

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and co-sponsored by Council
2 Members Peluso and Pittman:
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5 **ORDINANCE 2023-861**

6 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 745 (ADDRESSING
7 AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS) *ORDINANCE CODE*;
8 TO RE-NAME A PORTION OF "CHURCH STREET WEST"
9 EXTENDING FROM JEFFERSON STREET NORTH TO A DEAD
10 END BEHIND LAVILLA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AS "RAY
11 CHARLES PLACE" IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 7;
12 RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RAY CHARLES;
13 WAIVER OF SECTION 745.105 (H), *ORDINANCE CODE*,
14 WHICH REQUIRES THAT ALL STREET NAME CHANGES BE
15 FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE STREET; WAIVER OF
16 SECTION 745.105 (I) (3), *ORDINANCE CODE*, WHICH
17 REQUIRES THAT A PERSON RESIDE IN THE COMMUNITY
18 WITHIN 5 MILES OF THE STREET NAME CHANGE FOR AT
19 LEAST 10 YEARS; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE
20 SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD THIS ORDINANCE TO
21 THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR
22 PROCESSING, IMPLEMENTATION, AND COORDINATION
23 WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TRAFFIC
24 ENGINEERING DIVISION, 911 EMERGENCY, FIRE AND
25 RESCUE DEPARTMENT, THE POST OFFICE AND OTHER
26 AFFECTED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING
27 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville City Council seeks to re-name a
30 portion of "Church Street West" to "Ray Charles Place" in honor of
31 the late musician, Ray Charles, who died in 2004; and

1 **WHEREAS**, according to his autobiography, "Brother Ray: Ray
2 Charles Own Story," well known musician, Ray Charles, lived in
3 Jacksonville, during his teenage years, in the 1940's near downtown
4 at 752 West Church Street with the Thompsons (Fred and Lena Mae); and

5 **WHEREAS**, Ray Charles' momentous connections to Jacksonville
6 involved Fred Thompson taking Ray to the musician's union where he
7 developed remarkable musical skills in lyrics and instruments
8 especially the piano; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Ray Charles performed for bands at the Ritz Theatre in
10 LaVilla establishing a solid reputation for his musical talents; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Ray Charles' countless musical contributions included
12 signature hits such as "Georgia on My Mind," "Hit the Road Jack" and
13 "I Can't Stop Loving You" and so many more; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Ray Charles received numerous awards, recognitions and
15 honors including several Grammy Awards, inductions into several music
16 halls of fame and his legacy continues to impact today's music genres;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, the street name change from a portion of "Church Street
19 West" to "Ray Charles Place" affects the address assignment of one
20 property owner; and

21 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 745.105 (j)(10), Ordinance Code,
22 the Planning and Development Department mailed written notifications
23 on September 17, 2023, and on October 17, 2023, to the affected
24 property owner requesting the affected property owner to indicate
25 their written consent or objection to the proposed honorary street
26 designation. A copy of the first and second written notifications are
27 attached as **Exhibit 1** and **Exhibit 2**; and

28 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 745.105 (j)(10), Ord. Code, the
29 affected property owner is deemed to have consented to the proposed
30 honorary designations due to their non-response to the written
31 notifications; and

1 **WHEREAS**, on September 6, 2023, the 911 Emergency Addressing
2 Advisory Committee reviewed the street name request and voted to
3 accept the Staff Recommendation to re-name a portion of "Church Street
4 West" to "Ray Charles Place". A copy of the minutes of the September
5 6, 2023, public meeting of the 911 Emergency Addressing Advisory
6 Committee is attached as **Exhibit 3**; and

7 **WHEREAS**, on September 27, 2023, the Jacksonville Historic
8 Preservation Commission ("JHPC") voted to adopt the Staff Report with
9 a recommendation for approval to re-name a portion of "Church Street
10 West" to "Ray Charles Place". A copy of the JHPC agenda, Staff Report
11 and the excerpt minutes of the September 27, 2023 public meeting of
12 the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission are attached hereto
13 as **Exhibit 4** and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Council finds it appropriate to change a portion
15 of "Church Street West" to "Ray Charles Place"; and

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

17 **Section 1. A portion of Church Street West re-named as "Ray**
18 **Charles Place."** A portion of Church Street West extending from
19 Jefferson Street North to the dead end at the Lavilla School is hereby
20 re-named as "Ray Charles Place" by which name such street and physical
21 location shall be hereafter known and designated. A copy of the map
22 of "Ray Charles Place" is attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**.

23 **Section 2. Waiver of Section 745.105 (h), Ord. Code.**
24 Section 745.105 (h), Ord. Code which requires that all street name
25 changes be for the entire length of the street is waived because the
26 proposed street name of "Ray Charles Place" is long overdue for the
27 honoree.

28 **Section 3. Waiver of Section 745.105 (i) (3), Ord. Code.**
29 Section 745.105 (i) (3), Ord. Code which requires the person have
30 resided in the community within five miles of the street name change
31 for a least 10 years is waived because the proposed street name of

1 "Ray Charles Place" is long overdue for the honoree.

2 **Section 4. Directing Legislative Services to forward a copy**
3 **to the Planning and Development Department.** The Chief of Legislative
4 Services is requested to send a copy of this legislation, once
5 enacted, to the Planning and Development Department, Addressing Unit,
6 for processing, implementation, and coordination with 911 Emergency,
7 Fire and Rescue Department, the Post Office, Public Works Department,
8 Traffic Engineering Division and other affected agencies and
9 organizations.

10 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become
11 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
12 without the Mayor's signature.

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14 Form Approved:

15
16 /s/Cherry Shaw Pollock

17 Office of General Counsel

18 Legislation Prepared By: Cherry S. Pollock