



Confederate Street Re-naming

City Council Naming Committee

September 28, 2023

Agenda



1. Call to Order: Councilman Chapman, Chair
2. Historic Alexandria Resources Commission's List of Potential Names
3. Discussion on the Selection of Names to Change
4. Naming Committee Recommendation
5. Review of Process and Next Steps, including feedback opportunities
6. Adjournment

Background

- This process provides an implementation strategy for Mayor's proposal on January 10, 2023 to rename streets named for Confederate Soldiers
- Staff have confirmed that 41 streets are named for confederate soldiers, with additional streets identified as "possible names"
- Of the 41 streets, 21 were named in 1953 following approval of an ordinance that specifically stated that "streets running in a generally north-south direction shall, insofar as possible, bear the names of Confederate military leaders."
- This ordinance was approved one year following the annexation of Alexandria's West End (west of Quaker Lane) where many streets in the City had not yet been developed nor been named

HARC List of Potential Names

On January 10, 2023, Mayor Justin M. Wilson proposed that the “Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) will be requested to develop a list, with the support of the Office of Historic Alexandria, of individuals and locations, worthy of honor by the City. The Commission is requested to pay special attention to inclusion of women and minorities (as well as events and locations significant to women and minorities throughout our history), who have frequently been overlooked through history.”

- Five members of HARC were appointed to an Ad-Hoc Street Name Research Committee.
- The committee met once a month from March 2023 to August 2023. Each of the six meetings were open to the public for comment.
- In each session, members of the committee and public had the opportunity to put forth names to be discussed, which were then brought to the full Commission for vote.
- Staff have added the text shown in italics following the City’s GIS and Public Safety agencies thoroughly vetting the names to ensure that they will not conflict and/or cause confusion with existing City streets.



Naming Committee Recommendation

Next Steps

- Following the September meeting, staff will issue a media release and communications to the community with a public feedback form on the recommended names.
- The press release will invite suggestions from the Community.
Any names from the community must include:
 - the justification for the proposed name;
 - documentation on a community-led meeting to discuss the name.
 - It may also include recommendations from representatives in the community, such as a community organization (HOA/Civic Association), and an explanation of any additional information on a community outreach process.
- The City will provide a postcard with information about the naming process, including the FAQ's and upcoming meetings, to all addresses on impacted streets prior to the next Naming Committee meeting and City Council public hearings.
- Yard signs with a QR Code for the feedback form will be posted on the selected streets

Next Steps

- In November, the Naming Committee will hold an open public hearing and subsequently make a recommendation to City Council.
- City Council will then receive the recommendation of the City's Naming Committee and will schedule the recommendation to be considered, along with a corresponding proposed ordinance, per Code Sec. 5-2-66, at a City Council Public Hearing.
- City Council will make an official decision following the City Council Public Hearing.
- Following approvals, City Staff will begin the process of address, system, and sign changes (after the holidays).





Discussion