

Confederate Street Renaming Responses
As of November 27, 2023

Q1: Are you a resident or business owner on one of the streets that will potentially be renamed?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.91%	70
No	43.09%	53
TOTAL		123

Q2: Which street do you reside or own a business on?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Frost Street	1.45%	1
Jordan Street or Jordan Court	21.74%	15
Early Street	59.42%	41
Forrest Street	14.49%	10
Breckinridge Place	2.90%	2
TOTAL		69

Q3: Do you support renaming Breckinridge Place to honor any of the following individuals:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Benjamin Banneker	26.00%	17
Sarah Gray	20.0%	11
Harriet Jacobs	20.0%	11

Ona Judge	16.00%	10
Other	76.00%	44
TOTAL		93

OTHER

1. Keep it the same
2. We DO NOT agree. We would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early.
3. No. Other is not a choice for all residents.
4. Nothing wrong with numbered street names (e.g., First Place)
5. No
6. I do not support renaming.
7. No keep it the Breckinridge Place in honor of a great American.
8. Breckenridge Place
9. Comment: individuals should have sustained and direct connections to the City of Alexandria
10. Leave it as is!
11. Fuck You
12. Leave as is
13. Retain as Breckinridge Place
14. This whole plan is ridiculous in the extreme. Drop the whole thing
15. Stupid waste of money HISTORY
16. No
17. Ridge Place
18. You guys have lost you're minds
19. No
20. I do not support this.
21. Vice President and General Breckenridge
22. No one wants to change the names.
23. Keep the name as is. Changing the name won't change anything about race relations. None of the individuals above are well known to anyone or are of any historical consequence.
24. No.
25. name for something in nature or use something else instead of person
26. Renaming is good, but NOT AFTER ANY PERSON
27. Do not support renaming. Let's put the money into our schools. You can't change history. This is a waste of time and funds. You are creating problems and division by bringing up the past and pursuing this.
28. Why can't we honor prominent Americans regardless of color?
29. Leave it Alone!
30. Leave the street names as they currently are. Us the new names in new developments that will need street names.
31. No change.
32. I do not. This is absurd
33. no renaming will cost my business an enormous amout of money

34. Do not use names. ALL of these people have done something in thier lives that is offensive to someone. Don't make this mistake. Please use names of flowers, trees, hills, whatever. NOT NAMES.
35. I oppose renaming streets for specific individuals.
36. Do not rename.
37. I think there are more important matters for our government to spend our time on than obscuring history.
38. No
39. History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from. And if it offends you, even better, because you are less likely to repeat it. History is not yours to change or destroy.
40. Breckinridge Place
41. Breckinridge Place. I am opposed to the erasure of the history and culture of this city, which in any other context would be considered "cultural genocide."
42. No. Breckrinridge was an important player in antebellum politics and a Vice President. Instead--A new suspense novel set in Alexandria has much Civil War history, and discusses the recent disputes over removing, or retaining, statues and other artefacts from that era. A main character makes a proposal for a very different, and unifying, not contentious, approach — ADDing statues! The book has much Civil War history, and discusses the recent disputes over removing, or retaining, statues and other artefacts from that era. A main character makes a proposal for a very different approach— "...Instead of focusing solely on the Appomattox statue, "said the historian during the public meeting, "I'd like to propose a bold compromise. To think outside the box. To outline a proposal that all citizens of Alexandria, Virginia, of all different views, might find agreeable." Ted was happy to find that his voice, a bit high-strung at first, quickly calmed down, and hit its normal, middle register. "Instead of removing, or keeping, a single statue—why not add statues, many, many statues—and memorials, and works of art, and monuments? "About people from all aspects of the Civil War, and the antebellum and post- war periods, as all of that played out here in Alexandria." The audience, he noted, was quiet, if puzzled, which was good. "Why don't we add," he stressed, "to the rich tapestry of our town's history, of our nation's history, instead of focusing on just a single aspect of it? "Let's create more statues—of runaway slaves, rebel spies, builders of schools for the freedmen and women. And Federal officers, rebel soldiers, Union Army doctors and Southern nurses, African-American ministers, and more." Ted deliberately didn't use the explosive word "Confederate", substituting "rebel" or "Southern" instead. "In short, mementos of everyone who took part here in America's greatest story, its greatest drama, the Civil War." The crowd in the town hall stirred, with some people making muted, mostly negative, comments. "Let's honor such people who are linked to our town. Persons such as the great Harriet Jacobs. She was the escaped slave who, like Anne Frank, in the Europe that the Nazis had seized, hid out in the attic of a relative, hid for years, to escape the slave catchers trying to find her. A woman of mixed ancestry, black and white, like many civil rights leaders have been. Like Frederick Douglass, also of mixed ancestry, she authored an autobiography that informed countless readers of the evils of slavery." Though he had his talk more or less memorized, Ted glanced from time to time at the notes he'd sent to the email app of his phone. "Harriet Jacobs," he stated, gazing up at the ceiling dramatically, "should be a household name. When thousands of so-called 'contrabands' escaped from plantations to the Union lines in Alexandria. A dire shortage of shelter, of medicine, and education ensued. Harriet Jacobs organized the building of homes, hospitals, and schools for thousands of these displaced persons. Years later, she went on to found a college in the South, where women could attend, one of the first schools in the nation for this. "Certainly, she deserves a statue of her own! And why not place it across the street from the existing one of the Southern soldier at Washington and Prince Streets?" At this point there were more audience murmurs, again mostly negatives, but some positive "yeahs" and nods of affirmation as well. "Then there's someone like John Janney, of the distinguished Quaker family of businessmen in the Old Town of old. Everyone here has heard of Quaker Lane, west of Old Town, Alexandria, and Janney's Lane; they are named after the Janney family and its religion. John Janney actually managed the secession conferences that took Virginia out of the Union"—the listeners began to boo, and Ted's voice rose—"and he opposed secession." The booing stopped. "Janney warned that leaving the Union would be a disaster for Virginia, and for the United States. 'I've done

everything in my power,' he said at that time, 'to try and avert this catastrophe.' "And there were actually two secession conferences. In the first one, Virginia actually voted to stay in the Union. Then came Fort Sumter, and President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to 'suppress the rebellion,' which a lot of Alexandrians thought meant bloody battles on their doorstep. And so, in the second secession conference there came the break with the Union. However, John Janney still opposed leaving. In the end, he stood with his State, while opposing its decision." Ted paused; the room was silent.

He added, "Surely a statue of that man would provoke thoughtful reflection on that momentous period. "In fact, the city could place DOZENS of statues and memorials throughout Old Town, that relate to that great conflict. For figures such as Booker T. Washington, the former slave, of mixed ancestry, turned founder of Tuskegee Institute college in Alabama." Ted was careful to pronounce Tuskegee, a tongue twister, correctly, as "TusKEEgee". "That esteemed educator spoke after the war at the African-American Roberts Memorial Church, on Washington St. He founded a university that would give us the first black squadron of fighter pilots, that took on and defeated Nazi pilots over the skies of World War Two Europe. "Why not a statue of Booker T. near that church?" A few clapped, but the crowd sat mostly in silence, surprised at this discourse, unsure what to make of it. Listeners looked at each other for a hint of whether they should respond positively or negatively. His friend Harmony noticed this, and realized Ted was winning a victory of a sort. He was prodding people to think about the various sides of a complex issue. 'He should be a college professor,' she thought, 'or a speechwriter.' "Then there's the spy, a local spy," Ted went on, "with an unusual name: Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow. Born and bred around Alexandria. Some years before, PBS did a TV series based on actual events in Alexandria during the Civil War. A major character was Stringfellow." Most in the crowd, who had never heard of him, looked at Ted with puzzled interest. "When you drive west out along Route 66, near the Manassas battlefields, you may have noticed an exit called Stringfellow Road. It's named after him." Ted had been hesitant to mention this man, for fear he'd trigger a movement to change the name of the exit. But this story was too good not to tell. "Stringfellow spied for the rebel side, at the Carlyle House," he stated evenly, as the crowd murmured negatively, "at our town's largest and oldest mansion, and one of its biggest tourist attractions. Now it's a museum, in part, of Civil War history." Ted spoke rapidly, to defuse the negative reaction. "After the war Stringfellow joined the Federal Army—the Union Army, in effect—as a chaplain. With the signed approval of Northern Presidents of the United States, supporters of civil rights. Presidents like Ulysses S. Grant, the former commander of the Union Army." The murmuring remained, but was less negative in tone. "Stringfellow, as his name suggests, had a slender frame: in fact, he would sometimes disguise himself as a woman to elicit information from Union soldiers." Ted paused, remembering his bad speaking habit of ignoring the audience. But he knew a speaker should continually gauge his audience's reaction. He looked out into the hall. His listeners seemed wary, unsure: interested in what he was saying, but uncomfortable. Many were frowning, but listened keenly. A few laughed at the remark about Stringfellow dressing up as a woman. "This man, who got his education at the Episcopal High School just west of here, wound up as chaplain with another President: Teddy Roosevelt, and his Rough Riders, at the famous Battle of San Juan Hill, in Cuba. "Surely a character like that merits a statue," Ted stated. Some listeners, he saw, shook their heads negatively, so he added quickly, "And there's also George Lewis Seaton, the son of an enslaved woman, freed by Martha Washington at Mt. Vernon.

George Seaton was a pathbreaker: in the wake of the Civil War, he was one of the first blacks elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, in Richmond—the former capital of the Confederacy. A master carpenter, Seaton built the Odd Fellows Hall here, on South Royal St. "The 'Odd Fellows': what a wonderfully descriptive name, for the fellows who were the 'odd men out' during segregation. They were a fraternal organization for African-Americans, and usually professionals or skilled workmen—doctors, carpenters, architects—during the time of Jim Crow. George Seaton also built two schools for the freed men and women of color. Not least, he had twelve children." Ted thought of something. He couldn't resist. "Twelve kids, wow. How about that? A dozen children. Perhaps it was George Seaton, and not George Washington, who was the true, Father, of his country!" At this a number in the crowd guffawed. Ted stopped, then stressed: "But seriously: From a slave at

the first President's plantation, to becoming a state legislator, in one generation! Why not craft a Seaton statue to stand outside the other Odd Fellows Hall, which is right down the street from Christ Church? Surely such a man deserves it!" Ted stole a glance Deputy Mayor Morenis; he was grimacing, his hand gripping hard the gavel. Whatever their thoughts of Seaton, they evidently didn't like where Ted was going with this. He plowed ahead. "That latter Hall was founded, by the way, by Martha Washington, in the early 1800s, as one of the town's first schools. For women. During the Civil War it was prison run by the Union Army, where pro-Southern civilians from the region were detained. After the war, ironically, Confederate veterans held meetings in the place." Ted sensed his window of opportunity before a less-than-friendly audience might be closing. He stated quickly, "In fact, the city could erect dozens of statues and markers and memorial inscriptions about its unparalleled history. It wouldn't cost much, or maybe anything at all. Historical societies, and government grants, might pay the expenses." He added vigorously: "Think of it: Alexandria could transform chunks of Old Town into an Outdoor Museum of the Civil War! With walking paths for different aspects of the war: escaped slaves, rebel spies, Union doctors, the dilemmas that women faced during the conflict, the role of Quaker merchants and educators in ending slavery, Confederate officers, the Union fort that stood near today's Woodrow Wilson Bridge—the possibilities are endless!" The audience stirred. But Ted was too caught up in his talk to tell if the reaction was good or ill. He was a little nervous, but mostly excited at being able to offer such remarks in a public forum. "It is even possible," he stressed, "to make Alexandria comparable to Gettysburg, or to Richmond, Virginia, or to D.C. itself, as a nationally recognized destination for Civil War tourism. What an opportunity to examine all aspects of that story...! We could draw in millions of dollars of tourist revenues to the town! And for—" "—I object to this!" shouted the previous speaker into her microphone, startling everyone. "This is so way off topic," she sniffed. "We're supposed to be debating the removal of the Appomattox statue. And not adding more statues like it!" The loud crack of a gavel reverberated through the hall. "I must agree!" intoned Morenis. "And, Mr. Sifter, you're over your allotted time. We have a few more speakers to get to, and I won't have the urgent matter of the statue's removal delayed another day!" Most of the audience applauded. The prior speaker preened, her pinched face aglow with spiteful triumph. Trying to stay even-tempered at his sudden dismissal, Ted grabbed his notes, and walked back into the audience to sit down again next to Harmony. Along the way he observed the attendees, who seemed relieved at hearing from the other speaker and the City Council, and thus sure now on how they were supposed to look upon Ted's views. Negatively. As he sat down, Ted quoted Lincoln's self-deprecating remark after his delivery of the Gettysburg Address: "That was a flat failure." Harmony shook her head. "No." She rolled her shoulders as she considered the event. "I was carefully watching the audience reaction," she said in her mellifluous voice. "I think a lot of people liked your idea, or at least were willing to entertain it. That's why they were so quiet, relatively quiet, during your presentation. They listened to you with interest, and with surprise..." From *The Old Town Horror*— (3) *The Old Town Horror: Murder and Theft in America's Most Historic Locale* | Alexandria VA | Facebook *THE OLD TOWN HORROR: Murder and Theft in America's Most Historic Locale* by Edward P Moser, Paperback | Barnes & Noble® (barnesandnoble.com)

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Q4: Do you support renaming Frost Street to honor any of the following individuals:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Benjamin Banneker	0%	0
Sarah Gray	0%	0
Harriet Jacobs	28.57%	7
Ona Judge	14.29%	3
Other	85.71%	11
TOTAL		21

OTHER

1. Keep it the same
2. We do not agree. We would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early.
3. No. Other is not a choice for residents
4. Frost St.
5. Crawford Street
6. I think there are more important matters for our government to spend our time on than obscuring history.
7. No
8. History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from. And if it offends you, even better, because you are less likely to repeat it. History is not yours to change or destroy. Front Street is generic enough that people will not know who it is named for.
9. Frost Street
10. Frost Street I am opposed to the erasure of the history and culture of this city, which in any other context would be considered "cultural genocide."

Q5: Do you support renaming Early Street to honor any of the following individuals:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Benjamin Banneker	2.50%	3
Sarah Gray	5.00%	6
Harriet Jacobs	7.50%	4
Ona Judge	5.00%	2
Other	90.0%	41
TOTAL		56

OTHER

1. Early should remain Early, just change the connotation.
2. As a freelance reporter who has written extensively about the first families whose children integrated ACPS schools in the late 1950s, I was able to interview and get to know decedents of Blois Hundley, a single mother who lost her job and livelihood because she sought for her children to be allowed the same education as the city's white public school students. She and her family endured much pain and heartache in the late 1950s. I think renaming this street after Ms. Hundley — Hundley Street — would be the best possible option for this street because it would allow the Hundley family to come and share in this honor, and for Alexandria to be able to right a historical wrong while Ms Hundley's children are alive and can participate and see and appreciate the honor. Other suggestions already have streets and buildings named after them, but Ms Hundley does not. Renaming TC Williams was an important step in acknowledging the city's sad segregationist past, but renaming and honoring Ms Hundley would show the city doing more by embracing the historical contributions of those who fought for and affected this change. I'm including a link to an article I wrote about Ms Hundley below. Thank you, Jamie McElhatton <https://alextimes.com/2019/01/turner-sisters/>
3. Please note that the N. Early St. in the Brad Lee subdivision was not part of the 1953 ordinance as indicated by all city records, please kindly remove this street from the process.
4. Keep existing name.
5. Early. There is no need to change it. There are plenty of notable individuals whose surname is Early. While we understand the reasoning behind not wanting to support those in the Confederate Army, and encourage African American notable figures, this name change is a waste of tax payers dollars and my time. I have numerous accounts that will need to be changed. It's the equivalent to moving. Not just shopping subscriptions, but vehicle registrations, mortgage companies, all documents and utilities relating to my investment properties will all need to be updated. This unnecessary change could result in undeliverable and lost mail and packages. We have already had this problem after completing our ADU; we still do not get packages delivered to the correct address now. As far as I'm concerned, find another notable figure with the last name of Early to name the street after. James M. Early was an electrical engineer noted for his work with

transistors. Stephen Early held the position of press secretary longer than anyone else. He served under FDR and Harry Truman.

6. Early Street: Named for "early" bird or "early" in the morning (early is a generic word with a positive association). Or Stephen Tyree Early, press secretary for FDR and inventor of the "fireside chat", also from Virginia. The residents on our street widely oppose the renaming of our street, except perhaps to drop the "N" and make it Early Street. Our street, N Early Street near Bradlee, is not listed in the 1953 ordinance (which refers to Early Street in the Delta neighborhood, not our neighborhood) so there is no reason we should be subject to the renaming. Our neighborhood should not be grouped with another neighborhood (Delta) that has no connection to our neighborhood. Furthermore, the word "early" is a generic word with a positive association, and the residents on our street would like to keep the name. We have determined this from numerous conversations with other residents on our street.
7. Early St. I have talked with my neighbors and we agree we want to rename it "Early St" after early in the morning, or early bird.
8. Street s should NOT be named any persons (alive or dead) after to prevent controversy. Use generic names.
9. I do not support renaming the streets.
10. North Early Street. I've lived on the street for twelve years and didn't know who Jubal Early was until the City decided to rename it. Early means the opposite of late. No one associates it with the name of a long-forgotten racist.
11. Research was done by going through historical and city documents and it was uncovered that our North Early Street was not part of the 1953 ordinance for renaming streets. Our North Early was not part of it at all. It was the North and South Early in the Delta subdivision and we were named at a different time, and we are in the Brad Lee subdivision. Neighbors met with vice- mayor Amy Jackson yesterday and she was very appreciative of all the research. She has requested that North Early residents fill out the city feedback form, and select other, and indicate that we would like our street to remain North Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early. Our North Early is completely separate from the other North Early and was never renamed.
12. Leave as is
13. No. Our street in Brad Lee was NOT named for Jubal Early and it's inclusion is a mistake of the company hired by the city cover that DID NOT due its due diligence in their research.
14. historical and city documents indicate N Early, and my address of 2356 N Early St, IS NOT part of the 1953 ordinance for renaming streets. My N Early was not part of it at all. It was the north and south early in the Delta subdivision, we were named at a different time, and we are in the Brad Lee subdivision. Believe our street should remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early. our N Early is completely separate from the other North Early and was never renamed.
15. Our N. Early street should remain N. Early St. Our N. Early St is not part of the 1953 ordinance which is the N and S Early in the Delta subdivision. We are part of the Brad Lee subdivision and separate. We have no association with Jubal Early. Thus, the street name should remain N Early St.
16. According to historical and city documents, the N Early Street where I reside was not part of the 1953 ordinance for renaming streets. Our N Early was not part of it but rather the north and south early in the Delta subdivision. N Early off of Braddock and Menokin was named at a different time and is pet of the Brad Lee subdivision. I would like my street to remain N Early because it was not part of the 1953 ordinance and has no association with Jubal Early.
17. N Early Street - After doing research and having gone through historical and city documents and uncovered that our street is not part of the 1953 ordinance for renaming streets and has no association with Jubal Early. It is the North and South Early street in the Delta subdivision, ours was named at a different time, and has never been connected to these streets. We are located in the Brad Lee subdivision. Our N Early was named by two Jewish American developers early on in their careers. They went on to donate millions of dollars to the Holocaust museum in DC. All of this information has been passed on to Vice-Mayor Amy Jackson.

18. I live on North Early Street of the Brad Lee subdivison. This street name was not associated with the 1953 ordinance that the committee references. The Early Streets of the Delta subdivision were named as a consequence of the Ordinance at issue. As the historical records unequivocally show this to be the case, our street is incorrectly being included with the Delta Early Street, should be removed from the City's map of streets renamed as a consequence of the 1953 Ordinance, and should remain North Early Street.
19. We would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early. This N Early is completely separate from the other North Early and was never renamed. We are part of Bradlee Not Delta Early.
20. I would like our street to remain N Early because we weren't part of the 1953 ordinance and not part of Jubal Early
21. Prefer if using a surname as opposed to first and last name Plus - please do NOT rename 2200 -2400 (+/-) N. Early if it doesn't was not named in the 1953 Ordinance. It appears to have been named during a different time period.
22. I do not want our street to be renamed. It was not part of the 1953 ordinance for renaming streets. Our N Early was not part of it at all. It was the north and south early in the Delta subdivision, we were named at a different time, and we are in the Brad Lee subdivision. We would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early.
23. We would like our street to remain N Early (between Menokin and Braddock) because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early. Our N Early is completely separate from the other North Early and was never renamed.
24. we would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early
25. North Early St in the BradLee subdivision (area code 22302) was not part of the 1953 ordinance and was never renamed. The renamed street (N and S Early St is in the Delta subdivision (22304).
26. I live on the N Early Street that is in the Brad Lee subdivision, this is completely separate from the N and S Early Streets in the Delta subdivision. The N Early Street in the Brad Lee subdivision was not part of the 1953 ordinance and was never renamed. Because the N Early Street in the Brad Lee subdivision has no association with Jubal Early the street name should stay the same.
27. NORTH Early Street is not part of the Delta subdivision nor is it part of the 1953 ordinance. It is in the Brad Lee subdivision. It is, therefore, not a party to the street renaming program
28. We want to keep our street N. Early because it is one of two N Early Streets in the city and our development (Brad Lee)is not included in the ordinance that renames the streets in the Delta neighborhood.
29. There are two north early streets. There is one that is part of the BradLee neighborhood and was built/named prior to the1953 renaming. We want our street to remain the same. It had nothing to do with the other Early that is in another subdivision
30. We do not agree. We would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early.
31. Please leave name as it is
32. No! You have put a first name to Early. I have lived on N Early st. Since 1964 and NEVER has it been related to Jubal Early. Early is a name like Summer or Spring. You are over thinking this it will cost residents and the city money that can be better spent. Don't waste our taxes
33. N Early Street (Brad Lee) should stay N Early. The Brad Lee was not named after Jubal Early and city documents state that this development is part of Ordinance 763 NOT 769. In addition the 769 ordinance references the Early Streets in the Delta neighborhood which are the other Early Streets.
34. NO! This is expense that our city does not need right now. Needless to say, it will cost the homeowners on these streets time and money. You are wasting our tax dollars. It would behoove you to put the answer "NO" as an option.

35. Keep it! The grandly named Jubal Early was an important figure in the Civil War who led the 1864 attack on DC, which President Lincoln famously witnessed from atop a rampart. A new suspense novel set in Alexandria has much Civil War history, and discusses the recent disputes over removing, or retaining, statues and other artefacts from that era. A main character makes a proposal for a very different, and unifying, not contentious, approach— ADDing statues! The book has much Civil War history, and discusses the recent disputes over removing, or retaining, statues and other artefacts from that era. A main character makes a proposal for a very different approach— “...Instead of focusing solely on the Appomattox statue,” said the historian during the public meeting, “I’d like to propose a bold compromise. To think outside the box. To outline a proposal that all citizens of Alexandria, Virginia, of all different views, might find agreeable.” Ted was happy to find that his voice, a bit high-strung at first, quickly calmed down, and hit its normal, middle register. “Instead of removing, or keeping, a single statue—why not add statues, many, many statues—and memorials, and works of art, and monuments? “About people from all aspects of the Civil War, and the antebellum and post-war periods, as all of that played out here in Alexandria.” The audience, he noted, was quiet, if puzzled, which was good. “Why don’t we add,” he stressed, “to the rich tapestry of our town’s history, of our nation’s history, instead of focusing on just a single aspect of it? “Let’s create more statues—of runaway slaves, rebel spies, builders of schools for the freedmen and women. And Federal officers, rebel soldiers, Union Army doctors and Southern nurses, African-American ministers, and more.” Ted deliberately didn’t use the explosive word “Confederate”, substituting “rebel” or “Southern” instead. “In short, mementos of everyone who took part here in America’s greatest story, its greatest drama, the Civil War.” The crowd in the town hall stirred, with some people making muted, mostly negative, comments. “Let’s honor such people who are linked to our town. Persons such as the great Harriet Jacobs. She was the escaped slave who, like Anne Frank, in the Europe that the Nazis had seized, hid out in the attic of a relative, hid for years, to escape the slave catchers trying to find her. A woman of mixed ancestry, black and white, like many civil rights leaders have been. Like Frederick Douglass, also of mixed ancestry, she authored an autobiography that informed countless readers of the evils of slavery.” Though he had his talk more or less memorized, Ted glanced from time to time at the notes he’d sent to the email app of his phone. “Harriet Jacobs,” he stated, gazing up at the ceiling dramatically, “should be a household name. When thousands of so-called ‘contrabands’ escaped from plantations to the Union lines in Alexandria. A dire shortage of shelter, of medicine, and education ensued. Harriet Jacobs organized the building of homes, hospitals, and schools for thousands of these displaced persons. Years later, she went on to found a college in the South, where women could attend, one of the first schools in the nation for this. “Certainly, she deserves a statue of her own! And why not place it across the street from the existing one of the Southern soldier at Washington and Prince Streets?” At this point there were more audience murmurs, again mostly negatives, but some positive “yeahs” and nods of affirmation as well. “Then there’s someone like John Janney, of the distinguished Quaker family of businessmen in the Old Town of old. Everyone here has heard of Quaker Lane, west of Old Town, Alexandria, and Janney’s Lane; they are named after the Janney family and its religion. John Janney actually managed the secession conferences that took Virginia out of the Union”—the listeners began to boo, and Ted’s voice rose—“and he opposed secession.” The booing stopped. “Janney warned that leaving the Union would be a disaster for Virginia, and for the United States. ‘I’ve done everything in my power,’ he said at that time, ‘to try and avert this catastrophe.’ “And there were actually two secession conferences. In the first one, Virginia actually voted to stay in the Union. Then came Fort Sumter, and President Lincoln’s call for 75,000 volunteers to ‘suppress the rebellion,’ which a lot of Alexandrians thought meant bloody battles on their doorstep. And so, in the second secession conference there came the break with the Union. However, John Janney still opposed leaving. In the end, he stood with his State, while opposing its decision.” Ted paused; the room was silent. He added, “Surely a statue of that man would provoke thoughtful reflection on that momentous period. “In fact, the city could place DOZENS of statues and memorials throughout Old Town, that relate to that great conflict. For figures such as Booker T. Washington, the former slave, of mixed ancestry, turned founder of Tuskegee Institute college in Alabama.” Ted was careful to pronounce Tuskegee, a tongue twister, correctly, as “TusKEEgee”. “That esteemed educator spoke after the war at the African-American

Roberts Memorial Church, on Washington St. He founded a university that would give us the first black squadron of fighter pilots, that took on and defeated Nazi pilots over the skies of World War Two Europe. "Why not a statue of Booker T. near that church?" A few clapped, but the crowd sat mostly in silence, surprised at this discourse, unsure what to make of it. Listeners looked at each other for a hint of whether they should respond positively or negatively. His friend Harmony noticed this, and realized Ted was winning a victory of a sort. He was prodding people to think about the various sides of a complex issue. 'He should be a college professor,' she thought, 'or a speechwriter.' "Then there's the spy, a local spy," Ted went on, "with an unusual name: Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow. Born and bred around Alexandria. Some years before, PBS did a TV series based on actual events in Alexandria during the Civil War. A major character was Stringfellow." Most in the crowd, who had never heard of him, looked at Ted with puzzled interest. "When you drive west out along Route 66, near the Manassas battlefields, you may have noticed an exit called Stringfellow Road. It's named after him." Ted had been hesitant to mention this man, for fear he'd trigger a movement to change the name of the exit. But this story was too good not to tell. "Stringfellow spied for the rebel side, at the Carlyle House," he stated evenly, as the crowd murmured negatively, "at our town's largest and oldest mansion, and one of its biggest tourist attractions. Now it's a museum, in part, of Civil War history." Ted spoke rapidly, to defuse the negative reaction. "After the war Stringfellow joined the Federal Army—the Union Army, in effect—as a chaplain. With the signed approval of Northern Presidents of the United States, supporters of civil rights. Presidents like Ulysses S. Grant, the former commander of the Union Army." The murmuring remained, but was less negative in tone. "Stringfellow, as his name suggests, had a slender frame: in fact, he would sometimes disguise himself as a woman to elicit information from Union soldiers." Ted paused, remembering his bad speaking habit of ignoring the audience. But he knew a speaker should continually gauge his audience's reaction. He looked out into the hall. His listeners seemed wary, unsure: interested in what he was saying, but uncomfortable. Many were frowning, but listened keenly. A few laughed at the remark about Stringfellow dressing up as a woman. "This man, who got his education at the Episcopal High School just west of here, wound up as chaplain with another President: Teddy Roosevelt, and his Rough Riders, at the famous Battle of San Juan Hill, in Cuba. "Surely a character like that merits a statue," Ted stated. Some listeners, he saw, shook their heads negatively, so he added quickly, "And there's also George Lewis Seaton, the son of an enslaved woman, freed by Martha Washington at Mt. Vernon.

George Seaton was a pathbreaker: in the wake of the Civil War, he was one of the first blacks elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, in Richmond—the former capital of the Confederacy. A master carpenter, Seaton built the Odd Fellows Hall here, on South Royal St. "The 'Odd Fellows': what a wonderfully descriptive name, for the fellows who were the 'odd men out' during segregation. They were a fraternal organization for African-Americans, and usually professionals or skilled workmen—doctors, carpenters, architects—during the time of Jim Crow. George Seaton also built two schools for the freed men and women of color. Not least, he had twelve children." Ted thought of something. He couldn't resist. "Twelve kids, wow. How about that? A dozen children. Perhaps it was George Seaton, and not George Washington, who was the true, Father, of his country!" At this a number in the crowd guffawed. Ted stopped, then stressed: "But seriously: From a slave at the first President's plantation, to becoming a state legislator, in one generation! Why not craft a Seaton statue to stand outside the other Odd Fellows Hall, which is right down the street from Christ Church? Surely such a man deserves it!" Ted stole a glance Deputy Mayor Morenis; he was grimacing, his hand gripping hard the gavel. Whatever their thoughts of Seaton, they evidently didn't like where Ted was going with this. He plowed ahead. "That latter Hall was founded, by the way, by Martha Washington, in the early 1800s, as one of the town's first schools. For women. During the Civil War it was prison run by the Union Army, where pro-Southern civilians from the region were detained. After the war, ironically, Confederate veterans held meetings in the place." Ted sensed his window of opportunity before a less-than-friendly audience might be closing. He stated quickly, "In fact, the city could erect dozens of statues and markers and memorial inscriptions about its unparalleled history. It wouldn't cost much, or maybe anything at all.

Historical societies, and government grants, might pay the expenses." He added vigorously:

“Think of it: Alexandria could transform chunks of Old Town into an Outdoor Museum of the Civil War! With walking paths for different aspects of the war: escaped slaves, rebel spies, Union doctors, the dilemmas that women faced during the conflict, the role of Quaker merchants and educators in ending slavery, Confederate officers, the Union fort that stood near today’s Woodrow Wilson Bridge—the possibilities are endless!” The audience stirred. But Ted was too caught up in his talk to tell if the reaction was good or ill. He was a little nervous, but mostly excited at being able to offer such remarks in a public forum. “It is even possible,” he stressed, “to make Alexandria comparable to Gettysburg, or to Richmond, Virginia, or to D.C. itself, as a nationally recognized destination for Civil War tourism. What an opportunity to examine all aspects of that story...! We could draw in millions of dollars of tourist revenues to the town! And for—” “—I object to this!” shouted the previous speaker into her microphone, startling everyone. “This is so way off topic,” she sniffed. “We’re supposed to be debating the removal of the Appomattox statue. And not adding more statues like it!” The loud crack of a gavel reverberated through the hall. “I must agree!” intoned Morenis. “And, Mr. Sifter, you’re over your allotted time. We have a few more speakers to get to, and I won’t have the urgent matter of the statue’s removal delayed another day!” Most of the audience applauded. The prior speaker preened, her pinched face aglow with spiteful triumph. Trying to stay even-tempered at his sudden dismissal, Ted grabbed his notes, and walked back into the audience to sit down again next to Harmony. Along the way he observed the attendees, who seemed relieved at hearing from the other speaker and the City Council, and thus sure now on how they were supposed to look upon Ted’s views. Negatively. As he sat down, Ted quoted Lincoln’s self-deprecating remark after his delivery of the Gettysburg Address: “That was a flat failure.”

Harmony shook her head. “No.” She rolled her shoulders as she considered the event. “I was carefully watching the audience reaction,” she said in her mellifluous voice. “I think a lot of people liked your idea, or at least were willing to entertain it. That’s why they were so quiet, relatively quiet, during your presentation. They listened to you with interest, and with surprise...” From *The Old Town Horror—(3) The Old Town Horror: Murder and Theft in America's Most Historic Locale* | Alexandria VA | Facebook *THE OLD TOWN HORROR: Murder and Theft in America's Most Historic Locale* by Edward P Moser, Paperback | Barnes & Noble® ([barnesandnoble.com](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0C1J1GJVR/ref=ox_sc_act_image_1?smid=A1Y53T3O3Q25L8&psc=1)) https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0C1J1GJVR/ref=ox_sc_act_image_1?smid=A1Y53T3O3Q25L8&psc=1

36. I think there are more important matters for our government to spend our time on than obscuring history.
37. No
38. History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from. And if it offends you, even better, because you are less likely to repeat it. History is not yours to change or destroy.
39. Early Street
40. Early Street I am opposed to the erasure of the history and culture of this city, which in any other context would be considered "cultural genocide."

Q6: Do you support renaming Jordan Street and Jordan Court to Hughes Street and Hughes Court?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	35.29%	11
Other	70.59%	28
TOTAL		39

OTHER

1. Rededicate to honor Thomasina Jordan, a Native American activist and resident of Alexandria City
2. I think there are more important matters for our government to spend our time on than obscuring history. If you're going to rename a street how about rededicating for Thomasina Jordan for Jordan Street and Jordan Court. She was a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe—a tribe that met the Mayflower when it arrived. The ACLU of Virginia recognizes her contributions, she was the first indigenous person to serve in the US electoral college, she founded the American Indian Cultural Exchange, and had a large number of additional credits. She was a woman of note and women are grossly under recognized in general, which is appalling in this day. Also, atrocities against North American indigenous peoples are even less recognized.
3. Thomasina Jordan
4. Thomasina Jordan
5. Rededicate Jordan street for Thomasina Jordan, Native American activist and resident of Alexandria, and save the cost of renaming the street entirely
6. Do Not rename the street!! I believe the City would benefit its citizens more by placing a Placard or Placards along the street to provide the history of the current name. (Note: The city's paragraph above has the history) It would teach the entire history of the street. Providing the full truth, good and bad, is better than covering up the past. Edith H. Hill SFC/Ret.
7. Keep it Jordan but for Thomasina Jordan who was an Indigenous hero & first to be a member of the Electoral College.
8. No I don't support renaming! The city has many challenges that the council needs to prioritize their focus.
9. Please rename after Thomasina Jordan. She is worthy of having a street named for her, and it will save the city money.
10. I live on Jasper Pl and have so for over 47 years. I drive on Jordan St almost every day. I disagree with naming anything after a person. Everyone who lives (has lived) in the city makes the city what it is, not just certain people. Naming our high school after the city itself was a great idea and it would be great if the tradition of naming things without specific reference to a person or persons could continue. Moreover, the background information provided for the Hughes renaming was insufficient and the links to obtain more information were not much better. I had to Google "Felix Richards Slaves" to find a document on the City's website called the Slaves of Volusia to obtain what appears to be very detailed information about the origin of the Hughes name. If the Volusia publication is accurate, the origin of the Hughes name is not known. It might have started with Jesse Hughes who was enslaved by a person named Jamieson, but this is speculation per the Volusia publication. Thus, it is unknown how the Hughes family derived their name. Was it from a slaveowner earlier than Jamieson or does the name have another origin with no direct relationship to the institution of slavery? If the name was taken from an earlier slaveowner who owned the founding member(s) of the Hughes family, then naming the street Hughes perpetuates the institution of slavery as much as it might recognize the Hughes family since it can apply to both the slave owning family and the formerly enslaved family.

Consequently, it does not make to me to rename a street in honor of a rebel general when the new name could very well refer to a slaveholding family. Does the pre- 1953 street name of Donmanton Blvd have any negative history behind it? If not, what's the issue with restoring Jordan St to its, presumably, original name?

11. History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from. And if it offends you, even better, because you are less likely to repeat it. History is not yours to change or destroy. Jordan is generic enough that people will not know who it is named for.
12. Thomasina "Redhawk Woman" Jordan She was an Native American activist She was the first Indigenous person to serve in the United States Electoral College in 1988 She chaired the annual American Indian Folk Festival in Alexandria The ACLU of Virginia remembered her during the 2021 Women's History Month She was a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, which met the Mayflower. She received her BA and MA at Bishop Lee College, studied at Harvard University, and received her Ed.D. at The Catholic University of America where I'm currently employed She was appointed Chairperson of the Virginia Council on Indians in 1994 and again in 1997 She founded the American Indian Cultural Exchange She served on numerous boards, including Save the Children, the National Rehabilitation Hospital, and the national advisory council for Federally Employed Women She was a recipient of the Medal of Honor of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution She is the name sake of H.R. 984, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017, which was introduced by Congressman Rob Wittman, and signed into law in 2018 She lived from September of 1935 to May of 1999, and her remains rest at the Mount Comfort Cemetery in Fairfax, Virginia
13. Thomasina "RedHawks Woman" Jordan resident of Alexandria, Native American activist, active volunteer, recognized by aclu
14. Jordan Street and Jordan Court
15. Jordan Street I am opposed to the erasure of the history and culture of this city, which in any other context would be considered "cultural genocide."
16. I think our elected leaders have NO CLUE what a massive inconvenience renaming streets are to resident on which they live. I would like every council member to go through the process of changing every utility bill, credit card bill, etc ... especially when you're street isn't named as part of the political ideology that is currently in power. Rename all the streets in the city - or none. Most residents do not know the history of the region. This forces citizens to suffer for the ideology on the city council - for which I can't vote - as a member of the military. The one that currently defends your freedoms.

Q7: Do you support renaming Forrest Street to Forest Street?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.33%	14
Other	50.0%	10
TOTAL		24

OTHER

1. No, don't change it.
2. Forrest Street
3. Keep it the same
4. We do not agree. We would like our street to remain N Early because we were not part of the 1953 ordinance and have no association with Jubal Early.
5. No No No. You have to be out of your mind. One letter will still cost undue expences.
6. I think there are more important matters for our government to spend our time on than obscuring history.
7. No
8. History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from. And if it offends you, even better, because you are less likely to repeat it. History is not yours to change or destroy. Forrest is generic enough that people won't know who it is named for.
9. Forrest Street