

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Amaro, Lahnen, Gaffney, Jr. and Miller and amended by the
3 Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety
4 Committee:

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7 **ORDINANCE 2026-317-E**

8 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 745 (ADDRESSING
9 AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS), *ORDINANCE CODE*;
10 ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION AND
11 ASSOCIATED ROADWAY MARKERS FOR PASTOR ERNIE L.
12 MURRAY, SR.; ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET
13 DESIGNATION ON MONCRIEF ROAD ADJACENT TO PARCEL
14 R.E. NO. 026465-0040 IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 FOR
15 PASTOR ERNIE L. MURRAY, SR.; PROVIDING FOR THE
16 INSTALLATION OF TWO HONORARY ROADWAY MARKERS TO
17 BE LOCATED IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS ON THE
18 DESIGNATED ROAD IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 10; WAIVING
19 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION 745.105(I)(2),
20 *ORDINANCE CODE*, THAT THE HONOREE BE DECEASED FOR
21 AT LEAST FIVE YEARS; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE
22 SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD A COPY OF THIS
23 ORDINANCE, ONCE ENACTED, TO THE PUBLIC WORKS
24 DEPARTMENT, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND ADDRESSING
25 DIVISIONS, FOR PROCESSING, IMPLEMENTATION AND
26 COORDINATION WITH THE APPLICANT AND OTHER
27 AFFECTED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING
28 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

29
30 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Ernie L. Murray, Sr., who served with loyal
31 dedication as the long-time pastor of the St. Thomas Missionary

1 Baptist Church for more than thirty-eight years, passed away February
2 28, 2025; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in the beginning, in June 1986, Pastor Murray began
4 his long and productive service as the anointed Pastor at the original
5 location of the St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church located at 2335
6 Moncrief Road; and

7 **WHEREAS**, due to the steadily increasing church members, Pastor
8 Murray and Officers of the Church purchased the property located at
9 5863 Moncrief Road in 1992 and held a groundbreaking ceremony five
10 years later in 1997; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on January 19, 1997, Pastor Ernie L. Murray, Sr. and
12 the entire church congregation walked from the old church location
13 to the new church location for the purpose of dedicating the new
14 church to the surrounding community and other nearby churches; and

15 **WHEREAS**, with a desire to expand and develop the surrounding
16 community, Pastor Murray and members of the church purchased
17 additional acres of property in 1997 for a Multi-Purpose Building to
18 be located at the corner of Moncrief Road and Rowe Avenue; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2003, additional properties were purchased by the
20 church to establish Boy Scouts Troop #558 which provided tutoring for
21 children at no cost; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, Pastor Murray and the St. Thomas Missionary
23 Baptist Church parishioners purchased their fourth property; a food
24 and clothing pantry located at 5756 Moncrief Road. Five years later,
25 the Pantry was re-named "The Joyce George Clothing & Food Pantry" in
26 remembrance of a loyal church member who passed away; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the church purchased an additional property for the
28 purpose of opening the St. Thomas Child Development Center in 2007
29 which continues in diligent service throughout the week for newborns
30 to 12 years old children; and

31 **WHEREAS**, on October 17, 2015, St. Thomas Missionary Baptist

1 Church celebrated its 100th anniversary and received numerous
2 congratulatory letters from current and past Jacksonville Mayors,
3 current and former Duval Senators, former Jacksonville City Council
4 members, former Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams and former Florida
5 Governor Rick Scott; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the clergy in the area were impressed with Pastor
7 Ernie L. Murray's hosting of pastoral classes and revivals in varying
8 denominations; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Murray's legacy was deeply rooted in faith,
10 vision and steadfast dedication where he guided and nurtured the
11 development of several young pastors; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Ernie L. Murray, Sr. forever changed lives by
13 leaving a lasting imprint for generations to come; and

14 **WHEREAS**, upon his passing in 2025, Pastor Murray received
15 recognition, congratulatory honors and words of sympathy from
16 numerous elected officials including but not limited to: Mayor Donna
17 Deegan (2025), the Jacksonville City Council (2025), Senator Aaron
18 Bean (2023), Representative Kimbery Daniels (2025), the President of
19 the Florida General Baptist Convention, First Missionary Baptist
20 Church and Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Albertha W. Brooks submitted an Application for
22 Honorary Street Name Designation and paid the required fee for the
23 honorary marker and copies of the Application and the receipt of the
24 payment have been placed **Revised On File** with the Legislative Services
25 Division; and

26 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to subsection 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance Code*,
27 the Public Works Department mailed written notifications on January
28 15, 2026 and February 27, 2026 to five affected property owners
29 requesting their written consent or objection to the proposed honorary
30 street designation and copies of the first and second written
31 notifications have been placed **Revised On File** with the Legislative

1 Services Division; and

2 **WHEREAS**, a list of the five affected addresses has been placed
3 **Revised On File** with the Legislative Services Division; and

4 **WHEREAS**, two affected property owners indicated their consent
5 to the proposed honorary designation and copies of the written
6 consents have been placed **Revised On File** with the Legislative
7 Services Division; and

8 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Subsection 745.105(j)(10), Ordinance Code,
9 the remaining three affected property owners are deemed to have
10 consented to the proposed honorary designation due to their non-
11 response to the written notifications; now therefore

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

13 **Section 1. Moncrief Road Honorary Street Designation for**
14 **"Pastor Ernie L. Murray, Sr."**. Moncrief Road adjacent to Parcel R.E.
15 No. 026465-0040 in Council District 10 is hereby designated as
16 contemplated by Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*, for "Pastor Ernie
17 L. Murray, Sr." A map of the honorary street name designation has
18 been placed **Revised On File** with the Legislative Services Division.

19 **Section 2. Honorary Roadside Markers for "Pastor Ernie L.**
20 **Murray, Sr." to be Installed.** Two honorary roadside markers, as
21 contemplated by Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*, recognizing "Pastor
22 Ernie L. Murray, Sr." shall be placed in appropriate locations on
23 Moncrief Road.

24 **Section 3. Waiver of Subsection 745.105 (i)(2), Ordinance**
25 **Code.** Subsection 745.105 (i)(2), *Ordinance Code*, requiring that the
26 honoree be deceased for at least five years is hereby waived because
27 the City Council desires to provide long-overdue recognition for the
28 contributions of Pastor Murray made to the St. Thomas Missionary
29 Baptist Church located on Moncrief Road and the surrounding community
30 also located on Moncrief Road.

31 **Section 4. Directive to Legislative Services Division.** The

1 Legislative Services Division is hereby directed to send a copy of
2 this Ordinance, once enacted, to the Public Works Department,
3 Addressing Unit, for processing, implementation, and coordination
4 with the Traffic Engineering Division, the Applicant and other
5 affected agencies and organizations.

6 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall
7 become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming
8 effective without the Mayor's signature.

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10 Form Approved:

11
12 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Cherry S. Pollock

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