

## Legislation Text

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Also naming the 1600 block of South Street "Ronald K. Washington Way" to honor Ron Washington, founding owner of the legendary Ron's Ribs, for his legacy of dedicated service to the South Philadelphia community.

WHEREAS, Ronald "Ron" Washington was a proud Philadelphia native. As a young man, he left home to attend Howard University, but had to return to care for his ailing mother. After returning to Philadelphia, he enrolled at LaSalle University where he founded the first black student union on campus, which coordinated a highly successful Afro-American arts festival. Washington graduated from LaSalle with a B.S. in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Following graduation, Washington focused on his community by working for the Model Cities program in North Philadelphia. He later worked for M.A.B. Paints, working his way up to district manager for Philadelphia. Washington used this role to give back to his community, providing men with mentorship and career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Washington realized his dream of becoming a business owner, opening a family restaurant, called Ron's Ribs, on South Street. His restaurant became a renowned spot for soul food in South Philadelphia, and he eventually opened a second restaurant, at 16th and Cecil B. Moore, in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Washington was a constant and visible presence as a civic leader in Philadelphia. Among the organizations in which he was active were: Alpha Pi fraternity, the Greater Philadelphia Purveyors Association, the Center City Residents Association, the South of South Neighborhood Association, and the West of Broad Street Businessmen's Association. He was also involved in local politics, serving as a committeeperson and a supporter of a number of candidates for major elected offices; and

WHEREAS, Washington achieved these accomplishments despite a battle with a heart failure. He did not allow his heart condition to stop him from working hard in pursuit of his dreams and serving as an inspiration to African-American entrepreneurs and community members; and

WHEREAS, Despite his many professional and civic commitments, Washington was a devoted family man. Indeed, he was a loving son, husband, father and grandfather. He was also an outstanding neighbor and friend; and

WHEREAS, His legacy lives on through his surviving family members and the many community members whose lives he touched during his time on this Earth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Also names the 1600 block of South Street "Ronald K. Washington Way" to honor Ron Washington, founding owner of the legendary Ron's Ribs, for his legacy of dedicated service to the South Philadelphia community.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Ron Washington, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.

