

MOTION

NO. M-25-655

CITY HALL: December 18, 2025

BY: COUNCILMEMBER GIARRUSSO

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Orleans City Council formed the Street Renaming Commission, a collective group of historians, musicians, scholars, and residents tasked with suggesting new names for New Orleans streets named after white supremacists; and

WHEREAS, the Council unanimously voted to rename Robert E. Lee Boulevard for Allen Toussaint in 2022; and

WHEREAS, West Robert E. Lee Boulevard, being a separate street, was not renamed and maintains the Confederate designation; and

WHEREAS, noted photographer Herman Leonard, considered by many to be one of the most significant jazz musician photographers of his time, lived along West Robert E. Lee Boulevard for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Leonard's artistic focus created some of the most famous portraits of jazz musicians across the world, and was well-known for the limited and highly controlled atmospheric lighting in his photographs; and

WHEREAS, Leonard's love of New Orleans culture, music, and artists helped shine a spotlight on the city and our people; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the City Planning Commission is directed to conduct a public hearing to consider renaming the approximate entirety of 0.3 miles of West Robert E. Lee Boulevard, bounded by Hammond Highway, Regent Street, and Pontchartrain Boulevard, to Leonard Lane.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Office of Information Technology and Innovation and the Department of Public Works are directed to provide to the City Planning Commission any information that may be required to effectuate this request pursuant to the City Planning Commission's rules, policies and procedures within ten business days of the passage of this motion.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Clerk of Council shall forward copies of this motion to the City Planning Commission, Office of Information Technology and Innovation, and the Department of Public Works.

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.