

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 109

Approved February 28, 2025

WHEREAS, Dell G. Padgett, born on October 1, 1936, in North Carolina, moved to Providence in 1950 and became a cherished member of the community, contributing greatly to the cultural and artistic life of the city; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Padgett was a graduate of Hope High School and dedicated 39 years of service to Carol Cable, after which he retired and devoted himself fully to his passion for the arts, making significant contributions in painting, collage, photography, writing, and music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Padgett was the original lead singer of "Witchcraft" by the R&B group The Spiders, a song later popularized by Elvis Presley, and was perhaps best known as a member of the 1950s R&B Doo-Wop group, The Castaleers, who were inducted into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame in 2014; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his musical accomplishments, Mr. Padgett was a prolific photographer, using his art to document the Black experience in Rhode Island. His work was displayed in galleries and publications, including the *Providence Journal*, and he generously donated his collection to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Padgett's commitment to preserving and promoting the arts was also seen through his role in the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society, and his legacy continues through the Padgett Arts Series, launched in September 2023 at Jacqueline Clements Park which is located on Dudley Street in the Upper South Providence neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Dell G. Padgett passed away on April 30, 2024, at the age of 87, leaving behind an enduring legacy in both the arts and the Providence community, which will be remembered for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his lifelong contributions to the arts, culture, and the community of Providence, it is fitting to honor Mr. Padgett's legacy with an honorary street renaming.

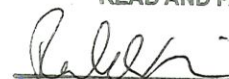

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby honors the life and legacy of Dell G. Padgett and calls for the honorary renaming of Dudley Street in Providence's 11th Ward to "Padgett Way"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dell G. Padgett as a token of the City Council's esteem and respect for his lasting contributions to the City of Providence; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Department of Public Works so that they may work to manufacture, install and maintain one or more honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations along Dudley Street, which shall reflect the Padgett Way honorary designation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 20 2025

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor
Date: 2/28/2025