

INTRODUCED: November 13, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-353

To designate the 2900 block of Seminary Avenue in honor of the late Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr.

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, Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr., was born on August 20, 1920, in Warren County, Mississippi, and died on June 9, 1995, after residing on Seminary Avenue in the city of Richmond since the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr., graduated from Hampton Institute at the top of his class in 1949, with a major in mathematics and a minor in music, in addition to being class president and holding membership in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr., after graduation from college, was drafted as a reservist into the United States Army and was

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN:

ADOPTED: JAN 22 2024 REJECTED: STRICKEN:

stationed in Germany during the Korean Conflict and ultimately obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel during his military career; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr., earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1954 and a doctorate from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in 1970 and pursued a career in education, serving as principal of both John F. Kennedy High School and Maggie L. Walker High School in Richmond, and later as the Associate Dean of the School of Education and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Virginia State University, and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr., was also active in civic and religious affairs, with appointments to various boards, including the Richmond City Planning Commission, the Virginia Housing Authority Board, a retirement commission, a 30<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King celebration, and Ebenezer Baptist Church, in addition being the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal from the United States Secretary of the Army; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr. for his contributions to the educational and civic life of the city of Richmond and beyond by designating the 2900 block of Seminary Avenue 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:

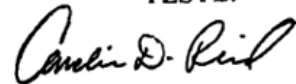
§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 2900 block of Seminary Avenue shall be designated in honor of Dr. Arnold R. Henderson, Jr. as “Arnold R. Henderson, Jr. Way,” pursuant to this ordinance.

§ 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 blocks. 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:



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 Dr. Arnold Henderson, Jr.**

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 2900 block of Seminary Avenue (between Hammond Avenue and W. Brookland Park Blvd. as an honorary street/block naming for Dr. Arnold Henderson, Jr.

## BACKGROUND

The patron is requesting an Ordinance to designate the corner of the 2900 block of Seminary Avenue (between Hammond Ave. and W. Brookland Park Blvd) in recognition of the contributions of Arnold R. Henderson, Jr. to the City of Richmond. The sign should say Arnold R. Henderson, Jr. Way. He lived on Seminary Avenue for over 32 years moving there in the 1960s.

Arnold Reginald Henderson Jr. was born August 20, 1920 in Warren County, Mississippi. He lived until he was 67 years of age, departing this life on June 9, 1995. Mr. Henderson served in the United States Army and obtained the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Henderson completed his undergraduate study in 1949 at Hampton Institute located in Hampton, Virginia. Graduating at the top of his class, he received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in math and a minor in music. During college, he was class president, a member of ROTC and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Upon leaving Hampton Institute, Mr. Henderson was drafted as a reservist and sent to Germany during the Korean War. During that time, he attended the University of Michigan where he received his Master's degree in 1954. He moved to Richmond, Virginia where he started his career in education. Mr. Henderson served with Richmond Public Schools as Principal of John F. Kennedy High School and later as the Principal of Maggie Walker High School. In 1970, Mr. Henderson received his Doctoral degree from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. Dr. Henderson served as the Associate Dean of the School of Education at Virginia State University (VSU). Until retirement from VSU, he served in several positions while there, among those was Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Henderson's service and work in the Richmond community included service on the Richmond City Planning Commission, the Retirement Commission and an appointment by Governor Wilder in 1992 until 1996 on the Virginia Housing Authorities Board of Directors. He received the Meritorious Service Medal from the United States Secretary of the Army in 1979. In 1991, he was appointed on staff of Governor Wilder. Other board appointments included being a member of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Celebration "Civil Rights Under Seize" which was hosted by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was an active member of the Board of Trustees of Ebenezer Baptist Church. 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