

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2022-073

Approving the Honorary Naming of the intersection of Adams Grove Road and Colonial Drive "Willie A. Tompkins, Sr. Drive"

WHEREAS, Willie A. Tompkins, Sr., affectionately known as "Suga Babe", was born June 10, 1954 in McCormick, South Carolina. At a young age, his mother impressed upon him the value of hard work and striving for excellence. His earliest recollections were his days working in the cotton fields and peach orchards around McCormick. Mr. Tompkins fondly reflected upon this experience as the catalyst that laid the foundation for his work ethic; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nine, Mr. Tompkins began spending time at the local funeral home. He was naturally curious and snuck into the embalming room one day to see what the embalmer had done. The experience changed his life and thereafter he would go by the funeral home daily. Eventually, the owner of the funeral home gave him his first job in the funeral industry, washing cars; and,

WHEREAS, after graduating from McCormick High School, Mr. Tompkins enrolled in embalming school in Louisville Kentucky. After graduation, he moved to Columbia and enrolled at Benedict College. During this time, he became employed at Leevy's Funeral Home, where he worked for ten years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tompkins aspired to advance in the funeral home industry, he accepted a management position at a funeral home owned by Robert Bostick and a consortium of partners. Mr. Tompkins eventually became a partner. During this time, he created a business plan and conducted a feasibility study of the Columbia funeral market to pursue funding for this new endeavor. In 1988, Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home opened its doors for business; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tompkins was able to use his success to invest in a number of business ventures. His achievements include opening another funeral home in Sumter, South Carolina, creating the expansive Serenity Memorial Gardens Cemetery in North Carolina and launching W.A.T. Properties of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his business success, Mr. Tompkins was well known for his philanthropy and generosity. He helped those in need by providing financial assistance to students who could not afford tuition, provided meals to the homeless, assisted struggling families with utility expenses and provided jobs for those in need; NOW THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED this 6th day of September, 2022, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of the intersection of Adams Grove Road and Colonial Drive "Willie A. Tompkins, Sr. Drive." The design and color of the honorary signs shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works.

Requested by:

Councilman McDowell

Approved by:

Cheresa B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney

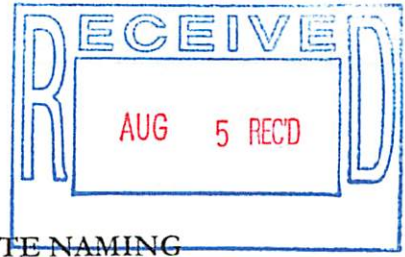
Introduced: 9/6/2022
Final Reading: 9/6/2022

[Signature]
Mayor

ATTEST:

Erika D. Hammond
City Clerk

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY AND SITE NAMING

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application
SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION
Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to ceremony.

Is the designation: ☒ Street Naming Topper
(sign will be posted above standard city street signs)
☐ Facility and site naming

Checklist: ☒ Application
☒ Council Member Sponsor
☒ Letter(s) of Support

Applicant Signature*

Kaycee Amyra Tompkins

Print Name

803-351-4883

Phone Number

kayceet123@gmail.com

E-mail Address

360 Fox Squirrel Circle, Columbia, SC 29209

Mailing Address

07/15/2022

Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- ☒ KAT Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters
- ☒ KAT Any changes to initial request must be made no more than 20 days prior to ceremony in writing
- ☒ KAT Signage wording and resolution will be finalized 15 days prior to ceremony
- ☒ KAT Applicant must provide letter(s) of support from neighborhood association, institution or business(s) impacted by the proposed honorary street, facility or site naming
-

APPLICATION



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY AND SITE NAMING

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

Willie A. Tompkins

2. Name of street, facility or site proposed for designation:

Please list the intersecting street and block number. No more than two signs are permitted per designation.

Adams Grove

Colonial Drive

Farrow Road

3. Attach sheet describing the significant contribution(s) this individual or organization has made in the community:

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony:

Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home; Saturday, September 17, 2022; 12-Noon

5. Council Member Sponsor:

Name: **Councilman Edward H. McDowell, Jr.**

FOR STAFF USE:

Council Member Sponsor: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Public Works: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Review Type: ☐ Staff ☐ Council _____ Council Date

8/1/2022

• • •

Kaycee A. Tompkins
360 Fox Squirrel Circle
Columbia, SC 29209
TompkinsKa2023@hammondschool.org

City of Columbia City Council
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Council Council Members

My name is Kaycee A. Tompkins. I am the daughter of the late Willie A. Tompkins, founder of Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home and WAT Properties. My dad passed September 17, 2021, just 5 days after my seventeenth birthday.

My dad was such a great person and I want to honor my his legacy in so many ways. He has helped so many people over the years. Once a person stepped into Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home they became a part of my dad's family. He was a man of service and definitely a man of honor. My dad has provided jobs for the citizens of Columbia and has always been a supporter of churches and other civic organizations. Although he was born and raised in McCormick, South Carolina, my dad was a proud resident of the great City of Columbia for more than 40 years.

One way I want to honor my dad's legacy is by having the street adjacent to the funeral home (Adams Grove Road) named in his honor. My hope is to be able to have an unveiling ceremony on Saturday, September 17, 2022, the one year anniversary of my dad's passing.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration. Should you need to reach me please feel free to email me or call me at 803-228-2896.

Sincerely I am,



Kaycee A. Tompkins
360 Fox Squirrel Circle
Columbia, SC 29209

Willie A. Tompkins, Sr. Biography

By Troy R. Washington

Willie A. Tompkins, Sr., affectionately known as 'Suga Babe', was born June 10, 1954 in McCormick, SC. He was the third son born to Marion and Mozzell Tompkins. At a young age his mother impressed upon him the value of hard work and striving for excellence. His earliest recollections were of his days working in the cotton fields and peach orchards around McCormick. Although picking cotton and peaches was a labor-intensive task, Mr. Tompkins fondly reflected upon this experience as the catalyst that laid the foundation for the work ethic he possessed. He was quoted as saying, "hard work instills an appreciation for gains those ill-gotten gains can never match."

At the age of nine when he not working in the peach orchards or cotton fields, he began to hang around the local funeral home. He admitted his natural inquisitiveness led him to sneak into the embalming room one day (when no one was watching) and roll back the sheets to see what the embalmer had done. This experience would forever change his life, in which in that moment he realized his "calling". For that point forward he would go by the funeral home daily and no matter how much the owner chased him away, he always returned. Eventually, his persistence paid off and the owner of the funeral home gave his first job in the funeral industry, washing cars.

After graduating from McCormick High School, he enrolled in embalming school in Louisville, Ky to pursue his dream. Upon graduating, he moved to Columbia, SC and an enrolled at Benedict College. It was during this time that he became employed at Leevy's Funeral Home, where he worked for ten years.

Aspiring for advancement, he left Leevy's and was subsequently approached by several local funeral homes wanting him to work for them. He accepted an offer to be the manager of a funeral home owned by Robert Bostick and a consortium of partners. When the business arrangement between Mr. Bostick and his partners dissolved, Mr. Bostick was so impressed with his abilities that he extended an invitation for Mr. Tompkins to be his partner. Mr. Tompkins accepted the offer and created a business plan, conducted a feasibility study of the Columbia funeral market, and pursued funding for the new endeavor. In the fall 1987, he presented his business plan and feasibility study to South Carolina National Bank. This presentation "wowed" the bank officials so much, that they gave Mr. Tompkins everything he needed to start his new endeavor. In 1988, Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home opened its doors for business.

Mr. Tompkins's hard work and vision quickly propelled Bostick-Tompkins from the "new kid on the block" to a major force in the Columbia metropolitan area. When asked what actions were the most critical to the business's success, Tompkins said, "I prayed every day and night. I was raised by a praying mother. I always put prayer ahead of everything, but I also believe in hard

work. I work long hours and made a commitment to treat everyone who walked through our doors like family.”

Mr. Tompkins used the success of Bostick-Tompkins to perfect his business acumen and begun to invest in a variety of other business ventures. His successes included opening another Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home in Sumter, SC, creating the expansive Serenity Memorial Gardens cemetery in North Columbia, and launching W.A.T. Properties of Columbia, a real-estate management and investment firm with numerous commercial and residential holdings across the Columbia area.

As much as Mr. Tompkins is remembered for his business success, he is just as well-known for his philanthropy and generosity. Over his life time, he faithfully provided financial assistance to students who could not afford to pay tuition, provided meals to the homeless, helped struggling families with utility expenses, and provided jobs for the disenfranchised.

Willie Tompkins will forever be remembered as not only a visionary and accomplished businessman, but also, as a philanthropist, father, brother, and friend.

DARRELL JACKSON
SENATOR, RICHLAND COUNTY
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 21



COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND INSURANCE
EDUCATION
ETHICS
FINANCE
INTERSTATE COOPERATION
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

SENATE ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
803-212-6048
FAX: 803-212-6299

August 1, 2022

City of Columbia City Council
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

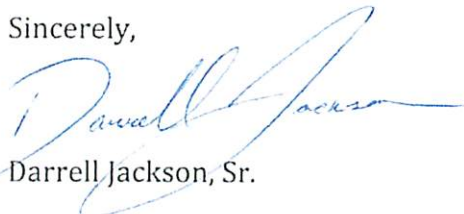
RE: Road Naming- The Late Willie A. Tompkins

Dear Council Members:

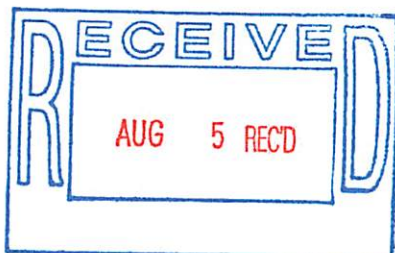
I am writing this letter in support of my constituent, Miss Kaycee Tompkins. Kaycee, is the daughter of the late Willie A. Tompkins who was the founder of Bostick- Tompkins Funeral Home and W.A.T. Properties. I was acquainted with Mr. Tompkins through his community involvement in Richland County. I have worked with him closely for many years. During that time, I admired and respected him for his outstanding service and dedication to the community. Although Mr. Tompkins has been widely recognized for his business success, he was well known for his philanthropic efforts. He believed in supporting charitable causes, different ministries, and those in need in the community.

I considered Mr. Tompkins to have been a dedicated community servant. I would respectfully like this letter to serve as support for his daughters request in having Adams Grove Road named in his honor. This street is adjacent to the funeral home and is a great way to honor his legacy and faithfulness to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darrell Jackson".

Darrell Jackson, Sr.



Larry A. Lucas Jr., ChFC®, CASL®, CLU®, AIC
State Farm Agent
2100 Gervais Street, Suite A
Columbia, SC 29204
Tel 803.799.1998
Fax 803.799.7046
Larry@LarryLucasAgency.com



To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of Columbia City Council

It is without hesitation that I respectfully request and support the family of Mr. Willie A. Tompkins in the matter of renaming Adams Grove Road in honor of Mr. Tompkins.

Mr. Tompkins and his family have supported and served this community for decades. The funeral home that stands as a legacy is a reminder of how this community service lives on.

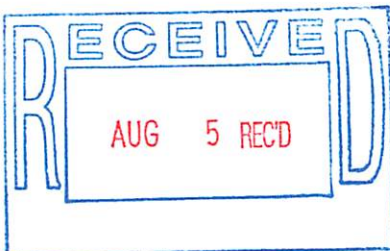
I hope that you will all consider this thoughtfully and approve the family's request.

I am available for questions, support, or testimony at your request.

My best as always, and respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Lucas", written over a horizontal line.

Larry Lucas, President/Agent
Larry Lucas Insurance Agency, Inc.



South Carolina General Assembly
123rd Session, 2019-2020

S. 495

STATUS INFORMATION

Senate Resolution

Sponsors: Senator Nicholson

Document Path: l:\council\bill\gt\5648cm19.docx

Introduced in the Senate on February 7, 2019

Adopted by the Senate on February 7, 2019

Summary: Willie A. Tompkins

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Action Description with journal page number</u>
2/7/2019	Senate	Introduced and adopted (<u>Senate Journal-page 6</u>)

View the latest [legislative information](#) at the website

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

2/7/2019

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A SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF
WILLIE A. TOMPKINS AND TO COMMEMORATE THE
CELEBRATION AT BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 17, 2019.

Whereas, on February 17, 2019, Bethany Missionary Baptist
Church in McCormick will hold a special day of celebration of the
life and work of Willie A. Tompkins; and

Whereas, Willie Tompkins' life can be summed up in three words:
charity, excellence, and faithfulness. His shining example proves
that with hard work and faith in the Lord, all things are possible;
and

Whereas, in 1988, Mr. Tompkins, with his partner, Robert Bostick,
opened Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home in Columbia. The
untimely death of Mr. Bostick in 1992 allowed Mr. Tompkins to
take sole ownership and further grow the business, as well as
invest in other ventures, including W.A.T. Properties and a new
funeral home in Sumter. Willie Tompkins' business vision has
supplied employment and needed community services for many;
and

Whereas, although Mr. Tompkins is widely recognized for his
success in business, he is just as well known for his philanthropic
efforts. He has always supported charitable causes and Christian
ministries and extended assistance to those in need; and

Whereas, grateful for his significant contributions to this great
State, the South Carolina Senate takes great pleasure in saluting
this outstanding son of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

1 Be it resolved by the Senate:
2
3 That the members of the South Carolina Senate of the State of
4 South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor the life and
5 work of Willie A. Tompkins and commemorate the celebration at
6 Bethany Missionary Baptist Church on February 17, 2019.
7
8 Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to
9 Willie A. Tompkins and Bethany Missionary Baptist Church.
10 ---XX---
11

A Reflection of His Life

WILLIE ARTHUR TOMPKINS, SR., affectionately known as 'Suga Babe', was born June 10, 1954, in McCormick, SC. He is the second son born to the late Marion and Mozell Tompkins. At a young age, his mother impressed upon him the value of hard work and striving for excellence. His earliest recollections are of his days working in the cotton fields and peach orchards around Johnson, SC. Although picking cotton and peaches was a labor-intensive task, Mr. Tompkins fondly reflects upon this experience as the catalyst that laid the foundation for the work ethic he possessed. He stated, *"hard work instills an appreciation for gains that ill-gotten gains can never match."*



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...
MARION AND MOZELL TOMPKINS

At the age of nine, he began to hang around the local funeral home. As a little boy, Willie often was teased for "dressing like a funeral director." He admitted that his natural curiosity led him to one day sneak into the embalming room at the funeral home, and when no one was looking, he rolled back the sheets over the bodies to see what the embalmer had done. This experience would forever change his life, the point he acknowledged his "calling." From then, he would go by the funeral home daily, and no matter how much the owner chased him away, he always returned. Eventually, his persistence paid off and the funeral home owner gave him his first job in the funeral industry, washing cars.

After graduating from McCormick High School, McCormick, SC, he pursued his dream of working in the funeral industry by enrolling in the prestigious Kentucky School of Embalming in Louisville,

Ky. Upon graduating in 1973, he moved to Columbia, SC, and enrolled at Benedict College. During this time, he became employed at Leevy's Funeral Home, where he worked for ten years. Aspiring for advancement, he left Leevy's and was subsequently approached by several local funeral homes wanting him to work for them. In 1988, Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home opened for business.

Mr. Tompkins's hard work and vision quickly propelled Bostick-Tompkins from the "new kid on the block" to a significant player in the Columbia funeral business. When asked what actions were the most critical to the business's success, Tompkins said, *"I prayed every day and night. I was raised by a praying mother. I always put prayer ahead of everything, but I also believe in hard work. I worked long hours and committed to treating everyone who walked through our doors like family."*

Mr. Tompkins used the knowledge and experience he acquired while making his funeral home a success to perfect his business acumen. One of his most successful business ventures is W.A.T. Properties of Columbia, which he founded in 2006.

Although Mr. Tompkins has been widely recognized for his business success, he was well known for his philanthropic efforts. He believed in supporting charitable causes, different ministries, and those in need in the community. Annually he was famous for his fruit baskets to seniors for Christmas and supporting organizations that uplift at-risk youth, Mr. Tompkins consistently extended his hand in helping others. *"I realize that there are so many people in need,"* he once stated, *"And God placed in my heart the desire to help as many people as I can."*

If Mr. Tompkins's life could be summed up in three words, they would be charity, excellence, and faithfulness. He was a shining example that all things are possible with hard work and faith in God. We praise God for the life and legacy of Willie Arthur Tompkins, Sr.

