

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2045

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 61 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 dedicated to promoting democratic
12 freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

13 (3) the Communist Party of Cuba has always
14 viewed that commitment to democracy and freedom
15 as a threat to the existence of the Communist Party
16 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 dissident;

21 (5) the official investigation into the crash has
22 been demonstrated to be compromised, and the Cas-
23 tro regime has offered no plausible evidence of the
24 innocence of the Castro regime in the crash, leaving
25 the circumstances of the death of Oswaldo Payá un-
26 known;

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-party
 11 investigation into the circumstances surrounding his
 12 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 the Cuba, who are engaged in a long, non-
 18 violent 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 July 30, 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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