

PARISH ORDINANCE NO. PO-024-2026

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL DESIGNATING THE  
NORTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARY OF THE LAFAYETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SYSTEM AS THE "DR. NORMAN C. FRANCIS LIBRARY"**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Lafayette Parish Council, that:

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Norman Christopher Francis was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, on March 20, 1931, and became one of the most influential educators and civic leaders in the history of the State of Louisiana and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 1952 and, in 1955, became the first African American graduate of the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; and

**WHEREAS**, following military service and work in the field of civil rights, Dr. Francis joined Xavier University of Louisiana in 1957 and served in various administrative capacities before being named President of the University in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis became the first lay President and first African American President of Xavier University of Louisiana, the nation's only historically Black and Catholic university; and

**WHEREAS**, during his 47 years as President of Xavier University of Louisiana, from 1968 through 2015, Dr. Francis oversaw significant growth in enrollment, academic offerings, campus facilities, and national prominence, establishing Xavier University as a nationally recognized leader in the education of African American students and in the preparation of students for careers in medicine, pharmacy, science, and other professions; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Francis served on numerous national boards and commissions and was widely recognized for his leadership in higher education, public service, civil rights, and disaster recovery efforts within the State of Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to education and public service; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Francis passed away on February 18, 2026, leaving a legacy of leadership, scholarship, perseverance, and service that continues to inspire generations of Louisianians; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lafayette Parish Council finds that it is fitting and proper to honor the life and accomplishments of Dr. Norman C. Francis, a native of Lafayette Parish whose achievements brought distinction to his hometown, the State of Louisiana, and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Regional Library will serve generations of residents through education, literacy, learning, and community engagement, values exemplified throughout the life and career of Dr. Norman C. Francis.

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

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

**SECTION 2:** The Northeast Regional Library of the Lafayette Public Library System, upon its opening and commencement of operations, shall be designated and known as the” Dr. Norman C. Francis Library.”

**SECTION 3:** The Lafayette Public Library System, the Lafayette Parish Library Board of Control, and the appropriate departments and officials of Lafayette Consolidated Government are hereby authorized and directed to incorporate such designation into official signage, maps, publications, records, and other materials pertaining to the facility.

**SECTION 4:** All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5:** 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL FORM

1) **JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:** An ordinance of the Lafayette Parish Council designating the Northeast Regional Library of the Lafayette Public Library System as the "Dr. Norman C. Francis Library."

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

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

4) **REQUESTED ACTION OF COUNCIL:**

A) INTRODUCTION: 06-16-2026

B) FINAL ADOPTION: 07-07-2026

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

A) Ordinance

B) Submittal

6) **FISCAL IMPACT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Impact (Explain)

  X   No Fiscal Impact

RECOMMENDED BY:

/s/Abraham "AB" Rubin, Jr.  
ABRAHAM "AB" RUBIN, JR.  
PARISH COUNCIL, DISTRICT 5