

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2025
A RESOLUTION HONORING REV. DR. GEOFFREY S. ELLIS BY
DEDICATING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF 19TH STREET AND
CEDAR STREET AS “REV. DR. GEOFFREY S. ELLIS WAY” IN HIS
HONOR.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBER KEN HERNDON

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey S. Ellis was born and raised in the Russell community and Sheppard Square Project in Louisville, KY, to Chauncey and Willie Mae Ellis; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Ellis is a Central High School graduate who attended Jefferson Community College, the University of Louisville, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Simmons College of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, Rev. Ellis served as a dedicated pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was a faithful state, county, and local government employee for over 22 years, owned the first African American high fashion shoe store in West Louisville, co-founded the first African American-owned and operated halfway house for ex-offenders in Kentucky called the Ervin House, and served his country with honor in the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Ellis’ civic engagement included the former President of the Louisville Branch of the NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition (IMC), the former chairman of the board of West Louisville Community Ministries, and the Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Louisville Metro Housing Authority Board.

WHEREAS, Rev. Ellis departed this life on Saturday, July 6, 2024, after a long battle with cancer, leaving to cherish his memory his wife of 43 years, Rev. Deirdre Ellis,

children, Min. Sheree Malone (Min. Victor), The Honorable Regina Mincey (Leon) of Atlanta, GA, Tia Waddell, and Terria Waddell, both of Phoenix, AZ, Kishya Ellis, and Akia Ellis, three sisters, two brothers, one brother-in-law, 18 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews. Rev Ellis is preceded in death by his parents, his son, Mark Smith, his daughter, Zina Nelson, granddaughter Angela Nelson, and a great-grandson, Amarion Johnson.

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

SECTION I: Rev. Dr. Geoffrey S. Ellis’ dedicated service and commitment to Louisville Metro is hereby recognized with the placement of honorary street signs on the northwest corner of 19th and Cedar Street, Louisville, Kentucky, and so designated as “Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Ellis Way.”

SECTION II: The Department of Public Works is hereby directed to move forward with the fabrication and installation of the honorary street signs 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-XXX-22 Honorary Naming Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Ellis JDF 021825