

RESOLUTION NO. 25-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA; RENAMING THE BAYSIDE BRIDGE AS
THE DILLINGER MCCABE BAYSIDE BRIDGE IN HONOR OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND LEGACY OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
ROBERT “BOB” DILLINGER AND STATE ATTORNEY BERNARD
“BERNIE” MCCABE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Dillinger served the citizens of Pinellas and Pasco Counties with distinction as the elected Public Defender for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida for more than two decades, tirelessly advocating for justice, fairness, and the humane treatment of those accused of crimes; and

WHEREAS, Bob Dillinger’s leadership brought innovative programs addressing mental health and substance abuse, expanded diversion opportunities, and championed efforts to reduce recidivism, providing a model for defender services across the State; and

WHEREAS, Bernard “Bernie” McCabe faithfully served as the elected State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida for more than 25 years, earning widespread respect for his integrity, dedication, and commitment to public safety and the pursuit of justice; and

WHEREAS, Bernie McCabe was known for balancing firm prosecution with fairness and compassion, establishing specialized units to address domestic violence, child abuse, and white-collar crime, and mentoring generations of attorneys and law enforcement professionals; and

WHEREAS, together, Bob Dillinger and Bernie McCabe embodied the highest ideals of public service, often collaborating to improve the justice system, enhance community safety, and protect the rights and dignity of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, their longstanding partnership and mutual respect demonstrated that vigorous advocacy and principled prosecution can coexist to strengthen the fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that a major piece of infrastructure serving Pinellas County, the Bayside Bridge, be renamed to permanently commemorate their legacy and to inspire future generations of public servants; and

WHEREAS, at a public meeting held on July 22, 2025, a consensus of the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida directed that this proposal be brought directly to them for consideration at a future BCC meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida:

1. That the Bayside Bridge shall henceforth be named the "Dillinger McCabe Bayside Bridge" in honor of the extraordinary service and contributions of Robert "Bob" Dillinger and Bernard "Bernie" McCabe to the citizens of Pinellas County and the State of Florida.
2. That appropriate signage and recognition shall be installed to reflect this designation, subject to applicable state and local requirements, and communicated to the Florida Department of Transportation and other relevant agencies.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chair, Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Joseph A Morrissey
Office of the County Attorney

Supporting Documentation

Biographical Highlights: Robert “Bob” Dillinger

- Served as Public Defender for the Sixth Judicial Circuit for more than two decades.
- Expanded mental health and substance abuse diversion programs.
- Advocate for humane treatment and reducing recidivism in the justice system.
- Nationally recognized for innovative defender services and public service ethos.

Biographical Highlights: Bernard “Bernie” McCabe

- Served as State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit for over 25 years.
- Known for integrity, fairness, and commitment to public safety.
- Established specialized prosecution units for domestic violence, child abuse, and white-collar crime.
- Mentor to countless legal and law enforcement professionals.

Joint Legacy and Community Impact

- Collaborated across the aisle to improve justice system fairness and efficiency.
- Balanced vigorous advocacy and principled prosecution.
- Leaders who enhanced public confidence in the judicial system.
- Their partnership reflects the highest ideals of public service.