1	RESOLUTION NO		
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3	A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF MARYLAND		
4	AVENUE/SOUTH TAYLOR STREET, BETWEEN FAIR PARK		
5	BOULEVARD AND WEST 12 <sup>TH</sup> STREET, TO DARIUS NELSON WAY;		
6	AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
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8	WHEREAS, pursuant to Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code § 31-324 (1988), a petition has been filed to		
9	change the name of Maryland Avenue/South Taylor Street, between Fair Park Boulevard and West 12 <sup>th</sup>		
10	Street to Darius Nelson Way; and,		
11	WHEREAS, Darius Nelson, a Little Rock native, served as the Minister/Pastor of Worship and Arts		
12	at St. Mark Baptist Church, in Little Rock for twenty-three (23) years before his passing on October 6,		
13	2023; and,		
14	WHEREAS, Darius was a trailblazer and trendsetter in the gospel music ministry who brought national		
15	recognition and funding to Arkansas through his musical gifting and leadership; and,		
16	WHEREAS, Darius demonstrated integrity, unwavering commitment, and a spirit of excellence in his		
17	personal and professional life; and,		
18	WHEREAS, while attending the award-winning Philander Smith Collegiate Choir on a full choral		
19	scholarship, Darius performed for the National Democratic Convention and at the Inauguration of President		
20	William "Bill" Jefferson Clinton; and,		
21	WHEREAS, in 2000, Darius was hired as full-time Worship Leader at St. Mark Baptist Church, and		
22	served at the Little Rock and Jacksonville locations as leader of the Praise Team, a group which became a		
23	model for many area worship teams; and,		
24	WHEREAS, Darius led the entire Music & Arts Department at St. Mark and in 2005 was promoted to		
25	Minister of Music; and,		
26	WHEREAS, the Little Rock Planning Commission, at its April 11, 2024, meeting, voted to recommend		
27	approval of the proposed street name change with a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.		
28	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE		
29	CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:		
30	<b>Section 1.</b> From the effective date of this resolution onward, as approval by the Little Rock Planning		
31	Commission on April 11, 2024, that section of Maryland Avenue/South Taylor Street, between Fair Park		
32	Boulevard and West 12th Street, shall be known as DARIUS NELSON WAY.		
33	Section 2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and the City		
34	Manager is hereby directed to notify all Departments of said change.		

1	Section 3. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or		
2	word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or		
3	adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution, which shall remain in full force and		
4	effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the		
5	ordinance.		
6	Section 4. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with		
7	the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.		
8	ADOPTED: May 21, 2024		
9	ATTEST:	APPROVED	
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12	Susan Langley, City Clerk	Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor	
13	APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:		
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15 16	Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney		
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