

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2021-117

*Approving the Honorary Naming of the Intersection of
Oak Street and Gervais Street "Simon P. Bouie Square"*

WHEREAS, Simon P. Bouie is a native of Columbia, South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bouie is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and Allen University, receiving his graduate education from Atlanta University School of Social Work and the Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and having previously served as chaplain at Crafts Farrow State Hospital and as the First African- American chaplain at the Warwick School for Boys in Warwick, New York, and having served as the fifty-first pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, retiring as pastor of the historic Zion A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, in March 1960, Mr. Bouie and a close friend were arrested and charged with trespassing as they attempted to desegregate a lunch counter at Eckerd's Drugstore in downtown Columbia, ultimately obtaining exoneration when the United States Supreme Court ruled in their favor in the landmark decision entitled *Bouie v. Columbia*; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bouie has been recognized with many outstanding awards, including the New York State Most Distinguished Award, the Long Island Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Award, the African Methodist Episcopal Church Distinguished Award and the New York Annual Conference Outstanding Award; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bouie is an activist and public servant deeply involved in the work of the community he serves, including his membership in the NAACP, One Hundred Black Men, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, PUSH and the YMCA; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 19th day of October, 2021, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia hereby approve the honorary naming of the intersection of Oak Street and Gervais Street "Simon P. Bouie Square." The design and color of the honorary signs shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin _____




Mayor

Approved by:



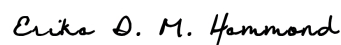
City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 10/19/2021
Final Reading: 10/19/2021

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

Steve Benji
Applicant Signature*

Stephen.Benjamin@Columbiasc.gov
E-mail Address

Stephen K. Benjamin
Print Name

1737 Main St. Columbia, SC 29201
Mailing Address

803-545-3075
Phone Number

10/05/2021
Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

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



HONORARY STREET/FACILITY AND SITE NAMING

1. Name of individual or organization to be honored:

Simon P. Bowie

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.

1100 Oak Street

2300 Gervais Street

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:

TBD

5. Council Member Sponsor:

Name: Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

FOR STAFF USE:

Council Member Sponsor: Approved Rejected

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Review Type: Staff Council _____ Council Date

Belton, Chanique J

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Simon P. Bouie Square, the corner of Gervais and Oak--let's move on this as soon as possible

From: Wilson, Teresa B <Teresa.Wilson@columbiasc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Belton, Chanique J <Chanique.Belton@columbiasc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Simon P. Bouie Square, the corner of Gervais and Oak--let's move on this as soon as possible

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Donaldson, Bobby <DONALDBJ@mailbox.sc.edu>
Date: Wed, Oct 13, 2021 at 11:26 PM
Subject: Simon P. Bouie Square, the corner of Gervais and Oak--let's move on this as soon as possible
To: Benjamin, Stephen K (Steve) <Stephen.Benjamin@columbiasc.gov>, Steve Benjamin <stephenkbenjamin@gmail.com>
CC: Sam Johnson <samuelpatrickjohnson@gmail.com>

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Simon P. Bouie is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and Allen University. He received his graduate education from Atlanta University School of Social Work and the Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Previously, he served as a chaplain at Crafts Farrow State Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina and as the first African American chaplain at the Warwick School for Boys in Warwick, New York.

Dr. Bouie served as pastor in South Carolina, New York and Philadelphia, where he was the fifty-first pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. He retired as pastor of the historic Zion A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In March 1960, Reverend Bouie and his close friend Talmadge Neal were arrested and charged with trespassing as they attempted to desegregate a lunch counter at Eckerd's Drugstore in downtown Columbia. Ultimately, the two students were vindicated when

the United States Supreme Court ruled in their favor in June 1964 in a landmark decision entitled *Bouie v. Columbia*.

Throughout Reverend Bouie's career, he has been recognized with many outstanding awards, including the New York State Most Distinguished Award, the Long Island Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Award, the African Methodist Episcopal Church Distinguished Award and the New York Annual Conference Outstanding Award.

As an activist and public servant, Reverend Bouie is deeply involved in the work of the community he serves. His memberships include the NAACP, One Hundred Black Men, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, PUSH, and the YMCA.

He was married to the late Mrs. Willie Omia Jamison Bouie, a native of Sharon, South Carolina and a graduate of Claflin College. They have two sons, Harold and Eric, and three grandchildren, Yu, Shasha and Harold, Jr.



Center for Civil Rights History and Research
Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library

October 15, 2021

The Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mayor Benjamin and Members of the Columbia City Council:

As the director of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at the University of South Carolina and as one of the founding members of the Columbia SC 63: Our Story Matters Initiative, I am very pleased to submit a letter supporting the honorary renaming of the southeast corner of Gervais and Oak streets as the "Rev. Simon P. Bouie Square." From the inception of the Civil Rights Center and the Columbia SC 63 project, Rev. Bouie has been an energetic and invaluable contributor. Below you will find his professional credentials, his notable honors, and a summary of his vital role in combatting discrimination and injustice in our nation.

Born in Columbia, South Carolina in October 1939, Dr. Simon P. Bouie is a proud graduate of Waverly Elementary School, Booker T. Washington High School, and Allen University. He received his graduate education from Atlanta University School of Social Work and the Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Previously, he served as a chaplain at Crafts Farrow State Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina and as the first African American chaplain at the Warwick School for Boys in Warwick, New York.

Dr. Bouie served as a pastor in South Carolina, New York and Philadelphia, where he was the fifty-first pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. He retired as pastor of the historic Zion A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In March 1960, Reverend Bouie and his close friend Talmadge Neal were arrested and charged with trespassing as they attempted to desegregate a lunch counter at the Eckerd's Drugstore in downtown Columbia. Ultimately, the two students were vindicated when the United States Supreme Court ruled in their favor in June 1964 in a landmark decision entitled *Bouie v. Columbia*.

At the former site of the Eckerd's Drugstore, 1530 Main Street, a South Carolina Historical Marker reads:

On March 14, 1960, African American college students Simon Bouie of Allen University and Talmadge Neal of Benedict College led a protest march to the Eckerd's luncheonette. The pair, inspired by student sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina, were jailed and convicted for refusing to leave their seats after being denied service due to their race. In *Bouie v. Columbia* (1964), the United States Supreme Court overturned the students' convictions. The sit-in demonstration was part of broader protest movements against racial segregation in Columbia and the nation.

Throughout Reverend Bouie's career, he has been recognized with many outstanding awards, including the New York State Most Distinguished Award, the Long Island Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Award, the African Methodist Episcopal Church Distinguished Award, the New York Annual Conference Outstanding Award, and the Key to the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

As an activist and public servant, Reverend Bouie is deeply involved in the work of the community he serves. His memberships include the NAACP, One Hundred Black Men, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, PUSH, and the YMCA.

He was married to the late Mrs. Willie Omia Jamison Bouie, a native of Sharon, South Carolina, a graduate of Claflin College, and a participant in a demonstration at the South Carolina Statehouse that led to the landmark United States Supreme Court decision, *Edwards v. South Carolina*. They have two sons, Harold and Eric, and three grandchildren, Yu, Shasha and Harold, Jr.

Given Reverend Bouie's exemplary professional record, his pivotal role in transforming our city, and the location of his extant family home at 1112 Oak Street in the Historic Waverly community, I strongly recommend that Columbia city leaders recognize Reverend Bouie by designating the corner of Gervais and Oak Streets as the Simon P. Bouie Square.

Best regards,



Bobby J. Donaldson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of History
Director, Center for Civil Rights History & Research