



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-1174

Agenda Date: December 7, 2023

Department: City Manager

Title: 2023-1174 Resolution Supporting the Dual Naming of 8th Ave. between Main St. and Waldo Rd. as “Charles S. Chestnut III Avenue” and Requesting Action by the Florida Legislature to Extend the Dual Naming to 8th Ave. between NW 6th St. and Main St. (B)

Department: City Manager

Description: A resolution to support naming 8th Avenue from Northwest 6th Street to Waldo Road in memory of Charles S. Chestnut III, Civil Rights leader and former Alachua County School Board and Alachua County Commission member. As the section of 8th Avenue between Northwest 6th Street and Main Street is a state road (SR 20), the dual naming of that portion requires action by the Florida Legislature.

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.

Explanation:

The City of Gainesville proposes honoring the legacy of Civil Rights leader and former Alachua County School Board and Alachua County Commission Member Charles S. Chestnut III by dual naming 8th Avenue as “Charles S. Chestnut III Avenue.”

This memorial designation will build upon the existing State of Florida historic marker, installed in 2014, at the location of Chestnut Funeral Home at 18 Northwest 8th Avenue, a Black business owned and operated by generations of the Chestnut family since 1914.

Mr. Chestnut, who died on December 4th, 2023, was the head of Chestnut Funeral Home for six decades. He led the Gainesville Civil Rights movement as president of the NAACP Youth Council, integrating whites-only businesses and public accommodations, and he established a campaign to help Black residents across the county register to vote.

The section of 8th Avenue between Main Street and Waldo Road is owned by the City and can be dual named by action of the City Commission. The section of 8th Avenue between Northwest 6th Street and Main Street, including the location of Chestnut

Funeral Home, is owned by the state (SR 20) and dual naming requires action by the Florida Legislature.

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: (1) adopt the resolution supporting the request to dual name 8th Avenue between Main Street and Waldo Road as “Charles S. Chestnut III Avenue,” and (2) request supportive action by the Florida Legislature to extend the dual naming of “Charles S. Chestnut III Avenue” to 8th Avenue between Northwest 6th Street and Main Street (SR 20).