

**MOTION**

**NO. M-25-549**

**CITY HALL: October 23, 2025**

**BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL**

**SECONDED BY:**

**WHEREAS**, section 146-762 of the Code of the City of New Orleans authorizes the City Council to designate by motion any intersection within the city to honor any person or non-profit organization that has made significant contributions to the historical or cultural landscape of New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Pierre “Monk” Boudreaux, known as Big Chief Monk, is a native New Orleanian, world renowned musician, and celebrated member of the New Orleans’ Black masking Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, following in his father’s footsteps, Big Chief Monk has masked for over 70 years and continues to pass the tradition down to his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, a prolific performer and recording artist, Big Chief Monk collaborated with Big Chief Bo Dollis of The Wild Magnolias, creating the first studio recording of Black masking Indians in 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wild Magnolias’s 1970 hit single “Handa Wanda” is a Mardi Gras classic and the first in a long list of celebrated releases including “They Call Us Wild,” “1313 Hoodoo Street,” “Life is A Carnival,” “I’m Back and Still Wild,” and one of Big Chief Monk’s signature songs “Shoo Fly;” and

**WHEREAS**, Big Chief Monk also recorded with his own tribe, The Golden Eagles, whose album releases include *Lightning and Thunder*, *Bury the Hatchet*, *Mr. Stranger Man*, *Won't Bow Down*, and *Bloodstains and Teardrops*; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the importance of his musical contributions, Big Chief Monk received the National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship Award in 2016, and was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2022 for Best Regional Roots Music Album for *Bloodstains and Teardrops*; and

**WHEREAS**, every year on Mardi Gras morning, Big Chief Monk leads The Golden Eagles complete with four generations of his family from his house on the last block of Valence Street into the streets of Uptown and Central City filling the neighborhoods with the artistry of his tribe's intricately beaded patches, brightly colored ostrich feather plumage, and marabou-trimmed suits known across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, Big Chief Monk Boudreaux's contributions to the culture of New Orleans through his artistry, recordings, and leadership deserves recognition and celebration. **NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**, That the intersection of Valence Street and Magnolia Street be and hereby is designated as the "Big Chief Monk Boudreaux Honorary Intersection" pursuant to Section 146-762 of the Code of the City of New Orleans; and

**BE IT FURTHER MOVED**, That the Department of Public Works is directed to install, within 120 days of the adoption of this Motion, distinct signage reflecting the foregoing honorary designation at one or more prominent locations within or adjacent to the intersection described herein in a manner than does not impair traffic or pedestrian safety or create confusion between the honorary dedication and the names of the intersecting streets.

**BE IT FURTHER MOVED,** That the Clerk of Council shall forward copies of this motion to the Director of the Department of Public Works and to Joseph Pierre “Monk” Boudreaux.

**THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**RECUSED:**

**AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.**