

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2014-072

Approving the honorary naming of the intersection of Farrow Road and Wilkes Road
"C. J. Whitaker Square"

WHEREAS, the late Reverend C. J. Whitaker was considered to be a political powerhouse within the African-American community of Richland County during the 1950s and 1960s; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Whitaker was a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, studied theology at Benedict College, and was a forty-year employee of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health; and,

WHEREAS, in 1955 Reverend Whitaker was called to preach and was ordained and licensed as a minister of the gospel by Reverend M.C. Fennell, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church. Reverend Whitaker pastored four churches during his life time; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Whitaker served as the chair of the Political Action Committee for the Columbia Branch of the NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. He also served in leadership capacities in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of South Carolina; as vice chair of the Richland County Democratic Party; on the Executive Committee of South Carolina Democratic Party during the election of I.S. Leevy Johnson and James L. Felder; and participated as a delegate to the 1968 and 1972 Democratic Conventions; and,

WHEREAS, in 1984, Reverend Whitaker received the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Richard Riley; and,

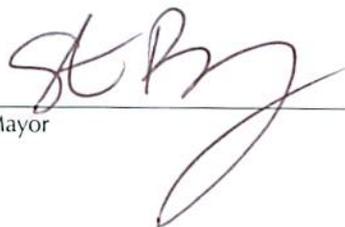
WHEREAS, throughout Reverend Whitaker's lifetime he was affected by the actions of prominent hate groups; however, times changed and Reverend Whitaker went on to push for city services to North Columbia. His advocacy flourished with the 1963 founding of the North Columbia Civic Club; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Whitaker's primary motivation was to be a servant, thus when he served, he worked. The things that he accomplished between the dash mark of 1924 and 1986 for the fight for equality and justice made the City of Columbia a better place; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 5th day of August, 2014 that the Mayor and Columbia City Council do hereby approve the honorary naming of the intersections of Farrow Road and Wilkes Road "C. J. Whitaker Square". The design and color of the honorary toppers shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Public Works.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin



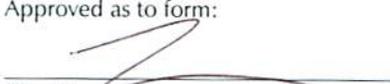
Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 8/5/2014

Final Reading: 8/5/2014