

MOTION

NO. M-26-85

CITY HALL: February 26, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER GREEN

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, Big Chief Donald Harrison, Sr. was a legendary Mardi Gras Indian Chief and cultural icon who dedicated his life to preserving and advancing the traditions of Mardi Gras Indian culture and the musical heritage of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Big Chief Harrison began masking in 1949 with the White Eagles and later served as Chief of the Creole Wild West tribe before founding the renowned Guardians of the Flame tribe in 1988, mentoring generations of young people and preserving sacred masking traditions; and

WHEREAS, he was a recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1997 in recognition of his enduring impact on the cultural life of the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Harrison Family home has been located at 3630–32 North Johnson Street since 1965, and the Donald Harrison, Sr. Museum and Cultural Center, located at 1930 Independence Street, serves as a hub for community-based youth programs, including the Donald Harrison, Sr. Book Program, which has distributed more than 50,000 new books to children across the community; and

WHEREAS, Big Chief Harrison’s legacy continues through his family, including his son, Donald Harrison, Jr., a NEA Jazz Master and internationally acclaimed jazz saxophonist, further cementing the Harrison family’s profound influence on the cultural and musical traditions of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans desires to honor the life, cultural leadership, and community service of Big Chief Donald Harrison, Sr. by designating an honorary intersection in the neighborhood where his family home and museum are located; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of North Johnson Street and Independence Street is a significant and appropriate location to recognize Big Chief Donald Harrison, Sr.’s legacy and contributions to the cultural fabric of New Orleans; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the intersection of North Johnson Street and Independence Street be and hereby is designated as the “Big Chief Donald Harrison, Sr. 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 one hundred twenty (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 Harrison Family.

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.