

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2025

**A RESOLUTION HONORING SHIRLEY MAE BEARD BY DEDICATING
THE CORNER OF CLAY STREET AND LAMPTON STREET AS
“SHIRLEY MAE’S WAY” IN HER HONOR.**

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS HERNDON, SHANKLIN, HAWKINS,
MCCRANEY, PARRISH – WRIGHT, AND PURVIS**

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae Beard, a restaurateur and community leader, has given the city of Louisville and the state of Kentucky a legacy of great works spanning decades; and

WHEREAS, the success and notoriety of Shirley Mae Beard’s iconic Shirley Mae’s Café and Salute to Black Jockey’s Festival has attracted tourists and celebrities from all over the country; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae’s Café has given our city national exposure and great press on food and travel television programs and in publications such as *Food Network*, *Food Paradise*, *Big Food Bucket List*, *Wahlburgers*, *Paula Dean Magazine*, *111 Fabulous Food Finds*, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae Beard and her daughter, Theresa, went into the basement archives of the Kentucky Derby Museum and uncovered the forgotten history of the Black Jockeys who pioneered the Kentucky Derby; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae shared the history of Black Jockeys far and wide through her Salute to Black Jockeys Festival, which greatly impacted the hundreds of thousands of children and adults who attended the festival between the late 1980’s and mid 1990’s; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae prominently exhibited the historic photos and memorabilia of Black Jockeys at her restaurant, Shirley Mae’s Café for years, while also

telling stories to countless customers and community members who were interested in Kentucky history; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae Beard fed the community of Louisville throughout her life, offering soul food at reasonable prices for the community to afford, and offering free food every New Years Eve, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day, and on Thursday nights for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae Beard offered safe and joyful events to the community of Smoketown which included countless Halloween Safe Walk events where kids received free candy and school supplies, countless Christmas gatherings, birthday parties, and anniversaries, countless pool and dart tournaments, countless Shirley Mae's Blues Cruise bus trips to amazing destinations like New York and New Orleans, and more; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae was born Shirley Ann Demonbreun to Edna Hendricks and Rev. William Allen Demonbreun on December 6, 1940, in College Grove, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Demonbreuns' soon moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where Shirley Ann attended Nashville's famed Pearl High School; and

WHEREAS, leaving the nest to become a young bride, Shirley Mae married Templeton Simpson out of Fayetteville, Tennessee. The young couple set their sights for Louisville, Kentucky in the late 1950's; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Mae had six children, worked in homes as domestic help, and later worked at the Jefferson County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, decades later, when Shirley Mae would retire from the Board of Education, Shirley Mae chose to buy the old J&H Bar from the J&H Estate to open her own restaurant; and

WHEREAS, on New Years Eve of 1988, Shirley Mae and her daughter Theresa opened Shirley Mae's Café, beginning the legacy of nationally recognized soul food cooking, community service, history preservation and celebration, entrepreneurship, fellowship, and love.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: Shirley Mae Beard's dedicated service and commitment to Louisville Metro is hereby recognized with the placement of an honorary street sign on the corner of Clay Street and Lampton Street, Louisville, Kentucky, and so designated as "Shirley Mae's Way".

SECTION II: The Department of Public Works is hereby directed to move forward with the fabrication and installation of the honorary street sign upon the passage of this Resolution and the receipt of funds to cover the expense.

SECTION III: This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval or otherwise becoming law.

Sonya Harward
Metro Council Clerk

Brent Ackerson
President of the Council

Craig Greenberg
Mayor

Approval Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Michael J. O'Connell
Jefferson County Attorney

By: _____

R-011-25 Honorary Naming Shirley Mae Beard JDF 012325