

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2026-540**

5 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 745 (ADDRESSING
6 AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS), *ORDINANCE CODE*;
7 ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION FOR
8 DR. DEVEGOWDA GOPAL ON KINGSBURY STREET IN
9 COUNCIL DISTRICT 9; PROVIDING FOR THE
10 INSTALLATION OF TWO HONORARY ROADWAY MARKERS ON
11 KINGSBURY STREET; RENAMING A PORTION OF THE
12 ROADWAY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED AS "KINGSBURY
13 STREET" BETWEEN FOUNTAIN ROAD AND ELLIS ROAD
14 SOUTH TO "GOPAL WAY" IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 9
15 PURSUANT TO SECTION 745.105 (PUBLIC STREET NAME
16 CHANGES), PART 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), CHAPTER
17 745 (ADDRESSING AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS),
18 *ORDINANCE CODE*; WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF
19 SUBSECTION 745.105(H) (PUBLIC STREET NAME
20 CHANGES), PART 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), CHAPTER
21 745 (ADDRESSING AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS),
22 *ORDINANCE CODE*, THAT ALL STREET NAME CHANGES BE
23 FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE STREET AND NOT FOR
24 A SHORT SEGMENT OF THE STREET; DIRECTING THE
25 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD A COPY
26 OF THIS ORDINANCE, ONCE ENACTED, TO THE PUBLIC
27 WORKS DEPARTMENT, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
28 DIVISION, ADDRESSING UNIT FOR PROCESSING,
29 IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE TRAFFIC
30 ENGINEERING DIVISION, THE APPLICANT, 911
31 EMERGENCY, THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE

1 DEPARTMENT, THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND OTHER
2 AFFECTED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING
3 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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5 **WHEREAS,** Dr. Devegowda Gopal, born in 1939 in Bangalore, India,
6 passed away on July 9, 2017; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Dr. Gopal opened the Gopal Animal Hospital in
8 Jacksonville in 1980 and during a span of 37 years, dedicated his
9 veterinary practice caring for and treating cows, horses and family
10 pets; and

11 **WHEREAS,** prior to becoming a successful veterinarian, Dr.
12 Gopal, as a young child, helped his father raise cattle in the rural
13 areas of Bangalore; and

14 **WHEREAS,** in 1967 Dr. Gopal was a promising soccer star for the
15 Bangalore Blues where he played with fierce confidence as a center-
16 forward and as the primary goal-getter; and

17 **WHEREAS,** he was the first in his family to attend college after
18 winning a scholarship to the University of Georgia where he also
19 played on the soccer team; and

20 **WHEREAS,** before settling in Jacksonville in the 1970s, Dr. Gopal
21 served as an instructor teaching veterinary medicine at the Tuskegee
22 Institute, worked in Iowa transferring cow embryos and also worked
23 at a dairy farm in Atlanta, Georgia; and

24 **WHEREAS,** as a beloved veterinarian in the local community, it
25 was not uncommon for Dr. Gopal and his devoted wife to make house
26 calls in the middle of the night; and

27 **WHEREAS,** in 2013 the Florida Veterinary Medical Association
28 bestowed the Gold Star Award for Outstanding Contributions to Dr.
29 Gopal at the age of 73; and

30 **WHEREAS,** Dr. Gopal and his family lived on the Westside of
31 Jacksonville for close to 40 years due to the close proximity to

1 ranches and dairies where his work with farm animals existed; and
2 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Gopal was not only a doctor to animals but he also
3 raised dairy cows on his 10 acre property and was known to commute
4 to work on his lawn mower because his veterinary office was so close
5 by on Normandy Boulevard; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2007 Dr. Gopal was proudly involved in the opening
7 of the Hindu temple in Mandarin which was a memorable occasion for
8 the Hindu community; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2026, Council Member Matt Carlucci held a
10 Noticed Meeting with Council Member Tyrone Clark-Murray to discuss
11 an honorary designation for Dr. Gopal on Kingsbury Street in Council
12 District 9; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Council Member Clark-Murray gave her support for
14 markers to be placed honoring Dr. Gopal and a copy of the minutes of
15 the March 18, 2026, Noticed Meeting is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**
16 and incorporated herein by this reference;

17 **WHEREFORE**, in conjunction with the honorary road markers on
18 Kingsbury Street, the City Council also desires to honor Dr. Gopal
19 by renaming a portion of Kingsbury Street to "Gopal Way"; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in keeping with this request, the Public Works
21 Department, Development Services Division, issued a staff
22 recommendation to approve the renaming of a portion of Kingsbury
23 Street to "Gopal Way" and a copy of the said recommendation is
24 attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and incorporated hereby by this
25 reference; and

26 **WHEREAS**, on May 6, 2026, the 911 Emergency Addressing Advisory
27 Committee considered the request during a public meeting and voted
28 to accept the staff recommendation to rename a portion of Kingsbury
29 Street to "Gopal Way" and a copy of the Summary of Meeting Minutes
30 of said meeting is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3** and incorporated
31 herein by this reference; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in addition, the Planning and Development Department,
2 Community Planning Division, Historic Preservation Section, issued a
3 Memorandum with a recommendation to approve the renaming a portion
4 of Kingsbury Street to "Gopal Way" and a copy of said Memorandum is
5 attached hereto as **Exhibit 4** and incorporated herein by this
6 reference; and

7 **WHEREAS**, on May 27, 2026, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation
8 Commission held a public meeting where it considered this matter and
9 voted to accept the recommendation to rename a portion of Kingsbury
10 Street to "Gopal Way" and a copy of the relevant excerpt of the
11 transcript has been placed **On File** with the Legislative Services
12 Division; and

13 **WHEREAS**, upon this legislation becoming effective, the City will
14 install a new street sign at the affected roadway segment to reflect
15 "Gopal Way" as the designated street name; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1. Kingsbury Street Honorary Street Designation for**
18 **"Dr. Devegowda Gopal"**. Kingsbury Street extending from Fountain Road
19 to Ellis Road South in Council District 9 is hereby designated for
20 "Dr. Devegowda Gopal" in accordance with Section 745.105, *Ordinance*
21 *Code*. A map of the honorary street name designation is attached hereto
22 as **Exhibit 5** and incorporated herein by this reference.

23 **Section 2. Providing for Installation of Honorary Roadside**
24 **Markers for Dr. Devegowda Gopal**. Two honorary roadside markers
25 recognizing Dr. Devegowda Gopal shall be placed in appropriate
26 locations on Kingsbury Street as contemplated by Section 745.105,
27 *Ordinance Code*.

28 **Section 3. Renaming a Portion of Kingbury Street as "Gopal**
29 **Way"**. The portion of Kingsbury Street extending between Fountain
30 Road and Ellis Road South is hereby renamed "Gopal Way" by which name
31 such street and physical location shall be hereafter known and

1 designated. A copy of the map of Gopal Way is attached hereto as
2 **Exhibit 5** and incorporated herein by this reference.

3 **Section 4. Waiving the Requirements of Subsection**
4 **745.105(h), Ordinance Code.** Subsection 745.105(h) (Public street name
5 changes), Part 1 (General Provisions), Chapter 745 (Addressing and
6 Street Naming Regulations), *Ordinance Code*, which requires that all
7 street name changes be for the entire length of the street and not
8 for a short segment of the street is hereby waived as this renaming
9 will affect only a portion of Kingsbury Street. This waiver is
10 justified as recognition for the honoree is long overdue, the
11 designated portion of the road is the last block of Kingsbury Street
12 and there are no affected owners on the small portion of Kingsbury
13 Street that is not subject to this renaming.

14 **Section 5. Direction to the Legislative Services Division.**
15 The Legislative Services Division is hereby directed to send a copy
16 of this Ordinance, once enacted, to the Public Works Department,
17 Development Services Division, Addressing Unit, for processing,
18 implementation, and coordination with the Traffic Engineering
19 Division, the Applicant, 911 Emergency, the Jacksonville Fire and
20 Rescue Department, the U.S. Postal Service, and other affected
21 agencies and organizations.

22 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall
23 become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming
24 effective without the Mayor's signature.

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26 Form Approved:

27
28 /s/ Cherry S. Pollock

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Cherry S. Pollock

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