

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



Brandon Russell
Research Assistant
(904) 255-5137
BRussell@coj.net

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2026-540

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member M. Carlucci

Date of Introduction: June 23, 2026

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R, TEU

Date of Analysis: June 24, 2026

Type of Action: Establish an honorary street designation; provide for the installation of roadway markers; rename a portion of roadway; *Ordinance Code* waiver; direct Legislative Services Division to forward a copy of the ordinance

Bill Summary: This ordinance establishes an honorary street designation for Dr. Devegowda Gopal on Kingsbury Street in Council District 9. It will also provide for the installation of two honorary roadway markers on Kingsbury Street and rename a portion of Kingsbury Street between Fountain Road and Ellis Road South to Gopal Way, pursuant to Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*. The ordinance waives the requirements of Subsection 745.105(H), *Ordinance Code*, that all street name changes be for the entire length of the street and not for a short segment of the street. The ordinance also directs the Legislative Services Division to forward a copy of the ordinance, once enacted, to the Public Works Department, Development Services Division, Addressing Unit for processing, implementation, and coordination with the Traffic Engineering Division, the applicant, 911 Emergency, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, the US Postal Service, and other affected agencies and organizations.

Background Information: Dr. Devegowda Gopal was born in 1939 in Bangalore, India, and passed away on July 9, 2017. He opened the Gopal Animal Hospital in Jacksonville in 1980 and dedicated his veterinary practice to caring for and treating cows, horses, and family pets. In 2013, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association bestowed the Gold Star Award for Outstanding Contributions on Dr. Gopal at the age of 73, and he was involved in the opening of the Hindu temple in Mandarin.

On March 18, 2026, Council Member Matt Carlucci held a noticed meeting with Council Member Tyrona Clark-Murray to discuss an honorary designation for Dr. Gopal on Kingsbury Street in Council District 9; Council Member Clark-Murray gave her support for the designation and placement of markers. The Public Works Department, Development Services Division, issued a staff recommendation to approve renaming a portion of Kingsbury Street to Gopal Way. On May 6, 2026, the 911 Emergency Addressing Advisory Committee considered the request during a public meeting and voted to accept the staff recommendation to rename the portion of Kingsbury Street. Additionally, the Planning and Development Department, Community Planning Division, Historic Preservation Section, issued a Memorandum recommending approval of the renaming, and the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission voted to accept the recommendation to rename at a public meeting on May 27, 2026.

Policy Impact Area: Street renaming, honorary road markers

Fiscal Impact: No cost to City.

Analyst: Russell