

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6867

To designate the area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as “Oswaldo Payá Way”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To designate the area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as “Oswaldo Payá Way”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the dictatorship imposed by Fidel Castro in
6 Cuba in 1959 started 61 years of an ongoing dicta-
7 torship, systemic human rights abuses, and a lack of

1 basic freedom of press, religion, assembly, and asso-
2 ciation that continue to this day under Communist
3 rule;

4 (2) Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas was a Cuban pro-
5 democracy activist dedicated to promoting demo-
6 cratic freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

7 (3) the Communist Party of Cuba has always
8 viewed that commitment to democracy and freedom
9 as a threat to the existence of the Communist Party
10 of Cuba;

11 (4) on July 22, 2012, a violent car crash, wide-
12 ly believed to have been carried out by the Castro re-
13 gime, took the lives of Oswaldo Payá and Harold
14 Cepero, another prodemocracy activist;

15 (5) the regime in Cuba has offered no plausible
16 evidence of the innocence of the Castro regime in the
17 crash, leaving the circumstances of the death of
18 Oswaldo Payá suspicious;

19 (6) opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the Com-
20 munist Party of Cuba began at a young age, when
21 he refused to become a member of the Young Com-
22 munist League as a primary school student, and
23 continued through high school, when he publicly
24 criticized the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the So-
25 viet Union;

1 (7) the Communist Party of Cuba responded to
2 the opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the invasion of
3 Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union by sending
4 Oswaldo Payá to a labor camp for 3 years;

5 (8) Oswaldo Payá forewent a chance to escape
6 Cuba in the 1980 Mariel boatlift, deciding instead to
7 continue the fight for democracy in Cuba, saying,
8 “‘This is what I am supposed to be, this is what I
9 have to do.’”;

10 (9) Oswaldo Payá repeatedly demonstrated his
11 staunch commitment to peacefully advocating for
12 freedom of speech, religious liberty, and freedom of
13 assembly for his fellow Cubans;

14 (10) in recognition of his determination for po-
15 litical reforms through peaceful protests, Oswaldo
16 Payá was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom
17 of Thought by the European Parliament in 2002
18 and the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award
19 from the National Democratic Institute for Inter-
20 national Affairs in 2003 and was nominated for the
21 Nobel Peace Prize by former Czech President Václav
22 Havel in 2005;

23 (11) on April 11, 2018, the Senate unanimously
24 passed S. Res. 224, recognizing the sixth anniver-
25 sary of the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, com-

1 memorating his legacy and commitment to demo-
2 cratic values and principles, and calling for an im-
3 partial, third-party investigation into the cir-
4 cumstances surrounding his death; and

5 (12) renaming the street in front of the Em-
6 bassy of Cuba in the District of Columbia after
7 Oswaldo Payá serves as an expression of solidarity
8 between the people of the United States and the peo-
9 ple of Cuba, who are engaged in a long, nonviolent
10 struggle for fundamental human rights.

11 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF OSWALDO PAYÁ WAY.**

12 (a) DESIGNATION OF WAY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The area between the inter-
14 sections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller
15 Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and
16 Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of
17 Columbia, shall be known and designated as
18 “Oswaldo Payá Way”.

19 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
20 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
21 the United States to the area referred to in para-
22 graph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to
23 Oswaldo Payá Way.

24 (b) DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.—

1 (1) DESIGNATION.—The address of 2630 16th
2 Street, Northwest, Washington, District of Colum-
3 bia, shall be redesignated as 2630 Oswaldo Payá
4 Way.

5 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
6 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
7 the United States to the address referred to in para-
8 graph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to 2630
9 Oswaldo Payá Way.

10 (c) SIGNS.—The District of Columbia shall construct
11 2 street signs that shall—

12 (1) contain the phrase “Oswaldo Payá Way”;

13 (2) be placed immediately above existing signs
14 at the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and
15 Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest
16 and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, Dis-
17 trict of Columbia; and

18 (3) be similar in design to the signs used by the
19 District of Columbia to designate the location of
20 Metro stations.

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