

being an insurance company, which supported other enterprises, including a newspaper called *The Reformer*, and the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of the True Reformers, which has been recognized as the nation's first Black-owned and operated bank; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, W. W. Browne died on December 21, 1897, and is buried at Woodland Cemetery in the city of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize W. W. Brown's accomplishments and service to the community by designating the intersection of Chamberlayne Parkway and Jackson Street in his honor as "W. W. Browne Terrace;" and

WHEREAS, because this designation is honorary only, the provisions of sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, do not apply to the designation made hereby or to any signs erected pursuant to this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The intersection of Chamberlayne Parkway and Jackson Street shall be designated in honor of W. W. Browne as "W. W. Browne Terrace," pursuant to this ordinance.

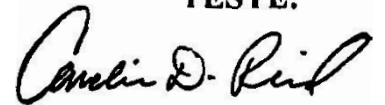
§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the intersection at Chamberlayne Parkway and Jackson Street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the road, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated road. The sole effect of designation pursuant to this ordinance shall be to authorize the placement of commemorative signs in accordance with this ordinance memorializing the designation in honor of the named person.

§ 3. **Administration of Ordinance.** The Department of Public Works shall implement this ordinance by installing, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this ordinance, and maintaining commemorative signs in accordance with this section. The commemorative signs shall be clearly distinct from the street signs used to identify the road in question such that a reasonable person could not conclude that the commemorative signs reflect the actual name of the road. The commemorative signs shall be affixed to any sign identifying the intersection designated in section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the intersection designated in section 1 of this ordinance and shall bear the name “W. W. Browne Terrace,” as set forth in section 1 of this ordinance.

§ 4. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney

THROUGH Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Katherine Jordan, 2nd District Council Member
Sven Philipsen, 2nd District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney

DATE June 3, 2021

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Honorary Designation of a block in honor of W. W. Browne.

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Jordan

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron request that legislation be drafted for Council’s consideration that designates the intersection of Chamberlayne Parkway and Jackson Street, in honor of W. W. Browne, as *W. W. Browne Terrace*.

BACKGROUND

The City has made honorary street and block designations in honor notable persons in Richmond’s history such as W.W. Browne.

- William Washington [Ben] Browne was born enslaved on October 20, 1849 in Habersham County, Georgia. He escaped slavery during the Civil War and served in the Union Army. He became known as a temperance leader and anti-Klan leader after the War.
- After being denied admission to the Independent Order of Good Templars, he chartered the Grand United Order of True Reformers in 1876, which led to his

relocation to Richmond, Virginia in 1880.

- Under his leadership, the organization shifted from a temperance society to an insurance company. That enterprise supported other Black businesses such as a newspaper called the *Reformer* and a bank called the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of the True Reformers. The bank has been recognized as the nation's first Black-owned and operated bank.
- He died on December 21, 1897 and is buried in Barton Heights Cemeteries (formerly known as Sycamore Cemetery), but was later reinterred at Woodland Cemetery.

The biographical information given above is provided by the JXN Project.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Costs of signage erecting these honors are absorbed in the regular operations of the Department of Public Works.

Attachment/s Yes No