

MOTION

Wakiesha Wilson was an Angeleno born into a multigenerational household in Watts, where her family's life was rooted in community, care, and connection. A mother and an indelible part of her close-knit household, Wakiesha exuded warmth, creativity, and empathy to all who knew her.

On March 27, 2016, Wakiesha Wilson died while in custody at the Los Angeles Police Department's Metro Detention Center after being detained on a minor offense. Her family did not receive any notice of her death, learning of her passing themselves only after conducting an anguishing four-day search.

This painful experience exposed a critical gap in transparency, oversight, accountability, and basic human dignity within our custodial systems. This operational failure compounded upon the devastating, irreparable loss of a grieving family. In the years that followed, Wakiesha's mother and aunt, Lisa and Sheila Hines, transformed their grief into sustained advocacy addressing these systematic gaps and demanding justice for their community.

Supported by community organizers including Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles, their nearly decade-long struggle resulted in the passage of "Wakiesha's Law," authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan and signed into law in October 2025. The law requires that families be notified within 24 hours when a loved one dies or suffers serious injury while in a jail or detention facility, marking a critical advancement in our public safety framework. Wakiesha's Law is also the first California state law named in honor of a Black woman, cementing her legacy in state history.

In recognition of Wakiesha Wilson's life, her enduring impact on public policy, and the profound movement for dignity and accountability carried forward in her name, it is fitting and appropriate that the City of Los Angeles name the intersections of the Los Angeles Police Department's Metro Detention Center, "Wakiesha Wilson Square," ensuring that her name, story, and legacy remain visible in the civic fabric of the city she called home.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at Los Angeles Street and Temple Street be designated as "Wakiesha Wilson Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY 
YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY 

ORIGINAL


MAR 27 2026