

MOTION

Senator Bill Greene was a trailblazing civil rights leader, labor advocate, and longtime California legislator whose life was dedicated to the pursuit of justice, equity, and opportunity for all. Born William Bradshaw Greene Jr. in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Los Angeles, Senator Greene attended the University of Michigan, where he became deeply involved in the civil rights movement during the turbulent and violent early 1960s. His work brought him into the ranks of civil rights giants such as Julian Bond, Stokely Carmichael, and James Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Following his work as a civil rights activist, Greene broke barriers in government when he was hired as the first African American desk clerk in the California Assembly by then-Speaker Jesse M. Unruh. He entered elected office in 1967, succeeding his friend and mentor Mervyn Dymally in the State Assembly. In 1975, he again succeeded Dymally in the State Senate where he would serve until 1992. Over the course of his legislative career, Greene chaired the powerful Industrial Relations Committee and became a respected voice on labor law and workers' compensation reform.

Greene was known for balancing pro-labor values with an understanding of the business community, advocating for economic development in underserved communities while maintaining strong relationships across political and ideological lines. In his earlier career, he worked as a lobbyist for the Building Service Employees International Union, a field representative for the Los Angeles City Employees Association, a staff member of Voice of America, and served in the United States Air Force.

Senator Bill Greene passed away leaving a towering legacy of service, sacrifice, and principled leadership. His impact continues to be felt in Los Angeles and throughout California. In recognition of Senator Bill Greene's lifelong dedication to the City of Los Angeles, to the people of California, and to the cause of justice and equality, it is fitting that a portion of the city bear his name as a lasting tribute.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Engineer be directed to initiate the process of changing the name West 58th Street between South Figueroa Street and South Flower Street as "Senator Bill Greene Street."

INTRODUCED BY: 
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, Ninth District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL


JUN 12 2025