

Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

From: Gail Lipscomb <gaillipscomb1@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 9:25 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council; Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council
Subject: Support for Ord. 2023-354(James E. "Duke" Stewart, II)

Importance: High

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Hello City Clerks Office:

My name is Gail Lipscomb daughter of **(James E. "Duke" Stewart, II)** and I am submitting our **support for Ord. 2023-354** on behalf of our family, and friends. We also have gotten **100% approval** from the **Battery Park Civic Association**. In addition, on **Saturday, November 18, 2023** there was a celebration of the Brothers & Sisters Combined Professional Fire Fighters, Inc's (50th Anniversary Gala & Scholarship Fundraiser) which they honored my father at that occasion.

On **November 30, 2023** we also received a **letter in support of Honorary Street Naming from Carol D. Adams, President of Engine Company #9 & Associates**. However, there are many others in full support and willing to attend the City Council hearing as well.

Our father **(James E. "Duke" Stewart, II)** we feel that he is more than worthy to receive the Honorary Street Name Dedication. In addition, he actually lived, provided, and died while doing his last purpose at the meeting of Human Relation Commission at the city hall. **James Stewart worked at the C & O Railroad Company more than 32 years, was an active member of the union for 25 years and served as the local chairman for 10 years. He was very active and participated in the Labor Union, he was very much community and people oriented and dedicated to improving conditions for "all mankind".**

Other successful duties:

1. He was a member of the Third Street Bethel A.M.E Church.
2. **He had a career as football player in 1945 and 1962 as a member of the Richmond Rams and the Richmond Boxers.** He was an active member of the Armstrong High school football team and later an active and assisted coach Maxie Robinson during the Armstrong football games.
3. He was well known throughout the city of Richmond he was known as **big "Duke" of the Duce which is 2nd street downtown.**
4. President of the Richmond Branch NAACP and strong supporter of Civil Rights.

5. In November 1972 he was appointed by the Richmond City Council to serve as an active member of the Human Relations Commission, he presided as chairman for three terms.
6. He helped organized the **Black Brothers Combined Professional Firefighters** and an Honorary member of the **BBCPF**. He received an appreciation and citizenship awards as: Man of the year in 1974.
7. Received a Citizenship Award 1974, Astoria Beneficial Club, for “Outstanding Service to the citizens of Richmond and vicinity, and Meritorious Service as chairman of the Richmond Human Relations Commission, 1973 – 1975.
8. Worked with many doctors in Richmond area: Dr. Thornton, Dr. Charles E. Sutton, Dr. Foster, Dr. Benjamin Lambert and many other well know people such as: Councilwoman Willie Dell, Rev. Odie D. Brown, and Henry Marsh, friend of Stafford Flowers, and Kermit Foster.

This scripture comes to my mind:

Mathew 25:23 verse “The master said, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”

Hopefully we will have your full support for the land use as well. If you need any supporting documents or news articles please don’t hesitate to ask.

Thanking you in advance,

Gail Lipscomb

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

From: Gail Lipscomb <gaillipscomb1@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:40 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council; Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council
Subject: Support for Ord. 2023-355 (James E. "Duke" Stewart III)
Attachments: Scan_20240107 (2).pdf; Scan_20240107.pdf

Importance: High

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Please let me know if you received this email

Thank you,

Gail Lipscomb

Gaillipscomb1@comcast.net

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From:

Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:11 AM

To: CityClerksOffice@r

Cc: Councilwoman Ann-Frances Lambert; Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council

Subject: FW: Support for Ord. 2023-355 (James E. "Duke" Stewart III)

Importance: High

Hello City Clerks Office:

My name is Gail Lipscomb sister of **(James E. "Duke" Stewart, III)** and I am submitting our support for **Ord. 2023-355** on behalf of our family, and friends. We also have gotten **100% approval** from the Edgehill Chamberlayne Civic Association. In addition, on **Saturday, November 18, 2023** there was a celebration of the Brothers & Sisters Combined Professional Fire Fighters, Inc's (50th Anniversary Gala & Scholarship Fundraiser) which they honored my brother at that occasion.

On **November 30, 2023** we also received a **letter in support of Honorary Street Naming from Carol D. Adams, President of Engine Company #9 & Associates**. However, there are many others in full support and willing to attend the City Council hearing as well.

Our brother **(James E. "Duke" Stewart, III)** we feel that he is more than worthy to receive the Honorary Street Naming. **He started working as a firefighter on June 9, 1969 and was promoted to Lieutenant on June 25, 1983 and retired later as EEOC officer.**

Other successful duties:

1. James volunteered and was a dedicated big brother in the BB organization.
2. **On November 15, 1978** he had recruited in bringing Richmond's first African American Fire Chief, Chief Ronald C. Lewis.
3. James was recognized for outstanding service and dedication **during 1980 and 1981, as firefighter of the year**. He also was recognized for outstanding service on the job, contributions made for the Battalion Chief of the bureau, general department and dedication to the furthering of training, fire prevention and fire suppression which was stated, by Chief Lewis in a press release.
4. **In 2021 for Black History Month Engine Company #9 and Associates, Inc. had spot lighted Retired Lieutenant James E. "Duke" Stewart III for his many contributions to the Richmond, VA fire and Emergency Services' history**. In addition, he was the driving force in hiring and promotions of minorities, and females.
5. **February, 10, 2022 during Black History month**, Deputy Battalion Chief Arthur L. Page, was commissioned by James E. "Duke" Stewart, III presented and unveiled (a portrait painted by Artist Julius Underwood).
6. **Later the Afro paper** did an article on the Richmond City Black Firemen Had Organized to Fight the Racial Discrimination which included many complaints, trials and tribulations. "Quoted by the black firefighters an enemy they consider more deadly than a devastating fire".
7. The Black Professional Firefighters had contacted **my father James E. "Duke" Stewart II** a former Richmond NAACP President and also a member of the City Human Relations Commission which he and **my brother James E. "Duke" Stewart III** were very instrumental in helping the Black Brothers Combined Professional Firefighters, Inc. (now Brothers and Sisters Combined. PFF Inc.) was developed to ensure equality within the fire department.

In addition: he not only fought the battle of fires, safety of others, and fought discrimination as well. He may be retired but he still fights on for the people rights.

May the work he done speaks for him in Jesus name. Amen!

Hopefully we will have your full support for the land use as well. If you need any supporting documents or news articles please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanking you in advance,

Gail Lipscomb