

ORDINANCE #69413
Board Bill No. 265

An ordinance authorizing and directing the Street Commissioner to take all necessary actions to honorarily designate the 1500 block of North Union Boulevard as "Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten Blvd."

WHEREAS, Bishop Wooten has a rich history as a master builder, teacher, visionary and administrator. In the secular world, he is a leader among men and a skilled educator. He has served as pastor of Williams Temple COGIC for 33 years. Under his leadership, Williams Temple has thrived. In 1986, an extensive renovation of the sanctuary and education building of Williams Temple was completed. Efforts have been made to rehabilitate the property surrounding the intersection of Union and Dr. M.L. King Drive where Bishop Wooten is also the proprietor of the LMW Plaza which houses a restaurant, car wash, hair salon, barber shop, jewelry store and beauty supply store; and

WHEREAS, Williams Temple has over 45 outreach ministries that include drug rehabilitation, health and nutrition programs, an award winning GED program, housing assistance, financial management classes, feed the hungry, family and marital counseling to name a few. Bishop Wooten also founded the acclaimed Neighborhood Outreach Center, Family Life Center, two charter schools, and most recently, the Loving Care Adult Day Care Center; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Bishop Wooten was appointed presiding Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Eastern Missouri/Western Illinois Church of God in Christ. In 2003, he was appointed as Chairman of the Bishop's Education Committee of the Church of God in Christ. In 2005, he was appointed Regional Bishop with the responsibility of providing oversight for five (5) other Ecclesiastical Prelates; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Wooten is a member of the St. Louis Black Caucus and the Ecumenical Leadership Council. He has served as Chaplain of the 7th District Police Department, the Board of Directors for the Fathers Support Group and the Billy Graham Crusade. He is involved in several community improvement projects within metropolitan St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, during the recently held 105th Holy Convocation of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), Bishop Lawrence Wooten of Williams Temple COGIC was elected to serve on the COGIC General Board, the denomination's top office. Bishop Wooten was one of twelve bishops voted into office by the COGIC General Assembly for a term of four years.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE. Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance 68937, the 1500 block of North Union Boulevard shall hereafter be honorarily designated as "Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten Blvd" The Director of Streets shall erect an honorary street-name sign which shall read "Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten Blvd."

Approved: February 21, 2013