

Street Name Change, NC-17-002
Jeff Davis Avenue to Will Holland Avenue

Summary of Response Forms

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Number of response forms mailed: 370
 Number of response forms received back: 58
 Number of forms indicating support of name change: 20 (12 abutting, 8 non-abutting)
 Number of forms indicating opposition of name change: 38 (28 abutting, 10 non-abutting)

Comments from Abutting Property Owners indicating Support

1. Looking forward to the change. Will Holland sounds like a good guy.
2. The long-term interest of the property owners on the street should be with changing the name; and should be done seamlessly without excess political noise. Many owners - unaware of the connection - are suffering negative consequences as a result of the decisions made by our City history.
3. We purchased our home oblivious to the excess baggage the street name would have. There are numerous reasons to change the name that are obvious, which is why we are in support--it's the right thing to do. However, there is a legitimate concern for unnecessary stigmatization from the public and potential external retaliation from the extremes of the political spectrum if approved or rejected. I urge Council Member Pool and the City Council to move forward with this matter respectfully and without excess publicity/bravado. Given recent events in other parts of the country, the City Council needs to be cognizant the polarizing nature of the topic and do its part to prevent harm to those caught in the middle. There could be material negative consequences to property owners if the name change is over politicized. Though, extreme events could very well be unlikely--there's a lot at stake for homeowners if this goes sideways.

Comments from Non-Abutting Property Owners indicating Support

None

Comments from Abutting Property Owners indicating Opposition

1. My opinion, if my street were named after Jefferson Davis, it would be called Jefferson Davis Avenue, not Jeff Davis Avenue. I do not recall in my history classes Jefferson Davis ever being referred to as "Jeff". I vote no on the street name change.
2. One must not judge historical figures by current morals. If you go down this path of "cleansing" all monuments and street signs, where will it end? The next street over is name after a man, Jim Hogg, who owned twenty-six slaves! This entire neighborhood is filled with streets named after historical figures. Should we cleanse street signs named after people who committed same other perceived misconduct? If so, by whose standards? When Jim Hogg owned slaves, it was not illegal at the time.
3. This is a waste of tax payer funds (not to mention a tremendous hassle for Jeff Davis resident).

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4. Using a tragedy to gain political recognition is disgusting. Two separate old timers in the neighborhood swear this street was named after the Governor of Arkansas from 1901-1907. The next two streets are also named for governors of the same period.
This is a slam - this was used to gain political insight. No one had a problem until our council Rep., Leslie Poole, pointed it out. Now we are trying to shame people because of actions that at the time seemed the right thing to do. I know there are truly evil people in this world, but Jefferson Davis was not evil. He just chose the wrong side and would in today's light admit his error. Sweeping history under the rug doesn't help - it just hides things that should be discovered. So should we not be allowed to name anyone Jeff Davis? So Jeff Davis the actor supposes to be ashamed of his name. How about Capt. Jeff Daniels, spokesman for the Pentagon - does he need to change his name? This is just wrong!
5. Jeff Davis was the Governor of Arkansas.
6. We are very much opposed to a name change for Jeff Davis Ave. As has been pointed out, that was named to honor an Arkansas Governor. Jeff Davis is not the same as Jefferson Davis, the person associated with the Confederacy/Racism.
7. Stop the silliness, few, if anyone, seems to know or care which Jeff Davis the street was named after. However, my main objection is the time and energy wasted forcing everyone that lives on Jeff Davis Ave have to go thru the change of address notion process - checks, driver's license, social security, doctors, bank accounts, relatives, etc. Same is true for everyone who corresponds with those that live on Jeff Davis Ave as they have to update their records. That represents a lot of hours of effort for very little, if any, benefits. There is always the risk of failing to notify everyone that needs to be notified. With so much done on the internet these days, a lot of financial and personal US mail only comes once a year and thus there is even greater risk of not being forwarded and missed. This is like moving - and moving is time consuming and painful. Use the money saved to patch some of the many potholes Austinites have to drive through every day when moving around Austin.
8. Not a political thing just don't think it is worth cost and hassle.
9. My husband and I do not see any reason to change the name of the street called Jeff Davis.
10. I have lived in Austin all of my life. I think this change is not right for anyone that lives in that area. Some changes are not meant to be, this is one of those!
11. As a former Austin resident and owner of multiple properties on Jeff Davis Avenue, I am writing to express my disfavor with the re-naming of the street. According to Mike Miller, managing archivist of the Austin History Center, the name Jeff Davis Avenue first appears in 1929 with no records pertaining to the naming. Rather odd considering what a polarizing figure Jefferson Davis was in history. You would think there would have been some controversy at the time. A possible reason could be that the street was not named after the confederate leader at all, but rather the former governor of Arkansas, considering all of the streets in the neighborhood bear the names of politicians, presidents, and governors. Apparently not one can definitely say Jeff Davis is in fact the former confederate president, Jefferson Davis. The fact that is "could be" does not, on balance, justify the time, effort, and expense required of all residents and owners

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should if this address change goes into effect. In short, "could be" doesn't cut it; which is why our street should not be lumped in with Robert E. Lee. As such, I am firmly against the re-naming of Jeff Davis Avenue.

12. Who is Will Holland? How did he get selected? Shouldn't us owners have an optional vote of sections of optional names?
13. Jeff Davis was named after a governor of Louisiana and Arkansas and is not Jefferson Davis. This type of petty changing will cause a lot of hassel changing licenses, etc. You city council members should be concerned with more relevant issues like traffic, congestion, etc. I'll make sure my friends know this and vote against Leslie Pool!!!

Comments from Non-Abutting Property Owners indicating Opposition

1. Don't waste the tax payer's money! Or Time. And keep Joe Sayers and Jim Hogg streets as they are named. I've lived in this neighborhood since 1990 and frankly, these are just names and streets on a map. Plus, it will be inconvenient for the citizens who live on this street. They will need to redo all of their bills and correspondents, etc.
2. I assume this is about the removal of Confederate names. Personally, I NEVER even thought the street was named after Jefferson Davis. It never crossed my mind. Are you certain it is named (poorly...) after the general? How do the people who live on the street (and will be burdened) feel about a change? I hope their opinion weighs heaviest and if 51% of the people who LIVE on the street want to change it, then change my vote to Yes. IF less than 51% are not offended or don't have an opinion, then leave my vote as "as is." P.S., When I googled "Jeff Davis" I found no one that anyone would be offended about. (If that's even what this is about...)