

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****September 14, 2021**

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SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE FORT WORTH BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER IN HONOR OF DEVOYD JENNINGS

Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. has requested that the City Council rename the Fort Worth Business Assistance Center (BAC) in honor of Devoyd Jennings. The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) supports the renaming.

Mr. Jennings was the longtime president of the Chamber and died on July 24, 2021. He grew up in Fort Worth, graduated from I.M. Terrell High School, and graduated from Texas Wesleyan University. Mr. Jennings helped create the William Mann Community Development Corporation and Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. He also worked with the City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth ISD, and many others to help establish minority and women-owned business enterprise goals. Mr. Jennings was passionate about ensuring economic access for all residents, and his contributions to Fort Worth and the greater community cannot be overstated.

The Chamber offices are located within the BAC at the James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus at 1150 South Freeway. The renaming to the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center is a fitting tribute.

The renaming is consistent with the City Council's policy for naming City-owned facilities (Resolution 3253-09-2005). Staff plans to place a resolution on the September 21 City Council agenda to authorize the name change. Staff would then design and install a sign that is appropriate for the historic structure.

For any questions on this report, please contact Robert Sturns, Economic Development Director, at 817-392-2663.

David Cooke
City Manager