

Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau introduces bill to designate Theodore "Ted" Williams Alley

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WASHINGTON — A bill introduced today in the D.C. Council will designate Theodore "Ted" Williams Alley in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood to commemorate the life of the community leader and the enduring legacy of his family. The bill from Ward 1 D.C. Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau will also remove a roadblock to the construction of a building on the property which includes publicly accessible community benefits.

"Mr. Williams is remembered fondly by the Pleasant Plains community for both his personal accomplishments and his work to knit the community together," said Nadeau. "The District owes a debt of gratitude to this remarkable family, and I am happy to introduce legislation recognizing Ted Williams and through him, the entire Williams family. At the same time, this bill will help move a project forward that will add lighting and other amenities to the alley and surrounding property."

Mr. Theodore "Ted" Williams was the first and only African American person to work in the Contagious Disease Department at the Old Garfield Hospital. He was also the first African American person to be employed above the position of "laborer" at the Hygienic Laboratory which has since become the National Institutes of Health. Mr. Williams was also well-known as a community leader. He promoted some of the first integrated basketball games in DC and started the Banneker Softball League. Mr. Williams was posthumously inducted into the American Softball Association Hall of Fame. Mr. Williams' wife, Gladys W. Martin, was an elementary school teacher and also known for her volunteer work.

Mr. Williams and his wife also raised very accomplished children. His son, Theodore Williams, Jr, became the first African American professor at the College of Wooster – after years of working mornings and after school at the Dupont Laundry Company as its first African American employee, then graduating from Howard University and Penn State University. His daughter, Mrs. Dolores Williams Tucker, earned A.B. and M.S. degrees from Catholic University. She served as a standout employee at the CIA Library and was the first African American person to receive the Career Intelligence Medal. A lifelong resident of Ward 1, Mrs. Tucker is known for her work to improve the Ward.

A project at the site by local developer, Seven Five Three Development, cannot move forward unless the Council names the alley in which it is located, to allow the developer to divide the property into lots. The plans, which were approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment, will create live/work artist space and office space, which will bring daytime foot traffic to the neighborhood. The builder has agreed to provide public benefits including lighting of the alley, additional traffic signage and pedestrian travel protection. The alley runs between Irving Street NW and Columbia Road NW, and 11th Street NW and Sherman Avenue NW.

BZA Application No. 18511-A Sampling of Recent Decisions to Extend the Validity of a BZA Order

Case No.	Applicant	Date Decided	Justification	Evidence
17837-B	Hillcrest Homes	9/17/13	Difficulty in securing financing due to “challenging conditions”	Testimony of the Applicant (affidavit)
17913-A	Gonzaga College High School	5/17/11	Difficulty in securing financing due to the “deterioration of the current economic climate”	Testimony of the Applicant (letter)
17926-A	LT Propco LLC	7/12/11	Difficulty in securing financing due to “the deterioration of the real estate market”	Testimony of the Applicant (letter)
18002-A	Gould Property Company	2/7/12	Difficulty in securing financing due to the “deterioration of the current economic climate and uncertainty in market conditions”	Testimony of the Applicant (letter)
18064-B	HAI Real Estate Holding LLC	9/25/12 and 7/8/14	“additional time needed to secure a loan and complete the sale of the property and obtain building permits”	Testimony of the Applicant (letter)
18247-A	Big City Development	12/17/13	Difficulties in obtaining financing "because no lenders thus far have been willing to finance development of the new restaurant on any reasonable terms."	Testimony of the Applicant (affidavit)
18269-A	Triangle Development Associates LLC	12/3/13	Difficulties in obtaining financing for various reasons	Testimony of the Applicant (affidavit)
18289-A	EQR-EYE Street LLC	3/11/14	Oversupply of the residential rental market, current financing situation, realigning corporate structure, physical site constraints, additional time to analyze impact on an adjacent property, and statement of a showing of good faith efforts to develop the project	Testimony of the Applicant (letter)
18291-A	Mt. Olive Baptist Church	4/8/14	Inability to secure financing due to current economic conditions	Testimony of the Applicant (affidavit)
18325-A	Renaissance Centro Third Street LLC	5/6/14	Inability to secure financing do to the current economic conditions	Testimony of the Applicant (affidavit)
18701-B	1247 ESE LLC	3/8/16	Permit process took longer than expected and retail market was soft	Testimony of the Applicant (letter)