

1 Introduced by Council Member Gulliford and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Member R. Gaffney, Pittman, and Hazouri:

3
4 **ORDINANCE 2019-128**

5 AN ORDINANCE RENAMING 1ST STREET WEST EXTENDING
6 APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE FROM JEFFERSON STREET
7 NORTH TO PEARL STREET NORTH TO "REVEREND HENRY
8 T. RHIM BLVD.", IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 7; WAIVING
9 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 745.105(I) (2),
10 *ORDINANCE CODE*, REGARDING PERSONS WHO STREETS
11 MAY BE NAMED AFTER; WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS
12 OF SECTION 745.105 (G), *ORDINANCE CODE*,
13 REGARDING ABBREVIATIONS IN PROPOSED STREET
14 NAMES; DIRECTING LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO
15 FORWARD ORDINANCE TO THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT;
16 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

17
18 **WHEREAS**, more than 40 years ago, Henry Thomas Rhim was highly
19 recommended by the leaders of the Luther Rice Seminary to be the
20 new Pastor Teacher for St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in a span of four decades, Reverend Doctor H.T. Rhim
22 has served as an outstanding leader, and pastor impacting thousands
23 of lives in the Jacksonville area as the Pastor of St. Joseph
24 Missionary Baptist Church; and

25 **WHEREAS**, as the pastor of St. Joseph Missionary Baptist
26 Church, Reverend Doctor H.T. Rhim has implemented approximately 44
27 innovative ministries including but not limited to the Big
28 Brothers/Big Sisters Ministry, the Computer Ministry; the
29 Educational Ministry and the Social Justice Ministry; and

30 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to give hope and inspiration to all
31 residents in Jacksonville, the Radio Ministry entitled "Let the

1 Bible Speak," was first broadcasted on the air in 1970 on WBIX, and
2 continued in more recent years as a weekly broadcast on WCGL; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1982, the members of St. Joseph Missionary Baptist
4 Church purchased 2.5 acres of land and broke ground on a new church
5 building on April 20, 1985 and within less than 10 years,
6 completely satisfied the mortgage for the new church building in
7 September, 1994; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim has served in numerous
9 officer roles in the East Florida and Bethany Baptist Association
10 including serving as President, Financial Secretary, and Chieftain
11 of the Youth Department; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim served commendably as a
13 member of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Ministers Conference
14 of Duval and surrounding communities, and the Interdenominational
15 Ministerial Alliance; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim's role as a successful
17 leader has extended statewide; he was elected and eventually served
18 10 consecutive terms as the President of the Progressive Missionary
19 and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim was appointed at the
21 national level to the finance committee of the National Baptist
22 Convention of America, Inc., and quickly advanced to be appointed
23 1st Vice President of the Congress in September, 1988 and 4th Vice
24 President in 1990; and

25 **WHEREAS**, as a representative of the Congress of National
26 Black Churches, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim authored 2 devotions
27 for the African American Devotional Bible; and

28 **WHEREAS**, expressing his sincere devotion for the Jacksonville
29 community, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim is an active member of the
30 NAACP, and was appointed, in 1986 to the Governor's Task Force on
31 the Black Family by Governor Bob Graham and numerous other Task

1 Forces and the Jacksonville Urban League; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, he was appointed to the University of North
3 Florida Student-to-Student Program's Advisory Council; and

4 **WHEREAS**, most notably, the Florida Seminary at Lakeland,
5 Florida awarded Reverend Doctor Rhim an Honorary Doctor of Divinity
6 Degree; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in early 1997, Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim
8 chartered and developed the Blackbottom/Springfield Human
9 Development Corporation which formed the Project S.P.I.R.I.T.
10 program for after-school tutoring and summer camp activities; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church has been in
12 the Jacksonville community since 1930, having prior received
13 national recognition for celebrating its 70th anniversary; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, the St. Joseph received acknowledgements
15 from President Bill Clinton; Vice President Al Gore, Senator Bob
16 Graham, Governor Jeb Bush, Senator Betty Holzendorf, Mayor John A.
17 Delaney, Sheriff Nathaniel Glover and other Presidential cabinet
18 members; and

19 **WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2012, Reverend Doctor Rhim was honored
20 by the Baptist Ministries Conference of Duval and Adjacent Counties
21 with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Doctor Rhim was honored by the Jacksonville
23 Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as a
24 recipient of their SCLC Legends, Pioneers and Trailblazer Award on
25 April 5, 2013; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in February 2015, recognizing him as a long-time
27 community activist and role-model, Reverend Doctor Rhim received a
28 Trailblazers Award from Mayor Alvin Brown; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Doctor Rhim was named by the Barker
30 Foundation as one of the legends in ministry in its 1st Ministry
31 Legends Awards in October 2015; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Council desires to honor Reverend Doctor Rhim for
2 his faithful service to St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church and
3 the surrounding community by renaming a portion of 1st Street West
4 from Jefferson Street North to Pearl Street North; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the provisions of Section 745.105 (i) (2), *Ordinance*
6 *Code*, allow for streets to be renamed for persons who have been
7 deceased for a minimum five (5) years; but given the nature of
8 Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim's accomplishments, the Council hereby
9 has determined to waive any limitation on the naming of a street
10 after a person, and also to waive any other ordinance or rule
11 inconsistent with the purposes of this ordinance; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the provisions of Section 745.105 (g), *Ordinance*
13 *Code*, require that proposed street names not include abbreviations;
14 but given the nature of Reverend Doctor Henry T. Rhim's
15 accomplishments, the Council hereby has determined to waive any
16 limitation on the abbreviation in the proposed street name change;
17 now therefore,

18 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

19 **Section 1. 1st Street West Renamed.** The name of 1st Street
20 West, extending approximately 1 mile from Jefferson Street North to
21 Pearl Street North, in Council District 7, is hereby renamed
22 "Reverend Henry T. Rhim Blvd.", by which name such street shall be
23 hereafter known. A copy of the map of 1st Street West to "Reverend
24 Henry T. Rhim Blvd." is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1.**

25 **Section 2. Waiver of Section 745.105 (i) (2), Ordinance**
26 **Code.** Section 745.105 (i)(2), *Ordinance Code*, requiring the
27 approval of streets named for persons who have been deceased for
28 five years, is hereby waived to allow for the new street name as
29 set forth in Section 1 hereof given the many contributions of
30 Reverend Doctor Rhim to the community.

31 **Section 3. Waiver of Section 745.105 (g), Ordinance Code.**

1 Section 745.105 (g), *Ordinance Code*, requiring that proposed street
2 names not include abbreviations, is hereby waived to allow for the
3 new street name as set forth in Section 1 hereof so as to honor the
4 Reverend Henry T. Rhim in the manner as he has been known
5 professionally and personally to the community.

6 **Section 4. Directing Legislative Services to forward a**
7 **copy to the Planning Department.** The Chief of Legislative Services
8 is requested to send a copy of this legislation once enacted to the
9 Planning Department, Addressing Unit, for processing,
10 implementation, and coordination with the Public Works Department,
11 Traffic Engineering Division and other affected agencies and
12 organizations.

13 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall
14 become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming
15 effective without the Mayor's signature.

16
17 Form Approved:

18
19 /s/ Paige Hobbs Johnston

20 Office of General Counsel

21 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

22 GC-#1266370-v1-Gulliford_Street_Renaming.doc