

Ordinance No. 97-2022

By Council Member Conwell

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
Designating Parkgate Avenue between East 99th Street and 105th Street with a secondary and honorary designation of “Leon Bibb Way”.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Cleveland want to honor Leon Bibb with a secondary street sign designation of “Leon Bibb Way” in recognition of his contributions to print and broadcast journalism in Cleveland and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Leon Bibb was born in Butler, Georgia and moved with his family at the age of one to Cleveland, where he grew up and graduated from Glenville High School; he now lives in Shaker Heights with his wife Marguerite and together they have two daughters, Jennifer and Alison; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his journalism degree from Bowling Green State University, he went on to study radio, television, and film as a graduate student; he also served in the Vietnam War and was awarded a Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the late 1960s, Bibb worked as a news reporter for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, as a reporter in Toledo, and then as a news anchor and reporter in Columbus where he became Ohio’s first African American primetime anchor at WCMH-TV in 1976; and

WHEREAS, returning to Cleveland in 1979 at WKYC-TV, he was promoted to primary news anchor there in 1986 and moved to WEWS-TV in 1995 as a news anchor and reporter who hosted many shows, including “My Ohio with Leon Bibb,” “Leon Bibb’s Perspective,” “Kaleidoscope,” and a series called “Our Hometown”; and

WHEREAS, Bibb has interviewed numerous political leaders and notable figures, including President Barack Obama, President George H.W. Bush, Neil Armstrong, and James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr; Bibb has also written several short stories and poems, many of which have been published; and

WHEREAS, Bibb’s numerous awards include six local Emmy Awards, several citations from the Cleveland Press Club for excellence in journalism, the Distinguished Journalism Award from the Society for Professional Journalists, Awards of Excellence from Cleveland State University and the Radio-TV Council, induction into the Broadcaster’s Hall of Fame, Glenville High School Hall of Fame, Bowling Green State University School of Communications Hall of Fame, Associated Press Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame, Sigma Delta Chi Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland Association of

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Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and appointment to the Board of Trustees at Bowling Green State University by Governor George Voinovich, where he also served as chairman; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That Parkgate Avenue between East 99th Street and 105th Street is designated with a secondary and honorary designation of “Leon Bibb Way”.

Section 2. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

/jho
1-24-2022
FOR: Councilmember Conwell

