

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Dr. John Jarvis Seabrook was a prominent Black pastor, educator, and president emeritus of Huston-Tillotson University who joined forces with a group of community activists called the Austin Black Assembly in their fight to have a street renamed for slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that made history; and

WHEREAS, opposition arose to the renaming of 19th Street, which at that time was a primary thoroughfare that crossed both East and West Austin; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 1975, Dr. Seabrook testified eloquently before the Austin City Council that making 19th St. MLK Jr., Blvd. only on the east side of IH-35 would denigrate the memory of a man who had dedicated his life to crossing such barriers; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 1975, Dr. Seabrook addressed the City Council again giving an impassioned plea to rename the entire street and suffered a heart attack from which he could not be revived, but which ultimately settled the issue of the street renaming; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seabrook should be remembered as a man who gave his life to bring East and West Austin together; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness of this important chapter in Austin's history, a group of Austinites from both sides of the Interstate organized a celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Dr. Seabrook's death; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council honors the memory of Dr. John Jarvis Seabrook and his effort to bridge East and West Austin by renaming the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Bridge over IH-35 “**J.J. Seabrook Bridge**”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to coordinate with the Texas Department of Transportation and furnish a suitable identifying memorial marker or markers acceptable to the department which will be appropriately erected to identify the bridge as the J.J. Seabrook Bridge in accordance with Chapter 225, Texas Transportation Code and Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 25.9.

ADOPTED: _____, 2010 **ATTEST:** _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk