



**City Of Richmond, Virginia
Office of the City Clerk**

Request to Withdraw Legislation

Paper Number: Ord. 2015-33

Chief Patron: Reva Trammell

Introduction Date: February 9, 2015

Chief Patron Signature: Reva M. Trammell

For Office Use Only

Attestation: Debra L. Spel

Effective Date: Feb. 27, 2019

INTRODUCED: February 9, 2015

AN ORDINANCE No. 2015-33

To rename the building located at 900 East Broad Street and known as “City Hall” as “L. Douglas Wilder City Hall.”

Patron – Ms. Trammell

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 23 2015 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 buildings after historic individuals is a noted way to commemorate the lives and contributions of certain individuals; and

WHEREAS, L. Douglas Wilder, a native son of Richmond, has shown exemplary leadership and commitment to the City of Richmond through his many endeavors including serving as a Virginia State Senator representing the Richmond area, the 35th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and the 66th Governor of Virginia; and

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, L. Douglas Wilder is a graduate of Richmond Public Schools and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Union University and later a law degree from the Howard University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, L. Douglas Wilder served as a Sergeant in the United States Army and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in combat for his role in capturing 19 enemy soldiers during the Battle of Pork Chop Hill during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, L. Douglas Wilder practiced law in the city of Richmond, working for the citizens of the City Richmond; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, L. Douglas Wilder was elected as the first African-American Virginia State Senator since the Reconstruction Era, successfully sponsored Virginia's first drug paraphernalia law, the compulsory school attendance law, legislation to provide state health care coverage for sickle-cell anemia patients, toughened penalties for capital murderers and prison escapees, expansion of low and moderate income housing, and the establishment of a state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, L. Douglas Wilder was elected the 35th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and served as President of the Virginia Senate; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, L. Douglas Wilder was the first African American elected to serve as governor of a state in American history; and

WHEREAS, L. Douglas Wilder served as Governor of Virginia during difficult economic and fiscal circumstances, balancing the Commonwealth's budget without raising taxes, creating the nation's first "rainy day fund" in state government, and earning national accolades for his management of the Commonwealth's government; and

WHEREAS, following his tenure as Governor, L. Douglas Wilder served as Chairman of former Governor of Virginia Mark R. Warner's Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness to improve the Commonwealth's government and served as Co-Chair of the "Wilder-Bliley Commission" that led to the at-large and popular election of the office of Mayor of the City of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, L. Douglas Wilder served as the first popularly elected Mayor of the City of Richmond, following the enactment of amendments to the Charter of the City of Richmond in 2004, winning all voter precincts in the City; and

WHEREAS, as Mayor, L. Douglas Wilder spearheaded use of community policing, which led to the City's lowest crime rates in 30 years, and initiated efforts to beautify the City, decrease blighted property, increase private sector development, protect the City from flooding and restore the City's parks and recreational facilities, all while maintaining a high bond rating, developing and increasing reserve funds, maintaining fiscal discipline, and fighting truancy in Richmond Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, during his term as Mayor, L. Douglas Wilder served as a Distinguished Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, sections 26-7 through 26-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2004), as amended, generally prescribe a process for the renaming of City facilities, including buildings such as the building located at 900 East Broad Street and known as "City Hall;" and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the building located at 900 East Broad Street and known as "City Hall" be renamed as "L. Douglas Wilder City Hall" without the necessity for strict compliance with the

requirements set forth in sections 26-7 through 26-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2004), as amended;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That, notwithstanding the provisions of sections 26-7 through 26-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2004), as amended, or any other law to the contrary, the building located at 900 East Broad Street in the city of Richmond and known as “City Hall” be and is hereby renamed as “L. Douglas Wilder City Hall.”

§ 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 “L. Douglas Wilder City Hall,” (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 building located at 900 East Broad Street and known as “City Hall” as “L. Douglas Wilder City Hall.”

§ 3. That no signs shall be prepared or erected pursuant to section 2 of this ordinance until the design and placement thereof shall have been submitted to the Council and approved by the Council by motion in an open meeting.

§ 4. 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 Brown-Ali, Council Chief of Staff *LB*

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst *ST*

COPY Reva M. Trammell, 8th District Council Member
Henry Mease, 8th District Liaison
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Vincent Jones, Deputy Council Chief of Staff *V. Jones*

DATE January 29, 2015

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TITLE Naming City Hall after former Mayor L. Douglas Wilder

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilwoman Reva Trammell

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Notwithstanding provisions of City Code Sections 26-7 through 26-10, patron requests that an ordinance be drafted naming the City Hall Building at 900 E. Broad Street in honor of former Mayor and Governor L. Douglas Wilder and requiring that appropriate signage be developed for entrances of the building on Broad St and Marshall Street designating the building as The L. Douglas Wilder City Hall.

The patron also requests that Council that the Administration consult with Council on final design and placement of signage.

BACKGROUND

The City Council and Mayor have from time to time found it appropriate to name or re-name City-owned streets and facilities for historic and honorific reasons such as in the case of the naming Toler Furniture Road, First Freedom Center Alley, the Manchester Courts Building, and the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge. It is appropriate for such reasons to name the City Hall building at 900 E. Broad in honor of Governor L. Douglas Wilder.

L. Douglas Wilder, served as Mayor of Richmond from 2005-2009. He is the first person elected directly by voters as mayor under the current City Charter and at least since the 1948 City Charter. Previous mayors were indirectly elected and chosen by Council.

Background and Accomplishments of former Mayor Wilder

Lawrence Douglas Wilder was born in the City of Richmond on January 17, 1931, to Robert and Beulah Wilder. He was educated in the public schools of the City of Richmond, attending George Mason Elementary School, Armstrong High School. After high school, he attended and graduated from Richmond's Virginia Union University, where he majored in Chemistry.

Mr. Wilder gallantly served his country in mortal combat as a Sergeant in the United States Army. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in combat, fighting in the legendary battle for "Pork Chop Hill" in the Korean War. His gallantry led to the rescue of other American soldiers and the capture of 19 enemy soldiers.

After his military service Mr. Wilder graduated from Howard University's Law School in Washington D.C. He practiced law in the City of Richmond and served as an attorney and counselor to many Richmonders.

In 1969 Mr. Wilder was elected to the Virginia State Senate from the City of Richmond. He served as the first African-American State Senator since the Reconstruction Era. Mr. Wilder ably served the City and the Commonwealth for five terms and by Chairing Senate Committees on Transportation; Rehabilitation and Social Services; Privileges and Elections; the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council; and the Senate Steering Committee. As a State Senator, Mr. Wilder, successfully sponsored Virginia's first drug paraphernalia law, the compulsory school attendance law, legislation to provide state health care coverage for sickle-cell anemia patients, toughened penalties for capital murderers and prison escapees, expansion of low and moderate income housing, and established a State holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mr. Wilder's state-wide campaigns for the Offices of Lieutenant Governor and Governor revolutionized statewide campaigns in Virginia and heavily influenced political campaigns throughout the United States. In 1985, Mr. Wilder, was elected the 35th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and served as President of the State Senate. In 1989, Mr. Wilder, was elected the 66th Governor of Virginia, and the first African-American elected to the position of Governor in the history of the United States.

While Governor, Mr. Wilder ably served during difficult economic and fiscal circumstances balancing the Commonwealth's budget without raising taxes, creating the nation's first "rainy day fund" in state government, and by earning national accolades for his management of the Commonwealth's government.

After his tenure as Governor, Mr. Wilder served as Chairman of former Governor Mark Warner's Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness to improve the Commonwealth's government and served as Co-Chair of the Wilder-Bliley Charter Commission that led to the at-large and popular election of Richmond's mayor.

Mr. Wilder was elected the 78th Mayor of the City of Richmond in 2004 with 80 percent of all votes cast and winning all voter precincts in the City.

During Wilder's tenure as Mayor, he spearheaded use of community policing which led to the City's lowest crime rates in 30 years. He also led efforts to beautify the City, decrease blighted property, increase private sector development, protect the City from flooding, restore its parks and recreational facilities, while maintaining a high bond rating, developing and increasing reserve funds, maintaining fiscal discipline, and fighting truancy in our schools.

A life-long champion of education, Mayor Wilder simultaneously served the young as a Distinguished Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University while serving as Mayor of the City. He continues to serve Virginia Commonwealth University at the School of Government named in his honor.

Throughout the nation and world other notable organizations and universities have seen it fit to honor the life's work and service of Mr. Wilder with innumerable awards, naming schools and buildings, and by awarding him more than 35 honorary degrees.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact N/A

The fiscal impact is unknown. Council Staff has previously been informed by Administration Staff that cost of signage is absorbed in DPW's operating budgets for naming or re-naming City streets, alleys, and other facilities. However, Staff would like to acknowledge that the cost of naming City Hall with a requirement that Council be consulted as to the final design may have an impact beyond the current budget of DPW.

Attachment/s Yes No