

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS

AWB

An Ordinance No. _____

- 2021

DECLARING that Forest Avenue between Harvey Avenue and Washington Avenue in the Avondale neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Reverend Rousseau A. O’Neal II Way” in honor of Reverend Rousseau A. O’Neal II and in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati through ministry and public service.

WHEREAS, Reverend Rousseau A. O’Neal II was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on February 13, 1954 to the late Deacon Rousseau O’Neal I and the late Eleanor Vaughn O’Neal; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II was raised in the Evanston and Bond Hill neighborhoods and was involved in the church at a young age, serving as the President of the Youth Choir and later as the Superintendent of Sunday School at Rockdale Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II graduated from Woodward High School in 1972 where he exemplified leadership, serving in student leadership and receiving the honor of Citizen of the Year (1971-1972); and

WHEREAS, after high school, Rev. O’Neal II attended Bowling Green State University where he co-founded the organization Students Concerned for City Government; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Bowling Green in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Rev. O’Neal II became one of the first African American Operation Managers at Roadway Express; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II became a minister in 1983 and in 1989 was ordained under the leadership of Pastor Stanford Vinson of the Rockdale Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II used his platform to empower multiple demographics, serving as a leader of the Boy Scouts of America, preaching in nursing homes, and launching a prison ministry; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II was a Council Member of the City of Forest Park from 1993 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II became the Pastor of Rockdale Baptist Church in 1998 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O’Neal II was passionate about solving the critical issues that persist in society, serving as President of the Faith Community Alliance (1999-2014), working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to advocate for the hiring

of women and minorities for Riverfront Stadium construction, collaborating with the Community Action Agency, and serving as an Advisor for the Justice for Janitors campaign; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O'Neal II received numerous awards for his service including being honored as one of the Cincinnati's Enquirer "100 Most Influential African Americans in Tri-State Area"; and

WHEREAS, Rev. O'Neal II was a devoted City servant, and he was devoted to his family, as a husband to Lady Emerita Monica O'Neal for over 40 years, as a father to five children, and as a grandfather to 16 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Rousseau O'Neal II passed away on Monday, October 9, 2017, and his legacy, contributions, and dedication to the City of Cincinnati and its citizens will long be remembered; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Forest Avenue between Harvey Avenue and Washington Avenue in the Avondale neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of "Reverend Rousseau A. O'Neal II Way" in honor of Reverend Rousseau A. O'Neal II and in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the City of Cincinnati through ministry and public service.

Section 2. That the appropriate City officials are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper to implement the provisions of Section 1 herein, including the generation and installation of appropriate secondary street signage, which shall designate Forest Avenue between Harvey Avenue and Washington Avenue as "Reverend Rousseau A. O'Neal II Way" in accordance with the Department of Transportation and Engineering's procedures relating to street designation and related signage.

Section 3. That a copy of this ordinance be sent to the family of Reverend Rousseau O'Neal II via the office of Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to allow the Department of Transportation and Engineering to move forward

with the administrative requirements related to the honorary naming of streets to provide for the ceremony and dedication of the honorary street name at the earliest possible time.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk