

88th House District
Seneca and Sandusky County



Committees
Energy and Natural Resources
Behavioral Health and Recovery
Supports
Families, Aging and Human
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Primary and Secondary Education

Columbus Office
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-1374
Rep88@ohiohouse.gov

Gary Click
State Representative

Sponsor Testimony

HB 204 – Designate Charles Woodson Way

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy and the honorable members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the privilege of providing sponsor testimony today on behalf of HB 204 to designate Charles Woodson Way.

There are two reasons to designate a road name: to honor and to inspire.

Charles Woodson's induction into the Football Hall of Fame creates an opportunity to inspire disadvantaged and underprivileged youth in his hometown of Fremont, Ohio. Woodson grew up in the Delaware Acres projects. At an early age he diagnosed with club feet and bound with leg braces for eight hours a day until the age of four.

However, his strong-willed single mother, Georgia, pushed accepted no excuses and pushed Charles and his siblings to succeed in life and they have. During his high school career, Charles was recognized as Ohio's Mr. Football. In college, he led his team to a national championship and was the first and still the only primarily defensive player to earn the Heisman Trophy.

Woodson was drafted 4th overall in the 1998 draft to the Oakland Raiders. Woodson went on to succeed in the NFL. Woodson played for the Raiders and Packers in his storied career. He went on to be a 9 time Pro-Bowler and a Super Bowl Champion in Super Bowl XLV.

Off the field, Woodson is to be commended for donating two million dollars to the Michigan Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital at the University of Michigan. Charles Woodson exemplifies what it means to be an Ohioan. Through grit and determination he succeeded. He took his talents from the high school football field in Fremont, OH to a national stage.

Despite how noteworthy Mr. Woodson's achievements are, my purpose is much greater than honoring an athlete. It is about inspiring youth. Charles Woodson did not achieve by talent alone but through the ability to see possibilities when faced with problems and to turn obstacles into opportunities. That is the Woodson Way.

Below is a link to the press conference we held announcing this bill. You can see here how young people in Fremont are already taking up this inspirational moment. You will hear from our Mayor, Danny Sanchez. You will hear from Charles' Mother, brother and sister. Finally, you will hear from Charles, himself as he takes the time to inspire and speak life into the young people in his hometown who are following in his footsteps.

Finally, I have attached letters written from students of Fremont Ross High School encouraging us to designate the Route 20 Fremont Bypass as Charles Woodson Way.

Thank you for your time. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Representative Gary Click

<http://ohiochannel.org/video/press-conference-designating-route-20-bypass-as-charles-woodson-way>