



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

Request to Withdraw Legislation

Paper Number: Ord. 2022-276

Chief Patron: Councilor Stephanie Lynch

Introduction Date: September 26, 2022

Chief Patron Signature:  _____

For Office Use Only

Attestation: _____

Effective Date: November 2, 2022

INTRODUCED: September 26, 2022

AN ORDINANCE No. 2022-276

To rename the bridge in the city of Richmond known as the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge as “Belvidere Bridge,” and to repeal Res. No. 2020-R043, adopted June 22, 2020.

Patron – Ms. Lynch

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: NOV 14 2022 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, upon the information and belief of Council, the bridge known as the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge was named in honor of a general in the service of the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that the name of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge is not reflective of contemporary culture; and

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, generally prescribe a process for the renaming of City facilities, including bridges such as the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the bridge located in the city of Richmond and known as Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge be renamed as “Belvidere Bridge” 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 (2020), 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 (2020), as amended, or any other law to the contrary, the bridge located in the city of Richmond and known as the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge be and is hereby renamed as “Belvidere Bridge.”

§ 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 “Belvidere Bridge,” (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 Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge as “Belvidere Bridge.”

§ 3. That Resolution No. 2020-R043, adopted June 22, 2020, is hereby repealed.

§ 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

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell Brown, Richmond City Attorney

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

COPY Stephanie Lynch, District 5 Council member
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Amy Robins, 5th District Liaison

DATE September 1, 2022

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE: Rename the Lee Bridge to the Belvidere Bridge

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Council Member Stephanie Lynch

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing and Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Patron is requesting a Resolution to rename the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge. The patron further request that Resolution No. 2020-R043 be repealed and that the Robert E. Lee Bridge be renamed to the Belvidere Bridge in accordance with the Richmond City Code, Section 8.8.

BACKGROUND

The patron is requesting a Resolution to rename the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge. The proposed name must adhere to the policies and criteria for the naming of city facilities that are set out in Section 8.8 of the Richmond City Code.

The patron requests that Resolution No. 2020-R043 be repealed and that the Robert E. Lee Bridge be renamed to the Belvidere Bridge in accordance with the Richmond City Code, Section 8.8.

The Robert E. Lee Bridge runs across the James River from South Belvidere Street to Cowardin Avenue. The city acquired the original bridge from the Richmond Bridge Corporation in 1933. It was originally named the James River Bridge and later renamed after Robert E. Lee. It is often referred to as

the Belvidere Bridge. A replacement structure was built in the 1980s and included the pedestrian walkway under the bridge connecting to Belle Isle.

The patron believes that a new name for the bridge will better serve the City of Richmond in the 21st Century.

The requested introduction date is September 12, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$

Attachment/s Yes ☐ No ☒