

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-550

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Gaffney, Jr.

Date of Introduction: July 23, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, TEU

Date of Analysis: July 25, 2024

Type of Action: Establishing an honorary street designation; providing for the installation of honorary roadway markers; directing the Legislative Services Division to forward this Ordinance to relevant parties for implementation

Bill Summary: This bill establishes an honorary street designation for V.C. Johnson Road, extending from Dunn Avenue to Angel Lake Drive, in Council District 8, recognizing Laudred Jerome Spates, a long-time Jacksonville Sheriff's Office police officer. It provides for the installation of two honorary roadside markers, as contemplated by Section 745.105, Ordinance Code, and it directs the Legislative Services Division to send a copy of this legislation, once enacted, to the Planning and Development Department, Addressing Unit, for processing, implementation, and coordination with the Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division, the applicant, and all other affected agencies and organizations.

Background Information: Chief Laudred Jerome "L.J." Spates enlisted in the United States Air Force after graduating from Stanton High School in 1961 and proudly served in the Air Force during the height of the Vietnam War. After an honorable discharge in 1965, Chief Spates continued his military career with the Air National Guard and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, in 1980. Chief Spates served a successful 37 years with JSO, a tenure which included promotions to high-ranking positions including Chief of Community Affairs, Chief of Investigations, Chief of Detectives, Chief of Prisons, Director of Jails and Prisons, and Director of Homeland Security. Chief Spates was the first African American to be appointed Chief of Investigations for JSO. He was an active community member after his retirement, running for a City Council position, serving as president of the North Florida Chapter of the Sickel Cell Organization, and being on the Board of Directors for Shands Hospital and Jacksonville Federal Credit Union. Chief Spates passed away in 2013.

The Planning and Development Department mailed two separate written notifications to 90 affected property owners requesting their consent or objection to the proposed honorary street designation. 16 affected property owners indicated their consent, while 12 objected to the proposed designation. 2 property owners returned the form as blank, 3 mailings were returned to sender, and the remaining 57 affected property owners are deemed to have consented to the proposed honorary designations due to their non-response.

Policy Impact Area: Honorary street designation

Fiscal Impact: Minimal for signage

Analyst: Webb