

INTRODUCED: January 8, 2024

AN ORDINANCE No. 2024-010

To designate the 2100 block of Venable Street in honor of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr.

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

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 22 2024 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr., is a native of the East End of Richmond who graduated magna cum laude from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and who has served as the pastor of The Temple of Judah Ministries for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, in July, 1972, Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr., married Jacquelynne Westbrook, who was instrumental in shaping his ministry; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr., has extensively served the residents of Richmond and the state through his dedicated ministry and community outreach, which has included religious radio and television programming, the formation of the Community Association of Security Mobilization, now known as the City of

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN:

ADOPTED: JAN 22 2024 REJECTED: STRICKEN:

Richmond Crime Stoppers program, ministries to feed the hungry, meetings of clergy from multiracial and multidenominational backgrounds, early morning prayer services, and service as chief chaplain of the City of Richmond Justice Center and other aid to incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to honor the life of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr., for his contributions to the religious and civic life of and other community service contributions to the East End community and the city of Richmond by designating the 2100 block of Venable 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 (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 2100 block of Venable Street shall be designated as “Melvin Williams, Jr. Way” in honor of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr., pursuant to this ordinance, with placement of the sign at the corner of North 22nd Street and Venable Street.

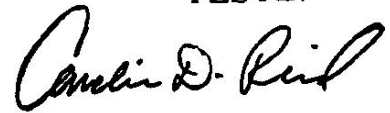
§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the portion of the street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the street, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated street block. The sole effect 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 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 "Carlin D. Reil".

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 S. Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Cynthia Newbille, Councilmember, 7th District
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Sam Patterson, 7th District Liaison

DATE December 28, 2023

PAGE/s 1 of 3

TITLE Honorary Street/Block Naming for Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr.

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilmember Cynthia Newbille

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing and Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Resolution to designate the 2100 block of Venable Street in honor of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. The sign would be place between 21st Street to 22nd Street (2200 block). The completed sign should say Melvin Williams, Jr. Way.

BACKGROUND

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. is a native of East End Richmond having been reared in the city of Richmond and a graduate of Richmond Public Schools from Armstrong High School. In 2023, Bishop Williams will celebrate 75 years of age.

Bishop Melvin Williams has been the pastor of the Temple of Judah (formerly, True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ), located 2120 Venable Street, in the east end of Richmond, since 1983. His father, Bishop Melvin Williams, Sr. pastored this historic church from 1959 until the early 1980s. Under his father's tutelage, he served as assistant pastor and later as interim pastor during his father's illness. Bishop Williams, Jr, has pastored for 50 years. Bishop Williams hosted a radio and television outreach program for over forty years on the ABC affiliate station Richmond WXEX, Channel 8. This radio program included city officials, police officers and clergy. Bishop Williams spread a message of outreach with his radio broadcast as well as walking door to door encouraging individuals who wanted to change their lives to come together in prayer. Bishop Williams was known as "Richmond's Radio Pastor" and was one of the first televised African American pastors. His vision in the early 1980s initiated an ongoing 5:00 a.m. prayer service that continues to serve Richmond residents.

Bishop Williams is a personable, proactive leader in community outreach. He is a proven ministry leader who has effectively organized numerous innovative mission outreach programs. His ministry pioneered the "Community Association of Security Mobilization" now known as the City of Richmond Crime Stoppers program. His inspiring humility, respect for human dignity, ability to ignite hope, along with the ability to translate vision into reality has resulted in many honors and awards. Bishop Williams was one of the first African American pastors to bring together multiracial orthodox and non-orthodox clergy from various denominations, and directed for over thirty years a food ministry, feeding over eight thousand persons at their "Annual Thanksgiving Dinner" in the church.

Bishop Williams is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University who encourages everyone to pursue educational advancement. As an instrumental contributor to the development and establishment of the Center for African American Pentecostalism and Leadership Development at STVU, Bishop Williams was appointed Co-Chair of the Virginia Union Advisory Cabinet in 2016. In 2017, Bishop Williams was enthroned as the Presiding Bishop of the Judah Ecumenical Covenant Fellowship. Bishop Williams served as the Chief Chaplain of the City of Richmond Justice Center under Sheriff Antionette V. Irving. After his retirement from the Justice Center in January 2023, he continues to actively aid the Justice Center through his community service to aid those incarcerated with inmate care packages and community outreach.

Accomplishments, Community Service and Contributions to Richmond City by Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. are highlighted as follows:

- 1982 and July 1984– 1982 Governor's Recognition Award, Governor Robb recognized his service and being an inspiration to the Commonwealth (pg.1)
- 1984 – Bishop Williams organized a spring/summer lawn care program for teens as noted in the Richmond Newsleader newspaper (pg.2)
- 1985 – Mayor Roy West awarded a Proclamation and The Renaissance Award given by the Virginia Department of Corrections and the City of Richmond Human Relations Commission (pg.3)
- 1985, 1988, 1990 – Governor Gerald Baliles recognized his community service for serving over 3000 meals by a church ministry with the organization of over 1000 volunteers (pg.4)
- 1989 – The Winter Cots- Bishop Williams, Jr. Provided cots to homeless shelter in the city. Bishop Williams opened the feeding ministry and shelter for the homeless in his sanctuary. (pg.7)
- 1991 – Governor L. Douglas Wilder – Award for Volunteering Excellence Service (pg.8)
- 1991 –Richmond Times Dispatch Distinguished Community Service awarded to harbingers of hope for the sick, the poor, the homeless, the elderly and the disabled. (pg.7)
- 1991-Richmond City Manager Recognition – Member of the Violence as a Minority Health (pg.8)

- 1998, 2001 Virginia Governor's Bronze Award - Recognition by Governor Gilmore - Displaying Exceptional Leadership in Educational Programs at the Citadel of Hope and cited "The Most Respected Community Award (pg.7)
- 2004 – Bishop Williams organized a giveaway with over 5000 hats and gloves to middle school students (pg.10)
- 2007 – City of Richmond – Humanitarian Award for services to the community (p.10)
- 2007-Governor Tim Kaine – Award for outstanding work and community involvement as Pastor and founder of Citadel of Hope (p.11)

The requested introduction date is January 8, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$ 700	
The estimate cost or revenue impact is \$700 for the preparation and installation of the Honorary Street sign.		
Attachment/s	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Source documents as reference of the background information are attached:

- Accomplishments of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr.
- Bio of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr.

Accomplishments of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr.

1982 GOVERNOR'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Date: December 1982 and in July 1984

Publication: The Richmond News Leader/ Richmond Times Dispatch

Rev. Melvin Williams, Jr. Awarded as an individual as well as Pastor who volunteered a significant amount of time to serve his community by **Governor Charles Robb**. Rev. Williams received personal appreciation from the Governor admiring his spirit, dedication, service and an inspiration to the Commonwealth.

1982 Elder Melvin Williams, Jr. established the first City-Wide 5:00 A.M. Early Morning Prayer at the True Apostolic Church. By way of radio broadcast and walking from door to door, Elder Williams called for every person wanting to change their lives and/or their community to come together in prayer regardless of church affiliation. **The response was huge and prayer service often included city officials, police officers and clergy.**

RADIO PASTOR GIVES COMFORT TO CITY NEEDY

Dated November 1982

Publication: Richmond New Leader; Writer: Jerry Turner and AFRO Newspaper

Articles indicated the "DYNAMIC" radio broadcast of Elder Melvin Williams, Jr. has taken hold of the City of Richmond to bring the attention to help the helpless, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and take care of the forgotten widows. Rev. Williams averages over 150 people a week that seek help through his ministry. Help is needed for rent, utilities bills, food and clothing for children. From Thanksgiving – Easter the church will feed and assist over 1,400 persons. The call for help came via his WFTH-1590 Radio show and Continental Cable Channel 32 aired on Sundays. Elder Williams quoted: **"We have a ministry that deals directly with the needs of the community, physical and spiritual needs". This call to the City raised funds to supply to the needy.**

Richmond AFRO Publication:

Dated: June 9, 1982

City Manager Manuel Deese personally thanked The True Apostolic Church for organizing the 'Neighborhood Clean-up Day on May 22, 1982. City Manager addressed the street ministry of Elder Williams of walking through the most wounded parts of the city to offer solutions and relief to the citizens.

CITADEL OF HOPE OPENED IN 1984

A HAVEN of REST for a Weary Traveler opening with Operation Blessings (a partnership with the 700 Club), back to school rallies, shelter for homeless, after school tutorials, the Honor Bike Program, Church Hill Food Pantry and other programs were provided comfort to the weary under the Director and Visionary Rev, Melvin Williams, Jr. Richmond Times Dispatch Writer MARK HOLMBERG quoted 'The Citadel of Hope as an Old building revitalized as a NEW battleground against crime'.

Crime March (Taking "It" to the Streets) In 1982 Video Recorded: Reported by WTVR 6

Anchor: Charles Fishburne

Pastor Williams lead a march through Richmond's hardest - hit crime areas offering his concern for them, restoring self-confidence and God's Love. Numerous families came out of their homes to be encouraged, motivated and became dedicated in their faith.

Summer Jobs Program: Richmond News Leader

Publication: June 1984

Elder Melvin Williams, Jr. sponsored a Spring/Summer Lawn Care Program" to keep teens off the street and promote work for the unemployed during the summer months. **BEST PRODUCTS**, founder Sydney Lewis responded to the plea and donated a vast number of lawn equipment to

the program. This vision allowed jobs for hundreds" of men the ability to earn income and be productive.

Mayor Roy A. West Award/ Proclamation

Dated; November 2, 1985

Ceremony: The Jefferson Hotel: November 2, 1985

Mayor West dedicated Proclamation as November 2, 1985 as "**PASTOR MELVIN WILLIAMS, JR. DAY**". In Honor of Pastor Williams's vision of "The Upper Room" at the True Apostolic Church. The Upper Room served from 1981 to 1985 over 8,000 needy persons Annual Thanksgiving Dinners. The Upper Room was the first Christian dining area to serve thousands. **In addition**, Pastor Williams was presented 'The Renaissance Award' given by the Virginia State Department of Corrections and the City of Richmond Human Relations Commission for his communication in outreach by way of radio, television and street ministry. Gene M. Johnson, Chief of Corrections, described Pastor Williams as a "**Pilot**" in the state of Virginia steering towards "Revitalization, Recovery and Revival". (**Quoted in Audio The Library of Virginia**).

WXEX-TV 8 in 1985

Televised and Reported: The "Love March Against Crime"

Pastor Williams organized a citywide march from east-end Richmond to downtown City Hall. Demonstrating an anti-crime stance and to make citizens proactive in their neighborhood. In an interview Channel 8 was the first to report the **1981 vision of Pastor Williams called (CASM) Community Association of Security Mobilization pioneered by Pastor Williams and his Public Relations Coordinator Alton Cartwright to fight against crime.** The program was successful and was adopted city-wide and is currently known as "**Crime Stoppers**".

GROWTH OF TWO CHURCHES MAY ALTER NEIGHBORHOODS Author: Jerry Lazarus Times-Dispatch staff writer

Date: November 10, 1985 Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: G-1

The two pastors, the Rev. Steve Parsons and the Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., say their individual visions are from God.

But for two separate neighborhoods, the faith and hope each minister speaks of could provide significant economic boosts and dramatic changes in property values.

The churches the men lead -- Mr. Parsons at the Richmond Christian Center and **Mr. Williams at True Apostolic Church -- are growing fast. Their continued growth could make and impact to the City.**

SHOE GIVE-AWAY

Dated: September 15, 1985

Publication: Richmond Times Dispatch

Elder Melvin Williams, Jr. and True Apostolic Church gave away over 1,000 pairs of shoes to the needy and indigent.

THE GOVERNOR'S GOLD MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERING EXCELLENCE

Date: Awarded In 1986, 1988, 1990

Publications: Richmond Times Dispatch/Richmond News Leader

Awarded by the 65th Governor of Virginia Gearld Baliles for over 3,000 meals were served in 1986-1990 in Richmond at church and bringing together over **1,000 volunteers of different denominations** to enrich the program organized by Rev. Melvin Williams, Jr.

PASTOR HONORED ON LIST of VIRGINIA'S BEST

Date: December 27, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 2

Bishop Melvin Williams Jr., Pastor of True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, has been named one of the **Outstanding Young Men of America**. His biography will be listed in the Virginia's Best organization's 1986 edition on January 1, 1987 including all his accomplishments in the City of Richmond.

HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT TRIO

Date: February 20, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 7

The Urban League Guild of Richmond held its third annual Charlotte J. Harris Washington reception last night. Presented the Guild's Historical Achievement Award were: Attorney General Mary Sue Terry (left), Lt. Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and Richmond schools Superintendent Lois Harrison-Jones. Frederick J. Robinson Sr. and the **Rev. Melvin Williams Jr.** received the Community Service Award. The Achievement Awards cited the Leadership of Impressive Citizens of Virginia.

RICHMOND PASTOR RECEIVES AWARD Author: Special to the News Leader

Date: March 24, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 22

The Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., pastor of True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Richmond, has been named recipient of the **1986 Meritorious Award for Community Services from the Virginia Juvenile Officers' Association**. The award will be presented during the organization's banquet at the Marriott Hotel to honor Rev. William's juvenile programs to prevent crime and offer positive alternatives to inner city teens.

5 TO BE HONORED BY URBAN LEAGUE

Date: February 16, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: D-16

Lt. Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, Attorney General Mary Sue Terry and Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones, superintendent of Richmond schools, will be presented with historical achievement awards at the Urban League Guild of Richmond. **The Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., pastor of True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who organized Crime Watch in the city, will receive a Community Service Award.**

BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS HONOR MINISTER HERE

Date: January 18, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: B-2

The Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., Pastor of True Apostolic Church at 2120 Venable St., has been given the **Outstanding Community Service Award by the Richmond Alliance of Black Social Workers**. The honor was given at the organization's Agency Forum Dinner Tuesday at Virginia Union University. The dinner was part of activities during Martin Luther King Community Learning Week. **Mr. Williams was cited for his church's work in helping the poor and in mobilizing the community to help the poor.**

SERVICE AWARD TO CLERIC

Date: January 18, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 2

The Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., pastor of True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 2120 Venable St., has received an **Outstanding Community Service Award from the Richmond Alliance of Black Social Workers**. The award was presented because of the church's role in helping the needy of the community.

SAY 'NO' to Dope March

Dated 1986

Rev. Melvin Williams, Jr. and supporters including Mayor Walter Kenny, Curtis Holt of the NAACP and other city leaders lead an eight mile march through the streets pushing a coffin within the march for users and dealers to deposit drug paraphernalia which symbolized DEATH of drugs in the city. Rev. Williams preached as they marched against drug use and crimes due to drug abuse.

LOCAL BISHOP IS NAMED FOR TENN. REGION

Date: August 30, 1986

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 3

The Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., pastor of True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, has been named bishop of the Tennessee region of Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ Inc. Bishop Williams will remain pastor of his church here while overseeing five churches in Tennessee. He was named to the post during the denomination's recent annual meeting in Jackson, Miss. The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Inc. is made up of about 350 churches throughout the country.

TELETHON TO AID HOMELESS EFFORT SET TOMORROW

Date: December 19, 1987 Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: A-7

A "Help for the Homeless, Hungry and Hopeless" telethon will be broadcast tomorrow from 4 to 6 p.m. on WRLH-TV (Ch. 35). **The Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., project coordinator, is hoping to raise \$50,000 to renovate a building at 2230 Venable St. Mr. Williams is pastor of the True Apostolic Church at 2120 Venable St. The Citadel of Hope would be used to house counseling and classes to tutor and teach marketable skills to young people. Aiding "Drug abuse, unemployment, juvenile delinquency and shelter to homeless.**

EAST END PASTOR PLAN FAMILY, COMMUNITY DAY

Date: July 16, 1987 Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: C-4

"Strengthening the Family to Build a Better Community" will be the theme for the Whitcomb Court housing development's Family and Community Day to be held at noon Saturday at 2302 Carmine St. Among speakers will be Councilman Walter Kenney, Mayor Roy West, **Bishop Melvin Williams Jr., (Organizer)**; the Rev. Merle Moore, the Rev. Kevin Williams and the Rev. Walter Roach. There will be a health fair, blood pressure testing and live music. Proceeds from the sale of refreshments will go to the Crime Stoppers Program. Co- Organizer Mary M. Foster, Church Staff.

\$50,000 PROJECT UNDER WAY/ BUILDING LOOKED TO AS REMEDY TO PROBLEMS

Date: November 28, 1987

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 2

An East End preacher whose congregation plans to give Christmas boxes of food and clothing to about 750 needy families this season would like a little help from the people of Richmond.

Say, about \$50,000. "That would help renovate a building we're currently buying to house the homeless and aid the needy," said the Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., of the New

Apostolic Church. In addition, Mr. Williams said his church hopes to set up counseling and rehabilitation classes in the new building, "The Citadel of Hope".

DRUGS, CRIME ARE TARGETS OF MARCH

Date: November 23, 1988

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 14

Plans for a citizens' march Saturday against crime and drugs were announced today by the Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., pastor of True Apostolic Church at 2120 Venable St.

Mr. Williams said Public Enemy, a rap music group, and Richmond Fifth District Councilman Henry W. "Chuck" Richardson will join in the march.

Other members of City Council have been invited to participate in the march, which will begin at noon and travel from the East End to City Hall. "Black-on-black crime is a problem and must be addressed by the **LEADERSHIP** of the City": stated Rev. Williams.

CRIME CRUSADE WILL FOCUS ON ROOT CAUSES Author: Jim Mason, News Leader staff

Date: November 28, 1988

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: 22

The march against drug use and black-on-black crime from a Church Hill community center to City Hall was only the start of a drive to curb crime by attacking some of its root causes, the march's chief organizer Rev. Williams says: **"Our next step will be a series of meetings designed to get the community center going with counseling and job-training programs,"** said the Rev. Melvin Williams Jr., leader of the Citadel of Hope Foundation, whose community center is situated at 2230 Venable St.

RICHMOND SHELTER KEEPING UP WITH BAD WEATHER

Publication: Richmond Times Dispatch Writer: Olivia Winslow

Date: December 15, 1989

The "Winter Cots Program" aided by Rev. Melvin Williams, Jr. kept up with the overflow and provided shelter to the homeless during the coldest months. CARITAS program composed for over 50 churches to shelter homeless through the city. Rev. Melvin Williams, Jr. opened the doors of the True Apostolic Church and feed and shelter the homeless in his sanctuary.

DAY OF PRAYER AND ALL NIGHT VIGIL IN RICHMOND CITY

DATE: January 1989

Publication: Richmond News Leader

'Lord SAVE our City from crime and violence' were the cries of the emotional voices in a multiracial clergy group, composed of Catholic, Islamic, Jewish, Protestants, Baptist and Orthodox that came together at 2120 Venable Street, True Apostolic Church. Prayers for the City leaders, the President and all for people swept through the church as denominations came together in unity. The Day of Prayer became an all -night vigil.

GOLDEN RULE AWARD WINNERS CHOSEN

Date: November 8, 1990

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch Page: F-5

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. One of Six winners of 1990 Golden Rule Awards were announced at the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Awards luncheon held at the Jefferson Sheraton. **Recognition for Outstanding Outreach Charities of Richmond was awarded to Rev. Melvin Williams Jr. of Richmond Virginia.**

TIMES DISPATCH DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Date: April 14, 1991

Publication: Richmond Times-Dispatch

Rev. Melvin Williams, Jr. was one of The five winners of the 1991 **Times-Dispatch Community Service Awards** are harbingers of hope for the sick, the poor, the homeless, the elderly and the disabled.

TRUE APOSTOLIC SETS ANTI-DRUG CRUSADE

Dated: September 22, 1991

Publication: Richmond Times Dispatch

Bishop Melvin Williams organized a city-wide crusade to focus on services to help people shed their drug abuse habits.

RICHMOND CITY MANAGER RECOGNITION OF BISHOP WILLIAMS

Dated: November 25, 1991

Bishop Williams sat on a panel on Violence as a Minority Health Issue and contributed his views.

Governor's 1991 Award for Volunteering Excellence Service

This award was given to Bishop Williams, by Governor L. Douglas Wilder for successfully addressing the concerns and needs of the community.

RICHMOND CITY JAIL MINISTRY AWARD

Dated: September 27, 1992

Award given to Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. for Outstanding Services and preaching the Gospel to the incarcerated.

FREE FOOD SEASONED WITH HOPE

Date: October 27, 1996 **Writer:** Ray McAllister

Publication: CITY EDITION

They giving away of free food lead the impoverished to form a line three blocks long to receive groceries provided by the 700 Club Operation Blessing International and the Citadel of Hope. Richmond Mayor Larry Chavis spoke the masses as did Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. as they distributed over 80,000 pounds of food to over 5,000 people.

EX-INMATES RECEIVE FOOD BASKETS

Date: December 21, 1996

Publication: City Edition

The Citadel of Hope distributed food baskets to recently released inmates on Christmas Eve. The Citadel also sought out employers to be available and willing to hire or train former inmates.

MARCH AGAINST CRIME IN 2001 GOD'S ARMY

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. an ecumenical group of prayer warriors dressed in army uniforms and visited sites of some of Richmond slain persons in 2001 and lead the prayer group to Richmond City Hall and preached unity and love of the Christ to a vast number that gathered.

Virginia Governor's Bronze Award

Date: 1998, 2001

Publication: Richmond Times Dispatch

Awarded by Governor Jim Gilmore to Bishop Melvin William for Displaying Exceptional Leadership in Educational Programs at the Citadel of Hope and cited **"The Most Respected Community Leader Award."**

UNITY DAY HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2002 SERVICES

Place: Richmond Coliseum

Bishop Williams appealed the city, various churches and surrounding counties to come out and honor the EMS workers, police, fire and rescue workers who put their lives on the line to protect others. The service was held in remembrance of the ONE year anniversary of September 11, 2001, the day the World Trade Center and other attacks were made by terrorist. The Honorable Bobby C. Scott sent his appreciation for the community coming together to Bishop Williams.

HONOR BIKE PROGRAM 2002-2003

Date: December 15, 2004

Publication: Richmond Times Dispatch

The Honor Bike Program was a program set forth by Bishop Williams 2003-2004 to inspire middle school children to excel in education. Bikes were given to students who did so and encouraged them to maintain honor roll for a year. In addition, this would be something prized by disadvantaged children that otherwise could not afford a bike. This program fostered a 110 percent increase for children to make honor roll inner city schools.

Hat and Gloves Program 2004

Bishop Williams initiated a program to donate to students in Richmond Middle Schools over 5,000 hats and gloves. It was brought to his attention that so many school children did not have these items during the winter months. Three middle schools were able to give each student their gifts in this program.

INMATE CARE PACKAGES 1980's- Present

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. has over 25 years lead the Temple of Judah Prison Ministry and collaborated with the help of others to distribute over 40,000 care packages to Virginia's inmates. Each December care packages are delivered to male inmates with personal hygiene items and the female inmates received undergarments. His labor of unselfishness has been cited by various former and current Virginia's Sheriffs, Delegates, Mayors and Councilpersons of Christmas Day Services at the Richmond City Jail.

2007 CITY OF RICHMOND HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. Honored and recognized for his services to the community and church.

2007 Richmond City Council Recognition Award

Date: December 16, 2007

Bishop Williams Honored by the President of Richmond City Council, William J. Pantele for his efforts for the betterment of humanity.

2007 For Community Leadership and Dedication

Governor Tim Kaine awarded Bishop Williams for outstanding work in community involvement and Pastor and Founder of the Citadel of Hope.

2007 Mechanicsville Man wins new Ford

Bishop Williams wins a new Ford Edge after being entered into a contest co-sponsored by Ford and ABC's "Extreme Makeover Home Edition." Bishop Williams name was entered in the contest by a church member and an essay of his contributions to the needy. Kevin McLaughlin, Manager of Sheehy Fords stated that "Bishop has done tremendous and outstanding service to the community and helping others".

Bishop Williams's response to this surprise "All I want to do is serve and help others and I am humbly grateful".

2008 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Dated: January 10, 2008

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. successfully completed the CHAPLAINS ACADEMY conduction by the Richmond City Police Department. Chief Bryan Norwood of the Richmond certifies him as police department's chaplains.

Style Weekly

Dated: November 25, 2009

Writer: Chris Dovi

Bishop Williams was featured in an article called: PRESERVE OR PUSH OUT. Bishop Williams discussed his concerns that designating Union Hill as an historic district may force members of his congregation out of the community. There were uncomfortable side effects in debate on how to preserve one of the City of Richmond's most historical districts without erecting established residents.

To Further his Education:

In 2011 BISHOP MELVIN WILLIAMS, JR. received his Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Eastern American University (D.D.).

RICHMOND MAGAZINE

Dated: January 2012

Writer: Malcolm Venable

Bishop Williams discussed in article that the Citadel of Hope doors were closed in 2004 due to vandalism and a devastating fire left the building damaged beyond repair. Countless thousands have been helped in this building, now it has been destroyed. Lt. Shawn Jones of the Richmond City Fire Department reported that vandals started the fire and turned the once Haven of Hope for many into a bombed-out shell of its former self. Bishop Williams stated that there must be place to continue his mission to help others and The Citadel of Hope vision will continue. Determination were in the eyes of

the Bishop quoted by writer; “he could see that Bishop Williams would find a way to still serve and give aid others regardless of the current circumstances”. Bishop always wanted to help the people that could not pay him back, but pay it forward. With passion and vision from God Bishop Williams believes that his territory would be enlarged to help others even more in the future. The work of the ministry will continue.

Years 2012-Present- The Temple of Judah Ministries under the Leadership of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. continues to serve various convalescent/hospital facilities, taking the ministry to the streets aiding homeless individuals with food, blankets and hygiene packages. He organized a mission to seek out those seeking jobs opportunities, in need of addiction recovery programs, support families of the incarcerated and indigent persons who need adequate housing.

Years 2016- Present Bishop Williams/Temple of Judah Ministries faithfully broadcast on the Radio One WPZZ-FM (Urban One Company) at 7 a.m. Sunday mornings to encourage the masses with the Word of God. He also has a 5:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. live daily Podcast teaching the Word of God which was instrumental, informative and encouraging during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Years 2018-2023 Bishop Williams retired on January 1, 2023, as the Chief Chaplain of the City of Richmond Justice Center under Dr. Antoinette V. Irving, Richmond City Sheriff. He organized City-Wide Marches against crime, while personally aiding over 5,000 care packages for inmates, assisting with food drives for the community and organizing back to school events to help with school supplies. He remained devoted in distributing hygiene packages at the Richmond Sheriff Office faithfully even throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

October 8, 2022- Bishop Williams was the recipient of The City of Refuge Ministries Kingdom Award during their 2022 Conference with The Community Humanitarian Award. He was honored for his years of dedication in ministry and outstanding public/community service to the City of Richmond.

May 26, 2023- Bishop Williams was nominated to be honored as one of The 2023 Modern Day Nehemiah Award recipients. ADS Global’s Modern Day Nehemiah Award honored Bishop Williams for his City-Wide Philanthropic and Humanitarian contributions, locally and abroad building and advancing the Kingdom of God here in the Earth Realm.

Years 2019-2023 Bishop Williams, participates on the committee of Faith and Community Leadership of Richmond Police Dept. with Officer Kimberly Cheatham. Promoting Places of Worship Safety & Awareness Forums. He works in partnership with RPD Community Care Unit, Faith Leaders Coordinator and the, Homicide Support Group Coordinator at the Richmond Police Department, 200 West Grace Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Future: September 16, 2023- Bishop Williams was chosen as event speaker on the theme, ***“There is Hope...”*** for The Bon Secours Sarah Garland Jones Center has partnered to host The Church Hill Gospel Fest. The Bon Secours Sarah Garland Jones Center, located at 2600 Nine Mile Rd, Richmond VA, 23223

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. in the early 1980s took on the mantle of the ministry after the passing of his father, Bishop Melvin Williams, Sr., church founder. Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. started as a very young man of faith with vast

determination, compassion and vision. For 50 years he has fought against violence, crime, drugs and the freedom for all to have a voice in the city. Bishop Williams extends his ministry outreach to the surrounding counties as well as Richmond City residents, breaking barriers of racism in offering relief to any society in need. Bishop believes in sharing God's love and the accountability to the needs of others. We appreciate all the accomplishments and the

“ The Calling” on the life of Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr.

BIO OF BISHOP MELVIN WILLIAMS, JR.

Bishop Melvin Williams, Jr. is a native of East End Richmond, acclaimed by many as *"The Gatekeeper of the City."* A dynamic orator, dedicated with inestimable ability in fulfilling his call to ministry, Bishop Williams' covenant commitment is to develop ambassadors of Christ; ambassadors who will beseech others to be reconciled to God, and help to bring healing, hope, and justice, especially for the least among us. His concerns are the salvation, sanctification, and liberation of God's people.

He has been the pastor of The Temple of Judah Ministries for fifty years (formerly, True Apostolic Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ). He is a personable, proactive leader in community outreach, also known as *"Richmond's Radio Pastor"*. One of the first televised African-American pastors, Bishop Williams is highly esteemed by parishioners throughout the state, well-loved for his interpersonal style of pastoral care, and proficiency in encouraging people to experience God's faithfulness in giving for the uplifting of others.

Bishop Melvin Williams is a proven ministry leader who has effectively organized numerous innovative mission outreach programs. His ministry pioneered the *"Community Association of Security Mobilization"* now known as the City of Richmond Crime Stoppers program. His inspiring humility, respect for human dignity, ability to ignite hope, along with the ability to translate vision into reality has resulted in many honors and awards. Bishop Williams was one of the first African-American pastors to bring together multiracial orthodox and non-orthodox clergy from various denominations, and directed for over thirty years a food ministry feeding over eight-thousand persons at their *"Annual Thanksgiving Dinner"* in the church. His vision in the early 1980's initiated an ongoing early five o'clock am prayer service that still endures.

Bishop Williams is a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University who encourages everyone to pursue educational advancement. As an instrumental contributor to the development and establishment of the Center for African American Pentecostalism and Leadership Development at STVU, in 2016 Bishop Williams was appointed Co-Chair of the Virginia Union's Advisory Cabinet which held its inaugural Holy Convocation in April of 2017, during which Bishop Williams was enthroned as the Presiding Bishop of the Judah Ecumenical Covenant Fellowship. Bishop Williams recently retired on January 1, 2023, as the Chief Chaplain of the City of Richmond Justice Center under Dr. Antionette V. Irving, Richmond City Sheriff. However, his community service continues to aid those who are incarcerated with inmate care packages, community outreach and is very actively aiding the Richmond City Justice Center.

In July 1972, Bishop Williams married Jacquelynne Westbrook who has labored instrumentally, in the shaping of his ministry. From that union came their three sons, Melvin Damon, Shawn Cameron and Benjamin Derrick, and four grandchildren, Carisma, Ché, Cameron and Bella.