



WHEREAS, as a member of the Department of Police, Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., was the first African American awarded the Excellence Police Duty Medal and was awarded the Medal of Valor and the Dale Carnegie Award for Highest Achievement; and

WHEREAS, after 17 years of service, Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., retired from the Department of Police and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Virginia Union University; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., became a licensed and ordained Baptist minister and earned a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Divinity from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Richmond Virginia Seminary; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., served as the Pastor of the Grayland Baptist Church and established a community outreach program, which included weekly community feedings and leadership workshops; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, after 33 years of service, Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., retired from Grayland Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to honor the life of Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., for his contributions to the religious and civic life of and other community service contributions to the city of Richmond by designating the corner of 2300 Third Avenue and Juniper Street 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:

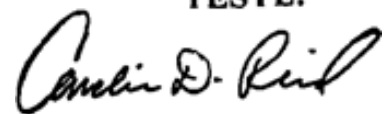
§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The corner of 2300 Third Avenue and Juniper Street shall be designated as “Rev. Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr. Way” in honor of Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr., pursuant to this ordinance, with placement of the sign at the corner of 2300 Third Avenue and Juniper Street.

§ 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 on 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 on 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:**



**City Clerk**



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Laura Drewry, Richmond City Attorney

**THROUGH** LaTasha S. Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

**FROM** Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

**COPY** Ellen Robertson, 6<sup>th</sup> District Council Member  
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney  
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff  
Tavares Floyd, 6<sup>th</sup> District Liaison

**DATE** February 2, 2024

**PAGE/s** 3

**TITLE:** Honorary Street/Block Naming for the late Dr. Clifton Whitaker

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

**REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON**

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Ellen Robertson

Land Use, Housing and Transportation

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

Ordinance request to designate the corner of 2300 Third Avenue and Juniper Street an honorary street/block naming for Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr.

**BACKGROUND**

The patron is requesting an Ordinance to designate the corner of the 2300 block of Third Avenue at the corner of Juniper Street an honorary street/block naming for Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr. This honorary block naming for Dr. Whitaker is in recognition of his service to the community and

contributions to the city of Richmond. The honorary sign would indicate Clifton Whitaker Jr. Way.

The Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr. was born July, 1941 in the city of Richmond<sup>1</sup>. He passed away at the age of 80, Sept 10, 2021. Rev. Dr. Whitaker attended Richmond Public Schools graduating from Armstrong High School. He continued his studies at Virginia Union University before becoming a member of the Richmond Police Department. He became the first African American officer promoted to the Detective Division after serving on the force for eight months. As a law enforcement officer, his significant achievements included being awarded the Excellence Police Duty Medal, Medal of Valor award and the Dale Carnegie Award for Highest Achievement during his tenure as a law enforcement officer.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Whitaker retired from the Police Department after 17 years of service. After retiring from the Richmond Police Department, Dr. Whitaker continued his studies at Virginia Union University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

In 1979, he began a career in ministry. At which time, he was licensed and ordained as a Baptist minister. He furthered his education earning a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Divinity degree from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. He received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Richmond Virginia Seminary.

In 1982, Dr. Whitaker became the Pastor of the Grayland Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the church initiated a community outreach program which included weekly community feedings for the homeless and disadvantaged. He encouraged Christian leadership workshops. Dr. Whitaker retired from Grayland Baptist Church in 2015 after thirty-three years of service.

Dr. Whitaker has been affiliated with numerous organizations, serving as a member and former president of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia Clergy, a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Richmond and Vicinity, a member of the National Baptist Convention, a member of the NAACP, a member of Engine Company #9 and Associates and past Master Mason, Richmond Consistory 32nd degree Mocha Temple #7. He also served

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. Dr. Clifton Whitaker Obituary, Sept 21, 2021

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesdispatch/name/clifton-whitaker-obituary?id=33344323>

<sup>2</sup> Virginia House Joint Resolution No. 884, Commending the Reverend Dr. Clifton Whitaker, Jr. 2015

<https://cdn.richmondsunlight.com/bill/2015/hj884/fulltext/>

on the faculty and was Academic Dean of the Richmond Virginia Seminary<sup>3</sup>.

Dr. Whitaker has been awarded countless honors, to include Father of the Year by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Minister of the Year Award from the Ushers Union of Richmond and Vicinity, the Kingdom Fellowship Outstanding Service Award and the Living Legends Award presented by Grayland Baptist Church<sup>4</sup>.

The requested honorary street/block naming will allow the community to recognize the work and contributions of Dr. Whitaker to the city of Richmond, Virginia.

The requested date of introduction is February 12, 2024.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes  No

Budget Amendment Required Yes  No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact  
There are costs for the production and installation of the signage at an estimated cost of \$700. Costs of signage are usually covered from DPW operating funds.

Attachment/s Yes  No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 12.22.08/srs

<sup>3</sup> Rev. Dr. Clifton Whitaker Obituary, Sept 21, 2021  
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<sup>4</sup> Rev. Dr. Clifton Whitaker Obituary, Sept 21, 2021  
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