

MOTION

NO. M-26-77

CITY HALL: February 26, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER KING

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, Jean Knight, born Jean Audrey Caliste on January 26, 1943, was a native New Orleanian and celebrated R&B and soul singer who embodied the spirit and vibrancy of New Orleans music; and

WHEREAS, raised in the Tremé neighborhood, Knight began her career in the mid-1960s performing at local venues such as her cousin’s bar, Laura’s Place, and adopted her stage name while recording early singles that gained regional recognition; and

WHEREAS, after a brief pause in her music career during which she worked as a baker at St. Mary’s Dominican College, Knight achieved international fame with her 1971 hit single “Mr. Big Stuff,” which reached No. 1 on the Billboard R&B chart for five weeks, No. 2 on the Hot 100, sold over two million copies earning gold certification, and received a Grammy nomination for Best R&B Vocal Performance, Female; and

WHEREAS, “Mr. Big Stuff” became a feminist anthem and Mardi Gras staple, with the song’s recording tied to her residence at 1506 Frenchmen Street; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her enduring contributions to Louisiana music and New Orleans’ soul scene, Knight was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2007, served

on the Louisiana Music Commission, and participated in cultural traditions including Creole cuisine and Mardi Gras celebrations with local krewes; and

WHEREAS, Jean Knight passed away on November 22, 2023, at the age of 80, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire through her music’s reflection of New Orleans’ resilience and cultural richness; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the intersection of Frenchmen Street and North Claiborne Avenue be and hereby is designated as the “Jean Knight 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 Jean Knight.

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.