MOTION

NO. M-26-423

CITY HALL: **October 1, 2026**

BY: COUNCILMEMBER HUGHES

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 the community thrives when young citizens dedicate their time energy and talents to improving the lives of those around them; and

WHEREAS, Taj Rudolph, born Taj Brandon Rudolph on August 28, 2001, was a native New Orleanian and at a young age demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to public service and community engagement defined by an unwavering dedication to equity, civic involvement and advocacy, leaving behind a profound legacy that continues to inspire us all; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in the City of New Orleans, District E, New Orleans East, Taj, affectionately known as "Tookie", began his journey of public service during his years at Abramson Sci Academy where he excelled as a member of both the football and track teams and was voted Prom King, while also developing a passion for understanding the systematic challenges affecting young people and their communities, especially the school-to-prison pipeline which was the focus of his capstone project in his senior year of high school, Class of 2019; and

WHEREAS, as a trusted public servant with the City of New Orleans Neighborhood Engagement Office assigned to his community in District E, Taj worked diligently alongside

neighborhood associations actively listening to residents, identifying critical local concerns and helping to find meaningful solutions to improve the safety and well-being of the community which established authentic, collaborative partnerships with City leadership and all 26 active neighborhood associations in District E, implementing the Neighborhood Cares Initiative to bridge the gap between City departments and constituents to resolve concerns such as blight, potholes, park maintenance, and navigating City processes and other quality of life issues; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated a selfless willingness to help anyone in need, striving to elevate the neighborhood he so deeply cared for and serving as an inspiring example for his peers and neighbors alike especially during times of national and local crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Ida, for which Taj personally served the community by directly connecting them to essential resources; and

WHEREAS, Taj's unwavering ambition to serve the public combined with his persistent passion for his community has left a lasting positive impact; and

WHEREAS, through his approachable nature and relentless desire to help improve his community at only 25 years old, Taj Rudolph demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving others, civic duty and community activism which was evident well before his professional career began; and

WHEREAS, Taj's many contributions to District E, including establishing grassroots initiatives, building dynamic outreach teams, mentoring community leaders, and most recently leading vital public advocacy and outreach efforts through his impactful work with Equity Alliance, embody the true spirit of public service, proving that civic responsibility knows no age and serving as an inspiring role model for the youth and elders of our community; and

WHEREAS, Taj Rudolph passed away on September 14, 2026, at the age of 25, from Brugada syndrome, a rare heart condition, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire, which our community formally recognizes and honors; and

WHEREAS, following his passing, Taj's final act of organ donation beautifully reflects his lifelong devotion and commitment to helping others, as he continues to save lives and inspire the world; and **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the intersection of Lake Forest Boulevard and Wright Road be and hereby is designated as the "Taj Rudolph 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 that does not impair traffic or pedestrian safety or create confusion between the honorary dedication and the names of the intersecting streets; and

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 the family of Taj Rudolph.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.