

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 363

Approved September 5, 2025

WHEREAS, Barbara Thurman has spent her life building community and standing up for people in the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, She has been a steady and powerful voice for fairness, justice, and respect for all, no matter where someone comes from or what language they speak; and

WHEREAS, Barbara made a special effort to connect with Spanish-speaking immigrants in Providence and took it upon herself to learn Spanish so she could truly understand and support them; and

WHEREAS, She helped newly arrived families find housing, learn their rights, and feel welcome in a place that was unfamiliar to them; and

WHEREAS, Barbara's leadership is rooted in love for her neighbors and belief in what people can do when they're treated with dignity and brought together; and

WHEREAS, At Wiggins Village, where she has lived and organized for many years, she has worked with tenants to make their homes safer and their voices heard; and

WHEREAS, Her organizing has helped build lasting community power by bringing people together to solve problems and take care of one another; and

WHEREAS, Barbara has never backed down from speaking the truth or holding people in power accountable to the needs of the people; and

WHEREAS, She has been recognized by the City of Providence with her induction into the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Hall of Fame in 2015, and honored by the NAACP with the Joseph LeCount Award in 2018, yet her greatest impact has always been the lives she's touched one by one; and

WHEREAS, Her words have moved people to act just as her kindness has made people feel seen, and the love she has shown her neighbors has become a lasting example across generations; and

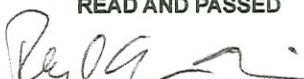

WHEREAS, Barbara Thurman is still here, still watching, still loving, still telling the truth, and still inspiring those around her to do what's right.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby honors the lifelong work and living legacy of Barbara Thurman by establishing a ceremonial designation of Dodge Street in Providence as “Miss Barbara Thurman Way”;


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Department of Public Works work to manufacture, install, and maintain one or more honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations along Dodge Street, which shall reflect the “Miss Barbara Thurman Way” honorary designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to Mrs. Barbara Thurman, the family of Barbara Thurman, the Wiggins Village Tenant Association, the Office of the Honorable Mayor Brett Smiley, and the Office of the Director of Public Works.

IN CITY COUNCIL
SEP 04 2025
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 9/5/2025