

INTRODUCED: November 13, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-354

To designate the 2400 block of Hawthorne Avenue in honor of the late James E. “Duke” Stewart, II.

Patrons – Ms. Lambert, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Robertson, Mr. Addison,
Ms. Newbille, President Nye, and Ms. Trammell

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 8 2024 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, James E. “Duke” Stewart, II, was a resident of the city of Richmond who graduated from Armstrong High School, where he played football and later coached under Coach Maxie Robinson, in addition to playing football himself again in 1945 and 1962 for the Richmond Rams and the Richmond Boxers; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, James E. “Duke” Stewart, II, known as “Duke of the Deuce” for his associations with Second Street, was active in the community through his employment with the C & O Railroad for more than 32 years, where he was an active union member and local chairman for ten years; and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 22 2024 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, James E. “Duke” Stewart, II, was also active in the cause of civil rights in the city of Richmond, serving as the president of the Richmond Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, serving as chairman on the Richmond Human Relations Commission for which he received a meritorious service award, serving as an organizer of the Black Brothers Combined Professional Firefighters group, and serving as a member of the Astoria Beneficial Club, where he received a citizenship award for outstanding service to the citizens of Richmond and vicinity; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of James E. “Duke” Stewart, II, for his contributions to the civic life of the city of Richmond by designating the 2400 block of Hawthorne Avenue in his honor; 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,

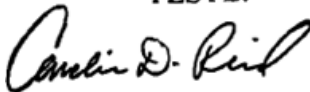
THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 2400 block of Hawthorne Avenue shall be designated in honor of James E. “Duke” Stewart, II pursuant to this ordinance.

§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the portion of the street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the street, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated street block. 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 portion of the street in question such that a reasonable person could not conclude that the commemorative signs reflect the actual name of the street. The commemorative signs (i) shall be affixed to a sign pole installed at each end of the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this section or to any existing sign identifying the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance and (ii) shall bear the name of the person 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:

City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Laura Drewry, City Attorney

THROUGH LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Ann-Frances Lambert, 3rd District Council Member
Kiya Stokes, 3rd District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney

DATE October 27, 2023

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Honorary Street/Block Naming for the late James E. "Duke" Stewart II.

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilmember Ann-Frances Lambert

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Ordinance request to designate the corner of 2416 Hawthorne Avenue and Overbrook Road an honorary street/block naming for James E. "Duke" Stewart II.

BACKGROUND

The patron is requesting that legislation be drafted designating the corner of 2416 Hawthorne Avenue and Overbrook Road as an honorary street/block naming for James E. “Duke” Stewart II.

James E. “Duke” Stewart was a Richmond resident. Mr. Stewart was well known throughout the city of Richmond and was known as Big “Duke” of the Duce, which is 2nd Street downtown. Mr. Stewart graduated from Armstrong High School. He was an active member of the Armstrong High School football team and later was an active and assistant coach to Maxie Robinson during the Armstrong football games. He had a career as a football player in 1945 and 1962 as a member of the Richmond Rams and the Richmond Boxers.

Mr. Stewart worked at the C & O Railroad Company for more than 32 years. He was an active member of the union for 25 years and served as the local chairman for 10 years.

Mr. Stewart was a strong supporter of civil rights. He served as President of the Richmond Branch NAACP. In November 1972, he was appointed by the Richmond City Council to serve as an active member of the Human Relations Commission, where he presided as chairman for three terms.

Mr. Stewart helped to organize the Black Brothers Combined Professional Firefighters. He received an appreciation and citizenship awards as, Man of the Year in 1974. In 1974, he received the “Citizenship Award” from the Astoria Beneficial Club for “outstanding service to the citizens of Richmond and vicinity”. For his service as chairman of the Richmond Human Relations Commission from 1973-1975, he received the “ Meritorious Service Award”.

The Battery Park Civic Association voted 100% approval for a honorary street name for James E. “Duke” Stewart II.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: There are costs for the production of the signage. Costs of signage are usually covered from DPW operating funds.

Attachment/s Yes ☐ No ☒