

CITY ORDINANCE NO. CO-043-2022

AN ORDINANCE OF THE LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL NAMING THE OLD CITY HALL BUILDING LOCATED AT 735 JEFFERSON STREET IN HONOR OF PHILLIP ARLEIGH LANK

BE IT ORDAINED by the Lafayette City Council, that:

WHEREAS, Phillip Arleigh Lank was a visionary servant leader who, during his many years of service to the City of Lafayette, profoundly reshaped the culture and physical landscape of the City of Lafayette and contributed immensely to its growth and development; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank served as Director of the City of Lafayette's Department of Community Development for twelve years, from 1980 until 1992, during which time he championed efforts to improve the livability of inner-city neighborhoods, revitalize Downtown Lafayette, and generally improve the quality of life for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank initiated the Mayor's Advisory Committee, which led to the legislation creating the Lafayette Centre Development District, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Downtown Lafayette Unlimited (DLU); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank facilitated three major Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) projects, to-wit, the Jefferson Towers and Gordon Square private redevelopment projects, and the city parking garage and Parc de Lafayette, a public space connecting the garage to Jefferson Street; and

WHEREAS, through Mr. Lank's leadership on the UDAG projects, the Jefferson Towers project included the iconic Robert Dafford mural memorializing the building's prior use as a parking garage, and the city parking garage included a mural by Tanya Falgout depicting Downtown, all of which contributed to the development of Downtown Lafayette as a thriving arts and cultural district; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank helped to secure funding to support an Arts Council brown bag lunch program Downtown Lafayette, which DLU later expanded and moved to Friday night as "Downtown Alive!"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank led and facilitated the renovation of Lafayette's historic City Halls, with Lafayette's first City Hall, located on Main Street, becoming home to the Council of the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), and Lafayette's second City Hall, located at 735 Jefferson Street, becoming home to Le Centre International, which is dedicated to the development of international trade and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank was instrumental in establishing Le Centre International and the appointment of Philippe Gustin as its Director, championed collaboration between Lafayette's

“Sister Cities” across the world, and the installation of bilingual signage highlighting the City of Lafayette’s francophone heritage; and

WHEREAS, with support from a delegation of Québécois and CODOFIL, Mr. Lank organized a group of like-minded colleagues in government, academia, business, and cultural organizations, along with donors, to travel to Canada to research festivals based on cultural heritage, most notably Festival d'Été du Québec, as well as jazz and folkloric festivals, which were used as models for the organizing documents and structure of Festival International de Louisiane; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank directed the investment of millions of federal dollars in code enforcement, housing rehabilitation, and street improvements to revitalize the City of Lafayette’s low-to-moderate income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank expanded the Neighborhood Counseling Services provided by the City of Lafayette’s Human Services Division and enhanced services supporting the City of Lafayette’s senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, under Mr. Lank’s direction, the Economic Development Division of the Department of Community Development established a Minority Business Enterprise Unit, which worked with Lafayette city elected officials, departments directors, and local contractors to increase minority and women-owned business participation in city procurement; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, under Mr. Lank’s direction, the Community Development Department, in partnership with the Recreation Department and local churches, was the chief sponsor of activities commemorating the first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, as a professional urban planner and city administrator, Mr. Lank developed a model approach to community economic development by building capacity for long-term development through the incubation of neighborhood-led organizations whose missions were consonant with the aspirations and needs of neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Department of Community Development launched Lafayette Neighborhoods’ Economic Development Corporation (LNEDC), a development model to economically revitalize Lafayette’s low-to-moderate income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, LNEDC went on to secure long-term commitments from the Lafayette City Council to use Community Development Block Grants to capitalize a revolving loan fund to finance the start-up and expansion of black and women-owned businesses in Lafayette, winning awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Louisiana Chapter

of the American Planning Association for its innovative approach to neighborhood revitalization;
and

WHEREAS, LNEC later became manager of the City of Lafayette's Enterprise Zone Program, which provided state tax incentives to businesses locating and expanding in economically distressed areas, and created Sterling Grove Housing Development Corporation to build a HUD-subsidized housing development for elderly residents of Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank led the effort to create the Lafayette Centre Certified Development Corporation (now Louisiana Capital Certified Development Company), a U. S. Small Business Administration-sponsored corporation that continues to provide long-term, fixed asset financing for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, when the LNEC and Lafayette Centre Certified Development Corporation were created, no other community in Louisiana had established as comprehensive a strategy of federally supported community economic development programs in which residents had such a strong voice in designing and governing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lank passed away in January of 2022 at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lafayette that exists today is much indebted to Mr. Lank and his visionary leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette City Council deems it fitting that Mr. Lank should be memorialized so that current and future generations may remember his contributions to the City of Lafayette and be inspired to build upon what he achieved during his life of service thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Lafayette City Council believes that, given his prominent role in the renovation and redevelopment of Lafayette's second City Hall building, now home to Le Centre International, which he helped to create, it is particularly fitting that the City of Lafayette rename the building in his honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Lafayette City Council,
that:

SECTION 1: All of the aforescribed "Whereas" clauses are adopted as part of this ordinance.

SECTION 2: The Lafayette City Council hereby names the building located at 735 Jefferson Street, at the corner of Jefferson Street and Lee Avenue, having previously served as Lafayette's second City Hall and currently serving as the home of Le Centre International, as the Phillip Arleigh Lank Building.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4: This ordinance shall become effective upon signature of the Lafayette Mayor-President, the elapse of ten (10) days after receipt by the Lafayette Mayor-President without signature or veto, or upon an override of a veto, whichever occurs first.

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Internal Memorandum

Elected Officials - Executive
Mayor-President's Office (1200)

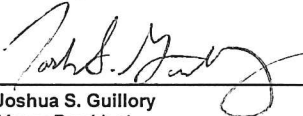
TO: Cydra Wingerter **DATE:** March 22, 2022
FROM: Joshua S. Guillory
SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item

It is hereby requested that the attached ordinance be submitted to the Lafayette City Council for introduction on April 5, 2022, with final adoption consideration on April 19, 2022.

This ordinance names the old City Hall building located at 735 Jefferson Street in honor of Phillip Arleigh Lank.

Please let me know if you should have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Joshua S. Guillory
Mayor-President

JSG/ds

Attachments

LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL FORM

1) **JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:** An ordinance of the Lafayette City Council naming the
old City Hall building at 735 Jefferson Street in honor of Phillip Arleigh Lank.

2) **ACTION REQUESTED:** Adoption of Ordinance

3) **COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) (CIP PROGRAM/PROJECTS ONLY):** _____

4) **REQUESTED ACTION OF COUNCIL:**

A) **INTRODUCTION:** April 5, 2022

B) **FINAL ADOPTION:** April 19, 2022

5) **DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED WITH THIS REQUEST:**

A) Cover Memo from Director (1 page)

B) Submittal Item Justification Form (1 page)

C) Ordinance (4 pages)

6) **FISCAL IMPACT:**

_____ Fiscal Impact (Explain)

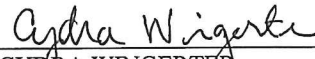
x No Fiscal Impact

RECOMMENDED BY:



JOSHUA S. GUILLORY
MAYOR-PRESIDENT

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



CYDRA WINGERT
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER