

INTRODUCED: November 13, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-355

To designate the 2900 block of Brook Road in honor of James E. “Duke” Stewart, III.

Patrons – Ms. Lambert Ms. Jordan, Ms. Robertson, Mr. Addison,
Ms. Newbille, President Nye, and Ms. Trammell

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 8 2024 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, James E. “Duke” Stewart, III, served as a firefighter with the City Richmond beginning in 1969 and ending several years later after a long and distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, James E. “Duke” Stewart, III, served in many prominent capacities with the Richmond Fire Department, including as a lieutenant and Battalion Chief, where he was recognized for outstanding service in fighting fires, training personnel, and promoting fire prevention and suppression; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, James E. “Duke” Stewart, III, was not only an outstanding firefighter himself, but he also worked tirelessly to develop

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 22 2024 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

opportunities for minorities and women in the City’s Department of Fire and Emergency Services, including as a member of recruitment teams to hire minorities and as an organizer of the Black Professional Firefighters, Inc., whose goal was to ensure equality within the fire department; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of James E. “Duke” Stewart, III, for his contributions to the civic life of the city of Richmond by designating the 2900 block of Brook Road in his honor; and

WHEREAS, because this designation is honorary only, the provisions of sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, do not apply to the designation made hereby or to any signs erected pursuant to this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 2900 block of Brook Road shall be designated in honor of James E. “Duke” Stewart, III, pursuant to this ordinance.

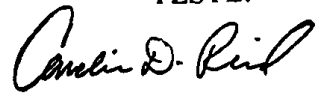
§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the portion of the street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the street, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated street block. The sole effect 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.

§ 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 portion of the street 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 portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this section or to any existing sign identifying the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the portion of the street 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.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline D. Reed".

City Clerk



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

THROUGH LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Ann-Frances Lambert, 3rd District Council Member
Kiya Stokes, 3rd District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney

DATE October 27, 2023

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Honorary Street/Block Naming for James E. "Duke" Stewart III

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilmember Ann-Frances Lambert

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Ordinance request to designate the corner of located at the corner 2921 Brook Rd. and Sherwood Avenue as an honorary street/block naming for James E. "Duke" Stewart III.

BACKGROUND

The patron is requesting an Ordinance to designate the corner of located at the corner 2921 Brook Rd. and Sherwood Avenue as an honorary street/block naming for James E. “Duke” Stewart III.

Mr. James E. “Duke” Stewart, III is a resident of Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Stewart, III has served as a firefighter with Richmond Fire Department since June 9, 1969. On June 25, 1983, he was promoted to Lieutenant on June 25, 1983 of the Richmond Fire Department. After his years of service, he retired as an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) officer.

Mr. Stewart was recognized for outstanding service and dedication **during 1980 and 1981**, as **firefighter of the year**. Mr. Stewart 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.

In 1978, Mr. Stewart served on the recruitment team to hire Richmond’s first black African American Fire Chief, Chief Ronald C. Lewis.

In 2021, Engine Company #9 and Associates, Inc. spotlighted Retired Lieutenant James “Duke” Stewart in Black History Month for his many contributions to the Richmond, VA Fire and Emergency Services’ history. His contributions included being the driving force to hire and promote minorities and females in the Fire Department. He organized and worked to fight racial discrimination on behalf of Richmond City black firemen.

Mr. Stewart III and his father James E. “Duke” Stewart, II (a former NAACP President and member of the Richmond Human Relations Commission) were very instrumental in helping to establish the Black Professional Firefighters, Inc., an organization to ensure equality within the fire department.

During his career and role as a fire fighter with the City of Richmond, Lieutenant James E. Stewart fought the battle of fires, safety of others, and for the right against discrimination.

The requested date of introduction is November 13, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: There are costs for the production of the signage. Costs of signage are usually covered from DPW operating funds.

Attachment/s Yes ☐ No ☒