

Introduced by Council Member Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Clark-Murray, Boylan, Amaro and Johnson and amended by the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety Committee:

ORDINANCE 2025-258-E

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CHAPTER 745 (ADDRESSING AND STREET NAMING REGULATIONS), *ORDINANCE CODE*; ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION AND ASSOCIATED ROADWAY MARKERS FOR RUEL SAM "ROCK" DAVIS; ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION ON 45TH STREET EXTENDING BETWEEN AVENUE B AND MONCRIEF ROAD IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 FOR RUEL SAM "ROCK" DAVIS; PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO HONORARY ROADWAY MARKERS TO BE LOCATED IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS ON THE DESIGNATED ROAD IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 10; DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION TO FORWARD A COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE, ONCE ENACTED, TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND ADDRESSING DIVISIONS, FOR PROCESSING, IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE APPLICANT AND OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis, a former National Football League player with the Pittsburgh Steelers, passed away on September 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, for fifteen years he played as the offensive guard for the Pittsburgh Steelers, earning four Super Bowl titles; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis' passion for football developed while
2 attending and playing on the football teams at James Weldon Johnson
3 and Northwestern High Schools in Jacksonville; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis earned the "Rock" nickname from
5 his teammates due to the hard and forceful impact he would impose
6 upon his opponents during high school football games; and

7 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from Northwestern High School in
8 1962, Mr. Davis attended Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1967, Mr. Davis earned a bachelor's degree in
11 physical education from Allen University and some 48 years later, he
12 played in the 2010 Hall of Fame at Allen University; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis played offensive guard for 13
14 seasons (1967-1979) with the Pittsburgh Steelers as an undrafted
15 player; and

16 **WHEREAS**, when the Steelers won four Super Bowl Championships,
17 Rock Davis served as the Team Captain for offensive guard teammates
18 shielding the quarterback, Terry Bradshaw; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis wore the number "57" on his football jersey
20 which he promoted as a Sales Manager for Heinz 57 during the
21 off-season; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Davis was actively involved in the Jacksonville
23 community, including annual attendances at the Bob Hayes Track
24 Invitational and visits with coaches and family over the years; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis received several notable
26 recognitions such as the Sam Davis Memorial Athletic Scholarship Fund
27 at Allen University, the Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Honor Class of
28 2022, connection to the Ritz Theater Museum and a memoir book; and

29 **WHEREAS**, during his long and remarkable career with the
30 Pittsburgh Steelers, Ruel Sam "Rock" Davis participated in numerous
31 Steeler charity events and community initiatives; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Tonya R. Davis submitted an Application for Honorary
2 Street Name Designation and the required fee for the honorary marker.
3 A copy of the Application and the payment invoice is attached hereto
4 as **Exhibits 1** and **2**, respectively; and

5 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Subsection 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance*
6 *Code*, the Planning and Development Department mailed written
7 notifications on January 3, 2025 and on February 14, 2025, to 81
8 affected property owners requesting their written consent or
9 objection to the proposed honorary street designation. A copy of the
10 first and second written notifications and a complete listing of the
11 81 total affected addresses are attached hereto as **Exhibits 3, 4** and
12 **Revised Exhibit 5**, labeled as "Revised Exhibit 5, Rev Property List,
13 May 5, 2025 - NCSPHS", respectively; and

14 **WHEREAS**, ten affected property owners indicated their consent
15 of the proposed honorary designation and copies of the written
16 consents are attached hereto as **Exhibit 6**; and

17 **WHEREAS**, six affected property owners objected to the proposed
18 honorary designation and copies of the written objections are attached
19 hereto as **Exhibit 7**; and

20 **WHEREAS**, one property owner returned a blank Honorary Street
21 Designation Form so the Addressing Division sent another notice
22 regarding the blank form and the property owner did not respond;
23 Copies of the blank form and the additional notice letter are attached
24 hereto as **Exhibit 8**; and

25 **WHEREAS**, five mailings were "returned to sender" and copies of
26 the "returned to sender" forms are attached hereto as **Exhibit 9**; and

27 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Subsection 745.105(j)(10), *Ordinance*
28 *Code*, the remaining 59 affected property owners are deemed to have
29 consented to the proposed honorary designations due to their non-
30 response to the written notifications; now therefore

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

Section 1. 45th Street West Honorary Street Designation for "Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis". 45th Street West extending from Avenue B to Moncrief Road in Council District 10 is hereby designated as contemplated by Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*, for "Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis". A map of the honorary street name designation is attached hereto as **Exhibit 10**.

Section 2. Honorary Roadside Markers for "Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis" to be Installed. Two honorary roadside markers, as contemplated by Section 745.105, *Ordinance Code*, recognizing "Ruel Sam 'Rock' Davis" shall be placed in appropriate locations on 45th Street West.

Section 3. Directive to Legislative Services Division. The Legislative Services Division is hereby directed to send a copy of this Ordinance, once enacted, to the Public Works Department, Addressing Unit, for processing, implementation, and coordination with the Traffic Engineering Division, the Applicant and other affected agencies and organizations.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Cherry S. Pollock

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