

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE 126412

COUNCIL BILL 120145

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4
5 AN ORDINANCE naming the pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Interstate 5, connecting N
6 100th St to 1st Ave NE, as the John Lewis Memorial Bridge.

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8 WHEREAS, John Lewis was a civil rights icon and politician who served as the U.S.

9 representative for Georgia's 5th Congressional District for more than three decades; and

10 WHEREAS, John Lewis was known as "the Conscience of the U.S. Congress"; and

11 WHEREAS, he coined the term "good trouble" to describe his participation in protests at

12 segregated lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1961, he volunteered to participate in the Freedom Rides, which challenged

14 segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South; and

15 WHEREAS, John Lewis and other civil rights leaders led over 600 peaceful protestors across the

16 Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965 to march from Selma to

17 Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, Alabama state troopers attacked the marchers in a brutal confrontation that became

19 known as "Bloody Sunday." News broadcasts and photographs revealing the senseless

20 cruelty of the segregated South helped hasten the passage of the Voting Rights Act of

21 1965; and

22 WHEREAS, his legacy of non-violent advocacy has influenced modern civil rights movements

23 such as Black Lives Matter; and

24 WHEREAS, the City of Seattle stands in solidarity with the Black community; and

1 WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to systematically uprooting racism and investing in
2 Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities to address disparities in
3 wealth, health, education, homeownership, and opportunity; and

4 WHEREAS, the North Seattle has a well-documented history of redlining and exclusionary
5 housing covenants that prohibited non-white residents from living and acquiring property
6 in much of the North End; and

7 WHEREAS, recent demographic trends show a growing BIPOC population in North Seattle; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2020 the Seattle Design Commission requested that the Mayor propose, and the
9 City Council adopt, a joint Resolution requiring City departments to develop explicit
10 policies for naming City-owned public facilities after places, people, and events of
11 importance to Seattle’s Indigenous people, Black people, and other historically
12 underrepresented groups; and

13 WHEREAS, the naming of public infrastructure after BIPOC community leaders is a burgeoning
14 practice in Seattle, with examples such as Hayashi Avenue, the Tony Lee Apartments,
15 Robert Eagle Staff Middle School and Martin Luther King Jr. Way; and

16 WHEREAS, the naming of significant infrastructure can convey the community's values and
17 shared vision for the future; and

18 WHEREAS, John Lewis exemplified the values and principles to which the City aspires; NOW,

19 THEREFORE,

20 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

21 Section 1. The pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Interstate 5, connecting N 100th St to
22 1st Ave NE, is named the John Lewis Memorial Bridge.

23

1 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 9th day of August, 2021,
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 9th day of
6 August, 2021.

7 

8 President Pro Tem of the City Council

9 Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this 12th day of August, 2021.

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11 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 12th day of August, 2021.

13 

14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)