

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 06/16/20

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 20-0430

**LOG NAME:** 20STREET NAME CHANGE R.W. BIVENS LANE

**SUBJECT**

Adopt an Ordinance Changing the Name of a Portion of Bethune Street between Elgin Street and Ramey Avenue to R. W. Bivens Lane and Authorize Related Waivers (COUNCIL DISTRICT 5)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize certain waivers and adopt an ordinance changing the name of a portion of Bethune Street between Elgin Street and Ramey Avenue to R. W. Bivens Lane.

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**DISCUSSION:**

City Council approved Council Proposal No. 315 on June 4, 2020 which requested authorization to change the portion of Bethune Street between Elgin Street and Ramey Avenue to R. W. Bivens Lane as shown in the attached location map (Exhibit "A"). The City Council approval also authorized staff to waive the \$700.00 application fee and requirements to submit names, addresses and signatures of all abutting property owners concurring with the proposed street name change.

Roy Wilson Bivens left Brushy Creek, Texas with only \$.38 in his pocket and built a church that became a magnet drawing people from all over Southeast Fort Worth. Members were often surprised at what happened on church grounds from parking lot helicopter landings to impromptu concerts by recording artists. Neighborhood people often brought their problems to him, but one that was unique involved hiring practices at the neighborhood grocery store. People who were not members of the church came to him when the new owner of the store fired all African Americans. His remedy was swift and effective: He told members to shop elsewhere. The store owner called and African Americans were rehired. The most recent church expansion unveiled the Roy Bivens Fellowship Hall which faces Bethune Street which is where a church parsonage was located. Pastor James Brown proposes renaming Bethune in honor of the deceased Pastor.

The Fire Department supports this street name change request.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

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**FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of these recommendations will have no material effect on City funds.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Dana Burghdoff 8018

**Originating Business Unit Head:** William Johnson 7801

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