



## **Application to Confer Honorary Roadway Name “Curtis E. Montgomery Street” in Association with South G Street Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets**

### **Background**

Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery was far more than a pastor; he was a spiritual patriarch whose influence extended well beyond the walls of Greater Christ Temple Church, located on the section of roadway pertaining to this proposal at 1926 South G Street. Bishop Montgomery founded and faithfully led Greater Christ Temple Church for nearly 50 years. He guided his congregation through the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and the gang and drug warfare of the 1980s. He served thousands of people from all walks of life, supporting families through hardship, mentored countless young people, and worked tirelessly to bring unity and hope to the community.

Regarded as one of Tacoma’s four great spiritual titans - alongside Reverend Joseph A. Boles, Bishop Thomas L. Westbrook, and Reverend Earnest Brazill - Bishop Montgomery was the last of this remarkable group, leaving behind a legacy that continues to impact tens of thousands of lives.

### **How the Proposal Meets Resolution 41009 Criteria**

Resolution 41009 recommends the City Council consider a number of criteria when evaluating naming proposals, including historical significance; civil service; and equity, inclusion, and reconciliation.

#### **Historical Significance**

*4.4.a. Name is associated with a historically significant event or for events reflecting broad patterns of Tacoma’s history.*

Attached are news articles, letters of support, and other primary source documents that together only demonstrate just a small fraction of Bishop Montgomery’s significance in Tacoma’s history.

The Tacoma City Council has recognized Bishop Montgomery’s lasting impact in past formal actions. At his homegoing service in May 2015, then-Deputy Mayor Victoria Woodards read the Council’s proclamation declaring May 7, 2015, as Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery Day in the City of Tacoma. Former City Manager Jim Walton has called Bishop Montgomery, “one of Tacoma’s historic treasures.”

#### **Civil Service**

*4.5.a. Leadership in civic organizations devoted to community improvement*

Bishop Montgomery dedicated his life to serving the community and improving the lives of others. Bishop Montgomery’s list of community contributions is extensive, but he was particularly proud of fulfilling the dream of his late son, Phillip, by overseeing the completion of what is now the Oasis of Hope Center, also located on the section of roadway pertaining to this proposal, at 1937 South G Street.

At the time of the Center’s opening in 2004, it was the largest privately-funded building of its kind on Hilltop – an inspiring milestone in Tacoma’s trajectory. The Oasis of Hope Center lives on today as a vital resource for numerous Tacoma families, offering full-time childcare, hosting community events, and supporting family strengthening-programs – just across the street from the church Bishop Montgomery founded.

#### **Equity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation**

*4.6. Proposals may be conferred as a part of the City’s ongoing efforts toward improving social and racial equity, inclusion, and reconciliation*

Throughout his ministry and community work, Bishop Montgomery embodied Tacoma’s values of equity, inclusion, and reconciliation. He welcomed and served people from all walks of life, fostering unity during times of deep social division and working to bridge generational, racial, and economic gaps. Through his advocacy, support for social work education, and the inclusive programming at both Greater Christ Temple Church and the Oasis of Hope Center, he advanced opportunities for marginalized communities and helped create spaces where healing, belonging, and shared purpose could take root.

Bishop Montgomery dedicated his life to serving and uplifting Hilltop residents and Tacomans across race, age, and income. Honoring Bishop Montgomery by naming a roadway in his honor acknowledges the historical contributions and significance of Tacoma’s Black community (particularly in relation to



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### **in Association with South G Street Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets**

Hilltop), affirms the City’s commitment to recognizing contributions that more accurately reflect Tacoma’s demographic make-up and the diverse leaders that have shaped its history.

#### **Affected Facility Names, Rights of Way, or Existing Places**

No facility names, rights of way, or existing places are affected by this proposal.

#### **Common Usage Names or Nicknames**

The relevant roadway has not developed any common usage names or nicknames over its history.

#### **Summary of Public Outreach**

*3.1.a.vi. ... including to... commercial property owners’ groups... This may include any statements of support or endorsement received.*

The applicants’ exhaustive public outreach campaign obtained letters of support from local and national elected officials, church leaders, and organization support from housing providers that serve Hilltop residents, such as the Tacoma Housing Authority and Mercy Housing.

*3.1.b.i. A signed petition in support of the renaming must be solicited and submitted by proponents of the renaming prior to consideration by the City of at least two-thirds of property owners abutting the linear frontage of the affected roadway and fifty percent of those property owners within five hundred feet of the proposal.*

45 properties abut the linear frontage of the affected roadway. The applicants gathered signatures in support of the proposal from 33 of these property owners (73.33%).

There are 399 properties within five hundred feet of the proposal. The applicants gathered signatures in support of the proposal from 200 of these property owners (50.13%).

However, the applicants gathered signatures in support of the proposal well in excess of the minimum number required by City policy. The applicants demonstrated broad community support of this effort by gathering signatures from renters and tenants, even though Resolution 41009 only requires signatures from property owners.

#### **Description of Planned Actions**

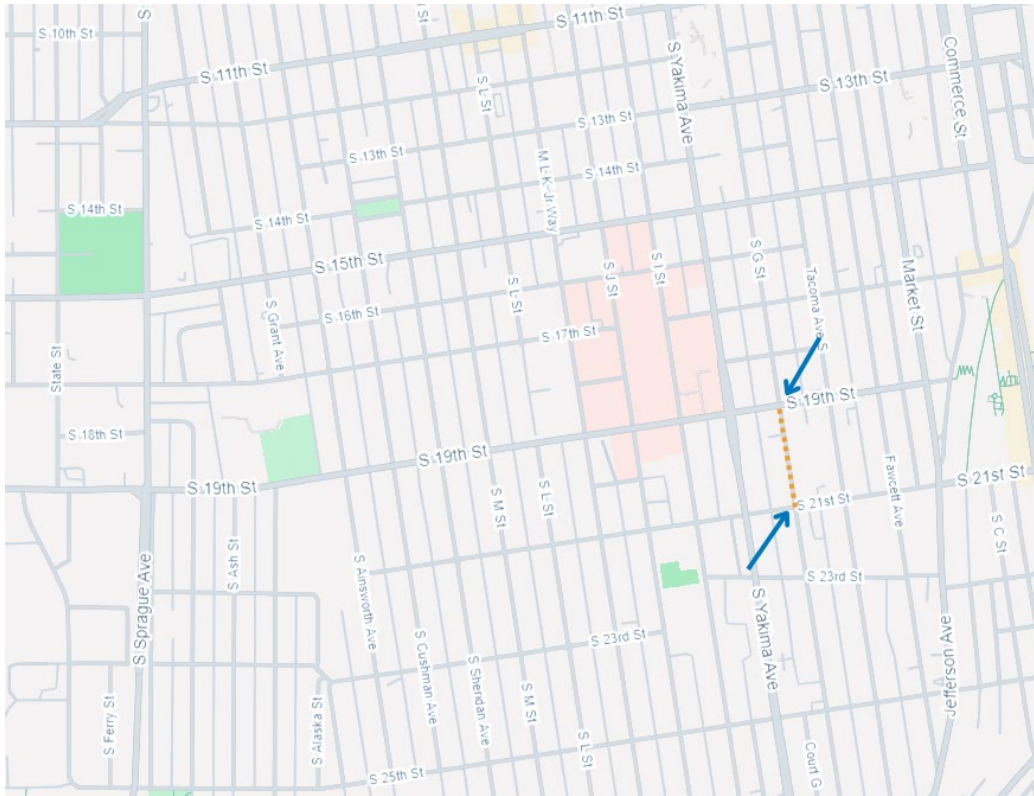
Applicants have not made plans for actions following Council approval.



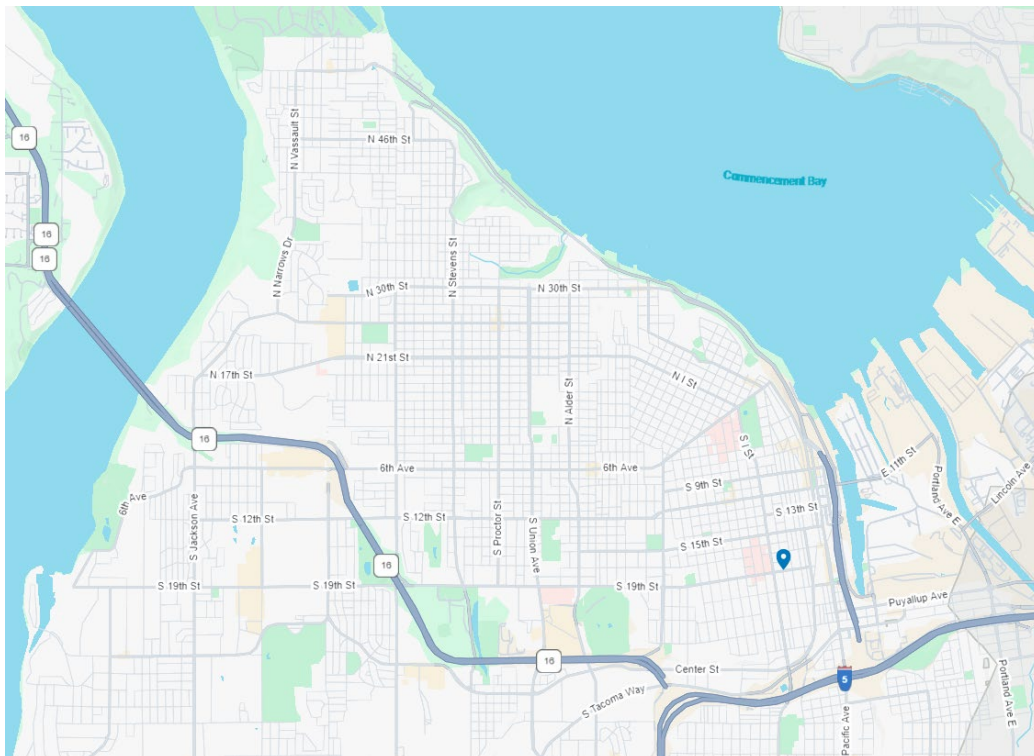


**Application to Confer Honorary Roadway Name  
“Curtis E. Montgomery Street”  
in Association with South G Street Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets**

**Map of Location  
*Inset***



**Map of Location  
*Vicinity***





10/15/2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Mercy Housing Northwest is in support of the initiative to rename South G Street, between 19th and 21st Streets in Tacoma, Washington, to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street or a variation of that. We recognize the legacy of Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery and the profound impact he made on the Hilltop community through his leadership, service, and dedication.

While our properties located on the 1700 block of South G Street are not directly impacted by the proposed renaming, we understand the importance of this tribute to the Montgomery family and the broader community. We support the efforts of Antoinette Griffin and Sharyce Martin, along with the Montgomery family, in seeking this meaningful recognition.

Please note, however, that Mercy Housing Northwest's support for this initiative does not imply any legal or financial liability related to the renaming process or its outcomes. Our endorsement is offered in the spirit of community solidarity and respect for Bishop Montgomery's enduring contributions.

Sincerely,

*Mena Peebles*

Mena Peebles  
Regional Director of Operations  
Mercy Housing Northwest  
(206) 602 3485



**Tacoma  
Housing  
Authority**

**Executive Director**  
April Black

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**Tacoma Housing Authority**

902 South L Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
October 9, 2025

City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**RE: Letter of Support for Renaming South G Street to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street**

Dear City of Tacoma,

On behalf of Tacoma Housing Authority, I am writing to express our support for the Montgomery family's request to rename South G Street, between 19th and 21st Streets, to **Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street** in honor of the late Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery.

Bishop Montgomery's legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of Tacoma's Hilltop community. His decades of leadership, service, and advocacy have left a lasting impact on generations of residents. The City of Tacoma recognized his contributions by declaring May 7th as Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery Day.

Renaming this portion of South G Street would be a meaningful tribute to a community leader whose contributions extended far beyond the pulpit. It would serve as a visible reminder of the values he championed—service, compassion, and commitment to community—and inspire future generations to build upon his legacy. Tacoma Housing Authority is proud to support this initiative and recognizes the positive impact it will have on our community.

Although THA's family property, The Rise at 19th, located at 1815 South G Street, will not be affected by the proposed renaming, I am aware that the City of Tacoma requires support from property owners within a 500-foot radius.

Sincerely,  
April Black

*April Black*

Executive Director  
Tacoma Housing Authority





# GREATER CHRIST TEMPLE CHURCH

## OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH

Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.

Address: 1926 South G Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone: 253-272-5679  
Fax: 253-272-6579

URL: [www.greaterchristtemple.org](http://www.greaterchristtemple.org)  
Email: [info@greaterchristtemple.org](mailto:info@greaterchristtemple.org)

### CHURCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bishop Prentis Johnson, Sr., Ph.D, Th.D  
*Senior Pastor / CEO / Chairman*

Elder Herman Williams  
*Associate Pastor / Vice Chairman*

Denise Johnson  
*General Secretary*

Evangelist Sharon Ward, LMHC, CDP  
*Assistant General Secretary*

Georgina Thrower  
*Treasurer*

Deacon Nathaniel Davis  
*Head Deacon*

Trustee Regas Sager, B.S.  
*Administrative Director*  
*Trustee Chairman*

Cynthia McDonald, JD  
*Board Member*

Minister Dashanel Sager  
*Board Member*

Raquel Sager  
*Board Member*

Cathy McCabe  
*Board Member*

Deacon James Shepherd, B.A.  
Bernard Blackburn  
Loretta Johnson  
Evangelist Inez Rutledge

### IN HONOR & MEMORY:

Late Bishop Curtis Montgomery, D.D.  
*Founder*

Late Ellnor E. Montgomery, D.D  
*Founder's Wife*

September 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Prentis Vasco Johnson, the Senior Pastor/CEO/Chairman of the Board of Directors of Greater Christ Temple Church located at 1926 South G Street in Tacoma, Washington, and the Diocesan Bishop of the Far East District Council of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World Incorporated, do count it an honor to write this Letter of Recommendation for the renaming of South G Street between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Street in honor of the late Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery.

Bishop Montgomery was the founder and pastor of Greater Christ Temple Church for 50 years. He was an integral part of the community as well as a spiritual patriarch whose influence extended well beyond the walls of Greater Christ Temple Church. He was a pioneer, a mentor, a visionary, and a true servant-leader who exemplified the life of Christ by serving others not only in Tacoma but across the nation. His leadership was instrumental in shaping a generation of spiritual leaders committed to community improvements and social justice.

He was regarded as one of Tacoma's four great spiritual giants alongside Reverend Joseph A. Boles, Bishop Thomas L. Westbrook, and Reverend Earnest Brazill. He was the last of these incredible patriarchs who brought unity and hope to our community, leaving behind a legacy that continues to impact thousands of lives today.

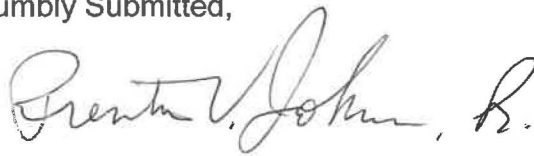
Some of his greatest achievements include the construction of a new church facility in 1977 and the construction of the Oasis of Hope Center in 2003. This multiplex facility offers full-time childcare, space for hosting community events, and programs that support strengthening families and personal growth. At its opening, it was the largest privately funded building of its kind on the Hilltop in Tacoma.

Bishop Montgomery's contributions were recognized and honored by city leaders. At his homegoing service in May 2015, Marilyn Strickland, who was the mayor, signed a proclamation declaring May 7, 2015, as Bishop

Curtis Edward Montgomery Day in the City of Tacoma. Mayor Victoria Woodards presented the proclamation, and former City Manager Jim Walton described him as "one of Tacoma's historic treasures."

We believe that renaming South G Street in honor of Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery is a great tribute to the Tacoma Hilltop Community. This action would preserve his legacy while standing as a public reminder of the values he lived by: faith, service, unity, and love for community. We hope that this designation will inspire future generations to follow his example and recognize the profound impact a devoted life can make.

Humbly Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Prentis V. Johnson, Sr.".

Bishop Dr. Prentis Vasco Johnson, Sr. PhD, ThD  
Senior Pastor/CEO/Chairman of the Board  
Greater Christ Temple Church  
1926 South G Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-380-0980 (cell)



**MARILYN STRICKLAND**

CONGRESSWOMAN FOR WASHINGTON'S 10TH DISTRICT

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The Honorable Victoria Woodards  
Mayor  
City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Mayor Woodards:

I am pleased to write in support of the efforts of the family of Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery to rename a street in the City of Tacoma in his honor. As part of this renaming process, the City of Tacoma asks for letters from residents and leaders, and I am submitting this letter for consideration. The proposed Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street, located at South G Street, between 19th and 21st Streets, would serve as reminder of his legacy of faith, unity, and community support.

As the founder and leader of Greater Christ Temple Church for almost half a decade, Bishop Montgomery built a strong congregation of worship and service. He guided church members through difficult moments and worked alongside fellow faith leaders Rev. Brazill, Rev. Boles, and Bishop Westbrook to bring our Tacoma community together. Not only did Bishop Montgomery oversee the construction of a church community, he also sought to further lift up neighbors through the Oasis of Hope Center.

I believe that the naming of Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street is an impactful symbol that will remind citizens of the legacy and work of this leader. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress





Antoinette Griffin &lt;nursediaab@gmail.com&gt;

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## Support letter for re-naming a portion of "G"

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thelordishe@comcast.net &lt;thelordishe@comcast.net&gt;

Tue, Sep 30, 2025 at 7:56 AM

To: "nursediaab@gmail.com" &lt;nursediaab@gmail.com&gt;, Prentis Johnson &lt;pjohnson@greaterchristtemple.org&gt;

**September 30, 2025**

Honorable Mayor Victoria Woodards & Tacoma City Council  
733 Market Street, Suite 11  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the Tacoma City Council,**

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the renaming of a portion of "G" Street (between 19th and 21st Streets) in Tacoma, Washington, to **Bishop C. E. Montgomery Street**, in honor of the late **Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery**—a pioneer, a patriarch, a visionary, and a true servant-leader who exemplified the life of Christ by serving others rather than seeking to be served.

As so eloquently expressed by Bishop Montgomery's two eldest grandchildren, I wholeheartedly affirm their tribute to their grandfather and wish to further emphasize the profound and lasting impact Bishop Montgomery had on the spiritual and civic life of our community.

Bishop Montgomery was a mentor to countless young pastors and ministers, not only in Tacoma but across the nation. I count myself among those who were blessed by his guidance, encouragement, and Godly counsel. His wisdom and mentorship were instrumental in shaping a generation of spiritual leaders committed to community empowerment, holiness, integrity, and social justice.

Throughout his life, Bishop Montgomery cultivated leadership that continues to bear fruit. One shining example is Bishop Prentis Johnson, now Senior Pastor of Greater Christ Temple Apostolic Church, who is currently spearheading the development of an apartment complex that will provide housing for over sixty residents in Tacoma and Pierce County—a tangible reflection of Bishop Montgomery's legacy of faith in action.

Moreover, Bishop Montgomery's church served as a longstanding host for Tacoma Ministerial Alliance meetings, underscoring his commitment to collaboration, unity, and spiritual uplift across denominational lines.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request. Re-naming a portion of "G" Street in Bishop Montgomery's honor, which would serve as a lasting tribute to a man whose life and ministry enriched our city and inspired generations.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this important matter on behalf of the family, the faith community, and the community at large.

**Sincerely in Christ,**

Gregory Christopher

Retired Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church



Antoinette Griffin &lt;nursediaab@gmail.com&gt;

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**Letter in support of Renaming teachings, actions, and unwavering commitment**

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**James Walton** <jlwalton39@comcast.net>  
To: "nursediaab@gmail.com" <nursediaab@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 30, 2025 at 2:51 PM

Antoinette, my letter in support of renaming a segment of G Street, BISHOP C.E. MONTGOMERY STREET:

Dear City Authorizing Officials:

" Who sows Virtue reaps honor"

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to rename a section of S. G Street between S. 19th and 21st street to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street in honor of the late Bishop C.E. Montgomery. Bishop Montgomery profoundly impacted the Tacoma community through a lifelong dedication to faith, high moral standards, compassion, family and community service.

Bishop C.E. Montgomery was a guiding light for our community, inspiring countless individuals through his teachings, actions, and unwavering commitment to promoting peace, harmony and understanding. His legacy of kindness and spiritual leadership has left an indelible mark on the Hilltop neighborhood and our City. Fostering unity and hope among residents of all backgrounds. Because he was our servant from God, this City is a better place - a place where dreams can come true, where one's content of character can be their calling card, and a place where we strive to become better than we were yesterday.

Renaming this section of S. G Street in honor of Bishop C.E. Montgomery would serve as a lasting tribute to his extraordinary life and contributions to the Hilltop neighborhood and the City of Tacoma. Also, It would provide a meaningful reminder to current and future generations of the importance of compassion, faith, and thriving to be a trustworthy trustee of our people and the City of Tacoma.

I respectfully urge the authorizing authorities of the City of Tacoma to consider the renaming proposal favorably, recognizing the profound and lasting impact Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery has had on our great City, and his enduring legacy of servant leadership. He was a gift to us all, a treasure, a blessing - he sowed virtues - WORTHY OF HONOR.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

James L. Walton,  
Retired, City Manager, City of Tacoma

THE KING OF GLORY PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY  
AFFILIATED WITH THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD  
*202-170th Street East  
Spanaway, WA 98387  
(253) 536-3708*

**Letter of Support for Street Renaming**

**Subject: Renaming of G Street in Tacoma, Washington to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street**

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the Tacoma City Council,

I write to you in strong support of the proposal to rename G Street in Tacoma, Washington, to **Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street**.

Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery faithfully served the church for 56 years as a dedicated leader, pastor, and spiritual father. As a son in the gospel of Pastor Montgomery, I served for 22 years under his tutelage and care, before becoming a Pastor and active member of the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance.

With his blessings, and his examples set before us we have carried forward a legacy of faith, community service, and mentorship that has enriched the lives of countless individuals across Tacoma and beyond.

The renaming of G Street is a fitting and lasting tribute to Bishop Montgomery's influence. It recognizes not only his devotion to the church but also his positive impact on the wider community, where he modeled servant leadership, compassion, and steadfast commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

By honoring Bishop Montgomery in this way, the City of Tacoma will preserve his legacy for future generations and publicly affirm the values of faith, perseverance, and community service that he embodied.

Therefore, I respectfully submit my full support and endorsement for the renaming of G Street to **Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street**. I urge the Council's approval of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Kim V. Forest  
Pastor  
King of Glory Pentecostal Assembly



Antoinette Griffin &lt;nursediaab@gmail.com&gt;

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**Offer of Support to Honor Bishop C.E. Montgomery**

3 messages

**Melanie Grassi** <melanie@ourchurch.us>

Fri, Oct 3, 2025 at 4:07 PM

To: Antoinette Griffin &lt;nursediaab@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Honorable Mayor Woodards and the Tacoma City Council,

I wholeheartedly offer my full support to rename South G Street, between 19th and 21st Streets in honor of the late Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery.

Bishop Montgomery was more than a pastor. He was a guiding light in our community for 50 years as he built and faithfully led Greater Christ Temple Church. Throughout his life, he positively influenced the Tacoma community during times of both challenge and hope.

His extraordinary contributions and the ongoing impact his family has made in carrying his vision forward is evident through the Oasis of Hope Center. What began as a dream is now a cornerstone of the Hilltop area offering full-time day care, community services that benefit families, space for young people to gather and located on the very street we seek to rename in his honor.

Supporting the renaming also means standing with the Montgomery family who continue to uphold Bishop Montgomery's legacy with grace, strength, and devotion. Honoring him in this way not only affirms his extraordinary contributions, but also recognizes the ongoing impact his family has made in carrying his vision forward.

For these reasons and more, I strongly advocate the City of Tacoma to approve this renaming after Bishop Montgomery. This recognition would be one that both preserves his legacy and honors the Montgomery family whose faith and service continue to enrich Tacoma.

Respectfully,

Melanie Grassi  
University Place City Council Member





Antoinette Griffin &lt;nursediaab@gmail.com&gt;

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**Bishop**

2 messages

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**Dean Curry** <deancurry68@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 25, 2025 at 11:48 AM

To: nursediaab@gmail.com

Dean Curry  
Lead Pastor, OURCHURCH  
Tacoma, Washington

September 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of the petition to rename South G Street, between 19th and 21st Streets, to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street, in honor of the late Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery.

Bishop Montgomery was not only a spiritual leader but also a pillar of the Tacoma community. His influence extended far beyond the pulpit of Greater Christ Temple Church, where he served faithfully for nearly 50 years. He guided families through hardship, mentored young leaders, and worked tirelessly to bring unity, hope, and strength to our city.

On a personal level, Bishop Montgomery was a mentor to me and many other pastors. When I was sworn in as a senior pastor, he was the very first community leader to stand with me. His leadership, encouragement, and wisdom shaped my ministry, just as he influenced countless others who followed his example. I also had the honor of hosting his memorial service, which was filled to overflowing with mourners from across the United States. That gathering reflected the wide reach of his impact and the deep respect he commanded nationwide.

Bishop Montgomery's work continues to bless Tacoma through the Oasis of Hope Community Center, a landmark achievement that embodies his vision for strengthening families and uplifting neighborhoods. His enduring commitment to service, unity, and faith makes him one of Tacoma's true historic treasures.

For these reasons, I believe a street bearing his name is a fitting and lasting tribute. It would stand as a visible reminder of his life's work and as an inspiration for future generations to follow his example of leadership, compassion, and faith in action.

I respectfully urge the City of Tacoma to approve this renaming as a recognition of Bishop Montgomery's extraordinary legacy and immeasurable impact on our community.

With respect and gratitude,  
Dean Curry  
Lead Pastor, OURCHURCH

**• OFFICE OF SENATOR T'WINA NOBLES •**  
*28th Legislative District*

October 8, 2025

City of Tacoma

Office of the City Clerk

747 Market Street

Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Letter of Support for the Renaming of South G Street to Bishop C.E.  
Montgomery Street

Dear Members of the Tacoma City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Montgomery family's request to rename South G Street, between 19th and 21st Streets, to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street, in honor of the late Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery. Bishop Montgomery is a towering leader whose faith, vision, and commitment to Tacoma's Hilltop community transformed countless lives.

Bishop Montgomery's nearly five decades of service as founder and pastor of Greater Christ Temple Church exemplified what it means to lead with love, integrity, and purpose. His ministry extended far beyond the pulpit. He was a mentor to generations, a trusted voice of compassion during community challenges, and a tireless advocate for unity and hope. His leadership was instrumental in the creation of the Oasis of Hope Center, a beacon of opportunity and care that continues to uplift families across Tacoma.

As one of Tacoma's most influential spiritual leaders, alongside Rev. Joseph A. Boles,

Bishop Thomas L. Westbrook, and Rev. Earnest Brazill, Bishop Montgomery's legacy remains deeply woven into the fabric of our city. His impact was formally recognized by the City of Tacoma in 2015 when then-Deputy Mayor Victoria Woodards proclaimed May 7, 2015, as Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery Day. Former City Manager Jim Walton fittingly described him as "one of Tacoma's historic treasures."

Renaming South G Street in his honor is a meaningful and fitting tribute that will permanently enshrine his contributions in the civic landscape he helped strengthen. It will serve as a daily reminder of the values Bishop Montgomery lived by: faith, service, unity, and love for community. This renaming will inspire future generations to follow his extraordinary example.

I wholeheartedly endorse this request and urge the City of Tacoma to move forward with approving the renaming of South G Street to Bishop C.E. Montgomery Street.

With deep respect,

Senator T'wina Nobles

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line.

Washington State Senator, 28th Legislative District



October 19, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my full support for the renaming of South G Street in the Hilltop area of Tacoma, Washington, to Bishop C. E. Montgomery Street. This proposed change is both timely and meaningful, as it honors the legacy of a man whose life and leadership left an indelible mark on the Hilltop community and the city of Tacoma at large.

Bishop C. E. Montgomery was more than a pastor—he was a faithful servant, community activist, and catalyst for change. Through his unwavering commitment to both God and community, he worked tirelessly to uplift those in need, empower young people, and advocate for justice and equality. His ministry extended far beyond the pulpit, touching lives across racial, denominational, and socioeconomic lines. Bishop Montgomery's ability to reach across ecumenical barriers and build unity among diverse groups exemplified the very spirit of Tacoma's resilience and inclusivity.

As a champion for social justice and equity, Bishop Montgomery stood at the forefront of efforts to make the Hilltop a place of opportunity, dignity, and hope. He not only preached faith—he practiced it through service, compassion, and courageous leadership. His influence continues to inspire generations of faith leaders, activists, and ordinary citizens who seek to make a positive difference in their communities.

Renaming South G Street to Bishop C. E. Montgomery Street would be a fitting tribute to a man who embodied the very best of Tacoma's heart and soul. It would ensure that his legacy of faith, justice, and unity lives on—not only in memory, but in the very streets that he walked, served, and loved.

I wholeheartedly support this initiative and encourage the city of Tacoma to move forward in honoring Bishop Montgomery in this significant and lasting way.

In His Service,

**Bishop Dr. Lawrence White**

Bishop Dr. Lawrence White  
Tacoma Ministerial Alliance - President



September 3, 2025

Support Letter for Bishop Curtis Montgomery

To: Tacoma City Council Members and Mayor

Hello:

My name is Willie C. Stewart Sr., a member of this City and Community for 65 years.

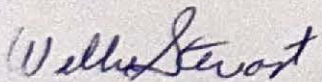
My request is to honor Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery by renaming a section of G Street. The street would be C.E. Montgomery 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

I had the opportunity to observe the contributions of Bishop as a Principal of Lincoln High School where most of his children attended. He was a supportive parent and the biggest contribution was the performance of his children at school as wonderful students with a supportive father.

In the Community, Bishop Montgomery developed a viable church sanctuary and a multi-use community building-Oasis of Hope.

The City of Tacoma is a better place because of the dedication and spiritual commitment of Bishop Montgomery.

I urge and encourage you to Honor the Legacy of Bishop Montgomery by renaming a segment of G street – 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> C.E. Montgomery Street.



Willie C. Stewart Sr.

Retired Educator

253-441-5772





# In Recognition

of outstanding Volunteer Service  
the City of Tacoma Extends its Sincere Appreciation  
to

*Pastor Curtis E. Montgomery*  
for Contributions to the Community

Presented this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 1979

  
Mayor, City of Tacoma







## Resolution No. R2009-109

**A Resolution of the Pierce County Council and Executive Congratulating the Greater Christ Temple Church on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Honoring Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery, Founder of the Greater Christ Temple Church, who for 50 Years Served with Tireless Dedication as a Civic Leader and Spiritual Patriarch to Tacoma/Pierce County, Washington.**

**Whereas**, Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery was born on December 27, 1932, in Selma, Alabama and attended the Northwest Bible College in Kirkland, Washington, and in 1959 became affiliated with Christ Temple Church in Tacoma, where he served as Pastor until October 2009; and

**Whereas**, through his continued support and dedication, Bishop Montgomery provided a platform for leaders to develop religious, social and political programs that spiritually and socially enrich the lives of individuals in the Tacoma/Pierce County community; and

**Whereas**, Bishop Montgomery is a consummate role model and revered as an honest and faithful man who is an inspiration to the community; he combines his spirituality with a profound commitment to make Tacoma/Pierce County a better place for everyone; and

**Whereas**, Bishop Montgomery's vision of the Oasis of Hope Center came to fruition and serves youth and community programs in Tacoma/Pierce County; and

**Whereas**, Bishop Montgomery's loyal and faithful wife of 57 years, Mrs. Elinor Montgomery, is a source of strength and power to him; **Now, Therefore**,

**BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Council and Executive of Pierce County:

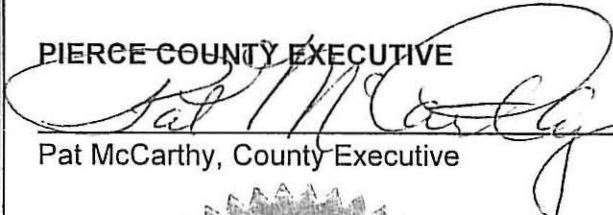
Section 1. On behalf of the citizens of Pierce County, the Pierce County Council and Executive congratulate the Greater Christ Temple Church on celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 3-11, 2009.

Section 2. On behalf of the citizens of Pierce County, the Pierce County Council and Executive honor Bishop Montgomery, whose life exhibits courage, personal integrity, and dedication to 50 years of service in Tacoma/Pierce County.

Section 3. On behalf of the citizens of Pierce County, the County Council and Executive do hereby declare October 6, 2009, as "Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery Day" in Pierce County, Washington, and encourage citizens to recognize Bishop Curtis and Mrs. Elinor Montgomery for their outstanding contributions to the Tacoma/Pierce County community.


**ADOPTED** this 6th day of October, 2009.

**PIERCE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

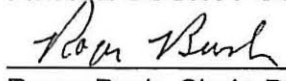
  
Pat McCarthy, County Executive

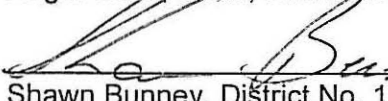


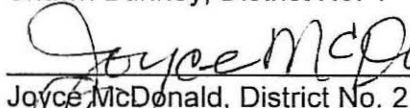
**ATTEST:**

  
Denise D. Johnson  
Clerk of the Council


**PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL**


  
Roger Bush, Chair, District No. 3


  
Shawn Bunney, District No. 1

  
Joyce McDonald, District No. 2

  
Timothy M. Farrell, District No. 4

  
Barbara Gelman, District No. 5

  
Dick Muri, District No. 6

  
Terry Lee, District No. 7

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery was born December 27, 1932 in Selma, Alabama, the only child to parents Henry and Ethel Lean Montgomery; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Montgomery met and married Elinor Elizabeth Miles on September 13, 1952 and soon after began his ministry at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Montgomery joined the United States Army in 1953 and after being honorably discharged two years later, he remained in Fort Lewis until moving to Tacoma in 1959; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Montgomery established the Christ Temple Church in 1959 with a membership that was made up of his wife and four small children. Since being renamed as the Greater Christ Temple Church in 1978, the leadership of Bishop Montgomery helped establish over a dozen churches throughout the United States, the construction of Oasis Hope Center in 2004 and most importantly touching over 3000 lives who followed in his footsteps; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Montgomery served 49 years as Pastor of Greater Christ Temple Church and then elected to transition into a new phase of ministry and serve primarily as the Diocesan Bishop of the Pacific Northwest District Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Montgomery created a well-respected legacy that was inspiring to all who knew him. His proudest accomplishments included his 62 years of marriage to Elinor, their five sons, three daughters, 22 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARILYN STRICKLAND**, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2015 as:

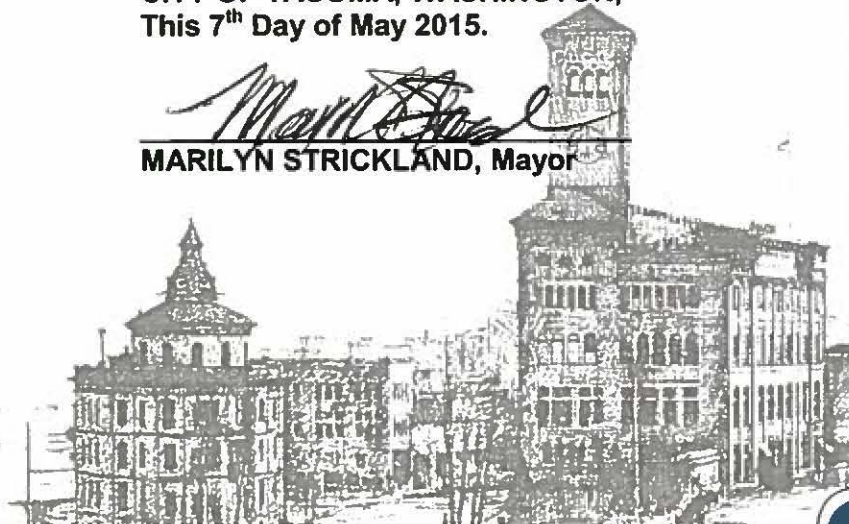
## Bishop Curtis Edward Montgomery Day

in the City of Tacoma and I ask the citizens of Tacoma to join me in acknowledging Bishop Montgomery's longstanding presence in Tacoma, his numerous accomplishments, and his many years of valued service to all citizens.



**WITNESS, THEREFORE, MY HAND  
AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE  
CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON,  
This 7<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2015.**

  
**MARILYN STRICKLAND, Mayor**





an appointment to the Beeville Municipal Court. This moment in Silva's life arrived after decades of dedicated effort and service to his community. He worked his way through high school as a janitor in the same courthouse where he would later serve as a judge. He lived a life defined by integrity, commitment and dedication.

Silva would continue to be a pillar of the Beeville community during his later years. He found time to help lead community boards as he continued his passion for education. His capacity to perform at a high level was second to none.

Our community suffered a tremendous loss with Judge Silva's passing, but his legacy will be preserved by the positive change he made in his community and through the many students who had the privilege to learn from him in the classroom.

Judge David Silva is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Yolanda Olivares Silva; his daughters, Cassandra Dianne Silva (Casey Hawks), and Cristianna Dawn Silva Meineke (Aaron Meineke); siblings, John Marks Silva, Amado Silva (Zenaída), and Grace Ramirez (Adolfo). He is also survived by a granddaughter, Audria Nouvelle Diem Silva.

On this day, I remember Judge David Silva. May he forever rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND  
SERVICE OF BISHOP CURTIS E.  
MONTGOMERY

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Bishop Curtis Montgomery of Tacoma, WA. Curtis epitomized the role that long-standing faith leaders play in their community. He was a tireless advocate for the members of his congregation and the greater Tacoma community.

Bishop Montgomery was a key leader who shepherded Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood through the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and the gang and drug violence of the 1980s. His steadfast leadership and staunch belief in the power of community involvement will be remembered in the revitalization of this historically significant neighborhood.

His contributions to the Hilltop include the establishment of Christ Temple Church in 1959, which later became Greater Christ Temple Church in 1977. Under his leadership, Greater Christ Temple Church has become much more than a place for worship. Parishioners are community leaders, volunteers, and advocates for the work that Curtis has espoused his entire life.

One of his most esteemed accomplishments was the realization of the Oasis of Hope Center. This faith-based community outreach center was the culmination of Bishop Montgomery's efforts and long-standing vision to provide a safe and stable place for the community to serve their neighbors. Opened in 2004, the Oasis of Hope Center has operated feeding programs, a clothing bank, counseling services, youth programs, and donation drives.

Mr. Speaker, last year there were over 500 Hilltop community members served at the Center's annual Share the Harvest Thanks-

giving Meal. I have been told there were more volunteers than they could possibly need for that dinner. This simple fact is just one piece of evidence representing his legacy and his vision. Scripture tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. It's safe to say God loves Curtis Montgomery and his parishioners—who have given so much, to so many, for so long.

Bishop Curtis Montgomery was born in Selma, AL, which was central in the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s. He was raised to stamp out discrimination and racism. He built his church and developed a powerful message of tolerance and peace. Bishop Montgomery served his community in the steps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who he admired and followed from an early age.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of visiting Selma on the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and had the privilege to join leaders like Rep. JOHN LEWIS in commemoration of the struggle for equal rights. I am proud to have walked in the hometown of Bishop Curtis Montgomery with the knowledge that his contribution to a safer and more equitable society would not be forgotten—that his legacy was etched with his brothers and sisters in Selma, 50 years later.

On behalf of his congregation and the people of the Hilltop Neighborhood in Tacoma, WA, I stand today, proudly, to honor the lifetime achievements of Bishop Curtis Montgomery of Greater Christ Temple Church in the Congress of the United States.

HONORING MS. ANDREA JENKINS

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrea Jenkins, who has been chosen to serve as Grand Marshal for the 2015 Twin Cities Pride parade and festival because of her distinguished contributions to the citizens of Minnesota in the form of art and activism.

Ms. Jenkins has been among the Twin Cities' leading advocates for transgender equity, especially at the intersections of race and class. During her 12-year career as a policy aide for the Minneapolis City Council, Ms. Jenkins was central in raising the profile of transgender issues among Minnesota's most influential policymakers. Under her leadership, the City of Minneapolis started the Transgender Issues Work Group, a roundtable dedicated to changing city ordinances to improve the lives of transgender citizens. Local and national media outlets have covered her efforts—raising the profile of an often-overlooked segment of the population. At a time when our nation is seeing an epidemic of violence against transgender individuals—specifically trans women of color—Ms. Jenkins's work is critical.

In addition to her work in the political realm, Ms. Jenkins is an award-winning poet and performance artist. Her work has been honored by the Jerome Foundation, Intermedia Arts, The Playwrights' Center, the Walker Art Center, the Givens Foundation, the Loft Literary Center, and countless other arts organizations. In 2011, she was named a Bush Fellow.

On top of crafting nuanced pieces that reflect her identity as a trans woman of color,

Ms. Jenkins serves on numerous boards and panels, including serving as the board chair of Intermedia Arts. This leadership has allowed Ms. Jenkins to create some of the Twin Cities' most inclusive and boundary-pushing events, frequently centering the voices of those at "the margins of the margins." One such event, the Queer Voices reading series, is the longest-running series of its kind in the country.

Recently, Ms. Jenkins left her position with the City of Minneapolis to begin curating the Transgender Oral History Project, part of the University of Minnesota's Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection. In this role, she will travel throughout the upper Midwest to document the experiences of transgender people. This permanent record will serve as one of the nation's most comprehensive catalogs of contemporary transgender life.

At a time when the T in LGBT is often overlooked, Andrea Jenkins has helped move the spotlight to the trans community. Her work has sparked conversation, propagated knowledge and forged a path for future trans leaders. Her work in our community is inestimable and I congratulate her on being selected Grand Marshal. I am proud to call her a friend and ally.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE  
HELP HIRE OUR HEROES ACT

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the House to bring to the floor my bill, the Help Hire our Heroes Act.

My bill would renew the Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance Program (VRAP) and permit additional veterans to participate in the program. As you may know, the VRAP program provides up to 12 months of re-training assistance to veterans in need of employment training, but who are unable to participate in other VA programs because of their age and time since active duty service.

Specifically, the program provided training assistance to unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 who are no longer eligible for the GI Bill. Veterans could use these benefits at community colleges and technical schools in occupations that the Department of Labor identified as "high demand."

The VRAP program started in 2012, but funding for this program expired in March 2014 and the VA has not been able to enroll new veterans in VRAP.

In 2014, there were 573,000 unemployed veterans, 55 percent of whom were age 45 and up. I simply do not understand why the Majority has allowed this important veterans' job training program to lapse. It has resulted in thousands of older, qualified veterans being unable to access job training to help them find work.

As we approach Memorial Day, Congress should be doing all it can to help unemployed veterans find work. Please bring my bill to the floor, so that we can renew the Veterans Re-training Assistance Program.