

INTRODUCED: May 26, 2026

AN ORDINANCE No. 2026-126

To designate the 6300 Block of Hull Street Road in honor of Eugene and Vivian Mason.

Patron – Ms. Jones

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JUN 22 2026 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 6300 Block of Hull Street Road shall be designated in honor of Eugene and Vivian Mason, 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.

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

§ 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 (i) shall be affixed to a sign pole installed at each end of the block designated in section 1 of this ordinance for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this section or to any existing sign identifying the road designated in section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the block 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.

DATE: May 26, 2026
TO: The Honorable Members of City Council
THROUGH: RJ Warren, Council Chief of Staff
THROUGH: Will Perkins, Senior Legislative Services Manager
THROUGH: Sophie McGinley, Council Policy Analyst
FROM: The Honorable Nicole Jones, Councilmember 9th District
RE: To designate the 6300 Block of Hull Street Road N in honor of Eugene and Vivian Mason.

CNL-2026-0041

PURPOSE: To designate the 6300 Block of Hull Street Road N in honor of Eugene and Vivian Mason.

BACKGROUND: Honorary street naming is reserved for individuals whose lives reflect sustained, meaningful contributions to the City of Richmond, and Eugene and Vivian Mason exemplify this standard through decades of service, leadership, and community impact. Together, they built a legacy rooted in education, civic engagement, and a deep commitment to uplifting Richmond residents across generations.

Eugene A. Mason, Jr. dedicated his life to public service as an entrepreneur, faith leader, and elected official. As a member of the Richmond Public Schools Board and later as Ninth District City Councilman, he championed educational equity, youth development, and community-based decision-making. His leadership extended across numerous civic and nonprofit organizations, including the NAACP, Metropolitan Business League, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond. Known as a “gentle giant,” he was widely respected for his compassion, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to strengthening the community.

Vivian Conway Mason’s impact was equally profound through her 40-year career as an educator in Richmond Public Schools. Specializing in early childhood and special education, she helped shape the educational foundations of countless students, fostering both academic growth and civic responsibility. Her leadership extended beyond the classroom through her involvement with the Richmond Education Association and as a delegate to the Virginia and National Education Associations, where she advocated for educators and students alike.

Together, the Masons' shared commitment to education and opportunity is reflected in the establishment of the Vivian Conway Mason Scholarship Fund, which continues to support underprivileged high school students pursuing higher education. Their combined legacy represents a lifelong partnership dedicated to service, learning, and the betterment of Richmond's families and neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: This nomination is brought forward by Shavonda Dixon-Fernandez, a mentee and close friend of Eugene Mason, reflecting the lasting personal impact of both Eugene and Vivian Mason and the strong community support for honoring their shared legacy. Letters of support were provided by the Mason family, Senator Mike Jones, the Metropolitan Business League, and the Richmond City Democratic Committee.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES: This amendment directly advances key goals within the City of Richmond's Mayoral Action Plan (MAP), which translates the Mayor's seven pillars for a thriving Richmond into measurable goals and outcomes across city policy areas.

A City That Tells its Stories

Goal C: Share and document Richmond's rich cultural history. This honorary naming directly advances the City's goal of telling a more complete and truthful story of Richmond by recognizing the intertwined legacies of Eugene and Vivian Mason as leaders in public service and education. By embedding their names into the public realm, the City preserves and uplifts the stories of individuals who shaped Richmond through civic leadership, classroom impact, and community mentorship—ensuring that the contributions of educators and community leaders are visibly honored as part of the city's collective history.

FISCAL IMPACT: DPW estimates that each honorary street sign costs approximately \$800 for manufacturing, installation, and some contingency although actual costs may vary. Funds are sufficient in the agency's FY26 operating budget to cover adoption of this ordinance.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: May 26, 2026

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: June 22, 2026

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Land Use, Housing & Transportation

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Public Works

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None

ATTACHMENTS: Street Naming Nomination Form - Eugene Mason.pdf

Family Support Letter - Eugene Mason.pdf

MBL Support Letter - Eugene Mason.pdf

RCDC Support Letter - Eugene Mason.pdf

Sen. Mike Jones Support Letter - Eugene Mason.pdf

STAFF: Sophie McGinley, Council Policy Analyst, (804-925-9269)

Nomination Form

Nomination Overview

Richmond City Council may designate city streets with honorary street signs to celebrate and memorialize individuals that were a resident of the City of Richmond, Virginia for a significant period of their life.

Nominees are considered based on their historical or cultural significance, including any significant contributions to the Richmond community.

Establishing and dedicating a Richmond City Council Honorary Street Name in a person's name is a rare, limited, and extremely high honor that may be considered and bestowed on Richmond residents. Keeping the official city street name, an Honorary Street Name includes producing, preparing, and installing a specially created sign with an honoree's name on it and installing it at the location designated for commemoration.

Nomination Process

Richmond residents, community organizations, and others interested in nominating a person to be a recipient of a Richmond City Council Honorary Street Name are welcomed to submit them for Richmond City Council consideration.

The nomination process includes completing the Richmond City Council Honorary Street Name Nomination Form and sending it to a Councilmember. It is recommended that a completed nomination, including all associated documents, **be sent directly to the Councilmember representing the Richmond Voter District containing the proposed location.**

The Councilmember may further research, consider, and vet a nomination in determining a proposal of legislation or formal Richmond City Council deliberation or action.

Guiding Legislation

Richmond City Council legislation guiding the Richmond City Council Honorary Street Name process was established by Richmond City Council Resolution # 2025-R016 and includes some of the following:

- Nominations must be for individuals, who may be alive or dead, but must have been a resident of the City of Richmond for a significant period of their life.
- Nominations are to include written documentation of the nominated individual's connection to the City of Richmond, Virginia, a description of their qualifications for receiving such an honor, and a letter from a local civic association, if applicable.
- Nominees are considered based on their historical or cultural significance, including any significant contributions to the Richmond community.
- Please see the Council resolution for more information regarding policies, etc.

Nomination Form

Please use the following Richmond City Council Honorary Street Name Nomination Form to proceed with a nomination.

A. Person Requesting Nomination (Nominator)

1. Nominator Name (Individual or Organization)
2. Nominator Contact Person (if organization)
3. Nominator/Organization Address
4. Nominator Phone Number
5. Nominator Email
6. Nominator Relationship to Nominee (if any)

B. Person Being Nominated for a Street Name (Nominee)

Full Name of Person Being Nominated (Please reconfirm correct name and spelling.)

C. Nominee: Individual Connection to City of Richmond, Virginia

The person being nominated, who may be alive or dead, must have been a resident of the City of Richmond, Virginia for a significant period of their life. Please provide the following information:

1. Was Nominee born/raised in Richmond? If so, please provide detailed date/information.
2. Please provide dates and locations of Nominee's time living in Richmond. Include details regarding birth, education (high school/university), and passing (if applicable).

D. Requested Location of Honorary Street

1. Please provide the existing official street name and block number being requested.
2. Please provide the Richmond Neighborhood name where street would be located.
3. Please provide the Richmond Voter District where street would be located.
4. Please provide reasoning for naming this particular street location.

E. Written Description of Nominee's Qualifications

Please describe in comprehensive detail (in space below and attach additional pages, as needed), including dates, names, etc., the Nominee's qualifications for receiving such an honor. Please include historical or cultural significance, including significant contributions to the City of Richmond, Virginia community.

Continued Written Description of Nominee's Qualifications

F. Letter/s from Local Civic Association/s

Please attach letter/s of support from local civic association, if applicable.

G. Additional Supporting Documents

Please attach additional documents in support of this nominee, if applicable. Such items may include, but are not limited to:

1. News articles
2. Testimony from residents
3. Testimony from family
4. Other supporting documents

H. Submitting Nomination Form

Please send completed form to a Richmond Councilmember and copy their individual Liaison. It is recommended that a completed nomination, including all associated documents, be sent directly to the Councilmember representing the Richmond Voter District containing the proposed location.

Letter of Support for Eugene A Mason

To Shavonda Dixon,

I am writing to enthusiastically support a street being named after Eugene A Mason, whose lifelong dedication to community service and civic leadership has had a profound impact on Richmond. Mr. Mason's involvement in a wide range of organizations exemplifies his commitment to enhancing the lives of residents and strengthening the fabric of our city.

Mr. Mason's distinguished record of service includes active participation in organizations such as the NAACP, Richmond Crusade for Voters, Richmond City Democratic Committee, Metropolitan Business League, Astoria Beneficial Club, and the Capital Region Arts & Cultural Funding Consortium. He contributed his time to Friends of The Richmond Public Library and served as an Elder at United Nations Church, reflecting his dedication to education and faith-based community support. In addition, Mr. Mason has served on the Richmond Afro Community Advisory Board, Richmond City Council, and Richmond School Board, highlighting his advocacy for youth, his commitment to fair opportunities, and his leadership in civic affairs.

His work with these organizations further demonstrates his passion for education, faith-based community support, and the advancement of fair opportunities for all.

These organizations represent Mr. Mason's extensive contributions. Naming a street in his honor would not only recognize his legacy but also inspire future generations to follow his example of selfless service, leadership, and community engagement.

I appreciate your consideration in celebrating Eugene A Mason's remarkable achievements by dedicating a street in his name. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Mason Family



Guide. Connect. Succeed.

April 9, 2026

Dear Councilwoman Jones,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Business League, I am writing in strong support of the proposed street naming in honor of Eugene Mason.

For more than five decades, the Metropolitan Business League has been committed to advancing economic opportunity, preserving legacy, and strengthening the fabric of our communities. In that spirit, we recognize the importance of honoring individuals whose contributions have had a lasting impact on Richmond's cultural, economic, and civic landscape.

Eugene Mason represents the very essence of what makes our community strong. Through their leadership, vision, and commitment to service, they have contributed to the growth and vitality of Richmond, particularly in ways that uplift underserved communities, foster entrepreneurship, and build pathways for future generations.

Street naming is more than a symbolic gesture, it is a permanent acknowledgment of legacy. It tells a story, preserves history, and ensures that future generations understand and appreciate the individuals who helped shape our city. Honoring Eugene Mason in this way reflects Richmond's commitment to recognizing those whose work has made a meaningful difference.

The Metropolitan Business League fully supports this effort and encourages the City to move forward with this designation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to honoring the leaders who have helped move our city forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Floyd E. Miller, II".

Floyd E. Miller, II
President & CEO
Metropolitan Business League

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 26751, Richmond, VA 23261
www.thembl.org | info@thembl.org

Richmond

1717 E. Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23223
Phone (804) 649-7473

Petersburg

325 Brown Street, #103
Petersburg, VA 23803
Phone (804) 362-0042

Brunswick

100 Athletic Field Road, Ste. 205C
Lawrenceville, VA 23868
Phone (804) 362-0049

Hampton Roads

400 Granby Street
Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone (804) 356-9377

On behalf of the Richmond City Democratic Committee (RCDC), we are proud to offer our full support for the nomination of the Honorable Eugene Mason Jr. to have a street named in his honor.

For many years, Mr. Mason served faithfully as a member of the Richmond City Democratic Committee, where he was known for his unwavering dedication to civic engagement, grassroots organizing, and the advancement of democratic values within our community. His commitment to public service and his tireless efforts to strengthen participation in the democratic process left a lasting impact on the citizens of Richmond.

The always impeccably dressed Mr. Mason consistently demonstrated integrity, leadership, and a deep respect for the communities he served. Through his work with the Committee, he helped build bridges across neighborhoods, mentored emerging leaders, and encouraged residents to take an active role in shaping the future of our city. His service reflected the very best traditions of public stewardship and community advocacy.

Naming a street in honor of the Honorable Eugene Mason Jr. would be a fitting tribute to a man whose dedication to Richmond and to democratic participation helped strengthen the civic life of our city. It would ensure that future generations recognize and remember his contributions to public service and community leadership.

The Richmond City Democratic Committee strongly supports this nomination and respectfully urges approval of this recognition of Mr. Mason's legacy.

Sincerely,

Jerome Legions, Chair

Richmond City Democratic Committee

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

MICHAEL J. JONES
15TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF CHESTERFIELD COUNTY;
AND PART OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

P.O. BOX 396
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218
PHONE: (804) 698-7515



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

Dear Councilwoman Jones,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to respectfully express my support for the designation of an honorary street sign in honor of the Honorable Eugene Mason formerly of the 9th District.

Mr. Mason's contributions to our community are deserving of lasting recognition, and I believe an honorary street sign would serve as a meaningful and enduring tribute to his legacy. I kindly ask that you consider championing this request on his behalf.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the 9th District and for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Jones".

Michael Jones
Virginia State Senator, SD 15