

INTRODUCED: November 13, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-335

To designate the 400 block of East Ladies Mile Road in honor of the late Melvin L. Davis, Sr.

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Patron – Ms. Lambert, President Jones, Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Vice President Nye, Ms. Robertson, Ms. Newbille, and Ms. Trammell

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Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: DEC 11 2023 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, the late Melvin L. Davis, Sr., who passed away on February 20, 2006, grew up in the Providence Park neighborhood of the city of Richmond and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1935; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, after graduating from high school, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. married his beloved wife of 58 years, the late Helen Randolph Daves; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, after serving his country as a civilian painter, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. successfully completed the construction of 40 homes, which spurred further construction and growth in the city of Richmond area; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED: DEC 11 2023 REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_ STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, in 1947, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. cofounded the Davis & Myers Construction Company with his brother, Leonard Davis, and brother-in-law Welford and Harold Myers; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, in 1960, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. started another business, Melvin L. Davis General Contractor, and, in 1968, he and his brother Leonard founded the Davis Brothers Construction Company; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Davis Brothers Construction Company began as a painting contractor and residential builder, and Melvin L. Davis, Sr. continued the commitment to excellence and provided years of leadership to the company; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, in 1968, Langston Davis assumed leadership of Davis Brothers Construction Company after his father, Melvin L. Davis, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, the Davis Brothers Construction Company is one of the largest minority-owned general contractors in the Mid-Atlantic region; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Davis Brothers Construction Company was involved in developments for Virginia Union University, and build and renovated more than 100 area churches; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Davis Brothers Construction Company renovated the Imperial Building at 5<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets that is now home to the *Richmond Free Press* and was involved in renovating the Altria Theater, formerly known as the Mosque, the Richmond Convention Center, and buildings on the grounds of the Commonwealth of Virginia's State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, in 1988, the Davis Brothers Construction Company was listed among *Black Enterprise* magazine's 100 Top Black Businesses in America; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. served as a member of the National Advisory Council of the Small Business Administration, the Board of Real Estate Tax Assessment for the City of Richmond, and as an honorary chairperson of the Richmond Urban League Fund Raising Banquets; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. was active in many civic organizations, especially those that supported young people, and received numerous honors from the Brookland and North Richmond Young Men's Christian Associations for his volunteer work and renovations to real estate; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Melvin L. Davis, Sr. was one of the oldest living members of Providence Park Baptist Church and contributed his time and immense talents as a member of the trustee board, deacon, church treasurer, Sunday school teacher, superintendent of Sunday school, and Boy Scout master; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of Melvin L. Davis, Sr. for his contributions to the civic life of the city of Richmond by designating the 400 block of East Ladies Mile 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,

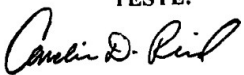
THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 400 block of East Ladies Mile Road shall be designated as “Melvin L. Davis Way” in honor of Melvin L. Davis, Sr. 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 as 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:  
  
Carolin 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 3

**TITLE** **Honorary Street/Block Naming for the late Mr. Melvin L. Davis, Sr.**

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**

The patron request that legislation be drafted designating the 400 block of E. Ladies Mile Road in honor of Mr. Melvin L. Davis, Sr. The completed sign should say Melvin L. Davis Way.

## BACKGROUND

Melvin Davis was born and grew up in the Providence Park area of Richmond. He graduated from Armstrong High School in 1935, and married his beloved wife of 58 years, the late Helen Randolph Davis<sup>1</sup>. Mr. Davis moved with his family to Norfolk at the beginning of World War II and served his country as a civilian painter.

After the war, Mr. Melvin Davis returned to Richmond to make a difference in his community. He successfully completed a project of 40 new homes, which spurred further construction and growth in the Richmond area. In 1947 Mr. Davis cofounded the Davis & Myers Construction Company with his brother, Leonard Davis, and brothers-in-law Welford and Harold Myers. In 1960 Melvin Davis started another business, Melvin L. Davis General Contractor, and in 1968 he and his brother Leonard founded the Davis Brothers Construction Company<sup>2</sup>.

Melvin R. Davis, Sr. was the second leader and co-founder of Davis Brothers Construction Company (DBCC). The company started as a painting contractor and residential builder<sup>3</sup>. Serving as the President, “He led the company following his father, Thomas Davis. Mr. Melvin Davis continued the commitment to excellence and provided years of leadership to the company. His commitment to excellence and growth in business was evident through community service as well as his business leadership. During his tenure, DBCC branched out into the religious and commercial markets. Building on its record of excellence in service and reputation, the company secured government contacts including work on the Virginia State Capital and Richmond’s (then) Byrd Airport”<sup>4</sup>. Langston Davis took over the company from his father, Melvin Davis, Sr. in 1968 and incorporated the company as Davis Brothers Construction Company<sup>5</sup>.

The Davis Brothers Construction Company is one of largest minority-owned general contractors in the Mid-Atlantic region. During his tenure, the company prided itself in bringing in jobs on time and on schedule. Davis Brothers was involved in developments for Virginia Union University and built and renovated more than 100 area churches. The company renovated the Imperial Building at 5th and Franklin streets that is now home to the Richmond Free Press and was involved in redoing the Mosque, now the Altria Theater, the Richmond Convention Center, buildings on the campus of Virginia Union University, and the State Capitol<sup>6</sup>. In 1988, the Davis Brothers Construction Company was listed among Black Enterprise’s 100 Top Black Businesses in America.

<sup>1</sup> <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?061+ful+HJ379ER+hil>

<sup>2</sup> <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?061+ful+HJ379ER+hil>

<sup>3</sup> [Trade Names: Davis Brothers Construction learning new ways to grow \(richmond.com\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Our History – Davis Brother’s Construction \(davisbrotherscc.com\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Trade Names: Davis Brothers Construction learning new ways to grow \(richmond.com\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> <https://richmondfreepress.com/news/2022/jul/21/construction-leader-langston-r-davis-sr-dies/>

Melvin Davis served as a member of the National Advisory Council of the Small Business Administration, the Board of Real Estate Tax Assessment for the City of Richmond, and as honorary chairperson of the Richmond Urban League Fund Raising Banquets.

In the Richmond community, Melvin Davis was active in many civic organizations, especially those that supported young people, and received numerous honors from the Brookland and North Richmond YMCAs for his volunteer endeavors and renovation improvements. Melvin Davis was one of the oldest living members of Providence Park Baptist Church and contributed his time and immense talents as a member of the trustee board, deacon, church treasurer, Sunday school teacher, Boy Scout master, and superintendent of the Sunday school<sup>7</sup>.

Mr. Melvin Davis, Sr. died at the age of 88, February 20, 2006.

The requested date of introduction for this legislation 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

<sup>7</sup> <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?061+ful+HJ379ER+hil>