

INTRODUCED: May 12, 2025

AN ORDINANCE No. 2025-105

To designate the 300 block of North 32nd Street in honor of Reverend Dr. Edward Daniel McCreary, Jr.

Patron – President Newbille

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: MAY 27 2025 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 300 block of North 32nd Street shall be designated in honor of Reverend Dr. Edward Daniel McCreary, Jr., 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

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

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 (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.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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

THRU Matthew Slaats, Interim Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Cynthia Newbille, Council President & 7th District Council Member
Sam Patterson, 7th District Council Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Will Perkins, Legislative Service Manager

DATE March 31, 2025

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TITLE Designating the 300th Block of N. 32nd Street in Honor of the late Rev. Dr. Edward Daniel McCreary, Jr.

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Cynthia Newbille

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Designating the 300th block of N. 32nd Street, located between E Broad Street and E. Marshall Street in honor of the late Rev. Dr. Edward Daniel McCreary, Jr.

BACKGROUND

The late Reverend Dr. Edward Daniel McCreary, Jr. (McCreary), was pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church. He was born on January 13, 1919, in Williamsburg, Virginia. His mother passed away when he was two years old.

McCreary completed his public-school education in Staunton and Charlottesville, and received the bachelor's degree in history from Virginia Union University, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School, and Masters and Doctor of Theology degrees from Union Theological Seminary of Richmond. He performed post-doctoral studies at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Union Theological

Seminary of New York, Princeton Theological Seminary, Mansfield College, Christ Church College, and the Third International Theological Seminary in Hamburg, Berlin, and Munich, Germany. He received the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Richmond Virginia Seminary, which he helped to found, and a Doctor of Divinity degree from his alma mater, Virginia Union University.

McCreary was licensed to preach in 1939, at Charlottesville's Ebenezer Baptist under his father, Rev. Edward D. McCreary, Sr. McCreary pastored four churches during his career, including Trinity Baptist Church of Newport News, Westwood Baptist Church in Richmond, St. Johns Baptist Church in Woburn, Massachusetts, and the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Richmond, where he served as senior pastor for 34 years until his retirement in 1988. During his retirement, he served as interim pastor for 10 churches.

McCreary was a noted Biblical scholar and professor; he served 39 years as Professor of Theology and Philosophy and Chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion and the Division of Humanities at Virginia Union University. He also served as a visiting professor of religion at various institutions, including Mount Holyoke College, the University of Richmond, and Virginia Commonwealth University. At Mount Holyoke, he is credited as their first Black professor.

His public service included served many boards: such as the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV); Dominion Power, the Commission on Aging, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Seven Hills Hospital Authority, and Richmond Hill Ecumenical Center. He served many in community and religious organizations, including the Baptist Ministers Conference of Richmond and Vicinity, the Shiloh Association of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Mason Silver Trowel Lodge #267, Fannie Lewis Chapter #4 of the Order of Eastern Stars, the Independent Order of St. Luke, and the Maggie L. Walker Historical Foundation.

McCreary was married to Clara Sutton McCreary, a Professor of Mathematics at Virginia Union University. His daughter, Mrs. Edwina C. Richmond, was an instructor at Virginia Union. McCreary entered his eternal rest on November 10, 2014, after a brief illness. McCreary received many honors during his lifetime including the 1984 Distinguished Service Award presented by the Miles W. Connor Chapter of the Virginia Union University Alumni Association, the 1999 Outstanding Leadership to the Community of Faith Award by the Shiloh Baptist Association. Union's Edward D. McCreary Community Lecture Series begun in 2006 in his honor. He gave the Inaugural Sermon for the inauguration of Governor Wilder, the nation's first elected African American Governor in 1990.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Typically, signage costs are paid from DPW operating funds.

Attachment/s Yes ☐ No ☒