WEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

Organized 1973

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Honorable Mayor Steve Adler
Austin City Council Members
301 W 2nd St.
Austin, Texas 78701

February 14, 2022

RE: Austin City Council 2/17/2022 Meeting Agenda Item # 35 Renaming of Confederate Ave. to honor Maggie Mayes

Dear Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Alter and Council Members,

The West Austin Neighborhood Group (WANG) board of directors supports approval of an Ordinance initiating the renaming of Confederate Avenue to Maggie Mayes, under City Code Chapter 14-5 (Street Name Change) and waiving certain requirements.

Confederate Ave. is located near Clarksville, a historic Freedmen's Community in Old West Austin. Maggie Mayes founded the first school in Clarksville in her home shared by her husband Elias Mayes, a prominent Black state legislator. Maggie Mayes' commitment to the education of her community's children makes her worthy of prominent recognition.

We support the community members who initiated this renaming, and the Old West Austin Neighborhood Association, as we move forward in a citywide stakeholder effort to consider renaming City assets that are dedicated to white supremacy, Confederate history, and/or have tangential ties to the Confederacy. This renaming effort will benefit every neighborhood in Austin in a societal way.

The West Austin Neighborhood Group respectfully asks that Council support the Ordinance initiating the renaming of Confederate Ave. to honor Maggie Mayes.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Reed

Holly Reed, President
West Austin Neighborhood Group
P.O. Box 5722
Austin, Texas 78763-5722