

INTRODUCED: June 14, 2021

AN ORDINANCE No. 2021-173

To designate the 500 block of North 3rd Street in honor of the late John Mitchell, Jr.

Patrons – All Members of Council

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JUN 28 2021 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, John Mitchell, Jr., was born enslaved on July 11, 1863, at the Laburnum Plantation in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, John Mitchell, Jr., graduated from the Richmond Normal High School and began an apprenticeship with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C., with the support of Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, following his education and training, John Mitchell, Jr.'s career endeavors included becoming editor at the Richmond Planet in 1884, serving as president of the National Afro-American Press Association, being elected alderman for Jackson Ward in 1892, running for Governor of Virginia in 1921, and becoming nationally

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JUN 28 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

prominent for social activism in anti-lynching and organizing one of the nation’s first bus boycotts in 1904; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, John Mitchell, Jr., died on December 3, 1929, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize John Mitchell, Jr.’s contributions to the political and cultural life of Jackson Ward and beyond by designating the 500 block of North 3rd Street in his honor as “John Mitchell Manor;” 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:

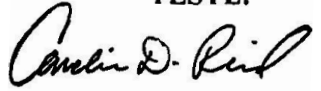
§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The 500 block of North 3rd Street shall be designated in honor of John Mitchell, Jr., as “John Mitchell Manor,” pursuant to this ordinance.

§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the 500 block of North 3rd Street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the road, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated road. 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 road in question such that a reasonable person could not conclude that the commemorative signs reflect the actual name of the road. The commemorative signs (i) shall be affixed to a sign pole installed at each end of the block designated in section 1 of this ordinance for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this section or to any existing sign identifying the block designated in section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the block road designated in section 1 of this ordinance and (ii) shall bear the name “John Mitchell Manor,” 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 Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney

THROUGH Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Katherine Jordan, 2nd District Council Member
Sven Philipsen, 2nd District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney

DATE June 8, 2021

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TITLE Honorary Designation of a block in honor of John Mitchell.

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Jordan

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron request that legislation be drafted for Council’s consideration that designates 3rd Street from the intersection with Leigh Street to the intersection with Clay Street, in honor of John Mitchell as *John Mitchell Manor*, using two signs.

BACKGROUND

The City has made designations of City blocks in honor notable persons in Richmond's history such as John Mitchell.

- John Mitchell, Jr was born enslaved on July 11, 1863 at the Laburnum Plantation in Richmond.
- After graduating from the Richmond Normal High School, he began an apprenticeship with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, DC with the support of Frederick Douglass.
- In 1884, he became editor at the Richmond Planet. Later he served, as president of the National Afro-American Press Association.
- In 1892, he was elected alderman for Jackson Ward. He ran for Governor in 1921.
- Mitchel became a nationally prominent anti-lynching advocate, helped to organize one of the nation's first bus boycotts in 1904.

He died on December 3, 1929. Mitchell is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Costs of signage erecting these honors are absorbed in the regular operations of the Department of Public Works.

Attachment/s Yes No