

Introduced by Council Member Pittman:

ORDINANCE 2025-258

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 745 (ADDRESSING AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS), *ORDINANCE CODE*; ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION AND ASSOCIATED ROADWAY MARKERS FOR RUEL SAM "ROCK" DAVIS; ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION ON 45TH STREET EXTENDING BETWEEN AVENUE B AND MONCRIEF ROAD IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 FOR RUEL SAM "ROCK" DAVIS; PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO HONORARY ROADWAY MARKERS TO BE LOCATED IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS ON THE DESIGNATED ROAD IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 10; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE, ONCE ENACTED, TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND ADDRESSING DIVISIONS, FOR PROCESSING, IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE APPLICANT AND OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis, a former National Football League player with the Pittsburgh Steelers, passed away on September 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, for fifteen years he played as the offensive guard for the Pittsburgh Steelers, earning four Super Bowl titles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis' passion for football developed while attending and playing on the football teams at James Weldon Johnson and Northwestern High Schools in Jacksonville; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis earned the "Rock" nickname from
2 his teammates due to the hard and forceful impact he would impose
3 upon his opponents during high school football games; and

4 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from Northwestern High School in 1962,
5 Mr. Davis attended Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1967, Mr. Davis earned a bachelor's degree in
7 physical education from Allen University and some 48 years later, he
8 played in the 2010 Hall of Fame at Allen University; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis played offensive guard for 13
10 seasons (1967-1979) with the Pittsburgh Steelers as an undrafted
11 player; and

12 **WHEREAS**, when the Steelers won four Super Bowl Championships,
13 Rock Davis served as the Team Captain for offensive guard teammates
14 shielding the quarterback, Terry Bradshaw; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis wore the number "57" on his football jersey
16 which he promoted as a Sales Manager for Heinz 57 during the off-
17 season; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis was actively involved in the Jacksonville
19 community, including annual attendances at the Bob Hayes Track
20 Invitational and visits with coaches and family over the years; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis received several notable
22 recognitions such as the Sam Davis Memorial Athletic Scholarship Fund
23 at Allen University, the Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Honor Class of
24 2022, connection to the Ritz Theater Museum and a memoir book; and

25 **WHEREAS**, during his long and remarkable career with the
26 Pittsburgh Steelers, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis participated in numerous
27 Steeler charity events and community initiatives; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Tonya R. Davis submitted an Application for Honorary
29 Street Name Designation and the required fee for the honorary marker.
30 A copy of the Application and the payment invoice is attached hereto
31 as **Exhibits 1** and **2**, respectively; and

1 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Subsection 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance Code*,
2 the Planning and Development Department mailed written notifications
3 on January 3, 2025 and on February 14, 2025, to 82 affected property
4 owners requesting their written consent or objection to the proposed
5 honorary street designation. A copy of the first and second written
6 notifications and a complete listing of the 82 total affected
7 addresses are attached hereto as **Exhibits 3, 4 and 5**, respectively;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, ten affected property owners indicated their consent
10 of the proposed honorary designation and copies of the written
11 consents are attached hereto as **Exhibit 6**; and

12 **WHEREAS**, six affected property owners objected to the proposed
13 honorary designation and copies of the written objections are attached
14 hereto as **Exhibit 7**; and

15 **WHEREAS**, one property owner returned a a blank Honorary Street
16 Designation Form so the Addressing Division sent another notice
17 regarding the blank form and the property owner did not respond;
18 Copies of the blank form and the additional notice letter are attached
19 hereto as **Exhibit 8**; and

20 **WHEREAS**, five mailings were "returned to sender" and copies of
21 the "returned to sender" forms are attached hereto as **Exhibit 9**; and

22 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Subsection 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance Code*,
23 the remaining 60 affected property owners are deemed to have consented
24 to the proposed honorary designations due to their non-response to
25 the written notifications; now therefore

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

27 **Section 1. 45th Street West Honorary Street Designation for**
28 **"Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis"**. 45th Street West extending from Avenue B to
29 Moncrief Road in Council District 10 is hereby designated as
30 contemplated by Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*, for "Ruel Sam 'Rock'
31 Davis". A map of the honorary street name designation is attached

hereto as **Exhibit 10.**

Section 2. Honorary Roadside Markers for "Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis" to be Installed. Two honorary roadside markers, as contemplated by Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*, recognizing "Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis" shall be placed in appropriate locations on 45th Street West.

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

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Cherry S. Pollock

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared by: Cherry S. Pollock

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