



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 250832

Introduced October 9, 2025

Councilmember Jones

**Referred to the
Committee on Public Property and Public Works**

AN ORDINANCE

Formally renaming the Wynnefield Branch Library, located at 5325 Overbrook Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131, as the “Reverend Louise Williams Bishop Library” to honor the dedication and service of former Pennsylvania State Representative Louise Williams Bishop.

WHEREAS, At 92 years of age, Rev. Louise Williams Bishop has had a storied career in radio broadcasting, officially retiring in 2023 after nearly 70 years in Philadelphia, the nation’s fourth-largest media market. Revered as the “Queen of the Airwaves” and later the “Gospel Queen of Radio,” she was among the first Black females to host a radio program in the city; and

WHEREAS, Louise’s loyal audiences followed her through various stations, beginning with WHAT 1340 AM, then WDAS 1480 AM and WDAS 105.3 FM, and concluding with WURD 900 AM/96.1 FM. She is celebrated for hosting the longest-running Gospel music radio program in Philadelphia history, captivating families with her melodic voice on Sunday mornings. Ordained as a Baptist minister in 1978, she inspired listeners with a blend of soulful music, powerful prayers, and community affairs; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious career, Louise interviewed renowned Gospel and secular artists, and influential leaders. She produced free Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebrations for about 25 years, showcasing local talent and honoring the civil rights legend. Louise co-wrote songs, including “You and Me” on The O’Jays’ “Family Reunion” LP and narrated songs on various albums; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her broadcasting achievements, Louise was elected as the first Black woman to represent the 192nd Legislative District in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1989. She served over 25 years, advocating for vital public policies and holding key leadership roles. Her work empowered communities and addressed significant issues such as education reform and the rights of vulnerable populations; and

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WHEREAS, Louise graduated from West Philadelphia High School and earned a degree from the American Foundation of Dramatic Arts. She has received numerous awards, including an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Monrovia College and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Eastern University; and

WHEREAS, As the eldest of twelve children born during the Great Depression in Cairo, Georgia, Louise embodies the values of faith and hard work. Her legacy as a broadcaster, community leader, and advocate will continue to inspire generations; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bishop's dedication and service to the citizens of Philadelphia should be honored and commemorated, and her work shall be forever memorialized in the Wynnefield Neighborhood where Reverend Bishop lived for many years; now, therefore, be it

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: The Wynnefield Branch Library is hereby renamed and dedicated as the

“Reverend Louise Williams Bishop Library of Wynnefield”

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately