

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE INITIATING THE RENAMING OF CONFEDERATE AVENUE TO MAGGIE MAYES UNDER CITY CODE CHAPTER 14-5 (*STREET NAME CHANGE*) AND WAIVING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

PART 1. FINDINGS.

- (A) In March of 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20170323-054 which, among other actions, directed the City of Austin's Commission for Women and the City of Austin's Human Rights Commission to recommend steps to study disparities in Austin among streets named after men and those named after women and to recommend appropriate measures to eliminate those disparities; and
- (B) In October of 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20171005-031, which condemned the displaying of monuments and memorials of the Confederacy and the naming of public places for prominent members of the Confederacy; and
- (C) Resolution No. 20171005-031 directed the City Manager to identify and develop recommendations for accomplishing the removal or renaming of City-owned monuments and memorials of the Confederacy located on City-owned property including streets and buildings and encouraged the City Manager to consult with the Equity Office and other City departments as needed to develop the findings and recommendations; and
- (D) In April of 2018, the Council renamed two streets with names associated with the Confederacy to honor Azie Morton and William Holland; and
- (E) In July of 2018, the Equity Office issued a responsive memo identifying assets slated for review and describing remedies such as removal, adding interpretive signage, and renaming; and
- (F) In the July 2018 memo, the Equity Office recommended the Council take immediate action to rename streets identified in the list, "Assets Slated for Initial Review," which included streets in District 2, District 4, District 5, and District 9; and
- (G) The Equity Office recommended Council offices that represent the area in which an identified street in the "Assets Slated for Initial Review" list

33 resides identify a person or other entity desired to be honored in the
34 renaming of the street; and

35 (H) Further, the Equity Office recommended that renamings align with the City
36 of Austin Commission for Women's recommendation to address "gender
37 and racial disparities in the naming of public symbols and seize the
38 opportunity to recognize the contributions of women and people of color";
39 and

40 (I) Respective Council offices began engaging with constituents and
41 historians to identify individuals to honor in the proposed street renamings
42 and planning for robust public stakeholder processes; and

43 (J) In February of 2019, the Council approved Resolution No. 20191205-117
44 and a subsequent ordinance in 2020 to approve the renaming of the Metz
45 Recreation Center to the Rodolfo 'Rudy' Mendez Recreation Center; and

46 (K) Council's community engagement plans surrounding the proposed street
47 renamings stalled during the onset of COVID-19; and

48 (L) Recognizing that a citywide stakeholder process would likely increase
49 public engagement and meaningful community participation, Council
50 passed Resolution No. 20200729-091 to rename City assets that are
51 dedicated to white supremacy, Confederate history, and/or have tangential
52 ties to the Confederacy and to direct the City Manager to assist Council
53 members in facilitating an educational, restorative process for the
54 reconsideration of troublingly named City assets; and

55 (M) Staff have planned a community stakeholder process to begin in the
56 coming year, and the City Council looks forward to supporting this
57 process; however, some streets are well-poised for renaming due to the
58 extensive community engagement that has already taken place; and

59 (N) Streets primed for more immediate renaming include Confederate Avenue,
60 which is located in Clarksville, a historic freedmen's community; and

61 (O) Some neighbors along Confederate Avenue have experienced certain
62 challenges when different public entities identify Confederate Avenue as
63 Confederate Street; and

(P) Because the street is located between two schools (Open Door Preschool and Mathews Elementary) community members began a petition that garnered the support of Old West Austin Neighborhood Association and others to rename the street in honor of Maggie Mayes, who founded the first school in Clarksville in her home shared by her husband Elias Mayes, a prominent Black state legislator; and

(Q) Maggie's commitment to the education of her community's children fostered learning, literacy, and enhanced the quality of life for the community's children and families; and

(R) Maggie Mayes is worthy of prominent recognition.

PART 2. In recognition of Maggie Mayes's commitment to our community and its children, the City Manager is directed to initiate proceedings per City Code Chapter 14-5 (Street Name Change) for the renaming of Confederate Avenue to honor Maggie Mayes. As part of this process, the City Manager is further directed to analyze the street type and recommend to the Council whether the street shall be named as an avenue, street, or other category when the Council deliberates the renaming ordinance.

PART 3. City Council waives the requirements of City Code Sections 14-5-2 (*Application And Fees*) and 14-5-3 (*Fee For New Street Signs; Refund*).

PART 4. This ordinance takes effect _____, 2022

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2022 § _____
Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Anne L. Morgan Myrna Rios
City Attorney City Clerk