

INTRODUCED: June 26, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-192

To designate the 5200 block of Warwick Road in honor of Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr.

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Patrons – President Jones, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Trammell, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Newbille, Mr. Addison,  
and Vice President Nye

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Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney

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PUBLIC HEARING: JUL 24 2023 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr., who is a graduate of Cheyney State University and holder of a Masters of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, has been a faith leader since he was ordained in 1969; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr. has served as the lead pastor at four churches, including Calvary Baptist Church in Haverhill, Massachusetts, Western Avenue Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Fifth Street Baptist Church in Richmond, and at his current church in Richmond, Metropolitan African American Baptist Church, where he has served since 1994; and

AYES:            7            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:      JUL 24 2023      REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_      STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr., served as president of The Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., in addition to serving on the governing boards of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention and the American Baptist Churches USA; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr., for his contributions to the religious and spiritual life of the city of Richmond by designating the 5200 block of Warwick Road 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 5200 block of Warwick Road shall be designated in honor of Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr., 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 blocks. 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.

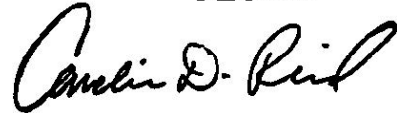
§ 3. **Administration of Ordinance.** The Department of Public Works shall implement this ordinance by installing, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this ordinance, and maintaining commemorative signs in accordance with this section. The commemorative signs

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:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlin D. Reil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**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** Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

**COPY** Michael Jones, 9th District Council Member  
Kennon Wright, 9th District Liaison  
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney

**DATE** June 14, 2023

**PAGE/s** 1 of 2

**TITLE** **Honorary Block Naming for Rev Roscoe Cooper, Jr at 5200th block of Warwick Road**

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

**REQUESTING COUNCIL MEMBER/PATRON**

Council Member Jones

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Land Use

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

Honorary block naming designation honoring Dr. Roscoe Cooper, Sr at the 5200th block of Warwick Road; near the corner of Warwick Road and Weatherford Road.

**BACKGROUND**

Dr. Cooper is Pastor of Metropolitan African American Baptist. He is a graduate of Cheyney State University. Dr. Cooper was licensed to preach in 1966 and ordained in 1969. He earned is M. Div. from Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts.

He has served as lead pastor at four churches: Calvary Baptist Church, Haverhill, Massachusetts (69–71); Western Avenue Baptist Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts (71–73); Fifth Street

Baptist Church here in Richmond (74 –93); and Metropolitan African American Baptist Church in this City since 1994.

Dr. Cooper has also served the people of the city and the Christian community as president of The Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the National Baptist Convention, USA. Additionally, he has served on the governing boards of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention and the American Baptist Churches USA.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Fiscal Impact Yes  No

Budget Amendment Required Yes  No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Generally, the costs of signage are covered from DPW’s operating budget.

Attachment/s Yes  No