

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Peluso, Pittman, Freeman, Amaro, Carlucci, Howland and  
3 Miller:

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6 **ORDINANCE 2023-861-E**

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

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville City Council seeks to re-name a  
31 portion of "Church Street West" to "Ray Charles Place" in honor of

1 the late musician, Ray Charles, who died in 2004; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance Code*,  
24 the Planning and Development Department mailed written notifications  
25 on September 13, 2023, and on October 17, 2023, to the affected  
26 property owner requesting the affected property owner to indicate  
27 their written consent or objection to the proposed honorary street  
28 designation. A copy of the first and second written notifications are  
29 attached as **Exhibit 1** and **Exhibit 2**; and

30 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance Code*,  
31 the affected property owner is deemed to have consented to the

1 proposed honorary designations due to their non-response to the  
2 written notifications; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on September 6, 2023, the 911 Emergency Addressing  
4 Advisory Committee reviewed the street name request and voted to  
5 accept the Staff Recommendation to re-name a portion of "Church Street  
6 West" to "Ray Charles Place". A copy of the minutes of the September  
7 6, 2023, public meeting of the 911 Emergency Addressing Advisory  
8 Committee is attached as **Exhibit 3**; and

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

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

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

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

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

30 **Section 3. Waiver of Section 745.105(i) (3), Ordinance Code.**  
31 Section 745.105(i) (3), *Ordinance Code*, which requires the person have

1 resided in the community within five miles of the street name change  
2 for at least 10 years is waived because the proposed street name of  
3 "Ray Charles Place" is long overdue for the honoree.

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

12 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become  
13 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
14 without the Mayor's signature.

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16 Form Approved:

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18           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

19 Office of General Counsel

20 Legislation Prepared By: Cherry S. Pollock

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