean of the North Dade Deanery; Chairman, Companion Diocese Commission; Clergy Deputy, the Episcopal Church General Convention; the Diocese's Standing Committee, the Executive Board of the Diocese and Examining Chaplain; Directors of Economic Opportunity past board member of the Youth Industries, Inc., founding board member of Opportunities Industrialization Center, President and founding board member of the Charles L. Williams Memorial Scholarship Foundation, and President of the Advisory Board of C.O.P.E. Center; and

WHEREAS, a longtime advocate for social justice, Father Major was a person of faith, who was committed to the liberation of oppressed people and who, with God's help, embraced every assignment with complete dedication and served as a "father" to many, was well known for his story telling and quick wit, and was deeply loved by many; and

WHEREAS, Father Major was called home by the Lord on February 16, 2023 and is greatly missed by many; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the City honor and celebrate the legacy of Father Major and his selfless contributions to the City and its residents by co-designating Northwest 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Northwest 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Northwest 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, Florida as "Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way";

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

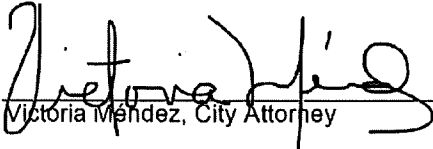
Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this section.

Section 2. Northwest 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Northwest 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Northwest 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, Florida is hereby co-designated as "Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major Way," pursuant to Section 54-137 of the Code of the City of Miami, Florida, as amended ("City Code").

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Departments of Police, Fire-Rescue, and 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 Six, 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:

  
Victoria Méndez, City Attorney 2/8/2024

NOTE #1: Pursuant to the resolution, this item became effective immediately upon adoption by the Commission. NOTE #2: Per Directive, City Clerk's Office transmitted on 2/29/2024.