



Statement of Introduction – *Evanti Court Designation Act of 2024* April 18, 2024

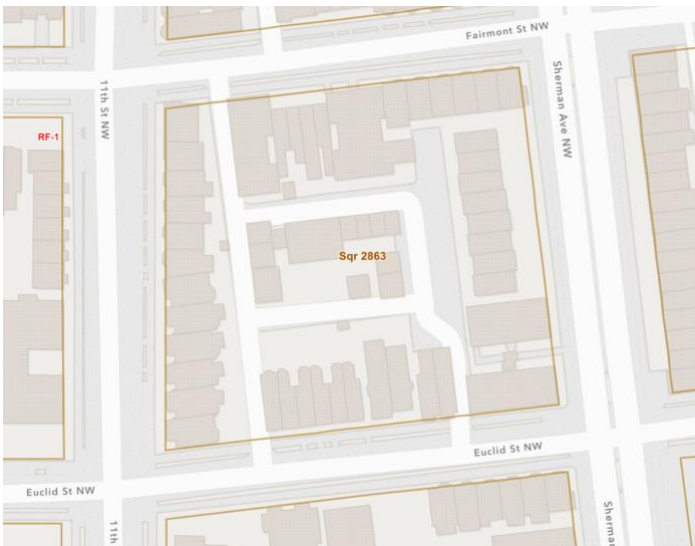
Today, I am introducing the “Evanti Court Designation Act of 2024”, which would designate the public alley system in Square 2863, bounded by Euclid Street, Fairmont Street, Sherman Avenue, and 11th Street Northwest, in Ward 1, as Evanti Court.

This alley designation is in honor of Lillian Evanti, a D.C. native and Howard University Graduate who lived in her family home at 1910 Vermont Ave, NW (approx. 6 blocks from the proposed alley designation) from 1904 until her death in 1967. Lillian Evanti was an incredibly talented and internationally celebrated opera singer and artist. Madame Evanti left an indelible imprint on cultural institutions in the District of Columbia: among other accomplishments, she was a founding member of the [National Negro Opera Company](#) and a chief advocate for a United States National Cultural Center, which would ultimately become the Kennedy Center.¹

Improvement and redevelopment of alley lots is permitted in the District, but new housing built on an alley lot requires an official address – and thus, an official alley name. As I have done in the past, I welcome each opportunity to enable the construction of new housing, and to honor under-represented figures in D.C. history in doing so.

Over the course of four months, the team proposing to develop new homes in Square 2863 presented to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B at two committee meetings and three full ANC meetings; flyers were distributed to neighbors and a separate community meeting was held to discuss options for names for the alley and answer questions about the proposed project.

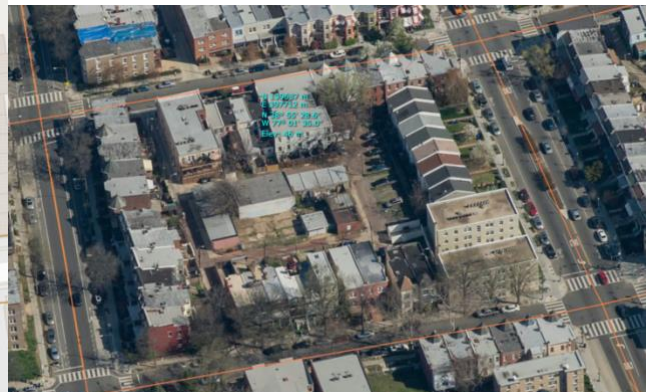
Attached is a resolution in support of this alley designation, passed by ANC 1B on July 6, 2023. This resolution fulfills the requirement of D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(j), making this designation worthy of Council consideration.



Square 2863. Source: [Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

Brianne K. Nadeau

Brianne K. Nadeau
Councilmember, Ward 1



Aerial Image of Square 2863. Source: [OCTO e-Sanborn](#)

¹ For more on the life of Lillian Evanti: <https://anacostia.si.edu/collection/spotlight/madame-lillian-evanti>.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To designate the public alley system within Square 2863, bounded by Euclid Street, N.W.,
2 Sherman Avenue, N.W., Fairmont Street, N.W., and 11th Street, N.W., as Evanti Court.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
5 act may be cited as the “Evanti Court Designation Act of 2024”.

6 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403, and 421 of the Street and Alley Closing and
7 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
8 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03, and 9-204.21), the Council officially designates the entire portion
9 of the public alley system within Square 2863, which is bounded by Euclid Street, N.W.,
10 Sherman Avenue, N.W., Fairmont Street, N.W., and 11th Street, N.W., as “Evanti Court”.

11 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

12 The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Mayor, the
13 District Department of Transportation, and the Office of the Surveyor.

14 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

15 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
16 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,

17 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

18 Sec. 5. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
20 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
21 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
22 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
23 Columbia Register.

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**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
NAMING THE ALLEY LOCATED AT 1021-1027
EUCLID STREET NW IN MEMORY AND HONOR
OF LILLIAN EVANTI**

WHEREAS; The alley (Square 2863) that runs east and west between 2600 blocks of 11th Street NW and Sherman Avenue NW and the 1000 blocks of Euclid Street NW and Fairmont Street NW, should be designated as “Evanti Court,” located in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood of Ward 1;

WHEREAS; This alley designation would pay homage to the internationally acclaimed opera singer and composer Lillian Evanti.

WHEREAS; The D.C. History Center described her as “an accomplished lyric soprano, a teacher, an international inspiration. She was a daughter, a mother, a friend. She endured the snubs and injustices of racial discrimination and the heartaches of a troubled marriage. But she never gave up. Washingtonians remember her today as a trailblazer whose contribution to the city’s cultural life is surpassed by few.”

WHEREAS; Lillian Evanti was born and raised in Washington, D.C. Her family home is the Evans-Tibbs house in ANC 1B (1910 Vermont Ave NW by U Street), where she lived from 1904 until she died in 1967. Her notable accomplishments include graduating from Howard University School of Music in 1917, being the first African American to perform with a major European company, owned and founded the publishing company, Columbia Music Bureau in Washington, D.C., helped establish the National Negro Opera Company, served as a good-will ambassador in Latin America, and successfully lobbied for a national cultural center for performing arts, which became the Kennedy Center.

WHEREAS; The DC Council will hold a public hearing at which the ANC will support and express enthusiasm about the naming of the alley in honor of Lillian Evanti;

WHEREAS; The naming of the alley would support future development of a single-family homes on a Lot 840 located in Square 2863. This property would be developed by a request for special exception relief from the alley width requirement to allow for a 14 ft. 9 in. wide alley instead of a 15 ft. wide alley (Subtitle U § 601.1(f)); and

WHEREAS; ANC 1B04 Commissioner and ABC 1B09 Commissioner have met with the owner of the lot to hear comments and concerns from neighbors abutting the property and that live on the block surrounding the lot. The community came to a consensus, expressing support and determining that the naming of the alley and development would have minimal to no adverse impact on the community.

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THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED THAT: ANC 1B support the naming of the alley located at 1021-1027 Euclid Street NW and urges that DC Council to pass this measure.

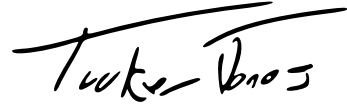
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Certification:

After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 8 present at its July 6, 2023, meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B voted, with 6 Yeas, 0 Nos, and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.



Sabel Harris
Chair, ANC 1B



Tucker Jones
Secretary, ANC 1B