



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-255

Agenda Date: April 6, 2023

Department: Public Works

Title: 2023-255 Resolution for the Honorary Street Naming of NE 19th Street (B)

Department: Public Works

Description: A resolution to adopt “Pastor Samuel Jones, Jr. Blvd” as the honorary street name for NE 19th Street.

Fiscal Note: The fiscal impact associated with this request is approximately \$300.00; which includes the cost of materials, equipment, and labor to fabricate and install the signage. This funding is available in Public Work’s FY 2023 operating budget.

Explanation: The City received a petition from Linda Means on behalf of Open Door Ministries requesting the dual naming of NE 19th Street between NE 3rd Avenue and NE 7th Avenue in honor of the founding and longtime Senior Pastor of Open Door Ministries, Pastor Samuel Jones Jr.

Born October 17, 1944, Pastor Jones Jr. came to the United States as a baby and graduated from Lincoln High School as Valedictorian in 1962. Pastor Jones Jr. was known throughout the Duval Community of Gainesville Florida for his servant’s heart. Pastor Jones Jr. became a Christian in 1972 and was ordained in 1975. Pastor Jones Jr. founded and organized Open Door Ministries in 1976, which was the first integrated African American Church in Gainesville that was commissioned out of an all-white church.

Pastor Jones Jr. was active in numerous community, civil, educational, and religious agencies including, but not limited to: the American Cancer Society, PACE Center for Girls, Arbor for Girls, East Gainesville Instruction, and ACTION Network. As President of ACTION Network, the organization grew into one of the most effective lobbying organizations in Alachua County. Pastor Jones Jr.’s efforts were successful in obtaining local, state, and federal funding for much-needed after-school programs, as well as improvements to the road conditions in East Gainesville. ACTION Network also assisted

the City of Gainesville with cleaning and boarding abandoned buildings in the Northeast area.

Pastor Jones Jr. was known as a man of God who was true to his word and taught others how to build their character in a Godly manner.

Strategic Connection:

- ☐ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☐ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☐ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☐ Goal 5: Best in Class Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission adopt the Resolution to dual name NE 19th Street between NE 3rd Avenue and NE 7th Avenue as “Pastor Samuel Jones, Jr. Blvd.”