

ARTICLE IV. MEMORIAL AREAS

Sec. 431-401. Designated memorial areas authorized.

To encourage the citizens of Indianapolis to remember certain exemplary role-model persons who in some positive way touched the lives of Indianapolis' people, the council may memorialize such persons by designation of memorial areas in memory of such persons. "Memorial areas" for purposes of this article are either: (i) existing named or numbered streets or (ii) a geographic area identified and designated by the city-county council in its general resolution establishing such memorial area, in response to a petition filed pursuant to section 431-403.

(Code 1975, § 28-351)

Sec. 431-402. Criteria for designated memorial areas.

(a) No living person shall be honored by these designated memorial areas. If the area is dedicated to the memory of a person, that person shall have been deceased for a minimum of three (3) years. The person must have been a generally recognized local community leader, or someone from outside of the community who significantly influenced Indianapolis in a high moral, physical or inspirational manner.

(b) A designated memorial area shall be either (i) one specific street up to one-half (1/2) mile long, or (ii) a contiguous cluster of streets with no circumference limitations forming an area in the close proximity of the honored person's geographical area of special influence (such as home, church, business).

(Code 1975, § 28-352)

Sec. 431-403. Procedure for memorial designations.

(a) Persons desiring the designation of a memorial area shall file with the clerk of the council a petition in support of the proposed designation signed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the property owners of record abutting the proposed designated memorial area.

(1) The petition shall designate one (1) person as the spokesperson for the petitioners.

(2) The petition shall recite the exact name, history and rationale for such a memorial designation, a map showing the preferred location of the proposed street or area, and a list of all property owners of record with addresses abutting the streets in the area involved.

(3) A fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to assist in the costs for manufacture and placement of the memorial signs shall accompany the petition. This fee shall be placed in the grants and gifts fund maintained by the city controller, and shall be available to the department of public works upon designation of the memorial area. The fee shall be refunded if the council fails to pass a resolution within twelve (12) months designating the memorial area.

(4) Professional or amateur generated, camera-ready artwork of a silhouette likeness of the memorialized person, and/or an identifying symbol or logo for the proposed signs shall be submitted which is acceptable to the department of public works for safety, reproduction and other reasonable considerations. Such artwork shall be free of any copyright or trademark interests and shall save and hold harmless Indianapolis, Marion County and all appendages thereof from any and all claims brought by any entity asserting copyright or trademark interests relating to that rendering.

(b) A councilor may introduce a proposal for a general resolution designating the memorial area. Such proposal is to be assigned to the metropolitan development committee (or to its most direct successor committee), which shall hold a public hearing on the proposal.

(c) No less than twenty-three (23) days prior to the hearing, the petitioner shall send, by first class mail to all property owners of record and to all registered neighborhood organizations within the proposed memorial area, information about the proposal and the hearing. The petitioner shall file with the clerk a notarized statement that these notices were sent, when they were mailed, to whom, and a copy of the mailed notice.

(Code 1975, § 28-353; G.O. 15, 2001, § 19)

Sec. 431-404. Memorial signs.

(a) If the council adopts a general resolution designating a memorial area, the area shall be marked by memorial signs.

(b) Signs shall be twenty-four (24) by thirty (30) inches in size which are not likely to be confused with regular street signs and shall be placed by the department of public works along such designated streets.

(c) The signs are to display a silhouette likeness of the person being memorialized, or an appropriate symbol identifying the subject of memorialization. The signs should convey educational information to the public such as an identifying name of the memorialized subject, birth and death years, date of any significant event, or other brief pertinent facts.

(d) Memorial signs shall be placed at the beginning and at the end of the designated area, and shall not exceed a total number of eight (8) signs.

(e) The department of public works shall retain final decision authority concerning memorial sign locations, height and colors for transportation safety, visibility and other related traffic and pedestrian considerations.

(Code 1975, § 28-354; G.O. 15, 2001, § 19)

Sec. 431-405. Other provisions.

(a) Each designated memorial area enabling authorization shall expire fifteen (15) years after it is passed by the city-county council.

(b) After fifteen (15) years, the signs may be given to appropriate individuals, organizations or sponsoring entities. The petitioning process for any designated memorial area may be renewed every fifteen (15) years for an indefinite number of times. A new enabling ordinance is required, but no fee nor petitions are necessary.

(Code 1975, § 28-355)