

RESOLUTION NO. 113 OF 2022

**A RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE 3200 BLOCK OF LOGAN STREET
IN HONOR OF ROBERT “TONY” RHODES, AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO**

BY: COUNCILMAN JERRY BOWMAN, JR.

WHEREAS, Robert “Tony” Rhodes, was born on September 12, 1940 in Minden, Louisiana to Cullen Rhodes and Leslie Lee Jones; and

WHEREAS, Tony attended Webster Elementary School prior to attending Webster High School. At Webster High School, he was a member of the high school band and the captain of both the football and basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, Tony’s skills on the gridiron earned him a full athletic scholarship to Wiley College. The following year, he transferred to Southern University A&M College where a knee injury ended his football career. He continued his education and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Math in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Tony began his professional career as a math teacher at Desoto High School (Mansfield, LA) in the early 1960’s, where he was also the assistant football coach and head baseball coach. While coaching he helped two future major-league pitchers, Vida Blue and Jesse Hudson, get started in baseball; and

WHEREAS, Tony was hired as an assistant football coach and subsequently promoted to head coach at Walnut Hill High School in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was employed there for five years; and

WHEREAS, When Caddo Parish schools integrated in January 1970 and Walnut Hill was phased out, Tony became a football assistant and head baseball coach at Southwood High School. As a result of integration, black head coaches who had been moved to assistant jobs at previously all-white schools were promised head coaching jobs as those jobs would come available. This happened for Tony in 1973 when Huntington High School opened in Shreveport. He became the Raiders' first athletic director and head coach. He served in these roles for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Tony's "second job" as a basketball referee kept him on the road each winter from 1965 to 1997. At times, he called games in the Metro Conference, the Southland, SWAC, TAAC, and Big State (Texas schools), plus games for smaller schools in East Texas; and

WHEREAS, Tony officiated a thousand-plus basketball games in 32 years, but two stand out. In March 1980, in Indianapolis, he was one of the officials in the NCAA Tournament's men's Final Four. He was one of three men calling the second semifinal between UCLA and Purdue. In 1969, he called his first NBA exhibition game. Both were highlights of his officiating career; and

WHEREAS, Tony was affectionately called "Coach Rhodes" or just "Coach" by many, he took his duties as a coach and mentor very seriously and imparted on his student athletes that their wins in life were much more important than the wins on the field. His family's motto was "faith, family and football." He taught all of his students the value of hard work, discipline, and no regrets. He cherished a special relationship with each of his players and coaches. He was committed to high school athletics and often helped families from all over Shreveport and beyond.

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 3200 block of Logan Street in honor of Robert "Tony" Rhodes.

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 Traffic Engineering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

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