

A RESOLUTION

HONORING THE MEMORY
OF OFFICER CHRISTOPHER OBERHEIM AND
DESIGNATING A PORTION OF UNIVERSITY AVENUE AS
HONORARY CHRISTOPHER OBERHEIM AVENUE
(Between Neil Street and Chestnut Street)

WHEREAS, the Champaign City Council recognizes those brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who, in their efforts to serve and protect their fellow citizens, daily put their lives on the line in carrying out their duties; and

WHEREAS, City of Champaign Police Officer Chris Oberheim was an outstanding law enforcement officer, and the members of this Council are saddened by his tragic loss; and

WHEREAS, City of Champaign Police Officer Chris Oberheim lost his life in the line of duty in service to the residents of Champaign on May 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Officer Chris Oberheim started his career with the Decatur Police Department in 2000, serving there with distinction for seven years; and

WHEREAS, Officer Chris Oberheim continued his service by joining the Champaign Police Department in September of 2008; and

WHEREAS, during the following thirteen years, Officer Chris Oberheim received two medals of valor for courageous acts of selfless bravery and other departmental awards demonstrating his exemplary career; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of his career, he earned the admiration of this Council, the City Administration, his superior officers, his peers, and the people he protected, and answered the call to serve the public; and

WHEREAS, Officer Chris Oberheim served with pride as a Patrol Officer and a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team; and

WHEREAS, Chris Oberheim was deeply devoted to his family and was proud of their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Chris Oberheim will be greatly missed by his beloved wife, Amber Oberheim; his four daughters, Avery, Addison, Aubree, and Hannah; parents Ted and Mary Ann Oberheim, siblings Greg (Michelle), Amy, Matt (Jennifer), Joe (Chelsea), and Sarah (Jason); and

WHEREAS, Officer Chris Oberheim has left behind a legacy of integrity in his career as a law enforcement officer, humility and loyalty in his private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Officer Chris Oberheim possessed a great love for his community and his work, and he carried out his duties with the greatest passion and devotion; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of the Champaign City Council should join loved ones and fellow officers in remembering the life of this courageous officer and devoted family man, who gave his life in the furtherance of public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2018, in Council Bill No. 2018-123 the City Council amended the Council Policy for honorary street name designations to recognize City employees who lose their lives in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, under City Council Policy, honorary street names for any City employee who lost their life in the line of duty shall be assigned to such blocks as designated by the City Council. Such designations shall be for an indefinite term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council does hereby honor the memory of City of Champaign Police Officer Christopher Oberheim, who lost his life while serving as a member of the City of Champaign Police Department.

Section 2. That each member of the City Council does express deepest sympathy and offer condolences to the family of Officer Chris Oberheim and his fellow officers and colleagues.

Section 3. That pursuant to the City Council Policy with respect to Honorary Street Name Designations, University Avenue, between Neil Street and Chestnut Street, is hereby designated as Honorary Christopher Oberheim Avenue.

Section 4. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Oberheim Family, the Champaign Police Department, and the Acting Public Works Director.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2021-066

APPROVED: _____

Mayor

PASSED:

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Dorothy Ann David, City Manager

DATE: May 28, 2021

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL BILL NO. 2021-066

A. Introduction: The purpose of this Council Bill is to recognize the sacrifice and honor the memory of City of Champaign Police Department Officer Christopher Oberheim. This Council Bill will designate University Avenue between Neil Street and Chestnut Street as Honorary Christopher Oberheim Avenue.

B. Recommended Action: The Administration recommends the adoption of this Council Bill.

C. Previous Council Action:

- CB 2000-077 – April 4, 2000, Council approved a Resolution Establishing a Council Policy for Honorary Street Name Designation and Codifying Such Policy.
- CB 2001-079 – April 17, 2001, Council approved a Resolution Amending Council Bill.
- [CB 2005-063](#) – March 1, 2005, Council designated an honorary street for Thomas Dodsworth.
- [CB 2005-064](#) – March 1, 2005, Council designated an honorary street for Robert L. Tatman.
- [SS 2013-063](#) – November 12, 2013, staff reviewed and obtained Council input during the Study Session on proposed changes to the City's Honorary Street Name Designation Policy.
- [CB 2014-009](#) – January 21, 2014, Council repealed CB 2000-077 and CB 2001-079 and adopted a revised City Policy for honorary street name designations.
- [CB 2018-123](#) – August 7, 2018, Council amended the City's Honorary Street Name Designation Policy to create permanent honorary street name designations for Thomas Dodsworth and Robert L. Tatman.

D. Background

1. Officer Christopher Oberheim. The City of Champaign has honored its fallen heroes in numerous ways throughout the years. On May 19, 2021, Champaign Police Officer Christopher Oberheim, badge number 703, passed away due to injuries sustained while on-duty. Officer Oberheim joined the Champaign Police Department in September 2008 after beginning his career with the Decatur Police Department. A true professional and devoted public servant, Officer Oberheim is remembered for his heroism, bravery, and the oath of office he honorably upheld in his commitment to duty.

The City of Champaign expresses its deepest condolences to Officer Oberheim's family, friends and loved ones, as well as all members of the Champaign Police Department who are mourning the passing of their friend and colleague.

2. Honorary Street Name Policy. The Honorary Street Name Designation Policy as adopted by City Council (CB 2014-009, January 21, 2014) and amended (CB 2018-123, August 7, 2018) provides that an Honorary Street Name Designation for any City employee who lost his or her life in the line of duty shall be assigned to such blocks as designated by the City Council. Such designation is for an unlimited term.

3. Action Requested. The Administration recommends "Christopher Oberheim Avenue" as the honorary street name. The location of the honorary street designation would be University Avenue (between Neil Street and Chestnut Street).

E. Alternatives:

1. Approve the Council Bill and recognize the sacrifice and honor the memory of City of Champaign Police Department Officer Christopher Oberheim and designate University Avenue (between Neil Street and Chestnut Street) as Honorary Christopher Oberheim Avenue.
2. Do not approve the Council Bill and provide additional direction to staff.

F. Community Input: No direct public input was obtained for this issue. Members of the public will have an opportunity to provide input at the Council Meeting when this Council Bill is considered. Administration at the Champaign Police Department solicited input from Officer Oberheim's colleagues in identifying the location for the honorary street designation.

Prepared by:

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