



Legislation Text

File #: CB 120145, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, he coined the term "good trouble" to describe his participation in protests at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, he volunteered to participate in the Freedom Rides, which challenged segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South; and

WHEREAS, John Lewis and other civil rights leaders led over 600 peaceful protestors across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965 to march from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights in the state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama state troopers attacked the marchers in a brutal confrontation that became known as "Bloody Sunday." News broadcasts and photographs revealing the senseless cruelty of the segregated South helped hasten the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, his legacy of non-violent advocacy has influenced modern civil rights movements such as Black Lives Matter; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, John Lewis exemplified the values and principles to which the City aspires; NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

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

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2021, and signed by
me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2021.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)