

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2018-009

Approving the Honorary naming of the 1000 block of Blossom Street between Assembly Street and Huger Street "Ward One Way"

WHEREAS, Ward One, located along the Congaree River and bounded by Pickens Street, Heyward Street and Gervais Street emerged as a bustling neighborhood in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; and,

WHEREAS, Hattie J. Forrest was hailed as one of the largest property holders at the time of her death in 1909. She and her family had joined with their neighbors who were comprised of migrants from the rural countryside, struggling workers and enterprising black professionals to develop their own culture and build institutions such as Union Baptist Church, Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, Jones Memorial A.M.E. Church, the Church of God, Saxon Elementary and Booker T. Washington High School; and,

WHEREAS, resident Agnes Harris Perez remembered the community as a loving, caring area where everyone looked out for one another and that though they were poor they were humble, privileged, proud and proper people who never lost sight of the importance of self-respect, generosity, education and faith in God; and,

WHEREAS, homes, businesses, churches, a sandlot baseball field and backyards where children played were relocated and the casualties of progress, urban renewal, and expansion for what has become an expansion of the University of South Carolina campus, the Carolina Coliseum, Colonial Life Arena, Strom Thurmond Wellness Center, condominium complexes and other modern buildings; and,

WHEREAS, although the landscape has changed the memories of the former Ward One residents remain alive, and they are determined to preserve and document the community's history by holding annual reunions, archiving photographs, newspaper clippings, documenting former residents' interviews and partnering with Columbia SC 63 and Historic Columbia to create a permanent exhibit in the restored Palmetto Compress Building; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 20th day of February, 2018, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of the 1000 block of Blossom Street between Assembly Street and Huger Street "Ward One Way". The design and color of the honorary toppers shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin and  
Councilmember Devine

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Introduced: 2/20/2018  
Final Reading: 2/20/2018

ORIGINAL  
STAMPED IN RED