



State Representative Juanita Brent

12th House District

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 234

Chair Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 234, legislation designating the portion of I-271 between South Woodland Road and Harvard Road within Cuyahoga County as the Ronald H. Barron Memorial Highway.

Councilman Ronald Barron was serving on the Orange Village council when he passed and was able to make a significant impact in the community. When the time came for Orange Village to develop a unique, diversified, and exceptional shopping complex, Councilman Barron was more than willing to join the team of leaders working on this project and became a key decision maker in the process. Ron saw this as such an opportunity to attract people from all around the area to enjoy the Pinecrest development and he believed in this project so much that he and his wife, Laurie Alexander Barron who is in attendance with us today, moved from their home to an apartment complex in Pinecrest.

Councilman Barron was residing within the Pinecrest complex for six months and during that time was able to leave a mark on those that he worked with. Executives of Pinecrest were astounded by his willingness to make Pinecrest the best it could be. They were deeply saddened by the news of his loss and sent lavish floral arrangements to his funeral as well as all of their deepest condolences. Councilman Barron also fostered the relationship between the police and Pinecrest and always made sure they were well accommodated and familiar with the area to bring about a sense of community to the area. Bringing people together was what Ronald Barron wanted and that is what Pinecrest represents due in large part to the role Councilman Barron played.

Despite his untimely death while still serving in office, the impact from his contributions while in office are still felt to this day. The Pinecrest development is thriving within the community and the portion of I-271 that would be designated as Ronald H. Barron Memorial Highway would be right next to Pinecrest. This stretch of road being renamed is also thoroughly supported by his family and the entire Orange Village council and Mayor of Orange Kathy Mulcahy.

I respectfully ask this Committee's help with honoring Councilman Barron's legacy by supporting House Bill 234 and the naming of the "Ronald H. Barron Memorial Highway", which is the main entrance and exit to his greatest contribution to the community he served so proudly.

Thank you.