

INTRODUCED: January 8, 2018

AN ORDINANCE No. 2018-007

To designate the 900 block of North 1<sup>st</sup> Street in honor of Dr. Benjamin Joseph Lambert, III.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – All Members of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 22, 2018 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, Dr. Benjamin Joseph Lambert, III, died on March 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lambert was born in Richmond on January 29, 1937, and was educated in Henrico County Public Schools and was graduated with honors from Virginia Union University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lambert earned his graduate degree in optometry from the New England College of Optometry, formerly known as the Massachusetts College of Optometry, and established his optometry practice in the city of Richmond's Jackson Ward neighborhood in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lambert was active in civic, educational, business, and professional activities, including work with the Crusade for Voters, the National Association for the

AYES:            9            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN:            \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:    JAN 22 2018    REJECTED:            \_\_\_\_\_    STRICKEN:            \_\_\_\_\_

Advancement of Colored People, the Richmond Jaycees, the North Richmond YMCA, the Salvation Army Boys Club, St. Paul's Baptist Church, and Omega Psi Phi fraternity, and served on the boards of Benedictine College Preparatory School, Dominion Resources, Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, SLM Corporation, commonly referred to as Sallie Mae, USA Education, Inc., Sheltering Arms Hospital, and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems Authority; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lambert was honored throughout his life for his civic and professional activities including receiving the Richmond Jaycees "Most Outstanding Young Man in Richmond" award; the Virginia Optometrist of the Year award in 1980; and the National Conference of Christians and Jews' Humanitarian Award in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lambert served more than 31 years in the General Assembly of Virginia, being elected first to the House of Delegates in 1977 and then to the Senate seat vacated by Lawrence Douglas Wilder upon his election as Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1985; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Senate of Virginia, Dr. Lambert served on numerous committees, including Finance, Education and Health, General Laws and Technology, and Privileges and Elections; and

WHEREAS, as a legislator, Dr. Lambert was widely recognized for his willingness to cross party lines for the cause of education and was at one time of member of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Commission, which sought to assist persons whose education had been hampered by the closing of schools in the era of massive resistance to desegregation; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize Dr. Lambert's contributions to the civic well-being of the city of Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia as an advocate for equal opportunity by designating the 900 block of North 1<sup>st</sup> Street 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 (2015), 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 900 block of North 1<sup>st</sup> Street shall be designated in honor of Dr. Benjamin Joseph Lambert, III, pursuant to this ordinance.

§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the street block 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 street block in question such that a reasonable person could not conclude that the commemorative signs reflect the actual name of the street. The commemorative signs shall be affixed to the street sign for the street designated in

section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the street block designated in section 1 of this ordinance and 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.



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

## Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Allen Jackson, City Attorney

**THROUGH** Lou Ali, Council Chief of Staff *LA*

**FROM** Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst *ST*

**COPY** Chris Hilbert, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Council Member  
 Lisa Townes, 3rd District Liaison  
 Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
 Meghan Brown, Council Deputy Chief of Staff *MB*

**DATE** December 21, 2017

**PAGE/s** 1 of 2

**TITLE** Honorary Designation of a portion of 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Jackson Ward in honor of the late State Senator Benjamin "Benny" J. Lambert, III

*Handwritten notes and stamps:*  
 DEC 21 2017  
 RECEIVED

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

**REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON**

C. Hilbert

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

### ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron requests that legislation be drafted for Council's consideration that designates the a block of 1<sup>st</sup> Street, from its intersection with E. Charity Street to its intersection with E. Baker Street, in honor of the late State Senator Benjamin "Benny" Joseph Lambert, III and authorizing the Department of Public Works to install appropriate signage reflecting the designation.

### BACKGROUND

The City occasionally makes designations of City blocks in honor of persons who have contributed to Richmond's civic well-being and history. Dr. Lambert was such a person.

Dr. Lambert was born in the City on January 29, 1937. He attended elementary and high school in Henrico County. He studied mathematics and graduated, with honors, from Virginia Union University; he then earned his graduate degree in optometry from what is now the New England College of Optometry (formerly the Massachusetts College of Optometry). Dr Lambert set up his practice in the City's Jackson Ward in 1962.

Civically, Dr. Lambert was active in the Crusade for Voters, the NAACP, alumni associations, the Jaycees, St. Paul's Baptist Church, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the North Richmond YMCA, and the Salvation Army Boys Club.

Dr. Lambert served on many business boards including: Dominion Resources, Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, Sallie Mae, USA Education, Inc, Sheltering Arms Hospital, and VCU Health Systems Authority Board. Dr. Lambert also served on the board of Richmond's Benedictine College Preparatory school.

Dr. Lambert was honored for his civic and professional activities with the 1980 Virginia Optometrist of the Year award, the National Conference of Christians and Jews Humanitarian Award in 1993, and on one occasion as the Richmond Jaycees' Most Outstanding Young Man in Richmond.

In 1977, Dr. Lambert was elected to Virginia's House of Delegates, representing parts of Richmond, Henrico, and Charles City. In 1985, he was elected to replace former Governor Doug Wilder in the State Senate after Mr. Wilder's election as Lt. Governor. Dr. Lambert served in the State Senate from 1985 through 2007. Dr. Lambert served on a number of Senate Committees, including but not limited to, Finance, Education and Health, General Laws, and Privileges and Elections.

Committed to the cause of education, Dr. Lambert served on the Brown v Board of Education Scholarship Commission, which attempted to assist persons whose educations had been hampered during the era of massive resistance in Virginia, which led to the closure of some schools in the Commonwealth. He was widely recognized for his willingness to cross party lines for the cause of education.

Dr. Lambert passed away, in the City of Richmond, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014.

#### 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  A petition of 101 Virginians supporting this designation.