

INTRODUCED: September 10, 2018

AN ORDINANCE No. 2018-228

To rename the Boulevard from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Brookland Parkway and Westwood Avenue to its southerly terminus at Byrd Park as “Arthur Ashe Boulevard.”

Patrons – Ms. Gray, Mayor Stoney, Vice President Hilbert, Mr. Jones, President Newbille and Ms. Robertson

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEPT 24 2018 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the City Council has from time to time found it appropriate to name or rename City-owned streets and facilities for historic and honorific reasons; and

WHEREAS, naming streets after historic individuals is a noted way to commemorate the lives and contributions of certain individuals; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr., a native son of Richmond, was best known as a tennis champion who was the first African-American tennis player selected for the United States Davis Cup team; was the only African-American man ever to win the singles titles at Wimbledon, the United States Open, and the Australian Open; and achieved a ranking as the number one male

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 1

ADOPTED: FEB 11 2019 REJECTED: STRICKEN:

tennis player in the world, winning numerous major tennis titles before retiring from professional tennis in 1980; and

WHEREAS, after the completion of his professional tennis career, Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr., became a writer, a commentator, and an advocate for civil rights issues; actively protested against apartheid in South Africa; led the United States Davis Cup team for several years; and authored the three-volume treatise on African-Americans in sports entitled “A Hard Road to Glory: A History of the African-American Athlete;” and

WHEREAS, sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, generally prescribe a process for the renaming of City facilities, including streets such as the Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Boulevard from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Brookland Parkway and Westwood Avenue to its southerly terminus at Byrd Park be renamed as “Arthur Ashe Boulevard” without the necessity for strict compliance with the requirements set forth in sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That, notwithstanding the provisions of sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, or any other law to the contrary, the street located in the city of Richmond and known as “the Boulevard” be and is hereby renamed as “Arthur Ashe Boulevard.”

§ 2. That, in order to effectuate the provisions of section 1 of this ordinance, the Chief Administrative Officer shall (i) cause the appropriate City agency to prepare and erect signs

appropriately marking “Arthur Ashe Boulevard,” (ii) request that all City agencies note such renaming in the records maintained by each such agency, and (iii) take all other appropriate actions to effectuate the renaming of the Boulevard from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Brookland Parkway and Westwood Avenue to its southerly terminus at Byrd Park as “Arthur Ashe Boulevard.”

§ 3. 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 *MLB on Behalf*

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst *ST*

COPY Kimberly Gray, 2nd District Council Member
 Craig Bieber, 2nd District Liaison
 Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
 Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff *MLB*

DATE August 8, 2018

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TITLE Change the Name the Boulevard to Arthur Ashe, Jr Boulevard

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

K. Gray

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing, and Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron requests that legislation be drafted for Council's consideration changing the entire public roadway known as the Boulevard to Arthur Ashe, Jr Boulevard.

BACKGROUND

The late Arthur Ashe, Jr was a native of Richmond. Mr. Ashe is best known as a tennis champion and was ranked the number one tennis player in the world. He is the only African American male to win the singles championships at Wimbledon (1975), the US Open (1968) and the Australian Open (1970). He also won grand slams in doubles at the Australian Open (1977), French Open (1971), Wimbledon (1971) and the US Open (1968). He was the first African American selected for the US Davis Cup team. Mr. Ashe enjoyed a stellar tennis career with a record of 818 wins, 260 losses and 51 titles. He retired from professional tennis game in 1980.

Mr. Ashe was called one of the 21 best tennis players of all time by 1940's era tennis great Jack Kramer.

After his tennis career, Mr. Ashe wrote about sports for various publications including the Washington Post and Time Magazine. He provided commentary for ABC, founded the National Junior Tennis League, was captain for US Davis Cup Team for several years, and was active in the 1980's era anti-apartheid campaign against segregation in South African sports.

Mr. Ashe further contributed to sporting history as an historian. He appeared in the PBS documentary called Baseball by Ken Burns. In 1988, he published his own work in sports history called A Hard Road to Glory: A History of the African American Athlete, a three volume treatise on African Americans in sports.

Mr. Ashe died on February 6, 1993 from complications with AIDS, which he contracted as a result of blood transfusion received during a heart operation. Then Governor Wilder allowed his body to lie in state at the Virginia Governor's Mansion. He is buried in Richmond, next to his mother, at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Ashe is honored in the City with a statue on Monument Avenue, which intersects with the Boulevard and the Arthur Ashe Athletic Center (controlled by Richmond Public Schools) and is located on the Boulevard. The Byrd Park Tennis Courts are situated at the opposite end of The Boulevard from the Ashe Center. Ironically, according to the book Richmond One of America's Best Tennis Towns (by Perkins, Hood, and Packett), the Byrd Park Tennis Courts were host to the 1968 Davis Cup - a first for the City. Mr. Ashe led the US team to victory at these formerly segregated courts from which he was barred as a child during the segregation era.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ Not Available at this writing.

Note:

Signage costs are usually covered in the operating budgets of DPW.

Several entities may be impacted including, but not necessarily limited to, Voter Registration, Police, Fire, the Ambulance Authority, US Postal Service, the Planning District, the Assessor, GIS Systems, VITA, the Department of Information Technology, Verizon, Comcast, various mapping companies, the Street Name Clearinghouse, DPU and DPW.

Attachment/s Yes No