

RESOLUTION
GRANTING THE HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION OF “MEL’S WALK” TO A PORTION OF
WEST MAIN STREET BETWEEN 8TH STREET NW AND 7TH STREET NW

WHEREAS, Melvin Walker was the owner and chef of Mel’s Café located at 811 West Main Street for 39 years; and

WHEREAS, Mel’s Café was an essential community gathering spot and institution, playing host to all people of the community from residents, students, politicians, and unhoused community members; and

WHEREAS, Mel’s Café served as the unofficial center of the historically black Star Hill neighborhood as it was the only black-owned restaurant on W. Main Street; and

WHEREAS, Mr Walker contributed to Westhaven, University of Virginia, the Boys and Girls Club, City of Promise, Prolytyck Running Crew and many other groups and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr Walker was a member of the First Baptist Church and was known for offering a free meal to those in need that the church sent over; and

WHEREAS, Mr Walker spent much of his life nurturing and nourishing family, friends, and community with not only his homemade sweet potato pies and fried chicken, but also his “infectious love of life.”; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the City Council hereby grants the honorary street designation of “Mel’s Walk” to the portion of West Main Street between 8th Street NW and 7th Street NW.

(locality seal)