

1 Introduced by Council member Pittman:

2
3 **ORDINANCE 2022-718**

4 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 745 (ADDRESSING
5 AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS) ORDINANCE CODE;
6 ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION AND
7 ASSOCIATED ROADWAY MARKERS FOR APOSTLE DR.
8 GENTLE L. GROOVER, SR.; ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY
9 STREET DESIGNATION ON ROWE AVENUE EXTENDNG FROM
10 LEM TURNER ROAD TO MONCRIEF ROAD IN COUNCIL
11 DISTRICT 8 FOR APOSTLE DR. GENTLE L. GROOVER,
12 SR.; PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO
13 HONORARY ROADWAY MARKERS TO BE LOCATED IN
14 APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS ON THE DESIGNATED ROAD IN
15 COUNCIL DISTRICT 8; WAIVER OF SECTION 745.105
16 (I) (2) WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE HONOREE BE
17 DECEASED FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS; WAIVER OF
18 SECTION 745.105 (I) (3) WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE
19 HONOREE LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY WITHIN FIVE MILES
20 OF THE STREET BEING DESIGNATED FOR AT LEAST 10
21 YEARS; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
22 DIVISION TO FORWARD THIS ORDINANCE TO THE
23 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, ADDRESSING
24 DIVISION FOR PROCESSING, IMPLEMENTATION AND
25 COORDINATION WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
26 TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES
27 AND ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

28
29 **WHEREAS**, Apostle Dr. Gentle L. Groover, Sr., is known for his
30 "gentle" spirit, and a gift for motivational speeches; and

31 **WHEREAS**, during the early 1950s, Apostle Groover served in the

1 United States Army until his honorable discharge; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in 1963, Apostle Groover moved to Jacksonville to start
3 a mission church, initially, on Cord Avenue; and

4 **WHEREAS**, over the years, and anticipating numerous building
5 locations for the church, Apostle Groover eventually settled at 1317
6 Rowe for the church location; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Greater Refuge Temple has been located at 1317 Rowe
8 Avenue for the past 24 years, and Apostle Groover has served as the
9 lead minister from the beginning; and

10 **WHEREAS**, through his motivation of others, Apostle Groover has
11 made a positive impact on the Jacksonville community; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 1981, Mr. Groover, along with his sister, Catharine
13 Hester McNair established the Bridge The Gap, Inc., to serve the
14 community with several notable programs such as: the Annual Law
15 Enforcement and Fire/Rescue Thanksgiving Day, the Annual Gift Giving
16 Day, the Annual Walk for Wellness, The Youth Program, and the Adopt-
17 a-Grandparent Program which was established in 1983 to provide support
18 and companionship to Jacksonville senior citizens; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Bridge the Gap, Inc., is still in existence today
20 operating a successful community program by partnership with UF
21 Health, Florida Blue, First Coast Black Nurses Association, City of
22 Jacksonville Parks and Recreation, Winn Dixie, Jacksonville Housing
23 Authority, and Feeding Northeast Florida among others; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Groover became a Bishop in 1983, and was
25 appointed to serve over 1,200 church organizations nationwide and in
26 22 countries including Mexico, Canada, Haiti, England, and the
27 Philippines; and

28 **WHEREAS**, in 1984, Bishop Groover, was elected as an Apostle
29 which is a part of the highest governing body of his church
30 organization, and 10 years later, in 1995, was elected as the
31 Presiding Prelate which bestowed leadership to him over hundreds of

1 churches; and

2 **WHEREAS**, during Groover's leadership, the church experienced a
3 significant increase in membership all due to his novel initiatives,
4 ideas, and programs for senior and youth members; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in June of 1988, former Governor Lawton Chiles, lauded
6 Pastor Groover at the dedication of the sanctuary of Greater Refuge
7 Temple on Rowe Avenue; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Pastor Groover also leads the ministry services at the
9 Lakeland Florida church location, and from 2015-2019, Lakeland Mayor
10 Bill Mutz acknowledged Pastor Groover for his diligent work and
11 philanthropy in the Lakeland community; and

12 **WHEREAS**, internationally, Apostle Groover has mentored, and
13 guided other church pastors by building new churches and schools in
14 Monrovia, Liberia, Ghana, West Africa, and Hyderabad, India; and

15 **WHEREAS**, stateside, Pastor Groover was instrumental in obtaining
16 and supplying much needed food during several hurricanes in South
17 Carolina and Louisiana; and

18 **WHEREAS**, on a local level, Pastor Groover has ministered
19 sorrowing families at numerous Jacksonville hospitals as well as
20 provided extended shelter to homeless individuals; and

21 **WHEREAS**, a man of humility and integrity, Apostle Dr. Groover
22 has dedicated almost 60 years in ministry, and lives to contribute
23 to others; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, St. Thomas College bestowed an Honorary Doctor
25 of Divinity to Mr. Groover; and

26 **WHEREAS**, also in 2018, Pastor Groover contributed, generously,
27 to fund the establishment of the Ribault High School Medical Clinic;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 745.105 (j)(10), Ordinance Code,
30 the Planning and Development Department mailed written notifications
31 on July 11, 2022, and on August 11, 2022, to affected property owners

1 requesting the affected property owners to indicate their written
2 consent or objection to the proposed honorary street designation. A
3 copy of the written notifications and a spreadsheet of 67 addresses
4 are attached as **Exhibits 1, 2 and 3**; and

5 **WHEREAS**, five (5) affected property owners indicated their
6 consent of the proposed honorary designation. Copies of the written
7 consents are attached as **Exhibit 4**; and

8 **WHEREAS**, four (4) affected property owners indicated their
9 objection to the proposed honorary designation. Copies of the written
10 objections are attached as **Exhibit 5**; and

11 **WHEREAS**, fifteen (15) of the notification letters were "Returned
12 to Sender," and "Unable to Forward." Copies of the envelopes are
13 attached as **Exhibit 6**; and

14 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 745.105 (j)(10), Ord. Code, the
15 remaining affected property owners are deemed to have consented to
16 the proposed honorary designations due to their non-response to the
17 written notifications; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the applicant remitted the required funds to satisfy
19 the cost for the honorary markers. A payment receipt is attached as
20 **Exhibit 7**. A completed application is also attached as **Exhibit 8**; and

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

22 **Section 1. Rowe Avenue to receive an honorary street**
23 **designation for Apostle Dr. Gentle L. Groover, Sr.** "Rowe Avenue"
24 extending from Lem Turner Road to Moncrief Road in Council District
25 8, is hereby designated as contemplated by Section 745.105, Ordinance
26 Code, for Apostle Dr. Gentle L. Groover, Sr. A map of the road
27 designation is attached hereto as **Exhibit 9**.

28 **Section 2. Honorary Roadside Markers for Apostle Dr. Gentle**
29 **L. Groover, Sr. to be installed.** Two honorary roadside markers, as
30 contemplated by Section 745.105, Ordinance Code, recognizing and
31 honoring Apostle Dr. Gentle L. Groover, Sr. shall be placed in

1 appropriate locations on Rowe Street.

2 **Section 3. Waiver of Section 745.105 (i)(2), Ordinance**
3 **Code.** Section 745.105(i)(2) which requires that the honoree be
4 deceased for at least five years is hereby waived to honor Apostle
5 Groover, now at the age of 90, for his contributions to the community.

6 **Section 4. Waiver of Section 745.105 (i)(3), Ordinance**
7 **Code.** Section 745.105(i)(3) which requires that the honoree live in
8 the community within five miles of the designated road for at least
9 10 years is hereby waived because Apostle Groover serves as the lead
10 pastor at Greater Refuge Temple Church which is located on the
11 designated road.

12 **Section 5. Directing Legislative Services Division to**
13 **forward a copy to the Planning and Development Department.** The Chief
14 of Legislative Services is requested to send a copy of this
15 legislation, once enacted, to the Planning and Development
16 Department, Addressing Unit, for processing, implementation, and
17 coordination with the Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering
18 Division and other affected agencies and organizations.

19 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall
20 become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming
21 effective without the Mayor's signature.

22 Form Approved:

23
24 /s/Cherry Shaw Pollock

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared by: Cherry S. Pollock

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