

BOARD BILL #136

INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN SHARON TYUS

1 An ordinance authorizing and directing the Street Commissioner to take all necessary
2 actions to honorarily designate the 3300-3500 blocks of Shreve Avenue between
3 Natural Bridge and Ashland as “Gilbert Wade Grandberry Avenue.”

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5 WHEREAS, Gilbert Wade Grandberry was born in Mississippi and moved to St.
6 Louis after leaving the Navy; and

7 WHEREAS, the Wade Funeral Home was founded in 1914 by Walter Wade, at a time
8 when there was only three existing funeral homes that would serve African American
9 Families; and

10 WHEREAS, the ambitious Wade wanted to give superior care and service to all
11 families which was a ground breaking concept in 1914; and

12 WHEREAS, with the help of his dedicated wife Mary, Walter Wade made Wade
13 Funeral Home the kind of funeral home he dreamed of and they were known for their
14 tireless work ethics and overwhelming warmth; and

15 WHEREAS, Walter Wade's untimely passing was a tremendous loss to the
16 community however, the funeral home and Wade's tradition lived on as Mary
17 courageously ran the home alone; and

18 WHEREAS, the Wade's never had children and in the early 1940s Walter Wade's
19 nephew Gilbert Wade Grandberry, returned from the Navy and approached his aunt
20 with a request to purchase the funeral home which she granted the request; and

21 WHEREAS, the first location of the Wade Funeral Home was on Finney in the City
22 of St. Louis and Mr. G as the nephew was known opened a second location for Wade
23 Funeral Home in Kinloch, MO and then later acquired a third location at 4828 Natural

24 Bridge in the City of St. Louis in the 20th Ward in the mid 1970's and for a short time
25 all three locations were open for business; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Grandberry later decided to keep the business in a single location at
27 4828 Natural Bridge and expand it as the business grew, acquiring the Wade Florist
28 building next door to the West of the funeral home in the 1970s. Then in 1992 Mr.
29 Grandberry seized another opportunity by purchasing and remodeling the 22,500
30 square foot building to the east of Wade Funeral Home known today as the Twin
31 Chapel which he named in honor of his twin sister Garnette; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Grandberry was successful in training many of today's successful
33 funeral home owners who got their start at Wade; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1999 Mr. Grandberry sold his business to the Perpetual Inc. and Mr.
35 Grandberry was named President Emeritus and helped through the transition; and

36 WHEREAS, on August 8, 2002 Mr. Grandberry transitioned to glory. However, if he
37 were alive today it is believed that he would be proud of the dedicated staff at Wade
38 where many of the staff who worked for him still carry out his mission of offering
39 superior service to families at their time of need; and

40 WHEREAS, on June 17, 2014 Wade Funeral Home and Florist was acquired by the
41 ownership team of Saint Louisan Randy Sanderson and Melvin Bryant just in time to
42 celebrate the 100 Anniversary of Wade Funeral Home; and

43 WHEREAS, Randy Sanderson and Melvin Bryant are committed to continuing the
44 great legacy started by Mr. Grandberry for the next 100 years.

45 WHEREAS, THE Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis acknowledge and
46 remember as “Gilbert Wade Grandberry as one of the city’s cultural treasures and an
47 important and significant part of our St. Louis’ rich and diverse 250 year history and
48 in furtherance of that acknowledgement seek to make a permanent acknowledgement
49 in the form of giving the 3300-3500 blocks of Shreve Avenue between Natural Bridge
50 and Ashland as “Gilbert Wade Grandberry Avenue.”

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52 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

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54 SECTION ONE. Pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance 68937 the 3300-3500
55 blocks of Shreve Avenue between Natural Bridge and Ashland shall hereafter be
56 honorarily designated as “Gilbert Wade Grandberry Avenue.” The Director of Streets
57 shall erect an honorary street-name sign which sign shall read Gilbert Wade
58 Grandberry Avenue.

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