

INTRODUCED: October 10, 2022

AN ORDINANCE No. 2022-287

To designate the 2900 block of Brook Road, between Hammond Avenue and Sherwood Avenue, in honor of Ellalee Fountain Flowers.

Patrons – Ms. Lambert, Ms. Jordan, and President Newbille

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: NOV 14 2022 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ellalee Fountain Flowers was born in Jackson Ward on November 16, 1923, and educated in Richmond Public Schools, graduating at the top of her class from Armstrong High School.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ms. Flowers went on to earn her Bachelor of Business Administration from Virginia State University and her Master of Education from Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ms. Flowers taught business courses from 1945 to 1979 at Maggie L. Walker High School, retiring as head of its Business Department, in addition to teaching night school for adult and elementary school students and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN:

ADOPTED: NOV 14 2022 REJECTED: STRICKEN:

serving as a faculty member of the Virginia Union University Sydney Lewis School of Business from 1979 to 1987; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ms. Flowers' accomplishments at the time of her passing on May 15, 2022, included being an active member of Delta Sigma Sorority, Inc., for 80 years of collegiate and alumni community service, and serving as the chair of the Richmond Alumni Chapter's Habitat for Humanity and Political Awareness committees, in addition to being a lifelong member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for which she held the post of secretary for the Richmond chapter; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ms. Flowers was related to two very community service-oriented men, first, as the wife of Stafford Flowers, a well-known Richmond educator who taught vocational education at Virginia Randolph School and Thomas Jefferson High School and was a co-founder of the Metropolitan Business League and a director of the National Business League, and, second, as the daughter-in-law of James T. Flowers, owner of the James Flowers Bricklaying Company, which was involved in the assembly of the Belgium Building at Virginia Union University, in construction of the Mary Binga Center in Jackson Ward, and in bridge modernization along U.S. Route 1, in addition to organizing the Colored Bricklayers Union Local #15; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of Ms. Flowers for her contributions to education and community service in the city of Richmond by designating the 2900 block of Brook Road, between Hammond Avenue and Sherwood Avenue, in her honor, as members of the Flowers family, upon information and belief of the Council, have lived in this neighborhood, known as Frederick Douglas Court, since its founding as Richmond's first black subdivision; 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 Names.** The 2900 block of Brook Road, between Hammond Avenue and Sherwood Avenue, shall be designated in honor of Ellalee Fountain Flowers as “Flowers 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.

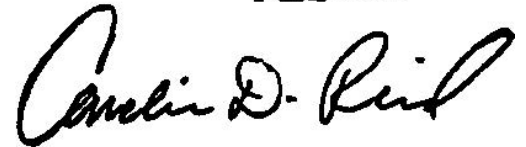
§ 3. **Administration of Ordinance.** The Department of Public Works shall implement this ordinance by installing, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this ordinance, and maintaining commemorative signs in accordance with this section. The commemorative signs shall be clearly distinct from the 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 designation 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 cursive script, reading "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 Haskell Brown, City Attorney

THROUGH Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

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

DATE September 27, 2022

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TITLE **Honorary Street/Block Naming – Ella Lee Fountain Flowers, 2900th block of Brook Road.**

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Ann-Frances Lambert

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Honorary street/block naming of the 2900th block of Brook Road, between Hammond Avenue and Sherwood Avenue, in honor of the late Ella Lee Fountain Flowers, as “Flowers Way.”

BACKGROUND

The late Mrs. Ella Lee Fountain Flowers was an educator and active citizen of Richmond. Ms. Flowers was a graduate of Armstrong High School. She held a BA from Virginia State Collage and a Masters from Columbia University. Mrs. Flowers taught business from 1945 to 1979 at Maggie L Walker H.S. and at Virginia Union University from 1979 to 1987. She was civically active in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Inc., the NAACP, and Habitat Humanity projects. Mrs. Flowers' family was also active in education and business.

Mrs. Flowers was the wife of Stafford Flowers, also a well-known Richmond educator, who taught bricklaying and vocational education at Virginia Randolph School and Thomas Jefferson H.S. He was co-founder and a regional director of the Metropolitan Business League and National Business League; respectively. Mrs. Flower's father-in-law was James T. Flowers who operated the James Flowers Bricklaying Company and organized the Colored Bricklayers Local #15. His work included assembling the Belgium Building at Virginia Union University, the Mary Binga Center in Jackson Ward, and bridge modernization along Route 1.

Members of the Flowers' family have lived in this neighborhood, known as Frederick Douglas Court, since its founding as Richmond's first black sub-division.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Costs of signage are usually covered from DPW operating funds.

Attachment/s Yes ☐ No ☒