

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS



COUNCIL PROPOSAL

Date: June 2, 2020	File Number: 315	Subject: Street Name Change for Portion of Bethune Street Between Elgin Street and Ramey Avenue to R.W. Bivens Lane; and Waiver of Application Fee and Requirements	
Proposed By: Gyna Bivens and Carlos Flores		City Manager's Review: <u>Dana Burghdoff</u> <small>Dana Burghdoff (May 29, 2020 12:55 CDT)</small>	Page: PAGE 1 OF 2
		City Attorney's Review: <u>Sarah J. Fullenwider</u> <small>Sarah J. Fullenwider (May 29, 2020 12:27 CDT)</small>	

It is proposed that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to initiate a street name change for the portion of Bethune Street between Elgin Street and Ramey to R.W. Bivens Lane; and
2. Waive the fee for the application in the amount of \$700; and
3. Waive the requirements to submit names, addresses and signatures of all abutting property owners concurring with the proposed street name change.

DISCUSSION:

Resolution #3253-09-2005 establishes procedures for the naming of City-owned facilities after deceased individuals and after living individuals in limited circumstances. The individual must have made an extraordinary contribution for the betterment of all Fort Worth. It has been proposed that a portion of Bethune Street between Elgin Street and Ramey Avenue be renamed R.W. Bivens Lane, as depicted on the attached map.

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.

In order to waive the requirements, the City Council should make the two (1) that the waiver carries out a public purpose; and (2) that there are sufficient controls to ensure that the public purpose is carried out. Given the legacy of Roy Wilson Bivens in Fort Worth, the street name change and fee waiver are appropriate and serve a public purpose. If approved TPW will replace the streets signs, ensuring that the public purpose is carried out.

- ☐ LEGALITY
- ☐ FISCAL NOTE
- ☐ CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS
- ☐ CITY POLICIES MANUAL

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The process for implementing the street name change will include notification of the affected property owners prior to City Council action and a Mayor and City Council Communication to confirm the street name change after that public notification period has occurred.

LEGALITY:

The Law Department finds that this proposal is legal and within the authority of the City Council.

FISCAL NOTE:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City Funds.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENT:

The City Manager has no objection to this proposal.

PROPOSED BY:


Gyna M. Bivens (May 28, 2020 17:41 CDT)

Gyna Bivens
Council Member


Carlos E. Flores (May 29, 2020 12:21 CDT)

Carlos Flores
Council Member

- ☐ LEGALITY
- ☐ FISCAL NOTE
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Mayor & Council Project Limit Map

(Bethune Street From Elgin Street To Ramey Ave)

