

INTRODUCED: July 24, 2023

AN ORDINANCE No. 2023-241

To designate the north side of the 300 block of West Main Street in honor of the late Shawn Joseph Soares.

Patrons – Ms. Jordan, Mrs. Lynch, Ms. Lambert, and Ms. Robertson

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEPT 25 2023 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Shawn Joseph Soares was fatally injured on May 4, 2023, after being struck by a vehicle on the north side of the 300 block of West Main Street; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Shawn Joseph Soares was born in Goa, India on March 19, 1997 to Alec and Nimmi Soares, and moved to Florida in 2005 and then to Virginia in 2010; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, Shawn Joseph Soares began a career in public service, serving in former Governor Ralph Northam’s administration as the Director of Asian American Pacific Islander Outreach and Deputy Director of Appointments,

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

working with the late Congressman Donald McEachin as Director of Outreach, and most recently working with the Virginia Conservation Network; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to memorialize the life of Shawn Joseph Soares for his contributions to the civic life of the city of Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia by designating the north side of the 300 block of West Main Street in his honor; and

WHEREAS, because this designation is honorary only, the provisions of sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, do not apply to the designation made hereby or to any signs erected pursuant to this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Designation of Street Block for Honorary Name.** The north side of the 300 block of West Main Street shall be designated in honor of Shawn Joseph Soares pursuant to this ordinance.

§ 2. **Effect of Designation.** The designation of the portion of the street made pursuant to this ordinance shall be honorary only, shall not replace the existing name of the street, and shall have no effect on the address of any property with an address on the designated street blocks. The sole effect of designation pursuant to this ordinance shall be to authorize the placement of commemorative signs in accordance with this ordinance memorializing the designation in honor of the named person.

§ 3. **Administration of Ordinance.** The Department of Public Works shall implement this ordinance by installing, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this ordinance, and maintaining commemorative signs in accordance with this section. The commemorative signs shall be clearly distinct from the street signs used to identify the portion of the street in question

such that a reasonable person could not conclude that the commemorative signs reflect the actual name of the street. The commemorative signs (i) shall be affixed to a sign pole installed at each end of the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this section or to any existing sign identifying the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance located at each end of the portion of the street designated in section 1 of this ordinance and (ii) shall bear the name of the person set forth in section 1 of this ordinance.

§ 4. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Laura Drewry, City Attorney

THROUGH LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Katherine Jordan, 2nd District Council Member
Sven Philipsen, 2nd District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney

DATE July 11, 2023

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE **Honorary Street/Block Naming for the late Mr. Shawn Joseph Soares,
300th West Main Street (northern side of the street).**

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** ☒ **Resolution** ☐

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Katherine Jordan & Stephanie Lynch

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron request that legislation be drafted designating the 300th block of West Main Street (northside of the street) in honor of the late Mr. Shawn Joseph Soares

BACKGROUND

Tragically, Mr. Soares died after being struck by a vehicle at this location at the age of 24. Mr. Soares was a native of India who moved to Virginia in 2010. He learned to love Virginia and began a career in public service and became active in politics. During his career he served in former Governor Northam's Administration as a director of outreach and a deputy director of appointments for the State. He also worked for the late Congressman Donald McEachin on environmental issues. More recently, he worked for the Virginia Conservation Network.

Additionally, Mr. Soares was a DJ and performed using the name "*Mezmerize*" in both Virginia and in Washington, D.C.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Amendment Required Yes ☐ No ☒

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Costs of signage are usually covered from DPW operating funds.

Attachment/s Yes ☒ No ☐ Area Map

Search Google Maps



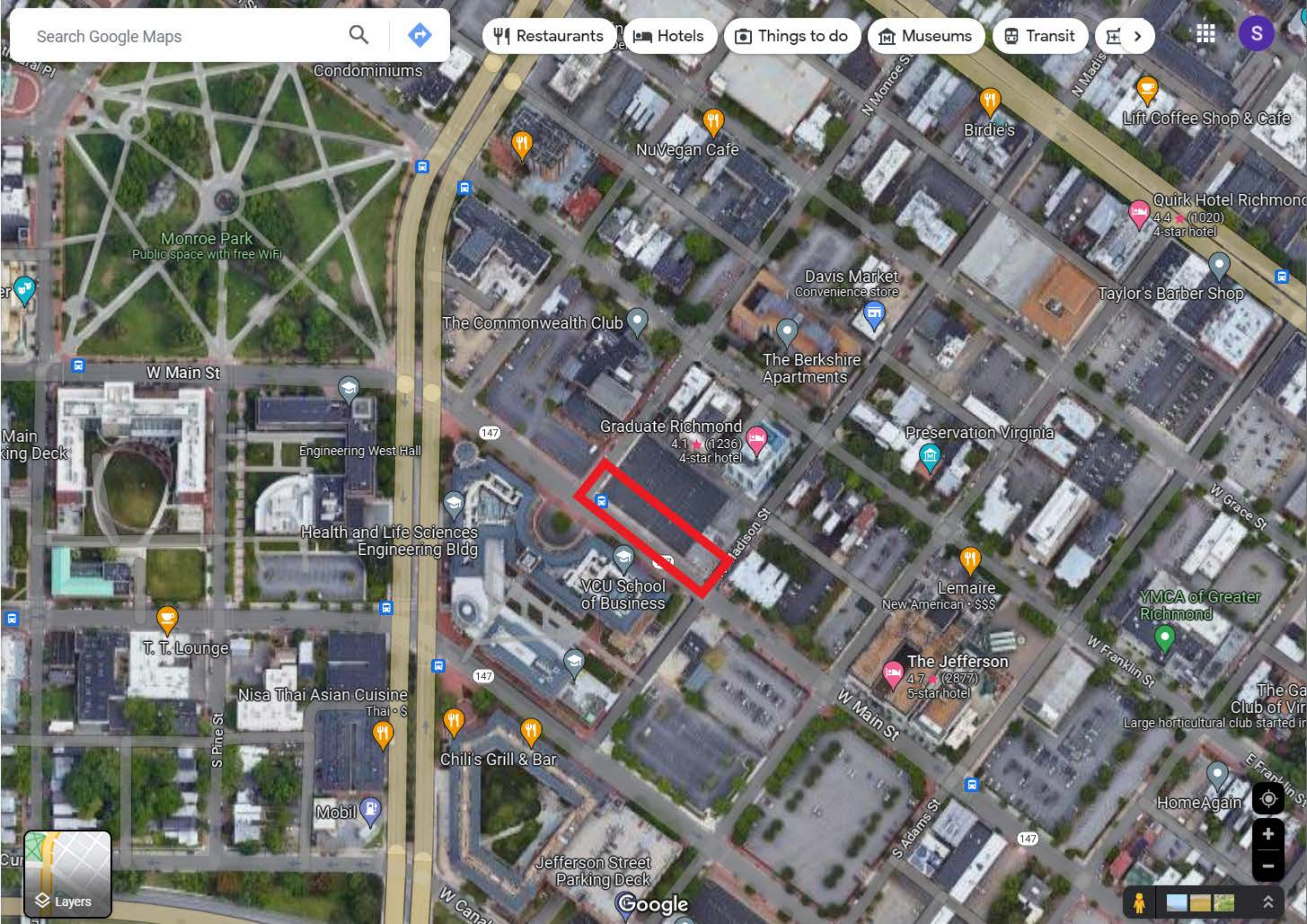
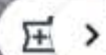
🍴 Restaurants

🏨 Hotels

📷 Things to do

🏛 Museums

🚇 Transit



Condominiums

Monroe Park
Public space with free WiFi

W Main St

Main
Deck

Engineering West Hall

Health and Life Sciences
Engineering Bldg

T. T. Lounge

Nisa Thai Asian Cuisine
Thai • S

S Pine St

Mobil

The Commonwealth Club

NuVegan Cafe

Davis Market
Convenience store

The Berkshire
Apartments

Graduate Richmond
4.1 (1236)
4-star hotel

VCU School
of Business

Chili's Grill & Bar

Jefferson Street
Parking Deck

Google

Birdie's

Lift Coffee Shop & Cafe

Quirk Hotel Richmond
4.4 (1020)
4-star hotel

Taylor's Barber Shop

Preservation Virginia

Lemaire
New American • \$\$\$

The Jefferson
4.7 (2877)
5-star hotel

YMCA of Greater
Richmond

W Franklin St

The Ga
Club of Vir
Large horticultural club started in

HomeAgain

E Franklin St

