

# WELCOME

**City Council Presentation for Honorary Naming Motion**

**J. Leonard Levy & George A. Levy**

**August 7, 2025**



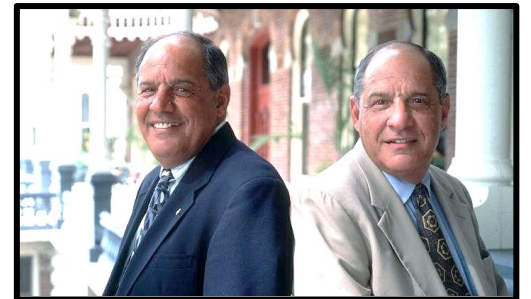
# **J. Leonard Levy & George A. Levy – Honorary Naming**

## **City Council Motion 25-15201**

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**That staff be requested to provide a presentation on an honorary street renaming for J. Leonard Levy and George Levy, preferably near Raymond James Stadium. (Miranda-Carlson)**

- J. Leonard Levy and George A. Levy meet the criteria for consideration for honorary naming of a City Street per Ordinance 2023-63, Section 2-828 (A)(2), (4), (6), and (7).**



# J. Leonard Levy & George A. Levy – Honorary Naming

## Honoree Background – J. Leonard Levy

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- **J. Leonard Levy**, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and University of Florida graduate, was instrumental in bringing professional football to Tampa. As chairman of the West Coast Pro Football Task Force, he helped secure **Tampa's first NFL franchise**. He went on to play major roles in hosting **Super Bowls XVIII, XXV, and XXXV**, and served on the Executive Committee for the 2017 College Football Playoff National Championship. Leonard's dedication to sports and civic causes earned him numerous honors, including the **Key to the City of Tampa in 2021**.

# J. Leonard Levy & George A. Levy – Honorary Naming

## Honoree Background – George Levy

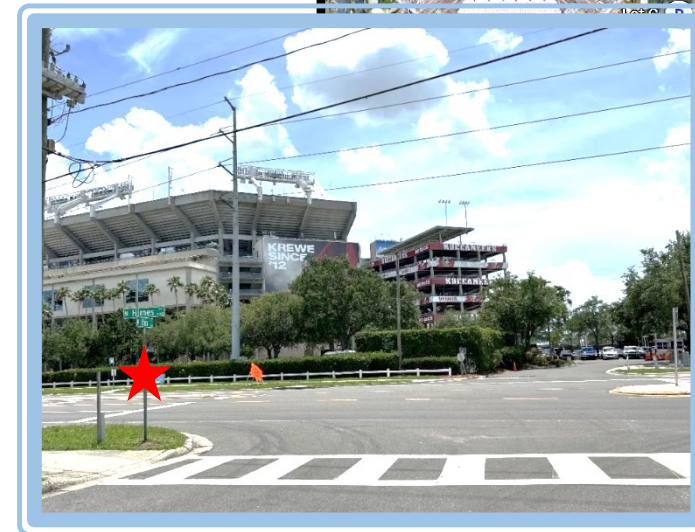
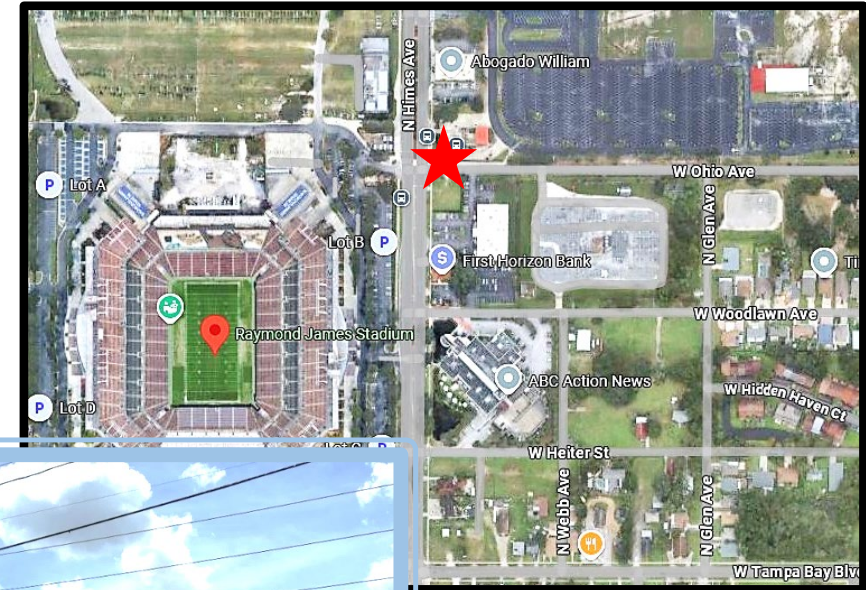
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- **George Levy**, founder of George A. Levy Awards, built one of America's top award companies while actively serving on key boards that shaped Tampa's sports and education landscape. A **charter member of the Tampa Sports Club** and a member of multiple **Super Bowl and NCAA event task forces**, George was a driving force behind youth sports development and public recreation. His extensive service earned him the title of **Tampa Citizen of the Year in 1999**.



# J. Leonard Levy & George A. Levy – Mobility Department's Recommendation

- An honorary street naming sign (SNS) to be installed at the southeast corner of N. Himes Avenue at W. Ohio Avenue.
- The location is adjacent to a high-volume pedestrian crosswalk crossing N. Himes Avenue and thus would be seen by many Buccaneer fans as well as the community at large.



# J. Leonard Levy & George A. Levy – Mobility Department's Recommendation

- A doubled sided "J. Leonard & George Levy" street naming sign (SNS).
- Using an ampersand "&" between the brothers' names to improve readability, reduce the sign size if needed and number of fonts though incremental.
- A SNS consisting of a black legend and border on a white background below the existing legal SNS.



SNS Example

Bishop Matthew Williams<sup>AV</sup>

## **J. Leonard Levy**

J. Leonard Levy was a member of a small cadre that would meet with then NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and the 24 NFL team owners starting in 1970 pitching them on awarding Tampa an NFL franchise. In 1974, they were successful in their efforts and the league awarded Tampa with an NFL franchise, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Born on July 25, 1933, in Tampa, Florida to the late Solomon and Simmie Levy, Mr. Levy graduated from Henry B. Plant High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism from the University of Florida where throughout his life he served with its National Executive Committee and the Gator Boosters. Following graduation, he served his country in the United States Marine Corps. Upon his honorable discharge from military service as Captain, he began his business career with Hillsboro Printing Company as a sales representative. Mr. Levy's abilities, professionalism, dedication to ethical business practices, and natural personality led to many promotions up to his capstone as President and Majority Shareholder. Following his retirement in 2006, he dedicated himself fully to his passion for the Tampa Bay community, its citizens, and its growth and success.

Mr. Levy was undeniably passionate about sports and his beloved community. His efforts and leadership helped put the Tampa Bay region on national and global maps including his playing a key role in the successful campaign to bring a National Football League franchise to Tampa. His determination to bring the NFL Super Bowl to Tampa resulted in Tampa hosting five Super Bowls from 1984 to 2021, where he chaired the Task Force for each one.

Mr. Levy's accomplishments led to further success in establishing the Tampa Bay Rowdies, Tampa Bay Lightning, Tampa Bay Rays, and Tampa hosting many globally watched and attended events such as the Republican National Convention, Major League Baseball's World Series, National Collegiate Athletic Association's Final Four Basketball Championship, and much more.

Mr. Levy was a strong supporter of his hometown of Tampa, going above and beyond in his leadership, service, and philanthropy including as a founding member of the Gold Shield Foundation, serving with the Outback Bowl, Tampa Bay Sports Foundation, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Tampa General Hospital Foundation, Tampa Sports Authority, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla, and many others.

Mr. Levy was named Civitan Club's Citizen of the Year, Tampa Sports Club's Ad Man of the Year and Citizen of the Year Award, the Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award, UF's Distinguished Alumnus Award, he was inducted into the UF and Tampa Sports Halls of Fame, and he received the Key to the City of Tampa. J. Leonard Levy Day was proclaimed in his honor in 2021.

Mr. Levy passed away on August 18, 2022, at age 89 and will be forever remembered for his love of family, his wisdom, ethics, generosity and as a well-respected and beloved community leader and businessman.



## **George A. Levy**

George A. Levy was a member of a small cadre that would meet with then NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle and the 24 NFL team owners starting in 1970 pitching them on awarding Tampa an NFL franchise. In 1974, they were successful in their efforts and the league awarded Tampa with an NFL franchise, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Born on July 25, 1933, in Tampa, Florida to the late Solomon and Simmie Levy, Mr. Levy graduated from Henry B. Plant High School and the University of Florida and served his country for two years in the United States Army. He was the founder of George A. Levy Awards and built the business into one of the top ten award businesses in America.

Mr. Levy was active in many civic and business organizations including an appointment to the Board of Trustees of Hillsborough Community College, where he served as Chairman of the Board and to the 13th Judicial Nominating Committee. Mr. Levy was a charter member and president of the Tampa Sports Club and also served on the Tampa Sports Authority, City of Tampa Board of Public Recreation, Gator Boosters, Inc. Board of Directors, charter member of the University of Tampa Sword and Shield Club, a member of the Tampa Pro Football Task Force (serving on the task force for Super Bowls XVIII and XXV), Associated Industries of Florida, Executive Committee of the J. Clifford MacDonald Center, Board of Directors of the Hall of Fame Bowl, and the Sunshine State Games.

Mr. Levy founded the Greater Tampa Swimming Association, where he served as director and coach, was also a member of the Tampa Sports Club Hall of Fame, served on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay as a lifetime member, Vice President of the Gold Shield Foundation, Outback Bowl Selection Committee, and New York Yankees Tampa Foundation.

Mr. Levy has been honored and recognized on many occasions including being named the 1999 Tampa Citizen of the Year, 1991 Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America, 1994 University of Tampa's Center of Ethics Annual Award, 1998 Tampa Sports Club's Citizen of the Year, 1998 Alumnus of Distinction by the University of Florida's Tampa Gator Club, 1998 Boys & Girls Clubs of America Service to Youth Award, awarded the National Medallion by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa in 2003, in 2000 an EDDIE, the Superintendents Award by the Hillsborough County Education Foundation.

Mr. Levy passed away on September 27, 2016, at age 83, leaving behind his wife Judy, four children, and an indelible mark on the Tampa community.