

ORDINANCE NO. 20220217-035

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 provide recommendations regarding steps to study disparities in Austin between 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, and without limitation, 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 approved two street renamings that were associated with the Confederacy to honor Azie Morton and William Holland; and
- (E) In July of 2018, the Equity Office issued a responsive memo which detailed identified assets that are slated for review, along with associated remedies, such as removal, interpretive signage, and renaming; and
- (F) In the July 2018 memo, the Equity Office recommended the Council take immediate action to rename streets that were identified in the list for "Assets Slated for Initial Review," which included streets in District 2, District 4, District 5, and District 9; and
- (G) The Equity Office recommended that Council offices that represent the area in which an identified street in the "Assets Slated for Initial Review" list resides identify a person or other entity desired to be honored in the renaming of the street; and

- (H) Further, the Equity Office recommended that renamings align with the City of Austin Commission for Women's recommendation to address "gender and racial disparities in the naming of public symbols and seize the opportunity to recognize the contributions of women and people of color;" and
- (I) Respective Council offices began engaging with constituents and historians to identify individuals to honor in the proposed street renamings and planning for robust public stakeholder processes; and
- (J) In December of 2019, the Council approved Resolution No. 20191205-117 and a subsequent ordinance in 2020 to approve the renaming of the Metz Recreation Center to the Rodolfo 'Rudy' Mendez Recreation Center; and
- (K) Council's community engagement plans surrounding the proposed street renamings stalled during the onset of COVID-19; and
- (L) Recognizing that a citywide stakeholder process would likely increase public engagement and meaningful community participation, Council passed Resolution No. 20200729-091 to rename City assets that are dedicated to white supremacy, Confederate history, and/or have tangential ties to the Confederacy, and to direct the City Manager to assist Council members in facilitating an educational, restorative process for the reconsideration of troublingly named City assets; and
- (M) A community stakeholder process is planned to begin in the coming year and the City Council looks forward to supporting this process; however, some streets are well-poised for renaming due to the extensive community engagement that has already taken place; and
- (N) Streets that are primed for more immediate renaming include Confederate Avenue, which is located near Clarksville, a historic freedmen's community; and
- (O) Some neighbors along Confederate Avenue have experienced certain challenges when different public entities identify Confederate Avenue as Confederate Street; and
- (P) Because the street is located between two schools (Open Door Preschool and Mathews Elementary) community members began a petition which 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 Mayes' 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' 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.

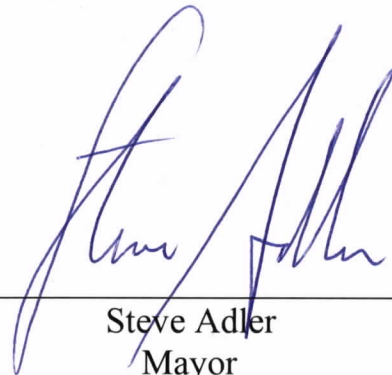
PART 3. City Council waives the requirements of City Code Sections 14-5-2 (Application And Fees), 14-5-3 (Fee For New Street Signs; Refund).

PART 4. This ordinance takes effect on February 28, 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED


_____, February 17, 2022

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED:



Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk