



Street Renaming Policy Discussion

April 1, 2021

Naming Committee



Background

- Recent citizen requests to rename streets named for Confederate leaders and military members
- Existing requirements make changing a street name difficult **for individuals because of the outreach required**
- City staff **suggest there is public value in simplifying** the process for certain street names

~32 streets named for known Confederates

~32 streets possibly named for known Confederates

Impacts of Changing a Street Name

City related impacts:

- Cost of new signage (paid for by City)
- GIS maps changes

Homeowner/Business related impacts:

- Licenses
- Billing
- Insurance
- Subscriptions
- Signage
- Stationary
- Advertising (print/TV/radio/online/social media/etc.)



Proposed Policy for Confederate Street Names

Existing	Proposed
Arterials and Expressways - Require 100 property owners to sign petition to initiate process	Arterials and Expressways - Require 25 residents to sign petition to initiate process
Local, primary collector, residential collector, alley or unnamed alley - 75% of affected property owners must sign petition to initiate process	Local, primary collector, residential collector, alley or unnamed alley - 10% or 25 property owners, whichever is fewer, sign petition to initiate process .
No requirement for citizen led public meeting/info session	Minimum of one citizen led public meeting/info session
Applicants pay cost of public hearing notification	City pays cost of public hearing notification
Naming Committee reviews proposed change and sends recommendation to Planning Commission. Planning Commission sends recommendation to City Council.	
City Council may initiate a renaming for any existing public right-of-way by majority vote and direct staff to bring a proposal forward.	

Origination of Proposed Street Names?

- List of street names provided by Office of Historic Alexandria (would need to be developed)
- Applicant may propose a name if it complies with street name requirements
- Any other source for street names?

Street name changes will not be considered if:

- Name is a duplication or near duplication of an existing street name;
- Existing street name has significant historical value;
- Name is perceived to be offensive to segments of citizenry;
- Name change is longer than 14 characters;
- Name is after a living person; and
- Name is a commercial entity or implies a commercial endorsement.



Other Points of Discussion

- Should City Council or citizens initiate street name changes for major roadways including Beauregard, Pickett and Van Dorn?
- Should City Council initiate changing all streets named for known Confederates or should it be citizen led?
- Should recommendation come from Naming Committee?
- If City led, preferred method to choose new street name? (staff selected, Council selected, survey, poll, etc.)