

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 376

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the revolution led by Fidel Castro in Cuba
4 in 1959 started 64 years of an ongoing dictatorship,
5 systemic human rights abuses, and a lack of basic
6 freedom of press, religion, assembly, and association
7 that continue to this day under the Communist rule
8 of Raúl Castro and his successor, Miguel Díaz-
9 Canel;

10 (2) Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas was a Cuban polit-
11 ical dissident and activist dedicated to promoting
12 democratic freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

13 (3) the Communist Party of Cuba has always
14 viewed individuals with a commitment to democracy
15 and freedom as a threat to the existence of the Com-
16 munist Party of Cuba;

17 (4) on July 22, 2012, a violent car crash, wide-
18 ly believed to have been carried out by the Castro re-
19 gime, took the lives of Oswaldo Payá and Harold
20 Cepero, another democratic activist;

21 (5) the official investigation conducted by the
22 Cuban regime into the crash has been demonstrated
23 to be compromised, and the Cuban regime has
24 blocked all efforts to conduct a credible and inde-
25 pendent investigation into the crash, leaving the cir-
26 cumstances of the death of Oswaldo Payá unknown;

1 (6) opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the Com-
2 munist Party of Cuba began at a young age, when
3 he refused to become a member of the Young Com-
4 munist League as a primary school student, and
5 continued through high school, when he publicly
6 criticized the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the So-
7 viet Union;

8 (7) the Communist Party of Cuba responded to
9 the opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the invasion of
10 Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union by sending
11 Oswaldo Payá to a labor camp for 3 years;

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

17 (9) by creating the Varela Project in 1998,
18 Oswaldo Payá demonstrated his staunch commit-
19 ment to peacefully advocating for freedom of speech
20 and freedom of assembly for his fellow Cubans;

21 (10) in recognition of his determination for po-
22 litical reforms through peaceful protests, Oswaldo
23 Payá was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom
24 of Thought by the European Parliament in 2002
25 and the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award

1 from the National Democratic Institute for Inter-
2 national Affairs in 2003 and was nominated for the
3 Nobel Peace Prize by former Czech President Václav
4 Havel in 2005;

5 (11) on April 11, 2018, the Senate unanimously
6 passed S. Res. 224, recognizing the sixth anniver-
7 sary of the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, com-
8 memorating his legacy and commitment to demo-
9 cratic values and principles, and calling on the
10 Cuban Government to allow an impartial, third-
11 party investigation into the circumstances sur-
12 rounding his death; and

13 (12) renaming the street in front of the Em-
14 bassy of Cuba in the District of Columbia after
15 Oswaldo Payá serves as an expression of solidarity
16 between the people of the United States and the peo-
17 ple of Cuba, who are engaged in a long, nonviolent
18 struggle for fundamental human rights.

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

20 (a) DESIGNATION OF WAY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The area between the inter-
22 sections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller
23 Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and
24 Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of

1 Columbia, shall be known and designated as
2 “Oswaldo Payá Way”.

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

8 (b) DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.—

9 (1) DESIGNATION.—The address of 2630 16th
10 Street, Northwest, Washington, District of Colum-
11 bia, shall be redesignated as 2630 Oswaldo Payá
12 Way.

13 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
14 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
15 the United States to the address referred to in para-
16 graph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to 2630
17 Oswaldo Payá Way.

18 (c) SIGNS.—The District of Columbia shall construct
19 2 street signs that shall—

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

21 (2) be placed immediately above existing signs
22 at the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and
23 Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest
24 and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, Dis-
25 trict of Columbia; and

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

Passed the Senate June 13, 2023.

Attest:

Secretary.

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