



Interoffice Memorandum

January 18, 2019

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
and Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mark V. Massaro, P. E., Director, Public Works Department

CONTACT PERSON: **Christine N. Lofye, P. E., Manager**
Traffic Engineering Division

PHONE NUMBER: (407) 836-7890

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine N. Lofye", written over the contact person information.

SUBJ: **Honorary Designation of Roadway for the late Firefighter Mark Bengé and the late Engineer Todd Aldridge**

The Fire Rescue Department has requested an honorary designation of roadway for the late Firefighter Mark Bengé and the late Engineer Todd Aldridge. Firefighter Mark Bengé and Engineer Todd Aldridge were killed in the line of duty while battling a fire on February 24, 1989. The Station 36 crew entered the Sunrise Gift shop located on Palm Parkway near SR 535 and Interstate 4. Shortly after, the roof collapsed, killing the six-year veteran Engineer Todd Aldridge and three-year veteran Firefighter Mark Bengé. They each left behind a wife and two children. Their deaths sparked national change. February 24, 2019, will be the 30-year anniversary of their deaths.

The Aldridge-Bengé Firefighter Safety Act went into law in December 2009, which requires owners of commercial, industrial, and multi-unit residential buildings (three or more units) to be marked with an emblem warning firefighters of lightweight floor and roof trusses. The Honorary Designation of Roadway Committee has reviewed the application in accordance with Administrative Regulation 3.06 and recommends approval of the honorary designation. The committee requests that the Board approve the designation of that portion of Forsyth Road from University Boulevard to Gardner Street in honor of the late Firefighter Mark Bengé and the late Engineer Todd Aldridge as Firefighter Mark Bengé, Engineer Todd Aldridge Memorial Roadway.

Action Requested: Approval of designation of that portion of Forsyth Road from University Boulevard to Gardner Street in honor of the late Firefighter Mark Bengé and the late Engineer Todd Aldridge as Firefighter Mark Bengé, Engineer Todd Aldridge Memorial Roadway. District 5.

MVM/CNL/nad

Attachments

**FIREFIGHTER MARK BENGE
ENGINEER TODD ALDRIDGE
MEMORIAL ROADWAY**

DESIGNATED BY: ORANGE COUNTY BCC



**Orange County
Honorary Designation of Roadway Application**

Applicant Information:

Name: Fire Chief Otto Drozd III

Address: 6590 Amory Court, Winter Park, FL 32793

Phone Number: 407-836-9112

Honoree Information:

Name: Firefighter Mark Bengé, Engineer Todd Aldridge

Address: 6590 Amory Court, Winter Park, FL

Proposed Roadway for Designation: Forsyth Road - between University and Colonial Drive

From: Feb 24, 2019 To: Feb 24, 2026

Explain how the proposed roadway is within the vicinity of the home, business, or location associated with the honoree.

The men and women of Orange County Fire Rescue are requesting an honorary roadway designation in remembrance of the thirty year anniversary of the deaths of two OCFRD firefighters who died in the line of duty in 1989. OCFRD is proposing the roadway for the designation be county-road Forsyth, with placement of markers between the intersection of University Blvd and Colonial Drive. This stretch of road includes access to both the Orange County Fire Rescue Headquarters, as well as its training facility, providing high visibility among fire rescue personnel and guests.

Attachments:

- 1) Map showing the requested limits of the honorary roadway designation.
- 2) Letter of endorsement from appropriate government agency, authority, or recognized group.



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

OTTO DROZD, III

Fire Chief, EFO, CFO

6590 Amory Court

Winter Park, Florida 32792

407-836-9112 • FAX 407-836-9106

Otto.Drozdz@ocfl.net

January 15, 2019

Dear Review Committee,

This upcoming February 24, 2019 will mark the 30 year anniversary of the in the line of duty deaths of two Orange County firefighters, Engineer Todd Aldridge and Firefighter Mark Benge. They were killed while fighting a structure fire at the Sunrise Gift Shop, located on the Palm Parkway near Interstate-4 and State Road 535. To date, they are the only two firefighters in Orange County Fire Rescue's history to have died in the line of duty while fighting a fire.

As we approach 30 years since their deaths, we feel this is an appropriate milestone in our organization's history to make an honorary street dedication request.

Each and every year since the tragic deaths of Mark and Todd, Orange County Fire Rescue has engaged in annual safety training designed specifically to honor the legacy of these brave men by continuously working to keep today's firefighters safe.

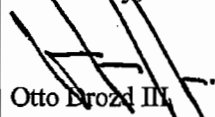
On February 25, 2019, Orange County Fire Rescue will host a 30 year community memorial event in their honor with OCFRD personnel, which now includes a generation of firefighters not even born when this tragedy struck. We believe this honorary designation will help continue to keep the legacy of Mark and Todd on the forefront of not only our most senior, but also newest members. This designation will assure that each time our firefighters go down the designated roadway between our fire administration and fire training facilities, they will be reminded and better understand the danger and sacrifice endured of those before us to protect our community.

The deaths of these two brave men play an intricate role in not just our organization's history, but also the fire service industry. In 2009, the Aldridge-Benge Firefighter Act was announced which requires commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential buildings to display an emblem on the outside of the structure to ensure firefighters are aware of the presence of lightweight floor and roof trusses, a danger which ultimately proved fatal for the two firefighters.

Orange County Fire Rescue respectfully requests that the county road of Forsyth Street, between University Boulevard and Colonial Drive, be granted an honorary road designation in memory of Mark and Todd, with specific placement of marker in proximity to the entrance of OCFRD Headquarters, located on Amory Court (just south of University Boulevard). This particular stretch of road is highly visibility among firefighters and guests, as it encompasses both the Orange County Fire Rescue Headquarters and Orange County Fire Rescue Training Facility.

I thank you for your consideration, and would be happy to provide any other additional information.

Yours truly,


Otto Drozd III
Fire Chief