

INTRODUCED: February 26, 2024

AN ORDINANCE No. 2024-055

To designate the corner of 1601 Littlepage Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike in honor of Reverend Shady Clark, Jr.

Patron – Ms. Robertson, Ms. Newbille, Ms. Trammell and Vice President Lambert

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: MAR 25 2024 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Reverend Shady Clark, Jr. is a native of North Carolina and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, a Master of Science degree in Education from Longwood University, and a Master of Arts degree in education psychology from The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Reverend Shady Clark, Jr., has served in the education field as a high school counselor, high school principal, school district administrator, community college adjunct professor, and as a supervisor with the Virginia Department of Education’s Office of Program Administration and Accountability; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: MAR 25 2024 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Reverend Shady Clark, Jr., has championed education in the city of Richmond through, among other things, his presence at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School where he partnered with caregivers, teachers, administrators, and students alike, to encourage and assist students in their educational endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Shady Clark, Jr., has served as pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Church Hill for 47 years where he supported the community through outreach programs, which included providing clothing for job interviews, operating a food bank, and promoting voter education and voting accessibility; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to honor the life of Reverend Shady Clark, Jr., for his service to the community and contributions to the residents of the city of Richmond by designating the corner of 1601 Littlepage Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike 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 1601 Littlepage Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike shall be designated as “Rev. Shady Clark, Jr. Way” in honor of Reverend Shady Clark, Jr., pursuant to this ordinance, with placement of the sign at the corner of 1601 Littlepage Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike.

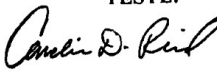
§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the portion of the street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the street, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated street block. The

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 sign (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 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 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, 6th District Council Member
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Tavares Floyd, 6th District Liaison

DATE February 5, 2024

PAGE/s 4

TITLE: Honorary Street/Block Naming for Rev. Shady Clark, Jr.

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilmember Ellen Robertson

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing and Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Ordinance request to designate the corner of Littlepage Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike an honorary street/block naming for Rev. Shady Clark, Jr. This location for the signage is near the church located at 1601 Littlepage Street.

BACKGROUND

The patron is requesting an Ordinance to designate the corner of the 1601 Littlepage Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike an honorary street/block naming for Rev. Shady Clark, Jr. This honorary block naming for Rev. Shady Clark, Jr. is in recognition of his service to the community and contributions to

the city of Richmond. The honorary sign would indicate Rev. Shady Clark, Jr. Way.

Reverend Shady Clark, Jr. was born and raised in Greenville, North Carolina. He attended elementary and secondary public schools of Greenville, North Carolina. Given the choice of working ["the fields"] or continuing his education, Reverend Clark chose the halls of academia.¹ Reverend Clark is the widower to the former Pearl Payton and is the father of one daughter, Shanetia P. Clark, Ph.D.

Reverend Clark received his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, French, and religious education from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received his Master of Science degree in Education from Longwood University and his Master of Arts degree in education psychology from The Ohio State University.²

In public education, Reverend Clark has served as a high school counselor, a high school principal, a school district central office school administrator in North Carolina. He served as an adjunct professor in social sciences at J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Virginia. After 40 years of service, Reverend Clark retired as Supervisor with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education in the Office of Program Administration and Accountability.³

He is an active community leader with membership in organizations such as the NAACP, National Education Association, American Association of Curriculum Development, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the National Association of Black Educators.

Reverend Clark has served as the Pastor of Eastminister Presbyterian Church for 47 years in the Mosby Court community. When he arrived, the Presbytery had intended to close the church's doors because there was a belief that an African American Presbyterian church would not thrive. Under Rev. Clark's leadership, the church is still active. Throughout the years, Reverend Clark has been vigilant in focusing on outreach to develop programs to meet the needs of the surrounding community in Mosby Court and the Church Hill area. The church stands tall sitting on top of the hill on Littlepage Street and is an anchor of the community.

¹ Biography of Reverend Shady Clark

² Biography of Reverend Shady Clark

³ Biography of Reverend Shady Clark

As Pastor of Eastminister Presbyterian Church, Reverend Clark aimed to have the church serve as a beacon of hope for all of Church Hill and citywide in Richmond. He started the Church Clothes Closet and foodbank in which people in need could come for help, guidance, and resources. Many of the clothes in the Clothes Closet were suits and attire that could be worn to employment interviews and job placement. Reverend Clark started the clothing ministry so that “appropriate attire” would not be a barrier to the residents when they applied for jobs and to prevent them making a negative impression through their attire⁴.

Reverend Clark remains steadfast in the Church’s mission and vision for serving the community providing outreach to residents to support the local community both spiritually and personally. Reverend Clark has been instrumental in actively recruiting community residents to attend church for spiritual renewal and knowledge. Residents from a variety of neighborhoods come together in harmony during all church activities. Reverend Clark has ensured dinners are offered after the bible school and classes to residents of the community. For outreach and engagement of the neighborhood residents, Reverend Clark and members of the church have sponsored the church grounds for activities such as a neighborhood fish fry, Easter egg hunts and Back-to-School celebrations. For school openings, school aged students received backpacks filled with school supplies.

Reverend Clark has made significant contributions to the Churchill area for student success. He has been a constant presence at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, formerly known as Mosby Middle School. Reverend Clark met with young people’s caregivers, teachers, and administrators; he helped to foster a true partnership among these stakeholders concerned about the youth; and he helped as a father figure to young people with the intention of guiding them to avoid a negative path. Reverend Clark keeps up with the grades of young people and celebrates their graduation. He has helped countless young people go beyond high school and assisted them to apply for higher education or for vocational trade schools. Setting young people up for success remains a guiding force for Reverend Clark.⁵

He has actively worked with other ministers in the Church Hill area to coordinate efforts to address the needs of the community. Throughout his 47 years as Pastor of Eastminister Presbyterian Church, Reverend Clark has made a positive impact on the Black pastors and their churches. Reverend Clark galvanized the other churches in the area to remain vigilant in the fight

⁴ Support Letter from Dr. Shanetia Clark

⁵ Support Letter from Dr. Shanetia Clark

for equality by organizing "souls to the polls" and encouraged them to be informed in order to hold elected officials accountable.

He is a community leader with previous and active memberships in organizations such as the NAACP, National Education Association, American Association of Curriculum Development, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the National Association of Black Educators.

The posting of this honorary sign will honor his contributions to the Church Hill community where the church is located.

The requested date of introduction is February 26, 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