

**RESOLUTION NO.: R-2023-020**

*Approving the Honorary Naming of 1600 Oak Street to 2300 Laurel Street "Vince Ford Way"*

WHEREAS, Vince "Butch" Ford was born in Columbia, South Carolina on March 18, 1958 and grew up on Read Street in the Allen Benedict Court community. He attended Richland County public schools and graduated from A.C. Flora High School in 1975; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford attended Benedict College where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology in 1979. He earned a Master of Science in Individual and Family Development from South Carolina State University in 1988; and,

WHEREAS, In 1997, South Carolina's largest health care system, Prisma Health (formerly known as Palmetto Health) invited Mr. Ford to establish and lead a new initiative to meet the unmet health needs of the community's uninsured and underserved populations. Mr. Ford engaged both the community and hospital leaders to establish the system's inaugural Office of Community Health Services with the goal of improving community health through preventive care, early intervention and educational services. For over twenty-five years, under Mr. Ford's guidance, the Office of Community Health offered award winning programs to thousands of people in the Midlands of South Carolina. In 2014, Palmetto Health was awarded the Foster G. McGaw Award by the American Hospital Association, which is the highest national award in community health; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation. He has coordinated and managed alcohol and drug abuse programs for the South Carolina Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. His drug and alcohol school intervention program received the Outstanding Student Assistance Program Award from the National Association of Student Assistance Programs and Professions; and,

WHEREAS, beginning in 1992, Mr. Ford served on the Richland School District One School Board holding a number of positions, including Board Chair. He was named Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District and All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association. His tenure ended in 2016, after twenty-four years of service. He has also served on the Benedict College Board of Trustees, the University of South Carolina African American Community Advisory Board, the Township Auditorium Board, the Federal Reserve Bank Advisory Council and the South Carolina Bank Advisory Board; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford is the recipient of numerous awards including the Council of Urban Education's Benjamin E. Mays Lifetime Achievement Award (2017), the March of Dimes' Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award, national recognition of significant contributions to improving the health of babies, South Carolina Vision Magazine's Top 25 Influencers, a statewide tribute to improving the quality of life in the community, Richland One's Hall of Fame and his addition to the Columbia Housing Authority's Wall of Fame; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of 1600 Oak Street to 2300 Laurel Street "Vince Ford Way". 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

[Signature]  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Quiana Hammond  
City Clerk

Introduced: 2/21/2023

Final Reading: 2/21/2023

---

## 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
- 

Eric Douglas DeVan  
Applicant Signature\*

eric@devanassociates.com  
E-mail Address

Eric Douglas DeVan  
Print Name

P.O. Box 212846 Columbia SC 29221  
Mailing Address

(803) 447-3492  
Phone Number

February 7, 2023  
Date

% 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- ☒ h Signage wording cannot exceed twenty-six characters
- ☒ h Any changes to initial request must be made no more than 20 days prior to ceremony in writing
- ☒ h Signage wording and resolution will be finalized 15 days prior to ceremony
- ☒ h 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:

Vince Ford

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.

Oak Street

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

4. Location, date and time of unveiling ceremony:

TBA

5. Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Ed McDowell

#### FOR STAFF USE:

Council Member Sponsor: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Public Works: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Review Type: ☐ Staff ☐ Council \_\_\_\_\_ Council Date



## PROFILE

"Three times all Read Street"

# VINCE FORD

## Community Contributions

- Richland County Public Schools, A.C. Flora High School graduate (1975)
- Benedict College -Bachelor of Science in Sociology (1979)
- South Carolina State -Master of Science in Individual and Family Development (1988)
- Establish the inaugural Office of Community Health Services (1979)
- National award-winning programs
- Twice recognized as a finalist Foster G. McGraw (2011, 2013)
- Awarded the Foster G. McGraw Award (2014)
- Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation
- Coordinated and managed alcohol/drug abuse programs for the SC Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Outstanding Student Assistance Program Award from the National Association of Student Assistance Programs and Professions.
- Richland School District One School
- Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association.
- After 24 years, his tenure ended in November 2016.
- Benedict College Board of Trustees,
- University of South Carolina African American Community Advisory Board
- The Township Auditorium Board
- The Federal Reserve Bank Advisory Council
- The South State Bank Advisory Board.
- Council of Urban Education's Benjamin E. Mays Lifetime Achievement Award (2017)
- March of Dimes' Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award
- South Carolina Vision Magazine's Top 25 Influencers
- Richland One's Hall of Fame
- Columbia Housing Authority's Wall of Fame
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated
- 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia
- National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Senior Vice President of Community Affairs for Prisma Health.



Of Greater Columbia, Inc.

*Real Men Giving Real Time®*

## HONARARY STREET TOPPER SUPPORT LETTER: VINCE FORD

Vince "Butch" was born in Columbia, South Carolina on March 18, 1958, and grew up on Read Street in the Allen Benedict Court community. Vince attended the Richland County Public Schools, graduating from A.C. Flora High School in 1975.

Vince attended Benedict College where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology (1979) and Master of Science in Individual and Family Development (1988) from South Carolina State University.

### OFFICERS:

**Keith C. Melvin**  
*President*

**Jamie L. Devine**  
*Vice President*

**Muhammad M. Salaam**  
*Secretary*

**Brian J. Gaines**  
*Treasurer*

**Daniel J. Johnson**  
*Financial Secretary*

**Dr. Craig Witherspoon**  
*Parliamentarian*

**Kris Jones**  
*Chaplain*

**Ivan Earl**  
*Historian*

In 1997, South Carolina's largest health system – Prisma Health (formerly Palmetto Health) – invited Vince to establish and lead a new, groundbreaking initiative intended to meet the unmet health needs of the community's uninsured and medically underserved populations. Starting from ground zero, Vince engaged hospital leaders and the community to establish the system's inaugural Office of Community Health Services with the goal of improving community health through preventive, early intervention, and educational services.

For 25 years under Vince's guidance, the Office of Community Health offered innovative, national award-winning programs that annually delivered low to no-cost cancer, dental, maternal-child health, teen health, and vision services to thousands of people in the Midlands of South Carolina. Palmetto Health was twice recognized as a finalist (2011, 2013) and finally awarded (2014) the Foster G. McGaw Award by the American Hospital Association – the highest national award for community health.

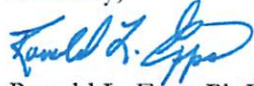
Vince served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation. He has also coordinated and managed alcohol and drug abuse programs for the SC Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. His drug and alcohol school intervention program received the Outstanding Student Assistance Program Award from the National Association of Student Assistance Programs and Professions.

Starting in 1992, he served on the Richland School District One School Board holding a variety of positions, including Board Chair. He was named Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District and All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association. After 24 years, his tenure ended in November 2016. Vince also served on the Benedict College Board of Trustees, the University of South Carolina African American Community Advisory Board, the Township Auditorium Board, the Federal Reserve Bank Advisory Council, and the South State Bank Advisory Board.

The awards that gave Vince the greatest pride were the Council of Urban Education's Benjamin E. Mays Lifetime Achievement Award (2017) for his longstanding commitment to the educational needs of urban school children as a school board member; the March of Dimes' Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award, a national recognition of significant contributions to improving the health of babies; South Carolina Vision Magazine's Top 25 Influencers, a statewide tribute to improving the quality of life in the community; Richland One's Hall of Fame, recognizing former Richland One students for major contributions to the school district, and his addition to The Columbia Housing Authority's Wall of Fame.

As if his time was not already shared with many, he was also a proud member and leader within the local chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, and the 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia. He was a lifetime member of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He was still serving as Senior Vice President of Community Affairs for Prisma Health.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Epps Ph.D.

Vince Ford Naming Committee





Omicron Phi Chapter  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated  
Established Nineteen Hundred Twenty-Six  
Post Office Box 4686, Columbia, SC 29240  
613 Wilmette Road, Columbia, SC 29203  
[www.columbiasomegas.org](http://www.columbiasomegas.org)

Good day,

Greeting from the brothers of Omicron Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity inc. and the friends of our dear departed Brother Henry Vincent Ford. The purpose of this correspondence is to endorse our beloved brothers name along with the 100 Black Men of Columbia to be etched on the maps of this great city as it was in the hearts of its citizens. Brother Ford was born in Columbia, South Carolina March 18, 1958 to the Late Essie Mae Ford and Ernest Bernard Ford Jr. His outgoing demeanor and heart of giving was forged by his parents and the extended family of the Read street and Allen Benedict Community. He was a graduate of A. C. Flora High School in 1975 and continued to seek higher education, first receiving his Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Benedict College followed by a Masters of Science in Individual and Family Development in 1988 From South Carolina State University.

Brother Ford was inducted into the Omega Psi Phi fraternity through the Omicron Phi chapter on April 28, 1985. He joined the ranks of men with similar goals of community upliftment and wholistic wellbeing of family, friends and humankind. Brother Ford matured through the ranks first as Keeper of Records and Seal to Vice Basileus then ultimately 22<sup>nd</sup> Basileus (President) of the chapter. He displayed natural leadership and a caring spirit that made all with good intentions gravitate to his endeavors knowing that they were always in the best interest of those in need. He served on the Mardi Gras committee and led the way in raising funding for scholarships. He was voted and received these honors by the brotherhood, Omega Man of the Year twice, and Citizen of the Year twice being the first to achieve such a feat in chapter history. Brother Ford reinforced the commitment of the fraternity to the NAACP. Insuring that the chapter was involved in every effort in the fight for equality and rights for those who were unable to defend themselves. Brother Ford embedded the mantra "I am my Brother's Keeper" in the chapter by assisting in career development of our undergraduate brothers at both Allen University and his alma mater Benedict College.

To list all of Brother Ford's accomplishments would take a lifetime. But to show you the footprint he made on his community, family and friends only takes a conversation. All who met Vincent Ford were impressed by his audacity to and tenacity to make this world better than he found it. I humbly submit these words on behalf of the Omicron Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity in hopes that the name Henry Vincent Ford be listed forever in the annuals of Columbia, South Carolina.

God Speed

Doyle Covert, Basileus  
Omicron Phi Chapter #538  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated

*Executive Committee Members*

Doyle Covert – Basileus  
Al Georges – Vice Basileus / Stacey Gadson - Keeper of Records and Seal  
Isaiah Thomas - Asst. Keeper of Records and Seal / Sterling Jenkins – Keeper of Finance  
Leo Johnson – Asst. Keeper of Finance / Kevin Crawford II – Reporter / Derek Suber – Asst. Reporter  
Shawn Capers – Keeper of Peace / Milton Kimpson Jr. – Counselor  
Edjuardo Barbee – Chaplain / Shannon Legree – Immediate Past Basileus





# BENEDICT COLLEGE

1600 Harden Street  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29204

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr.  
Councilman  
Richland County District II  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Councilman McDowell:

On behalf of the Trustees, staff, faculty, students and alumni of Benedict College, I wish to express my full support of the effort to affix the late Henry Vincent Ford's name to what is currently "Oak Street" in Columbia, SC. As you know, Oak Street runs through the center of Benedict College's main campus, thus it is a the most meaningful place to memorialize his legacy.

Mr. Ford was a 1979 graduate of Benedict; a former member of the Benedict College Board of Trustees; a member of the Benedict College National Alumni Association; member of the Columbia Benedict Alumni Club II; and benefactor to the Vince and Patricia Ford Endowed Scholarship Fund at Benedict College. In short, Mr. Ford was among our most distinguished alumni. His commitment to the College, our community and the Richland District 1 School Board deserves our recognition.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, affixing Mr. Ford's name to this campus thruway ensures that generations of Benedict College students will be aware of, and familiar with, the legacy of Henry Vincent Ford. In many respects, he epitomized what we want our students to aspire to - an accomplished man, of the highest integrity, with a heart for service to his community. Accordingly, I would recommend the naming without hesitation or reservation.

Sincerely,

Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.  
President and CEO

(803) 705-4681 Business  
(803) 705-6937 Fax

Equal Opportunity in Education and Employment  
Without Regards to Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Religion or Disability



**Feb. 6, 2023**

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for honoring Vince Ford by dedicating a street in his name.

Vince worked for Prisma Health for 25 years, implementing programs and developing partnerships to improve access to medical and social health services for historically underserved people and communities. He took this passion for promoting equity beyond health care through engagement on numerous community boards, committees and task forces, including serving on the Richland One school board for more than 24 years.

During my three and a half years as CEO of Prisma Health, Vince was a godsend as I worked to familiarize myself with the people, communities and institutions in the Midlands. He was invaluable in helping me navigate issues involving diverse groups of civic, governmental, faith-based and business constituents. Vince knew everyone, and everyone knew Vince.

More importantly, everyone respected Vince, because it was crystal clear that his goal was to build up our community by making sure everyone had equal access to high-quality health care and a good education. Vince pursued his goal with vigor, a big happy voice and an even bigger smile.

Vince dedicated his life and career to promoting community health equity, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark O'Halla".

Mark O'Halla  
President and CEO  
Prisma Health

Prisma Health  
300 East McBee Avenue,  
Suite 500  
Greenville, SC 29601  
P. 864-797-7800

[PrismaHealth.org](https://www.prismahealth.org)