

RESOLUTION NO. 43 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE THE 10900 BLOCK OF ELLERBE ROAD IN HONOR OF PASTOR H. CALVIN AUSTIN, III, FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

BY: COUNCILMAN GRAYSON BOUCHER

WHEREAS, Pastor H. Calvin Austin, III was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and grew up in Allendale in the late 1950s, his mother was a school teacher and his father was a pastor; and

WHEREAS, at eleven years old he started selling the Shreveport Sun in downtown Shreveport on Texas Street, he started reading about the NAACP in the paper, joined the youth chapter, and began attending meetings; and

WHEREAS, attending NAACP meetings is where he first heard about discrimination and racism in Shreveport; he would later serve as President of Shreveport's Chapter of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Pastor H. Calvin Austin, III's dad was a Baptist and his mom was a Methodist and he grew up around Jewish people, so he studied the Torah, went to mass at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and attended both Baptist and Methodist churches; and

WHEREAS, as an involved member of the NAACP he was at the Galilee Baptist Church when Martin Luther King came to speak; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirteen, he was at Galilee Baptist Church when members were attacked for gathering to pray for the four little girls from Birmingham, Alabama who were killed in a church bombing; and

WHEREAS, the next day, the students at Booker T. Washington decided to leave school and head downtown, but the police came and took eighteen students to jail; and

WHEREAS, he was identified by a black police officer as the leader and he was put in jail for forty-five days while the others were taken to juvenile hall and released, when he tried to return to school, he learned that he had been expelled; and

WHEREAS, Pastor H. Calvin Austin, III said he left Shreveport in 1963, a mad black young man, not mad just at white people, mad at the world. He did not return to Shreveport until 1998; and

WHEREAS, at seventeen, his parents sent him to New Orleans where he attended L. B. Landry High School, upon graduation he was offered a full scholarship to the University of Colorado at Boulder, all expenses paid, where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology; and

WHEREAS, he obtained a master's degree in sociology from the University of Denver and is the recipient of numerous doctorate degrees; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Caddo Parish School Board apologized for banning him from the system and awarded him his diploma; and

WHEREAS, if Pastor H. Calvin Austin, III could change anything in the world, he would change the mindset of people and how they judge one another; and

WHEREAS, Pastor H. Calvin Austin, III has a vision of bringing together all denominations, all faiths, all people, and to pack a place like Independence Stadium on an Easter morning and worship God together.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Mayor on behalf of the City is authorized to dedicate the 10900 block of Ellerbe Road in honor of Pastor H. Calvin Austin, III for his commitment and contributions to the City of Shreveport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Resolution 156 of 2019, the dedication marker should be approximately 9 inches wide and should be placed on an existing standard or street sign if the placement is authorized by Traffic Engineering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office