

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2020

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. CHARLEY M. LESTER JR. TO THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO DEDICATE THE 4300 BLOCK OF HAYWOOD PLACE IN HIS HONOR, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BY: COUNCILMAN JAMES GREEN

WHEREAS, Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr., was born on February 28, 1934, in Scottsville Texas to Charley and Edna Lester; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester was a graduate of Pemberton High School, Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he obtained his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester served his country as a member of the United States Air Force and was stationed at Croughton Air Force Base, in Bedfordshire, England, where he operated a dental clinic from 1962 to 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1965 after completing his tour of duty in England, Dr. Lester returned to the Ark-La-Tex, and opened a dental practice in the Hollywood/Mooretown neighborhood in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, also in 1965, Dr. Lester married Julie Boston Lester. They made their home in the Hollywood/Mooretown community where they raised their daughters, Kai and Charmel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester took his civic responsibilities seriously. He served his community and the City of Shreveport in many ways, including the following: He was active in the Civil Rights Movement; in 1972, he was one of the first African Americans elected to the Caddo Parish Police Jury, now the Caddo Parish Commission; he was a member of the Board of the Caddo Community Action Agency, and in 1979 he was an original appointee to the Board of Trustees of the Shreveport Home Mortgage Authority, where he served as president for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester also served the Mooretown Community and the City of Shreveport as a practicing dentist for more than 50 years, he also served the profession and enhanced the practice of dentistry as follows: He was the first African American appointed to serve as a member of the Louisiana Board of Dental Examiners; he was an active member of the State and National African American Dental associations and the American Dental Association, and because of his many years of service to his profession he received the Louisiana Dental Association Distinguished Service Award in 2005; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 63 of 2003, this Council recognized Dr. Lester as an exemplary and model citizen for his lifetime of service to the citizens of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester died on June 20, 2020, and it is therefore fitting and necessary to recognize and remember his lifetime of service to this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due, legal and regular session convened that the Shreveport City Council recognizes Dr. Charley M. Lester Jr., for his many contribution and years of service to the City of Shreveport, the State of Louisiana and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in recognition of his civic and professional services, the Shreveport City Council authorizes the Mayor to dedicate the 4300 block of Haywood Place in honor of Dr. Charley M. Lester.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Resolution No. 156 of 2019, the dedication marker should be approximately 9 inches tall and 42 inches wide and should be placed on an existing standard or street sign if the placement is authorized by the Traffic Engineering.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office