

Wilmington, Delaware
July 2, 2018

#4562

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Guy**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wilm. C. § 2-3 the mayor retains authority to sub-name by executive order any city street and designate the appropriate sub-name signage pursuant to subsection 2-298(17); and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the City take steps to properly recognize and pay tribute to Wilmington residents who make a significant impact on history and culture through their exemplary accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, one such resident is the world-renowned musician Wilbert “Wilby” B. Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher was born and raised in the City of Wilmington, and first rose to prominence for his artistic ability performing with the bands of McCoy Tyner and Grover Washington, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fletcher was first introduced to drums at the young age of four, and participated in the high school band at P.S. Dupont High School. Mr. Fletcher began working as professional drummer at the age of fifteen, often playing at nightclubs with bands performing a variety of music. Upon graduating from P.S. Dupont High School in 1972, Mr. Fletcher went on to attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His father, the late Wilbert Fletcher, is credited with introducing Mr. Fletcher to jazz music, leading him to a robust career in music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fletcher first joined the McCoy Tyner Quartet in the seventies, and had his first appearance with the band at the Jazz Showcase in Chicago. His natural ability was put to the test at the Jazz Showcase, as he had not had any time for a rehearsal prior to performing, and yet he still managed to hold his own. He performed with Tyner for ten years,

and appeared on the recording *Atlantis*. Mr. Fletcher would then go on to work with violinist John Blake, with whom he had a close relationship. He is featured in John Blake's first two albums, *Maiden Dance* and *A Twinkling of an Eye*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fletcher was known for his incredible range of talents and interests, reflected in the number of entertainers he played with all over the world, including Charles Earland, Ahmad Jamal, Dianne Reeves, Sadao Watanabe, Herbie Mann and Roberta Flack. While Mr. Fletcher was a very talented man, he was also a father to six wonderful children; and

WHEREAS, though Mr. Fletcher achieved many accolades and recognition as a musician, he also found time to play for the church services at Shiloh Baptist Church in Wilmington, and would also provide drum theory lessons to interested youth in the community. Mr. Fletcher was more than a performer with incredible talent; he was also a community educator and leader; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to recognize the exceptional accomplishments, talent and contributions of Wilbert "Wilby" B. Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher's musical ability inspired many, not only in Wilmington but throughout the world. Mr. Fletcher also brought that talent into his community, playing at a local church and providing lessons to children. Council therefore encourages the Mayor to sub-name a portion of the street in the area of East 28th Street and Speakman Place as "Wilbert "Wilby" B. Fletcher Way."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that City Council respectfully encourages the Mayor to designate a portion of the street in the area of East 28th Street and Speakman Place as "Wilbert "Wilby" B. Fletcher Way," in recognition of Mr. Fletcher's significant contributions to the City of

Wilmington. City Council looks forward to joining the Administration in celebrating this designation.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages the Mayor to sub-name a portion of the street in the area of East 28th Street and Speakman Place as “Wilbert “Wilby” B. Fletcher Way,” in recognition of the renowned musician and community educator’s significant contributions to the City of Wilmington.