

INTRODUCED: March 27, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-111

To designate the 1800 block of South Meadow Street in honor of Ida Lee Cheatham.

Patrons – Ms. Lynch, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Newbille

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: MAY 8 2023 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ida Lee Cheatham is 103 years old and was born on February 2, 1920, in Doswell, Virginia, as one of 12 children to Mary Ellen and James Rollins; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ida Lee Cheatham was educated in Doswell and later moved to Richmond for employment as a housekeeper to support her family; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ida Lee Cheatham worked diligently and saved money, allowing her to build a home in the Maymont area; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Ida Lee Cheatham has been very active in the community life of the Maymont neighborhood, including establishing a

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: MAY 8 2023 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

successful catering business, as a founding member of the Maymont Garden Club, the Maymont Civic League, and other women's groups, and as a longstanding member of Jerusalem Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, family and community have been extremely important to Ida Lee Cheatham, and it has been her family and community that have supported her in living independently in her long-time home; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of Ida Lee Cheatham for her contributions to the civic life of the Maymont neighborhood by designating the 1800 block of South Meadow Street in her 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 Names.** The 1800 block of South Meadow Street shall be designated in honor of Ida Lee Cheatham, pursuant to this ordinance.

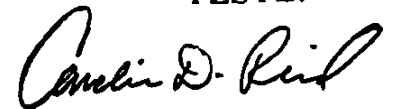
§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the portion of the street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the street, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated street block. The sole effect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

THROUGH LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Stephanie Lynch, 5th District Council Member
Amy Robins, 5th District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney

DATE March 10, 2023

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Honorary Signage – Ida Cheatham

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Lynch

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Patron requests that legislation be drafted honoring Richmond centenarian, Mrs. Ida Cheatham with an honorary block naming at the 1800th block of South Meadow Street.

BACKGROUND

Ida Cheatham is currently 103 years old and has been recognized by the City’s Office of Aging and Disability as a Richmond Centenarian. She was born in 1920, in the town of Doswell, Virginia. Mrs. Cheatham was married to the late Milton Cheatham, with whom she had two children and several grandchildren. She moved to Richmond searching for work. Here she began serving as a housekeeper in various homes and later founded a successful catering business.

Ida Cheatham is a founding member of the Maymont Civic Association and the Maymont Garden Club. She is also a faithful Christian and a member of Jerusalem Baptist Church. She was recently featured in The Guardian Magazine’s article, entitled “Keep Your Eyes Open – and leap into the future: 100 centenarians’ tips for a life well lived.” Her advice: *Hate will destroy you, hate will destroy your mind. If you have a disagreement with people, or they do you wrong, speak your piece and go on. Keep your mind, because that’s freedom right there. I love life – I know I was created by God to love life – so anything that happens, I don’t care how bad it is, I can do all of it.* See, The Guardian, Sat. Feb. 18, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Costs of signage in the program are usually absorbed from operating funds of DPW.

Attachment/s Yes ☒ No ☐

IDA LEE CHEATHAM

103 YEARS OLD

On February 2, 1920, the world was introduced to Ms. Ida Lee Rollins Cheatham, born in Doswell, VA to Mary Ellen and James Rollins. She is the last living of twelve children. Coming from a close-knit family plenty of great familial memories have been created in a hundred and two years and...they continue. Ida is known as “Mom” to her two children Bette (deceased) and Carl, “Nana” to her grandchildren and “Aunt-tee” to her nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Cheatham was educated in Doswell and later moved to Richmond for work to support her two children and family. Mrs. Cheatham was employed as a housekeeper for some of Richmond’s affluent families and was determined to create a prosperous life for herself. So, she worked smart, saved her money, and developed good relationships. Mrs. Cheatham became a house manager, built her home in the Maymont area in Richmond and was the go-to caterer for some of the area’s elite events.

Early and humble beginnings helped her and others along the way. She is a founding member of both the Maymont Garden Club and Maymont Civic League, as well as many women’s groups and a long-standing member of Jerusalem Baptist Church.

Mrs. Cheatham is recognized as a friend to many and practices what she preaches... “follow your Lord and Savior’s word, live by your word, and drink from the sky and eat from the ground!”. Family and community are extremely important to her, and it is those very people that support her to live independently in the home she saw built brick-by-brick in Maymont which started as a dirt road to a paved street with sidewalks.

Ida L Cheatham, 103

**Housekeeper, house manager and caterer;
Virginia, US**



▲ Photograph: Matt Eich/The Guardian

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