



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Council Member Rahman Johnson**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 14  
PHONE (904) 255-5214  
EMAIL: [RAHMAN@COJ.NET](mailto:RAHMAN@COJ.NET)

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425  
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

**Re. Ray Charles**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 15, 2023**

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**Meeting Convened – 3:32 pm**

**Meeting Adjourned – 3:51 pm**

**Location:**

Don Davis Room, City Hall First Floor

**Attendance:**

5 – Council Member Rahman Johnson, Council Member Jimmy Peluso, Council Member Ju' Coby Pittman, Council Auditor's Office Phillip Peterson, and Cherry Pollock – Office of General Council

Council Members called the meeting to order, and the attendees introduced themselves.

**Substance of Meeting:**

Council Member Rahman Johnson briefly overviewed Ray Charles' autobiography. CM Johnson reported Ray Charles lived in the downtown area near what is known today as the Clara White Mission building; just outside of Lavilla School of Arts in Council Member Jimmy Peluso's District. CM Johnson proposed renaming the street to Ray Charles Place.

Office of General Council Cherry confirmed the street could be called Ray Charles Place.

CM Johnson followed up with the auditor's office to verify if there will be a fee associated with renaming the street.

In response to CM Johnson's follow-up question, Council Auditor's Office Phillip Peterson said there will not be a fee associated with renaming the street because it is not being done on behalf of an organization or an entity. Renaming the street is a Council Member's initiative, so no application needs to be filed.

Council Member Johnson proposed adding an art piece to the landmark as a tribute to Ray Charles's legacy.

Council Member Peluso supports the proposal to rename the street and add an art piece to the area.

However, he wants to speak with the committee for the Lavilla Heritage Trail Project to verify there's no conflict.

Council Member Johnson responded, "I am now an ex officio on the board and there are no projects".

Council Member Johnson read a direct quote from Ray Charles. Within the quote Ray Charles provided the exact address of where he lived; 752 West Church Street.

Willie A. Coleman IV

Executive Council Assistant

904-255-5160

Posted Date and time: 18 August 2023 at 1:36 pm