

Most Reverend Dr. Anthony Neal, First Lady Christie Neal, and Blessed Members of First Baptist Church of Badin:

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Tito and I would sincerely like to thank those of you that offered your community support in the push for renaming the streets of West Badin. We begin this effort on June 17th with Tito making T-shirts detailing the issue (with the idea of "Wear it on your chest" and let them know we mean it), contacting Badin's Town Council and inquiring why something that has been a complaint for 30 plus years had been ignored (with one of the first verbal requests, on record, from the late Mr. Rick Kindell in 2012), doing hours of research, calling agencies and getting confirmations, getting the news platforms' attention, Tito formally, in-person, putting in an application and petition to start the process (a process they said was non-existence), formed a small but fierce team (West Badin Concerned Citizens) with Mrs. Georgette Edgerton, Mrs. Valerie Legrand Tyson and Mr. Gerald Watkins, and pushed for the topic to be put on the agenda until it finally was. We continually strategized, got their attention and kept it! Since June 17th, many of you at First Baptist Church, a pillar in the West Badin Community, never wavered on your support and we sincerely thank you and appreciate you!

On Tuesday night, July 12th, 2022 Badin's Town Council made a motion, led by Councilman Gary Lowder, voted (4-1) and approved the renaming of West Badin's streets! We wanted to hear "West Badin's streets will be renamed!" And we did! Tears fell, happy tears, I thought back of how it began, what "they" said would have to happen and the "long process" they said it would be, then I thought about what God said! It took 25 days of trusting God, diligence, perseverance, and your support. Some people said wait and others told us it is a waste of time, "They won't get changed!" But some community leaders, like Mrs. Burnetta Maske, Mr. Curtis Watkins, Mrs. Brenda Standback, and Mr. Brady Crump, asked "What are we waiting for?" and told us to "Push it!" What some may have thought would be community division, brought the community together to right a wrong that was made over

100 years ago. We saw the change that many did not see, the change many of you supported is now visible! We followed Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Again, thank you so much for your unconditional support!

P.S. Don't forget, the first annual West Badin Festival on September 17th ~ We're bringing this victory, community, fellowship, heritage and West Badin pride to the streets, right in the middle of what will be formally known as Roosevelt Street! 🤗

God's continued blessings to you~

Sincerely,

Tito & Avonda Thomas with West Badin Concerned Citizens