



Unified Government of
Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 2029

Mayor Tyrone Garner
On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

House Committee on Transportation
January 29, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Francis and Members of the Kansas State Legislative Committee:

I am Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. It is my honor to submit testimony today as a proponent of House Bill 2029. We would like to first express our sincere appreciation for the time taken to facilitate an official hearing for consideration.

Marvin Robinson's positive impact on Wyandotte County has been multifaceted. Mr. Robinson was well known as a steadfast advocate for the preservation, stabilization, revitalization and promotion of the area encompassing the world renowned historic Quindaro Ruins underground railroad site in Kansas City Kansas. Mr. Robinson's work as a Kansas State Legislator included efforts to mitigate disparities in education, housing, resource allocation, and economic development, and to also promote an accurate historical understanding of the Quindaro Ruins.

Mr. Robinson passion included bringing about enhanced attention to the historical significance of the Quindaro Ruins site, which was once a thriving settlement of indigenous Wyandot American Indians, Abolitionist, and freed African American slaves in the mid-1800s. The site was a critical hub for the Underground Railroad and has national historical significance as it relates to the free State of Kansas. Mr. Robinson was instrumental in ensuring that this vital part of American history would not be lost and provided testimony to Congress towards that end. In culmination of his decades-long advocacy for Quindaro, he secured funding for the site in 2023 during his tenure as Representative.

Naming a portion of K-5/I-635 highway in honor of Marvin S. Robinson, II, would be a fitting tribute to his contributions to our community and to the history of the Quindaro Ruins. This honorary designation would serve as a reminder of his enduring dedication to preserving history, advancing civil rights, and the need to revitalize the area in and around the Quindaro Ruins historical site. As a result of the profound positive impact noted, I support the initiative to rename the proposed section of the highway system after Mr. Marvin Robinson in honor of his commitment to preserving the Quindaro Ruins as a significant historical site, not just for Kansas, but for our entire Nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, in this matter of upmost significance.


Tyrone Garner
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