



Municipal Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

3:00 p.m.

City Service Center – 915 Quarrier Street – Conference Room

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Unfinished Business**
3. **New Business**

Rezoning: Bill No. 7859 amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, enacted the 1st day of January 2006, as amended, and the map made a part thereof, by rezoning from a R-8 High Density Residential District to a C-8 Village Commercial District, a portion of that certain parcel of land located at 303 Ohio Avenue being a portion of Charleston West District, Map 25, Parcel 288, Charleston, West Virginia.

Street Closing: Bill No. 7860 closing, abandoning and discontinuing as a public right of way a portion of the alley that runs between and is perpendicular to Randolph Street and Wyoming Street, in Charleston West Tax District of the City of Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Letter of Support: For amendments to WV Code pertaining to the powers of Land Reuse Agencies

4. **Minutes of the December 4, 2019, MPC meeting**
5. **Announcements**
6. **Adjournment**

***Meetings may be recorded and broadcast via internet <https://charlestonwv.civicclerk.com>**

Bill No. 7859

Introduced in Council

Passed by Council

January 6, 2020

Introduced by

Referred to

Deanna McKinney

**Municipal Planning Commission
Planning, Streets, and Traffic**

Bill No. 7859 - A Bill amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, enacted the 1st day of January 2006, as amended, and the map made a part thereof, by rezoning from a R-8 High Density Residential District to a C-8 Village Commercial District, a portion of that certain parcel of land located at 303 Ohio Avenue being a portion of Charleston West District, Map 25, Parcel 288, Charleston, West Virginia, as shown with the drawing attached as Exhibit A hereto.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

1. The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, enacted the 1st day of January 2006, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning from a R-8 High Density Residential District to a C-8 Village Commercial District the following described parcels of land:

A portion of Parcel No. 288 as shown upon West Charleston Tax Map No. 25. The portion is further described as the southernly portion of lots 11, 12, 13, 14, and the northerly portion of the alley between lots 10 through 13 in BLOCK 11 of J. BRISBEN WALKER ADDITION. Subject Parcel is commonly known as 303 Ohio Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia. Said tax map is of record in the Planning Office.

2. The Zoning Map, attached to and made a part of said Zoning Ordinance, is hereby amended in accordance with Article 29 of this ordinance.

3. All prior ordinances, or parts of ordinances, inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.



STAFF
EXHIBIT

REZONING FROM R-8 TO C-8



Bill No. 7860

Introduced in Council

Passed by Council

January 6, 2020

Introduced by

Referred to

Deanna McKinney

Planning, Streets, and Traffic Committee
Finance Committee

A Bill closing, abandoning and discontinuing as a public right of way a portion of the alley that runs between and is perpendicular to Randolph Street and Wyoming Street, in Charleston West Tax District of the City of Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA:

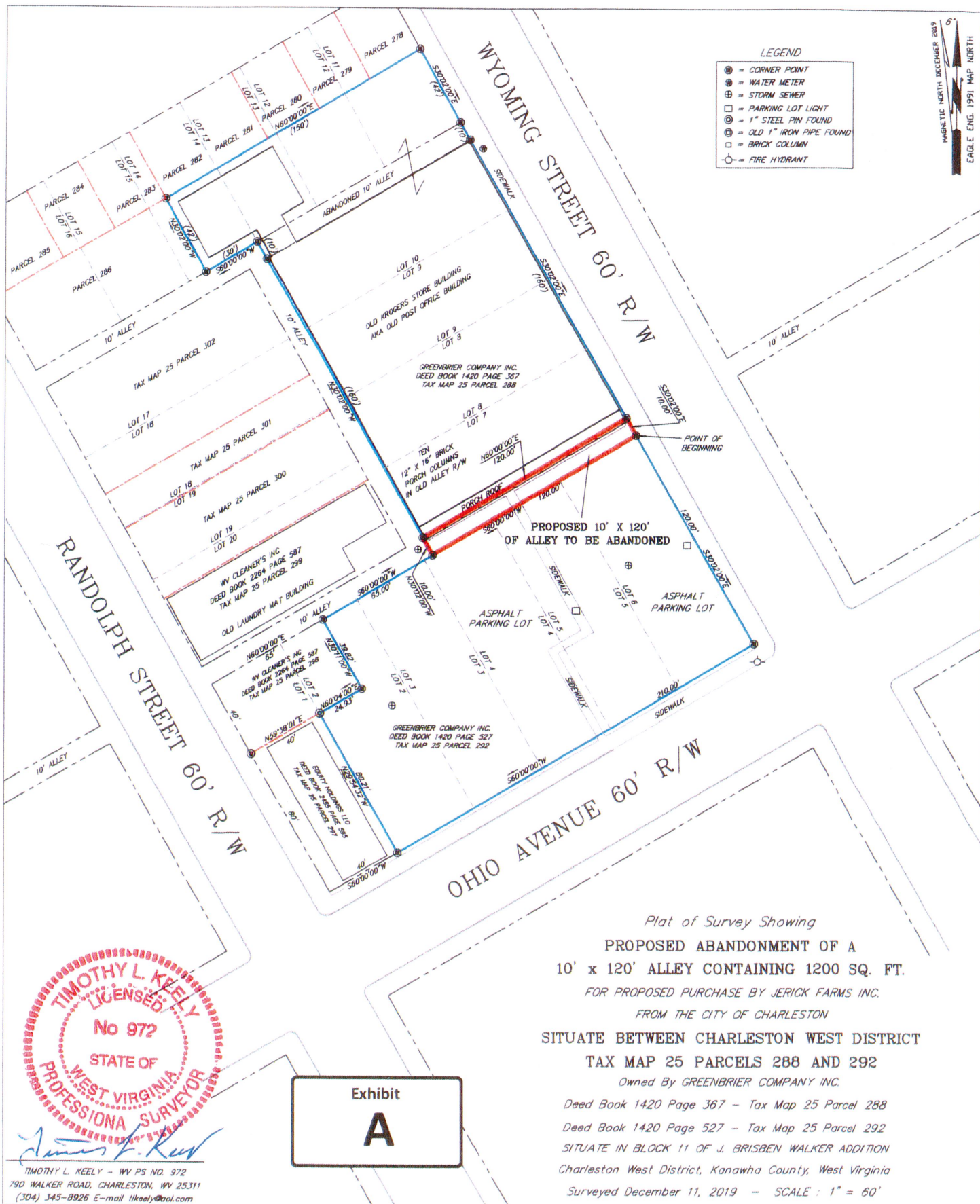
1. Being a portion of the alley that runs between and is perpendicular to Randolph Street and Wyoming Street, in the City of Charleston, West Virginia, in Charleston West Tax District of the City of Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia, is more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the western right of way of Wyoming Street, said point is situate N 30°02'00"W, 120.00' from the northern right of way of Ohio Avenue, thence leaving Wyoming Street, and now running with the northern line of Tax Map 25 Parcel 292, S 60°W, 120.00' to a point; thence leaving Parcel 292, and now running across said Alley, N 30°02'00"W, 10.00' to a point; thence with the southern line of Parcel 288, N 60°00'00"E, 120.00' to a point on the western right of way of Wyoming Street, S 30°02'00"E, 10.00' to the point of beginning, containing 1,200 Square Feet.

Reference is made to a plat entitled "PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF A 10' x 120' Alley Containing 1200 SQ. FT. FOR THE PROPOSED PURCHASE BY JERICK FARMS IN. FROM THE CITY OF CHARLESTON" by Keely Surveying, dated December 11, 2019, as surveyed by Timothy L. Keely, WV Professional Surveyor No. 972, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Attachment A.

2. The Mayor of the City of Charleston be, and is hereby authorized and directed to execute, acknowledge and deliver a proper deed conveying to Jerick Farms Inc., and its successors and assigns, all right, title and interest in and to said property as described in Section 1 above, for the consideration of \$6,800.

3. All prior ordinances, or parts of ordinances, inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.



Plat of Survey Showing
PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF A
10' x 120' ALLEY CONTAINING 1200 SQ. FT.
FOR PROPOSED PURCHASE BY JERICK FARMS INC.
FROM THE CITY OF CHARLESTON
SITUATE BETWEEN CHARLESTON WEST DISTRICT
TAX MAP 25 PARCELS 288 AND 292
Owned By GREENBRIER COMPANY INC.
Deed Book 1420 Page 367 - Tax Map 25 Parcel 288
Deed Book 1420 Page 527 - Tax Map 25 Parcel 292
SITUATE IN BLOCK 11 OF J. BRISBEN WALKER ADDITION
Charleston West District, Kanawha County, West Virginia
Surveyed December 11, 2019 - SCALE : 1" = 60'

Rolston & Company

Real Estate • Appraisals • Sales • Consulting

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darrell@rolstonandcompany.com

December 11, 2019

Mr. Quinton Walker
PO Box 6092
Charleston, WV 25362

Re: Alley off of Wyoming Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Walker:

At your request, I personally inspected the above-captioned property for the purpose of estimating the market value. The date of the appraisal was December 11, 2019 and the rights appraised were the fee simple interest. Market value is defined in a specific section of this report.

The subject property is an alley containing 1,200 square feet (10' x 120') located off of Wyoming Street (survey attached).

The appraisal is based on the assumption there are no adverse environmental conditions affecting the property which would diminish the value as well as those additional assumptions set forth in the limiting conditions.

It is my opinion the indicated market value of the subject property is as follows:

Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars
(\$6,800)

Attached to this letter of transmittal is the narrative appraisal report containing photographs, the limiting conditions, certification, and my appraisal qualifications.

Sincerely yours,

ROLSTON & COMPANY



Darrell Rolston
WV Appraisal License #CG035

Aerial View



Municipal Planning Commission

Hearing and meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., in the conference room of the City Service Center, 915 Quarrier Street.

Members Present

Aric Margolis
Reverend Braxton Broady
Margo Teeter
Adam Krason
Shawn Taylor
Dallas Staples
Lisa Fischer-Casto
Deanna McKinney
Mary Beth Hoover
JoEllen Zacks
Alice Hypes
J.D. Stricklen, Kanawha County Representative

Members Absent

Teresa Moore
Chad Robinson
Terry Pickett

Staff Present

Dan Vriendt
John Butterworth

Call to Order: Aric Margolis

New Business:

Street Naming: A request to rename Court Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Way in compliance with the E-911 Addressing Regulations.

MR. MARGOLIS: Who is going to speak to this case?

MS. DOOLEY: I am. Good afternoon. My name is Katherine Kitty Dooley. I'm a local attorney. I made application to change the name of Court Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and that is the top issue on the agenda this afternoon. The proposal was made to change the name of Court Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way for several reasons. First, there is no street in the capital city of West Virginia that honors the work and the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I believe that that is a noticeable omission in this community that should be corrected.

Second, it is important for the City of Charleston in its street names statutes or symbols to recognize people that our community and children can revere. And while a street name does not change some of the issues that we must deal with as a community, it makes a statement to our community and to our children in the same manner that not having that street name makes. There are over 1,000 streets or edifices in this country that bear the name of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We profess that Charleston and the surrounding community is a community of diversity, of inclusion and of openness. To not have a street designated with the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., a name that's known worldwide, makes a totally different statement.

The other issue with regard to Court Street is the fact that many of you are aware of the historic district known as The Triangle. While I'm not a Charlestonian, I've looked at the maps and looked at the research, and a community of people of color and immigrants was decimated when the triangle was dismantled for Urban Renewal purposes and for the interstate highway to come through this community. The people that Martin Luther King, Jr., sought to work for, to protect, to advocate for, were those people of color and those who were poor, impoverished and who needed the most assistance from our government. So, to name a street where justice is supposed to be done in the City of Charleston for Martin Luther King, Jr., makes an impressive statement and I believe that this action should be taken. King died 51 years ago. We've celebrated his birthday in this country for 36 years.

I'm a native West Virginian but I'm a Charlestonian by choice. When I moved into this community to work almost 30 years ago, I wanted to make it a better place, but this is not about me. This is about the people who worked in that area who struggled, who toiled, who fought during the dismantling of the triangle district. Those people include Captain Casey James, who I was essentially at his knee while he told me about the history of Charleston, WV, and Mary Snow, and the work that those people did and so many more like them to make this community vibrant and to have it be recognized. For those people and all of the people like them and like me and those who are to come after I'm singing with the angels, as Elijah Cummings said.

This will stand as a testament to what I believe the true meaning of Charleston is and the message that we want to deliver to the world. And, yes, this has come about rather quickly, but the question is not why now, the question is why not now, and if not us then who, because you see, ladies and gentlemen, this should have been done years ago. And it should be a prominent street in our central City because Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna make it shine" And so let's not put it in a corner where the people who visit our fair City will not see it, but let's make a big and bold statement that we're honoring Dr. King, that we're claiming it, and that we're giving it a prominent place where it

deserves in the capital City of West Virginia. So, again, if you are not going to do it, then who will do it? If we don't do it now, then when will we do it. And, to conclude, with a statement of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said, "The time is always right to do what is right." This is that time. I appreciate the time, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the committee considering this application and I will say that it's our understanding from Mr. Vriendt that property owners were put on notice. We attempted to make personal contact with all of the property owners on Court Street. Councilwoman Pharr has that and will be presenting that, and we believe it's important for you to take this action today. I'm happy to come back at the conclusion of all of the testimony. Thank you,

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions from the Commission? (No question.) Dan, do you want to give staff notes?

MR. VRIENDT: Sure. This request is actually a change to the traffic control map; therefore, the Commission makes a recommendation to Planning, Streets & Traffic who will then make the recommendation to City Council for final action. I just wanted to reiterate that this is just a recommendation you are making, it's not final action. This would be from the Kanawha Boulevard all the way to Piedmont Road. The naming of the street does comply with the E-911 addressing regulations; there's no duplicate names in the county. We feel that Court Street is not associated with a prominent historic figure or family in Charleston. It's not like renaming Donnally Street or one of those other streets; it's not tied to a specific historical family. We feel the street naming is not replacing a piece of history with another piece of history. Our only concern at the moment right now is that the process has been a little rushed and depending on the comments we hear we may want to table the request if there needs to be more public dialogue with the petitioners. We do support the street naming request.

MR. TAYLOR: When you say it's been rushed, what's been rushed?

MR. VRIENDT: They have not talked to every property owner on the street. Every land owner did get a public notice of the hearing today, but the petitioners did not speak to every single property owner. They attempted to reach out to everyone, but they weren't able to reach out to them.

MR. TAYLOR: Is that a requirement or simply a courtesy?

MR. VRIENDT: It's a courtesy. There's no requirement. At the end of the day, it's a political decision, and so it's Council's ultimate decision. But there may not have been as much dialogue as what there could have been.

MS. MCKINNEY: How soon do you think it would be before we bring it back up if it is tabled?

MR. VRIENDT: It could come back as early as next month, the first Wednesday in January. I don't know if there's opposition to the request. Maybe there's no opposition to it at all. We have gotten some feedback that it feels a little rushed.

MR. TAYLOR: By property owners or by members of the public?

MR. VRIENDT: Members of the public.

MR. TAYLOR: I would suggest that if the property owners don't respond, then they don't have an objection.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any other questions from the Commission?

MS. ZACKS: If it is approved by the City Council what's the timeframe?

MR. VRIENDT: As soon as they can put street signs up. It goes into effect immediately. The post office will honor the old address for quite a period of time.

MR. MARGOLIS: Dan, there's a lot of businesses through the bulk of that property, a lot of those businesses face other cross streets. Do we have a count or rough idea of how many affected property owners we're talking about?

MR. VRIENDT: The Judicial Annex is addressed off of Court Street. Qdoba and Five Guys is addressed off of Court Street. The other addresses are addressed off of Town Center Mall, Shonk Plaza. All their

addresses are addressed off of Court Street. We would talk to the property owners that front Brawley Walkway and so we would give them a choice whether they want to be addressed off of Brawley Walkway or if they want to be addressed off of Court Street or Martin Luther King Way. St. George Orthodox Church is addressed off of Court Street. Embassy Suites, St. Francis Hospital, the medical pavilion, the former Cagney's and then Habitat for Humanity. All the other businesses are addressed off of the east-west streets.

MR. MARGOLIS: Very few numbers.

MR. VRIENDT: It's very few numbers. Probably the building with the most affected may be the medical pavilion because they've probably got half a dozen suites in there.

MS. TEETER: Have they expressed opposition?

MR. VRIENDT: I've never received any opposition from any property owners.

MR. MARGOLIS: The only issue with that building is the tenants would not necessarily receive notification.

MR. VRIENDT: Correct. The petitioners can speak to it, but they made efforts to reach out to them.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any other questions of staff?

MR. STRICKLEN: Do we know in this different time than 20 years ago on GPS on automobiles, does anybody have any idea how long it takes for that to transition when a street name changes? I'm sure that there's street names changed all over the country. When you change the name of a street, you look at some of the things we discussed. You look at the 911 information for emergency responses, you look at the GPS in the vehicles, you look at the postal service mail delivery and you also look for the utility companies, how they have to redo their maps for service addresses, for gas service, electric service, water service. I'm not speaking against this, I'm just trying to make sure we all understand what's involved. Does anybody know how long it takes for GPS?

MS. HOOVER: I can weirdly somewhat answer this question. Recently, as everybody probably knows, we lowered the default speed limit in the City of Charleston. I randomly got a phone call from TomTom GPS. At first, I thought it was random and actually was going to give them the number to our Streets Department to talk to him. He informed me – and I'm not saying this for all GPS, this was just for TomTom. I had a fascinating conversating with him on the phone. They have software that, actually, when this hits the paper, they can pick it up. He picked up an article that said we lowered the speed limits, but it didn't tell you which streets. There is a guy or girl in a certain city, he said he spent two months here driving our streets making sure that their data was up to date. I actually have his number and email address and I told him if we do anything else, I would be glad to email him to let him know what we're doing. I even talked to him when we had the tractor-trailer get stuck on the South Side Bridge and they said how did this happen, and he looked at his map and goes I wouldn't have brought that truck down here. I said I think it might have been Waze. I was trying to solve some of those weird problems with some of the construction on the bridge. I think they all have software that's actually updating their systems. I think once we do this, if this passes Council, if an article hits the paper or we have something that comes out on the news, they will get it. So, they update their software periodically. I'm not sure what the timeframe is but they are watching.

MR. STRICKLEN: I'm not sure how many GPS providers there are. Dan, do you report to all committees of Council? I know you do Planning Committee. Do you do the Traffic also? I'm sure whatever the vote is here today, it will still most likely go forward, am I correct?

MR. VRIENDT: Yes.

MR. STRICKLEN: Perhaps we can make some calls and try to get a consensus on what the time limit would be.

MR. VRIENDT: If this gets approved, we would let Metro 911 know and then we let the post office know.

MR. STRICKLEN: When we develop subdivisions, we build new streets. It doesn't seem to go that fast on people being able to pick up GPS how to get to our properties.

MR. MARGOLIS: Because they're new and they have to map them.

MR. STRICKLEN: It's still the same process to rename.

MS. HOOVER: He did say within the State he didn't like the way the State published them. They had a hard time finding them, what roads were closed. I told them maybe we figure out a better way in the City of Charleston to make sure GPS software knows what we're doing.

MR. MARGOLIS: Does anybody else have any questions?

MS. HYPES: I'm not opposed to some street in Charleston being named Martin Luther King Way. Did we look at the Historic Triangle to see if there is a street over there or is this the only consideration?

MR. STAPLES: I think the petitioner was saying that it wouldn't be credible to put it in a street that's not traveled by people coming into Charleston, West Virginia. Put it over in the Triangle or somewhere in a neighborhood where people wouldn't be traveling, what would be the purpose of that, if you're trying to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. That's the point of putting it on a thoroughfare that is traveled by people coming into Charleston and being able to see that the City has dedicated the street to Martin Luther King, Jr.

MS. DOOLEY: Court Street was part of the Historic Triangle District, all up and down that street to Elk River.

MS. HYPES: Maybe I don't know where the Triangle District is.

MS. DOOLEY: That's my understanding as I read and as I did my research and looked at the old maps where the mall is, where Town Center is, where the Civic Center is, and then back, and then there was the area called the Block. So, there's a large segment of the City and Court Street was primary. You heard me talk about Captain James and he would tell me about the history of businesses that were on Court Street.

MR. MARGOLIS: I thought a lot of that was displaced when they put the interstate in, the Triangle District.

MR. STAPLES: I was on the police department at that time. It wasn't just the interstate. It was part of Urban Renewal that decimated African American communities in that area. Court Street was a major part of the Triangle District. It has a lot of African American history on the north end of Court Street. There were multiple businesses, doctors' offices, restaurants, everything in that area that were decimated under the name of Urban Renewal.

MS. HYPES: The Midland Trail Scenic Highway, which promotes tourism and economic development all along U.S. Route 60. Over across from the Clay Center, there is one side of the tri-fold sign that is all about that Triangle District. I put the signs on the other side of Midland Trail, that's why I thought that it was more like where the ballpark is and Clay Center.

MS. DOOLEY: I believe that was historically called the Block. But they had those kinds of names that they would tag areas, but the Triangle District is where that part of downtown is, at least, the mall, Civic Center.

MS. HYPES: Triangles have three sides though.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any more questions for staff? (No response.) All those in favor of the petition, if anybody would like to speak. We have a large crowd here. We don't want to hear a lot of repetitive testimony, so if you have a spokes person or if there's people saying different things, that's fine, feel free to come to the podium, state your name and address for the record.

MS. PHARR: I am Councilwoman Jennifer Pharr. My address is 3 Lambert Place, Number 3, Charleston, West Virginia 25314. I have been a part of this Committee and this has been a wonderful learning process. To not be repetitive as you asked, myself, Kitty Dooley, Toinette Jenkins, who is the First Lady of West Virginia State University, and Deb Weinstein, who is the CEO of the YWCA. We have been working very diligently to reach out to anyone that may be affected by this, whether

they are a property owner, a tenant or just someone that is interested in talking about why we chose Court Street and why we chose this endeavor.

One of the reasons that we did choose Court Street, again, it does not have any symbolism to someone that was a founder, someone that was instrumental with the creation of Charleston, West Virginia. It is the only street downtown that does not have that symbolism. It begins at Kanawha Boulevard coming down to where the Judicial Annex is as Kitty alluded to. That is the center of justice. It goes all the way to the end where Habitat For Humanity is located. We have spent countless hours on the phone. We have spent countless hours in person meeting with different individuals, meeting several times if needed, and we have two property owners that have signed the petition that I have with me, one being Habitat For Humanity, the other being Embassy Suites, and we also spoke with the CEO of National Travel and he signed off on it. We do have those three signatures with us. I have them in my possession; I'll be happy to give them to Dan for the record.

We've also had conversations with people that have said why have you moved so quickly. This came about at the YWCA's annual reporting event that they had. Kitty Dooley and I and Toinette, we sit on the Board of the YWCA. We have been planning a Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration at the Martin Luther King Center on Martin Luther King Day. This is something that has been talked about for years. We've actually got so many kids that are going to be involved with vignettes and plays and talking about his history beyond I Have A Dream, like the fact that he was a teenager when he entered Morehouse College, the fact that he got his master's degree at Boston University, the fact that his wife was a classically trained pianist, just so many different things. I had the wonderful opportunity of living in Atlanta, Georgia, for several years; my son was born there. I would take people to the center that truly recognizes him where you walk into Ebenezer Baptist Church and you hear his voice and if you close your eyes you can imagine that he's there.

We decided that we did not want this tucked away. We decided that it was time for Charleston to actually be inclusive of all the different immigrants and all the different nationalities and all the different cultures. We wanted it to be something that people would come and say we talk about inclusion, we're backing it up and here it is, you can see it. We decided at this meeting, which was not more than six weeks ago that we wanted to pursue this endeavor. When I contacted Dan Vriendt, who has been exceptional with this process he told me the deadlines of when your meetings were and when it could actually get to Council prior to his birthday celebration if you decide so to pass it. If it passes today, to answer another question, it would go to Planning, Streets Traffic Committee, which would be December 16th. That is also another public meeting, people can come in, they can address their questions and concerns support, whatever they would choose to do at that point in time. If it passes that Committee, then it would to full Council approval, which would be January 6th. His birthday celebration is January 20th. We would have had a Council meeting that day, but it's a holiday, so we would meet on January 21st. That is the urgency for actually getting this Bill to pass.

If it is something that requires more conversation, we'd be more than willing to have that done, but for the actual celebration to have these children that are taking their time to learn quotes and to learn skits and to do so many different things, we want to be able to have an unveiling to say, and here's the street, the street is named after him, it's right in front of the center. And, the City is working on a mural that will face the actual interstate that will be a mural of Dr. Martin Luther King on the back of the building. So, this is something we want to do annually; it's not a one-time deal. We want to do this to celebrate not just him, but people that were like him that made a stance to say it is important to speak up when there are things that are law and legal that should not have been.

There was one more thing that I wanted to mention. I want to make sure that Kitty has not already mentioned it. This endeavor has been to the point where we have learned so much not only about our

history, but we have a huge immigrant population that has built this City, and without that population we would not be who we are. We need to be so inclusive that we're not just talking about African American history. We are talking about Lebanese history, we are talking about Greek history, we are talking about Italian history because those folks helped to make what Charleston is today. I would be more than happy to answer any questions that you have. I do believe we have two property owners here that will be affected. They are here to show their support. Again, if there is more conversation, I would like for it to be to the point that if it does not pass today that we can at least table, if you would like us to go out and speak to as many more people that we can. I thank you for your time.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions from the Commission?

MR TAYLOR: The only thing I would suggest in support of Ms. Pharr is now is the opportunity for that public conversation. The City and all its population have been provided notice of that and suggesting that more conversation needs to occur when this public opportunity has been presented is delay.

MR. MARGOLIS: Anybody else here to speak in favor of the application?

MR. KINZER: Yes. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Anthony Kinzer, I'm the director of a nonprofit organization, the West Virginia Center for African American Art and Culture. I concur with the ladies today who have been speaking on behalf of the street renaming of Martin Luther King, because we have been working diligently over the years to honor individuals who have had an impact not only in Charleston, but around the area for history and we are talking about history right now. And, history is not only for the current generation; it's for the future generations. The future generations for Martin Luther King are those who are participating in the poster drawings, the history lessons that are going on right now, those who march in the annual parades coming from Elizabeth Street to the Capitol and participate in the bell ringing. Those are children, young children, who are being made aware of who Martin Luther King, Jr., is. After that, the celebration of Martin Luther King, his birthday, there's nothing after that until the following year. What we are suggesting is that we have a street renaming that the young people can go on that street and be participants in activity that they can remember for the rest of their lives when they become the age that we are. This is a historic moment and their lives will be impacted by what we do today. I would encourage everyone to sign off on this petition to rename Court Street Martin Luther King, Jr., Way and be active in helping our young generation of leaders to know who Martin Luther King, Jr., is and to further their education in what he has done for the world. We, as the capitol of the State, can make that transition as easy as we can and we can make the lives of these young people more conscious of who Martin Luther King, Jr., is and what we as a City and as a State are trying to accomplish not only for us but for them and their children because that will be a long-lasting effect on their lives to see a street named after someone that they drew a poster of, participated in an educational event or went to a program to honor him. They can tell that story for the rest of their lives as we are telling the story now and as you have told it to your children. You can tell them that you were part of renaming the street to Martin Luther King, Jr., Way.

I neglected to give my address. It's 1565 Washington Street, East, Charleston, 25302. Thank you very much.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions of the Commission?

MS. MCKINNEY: I have one. Did you express this change to the children you're speaking of and do they know about the plans that you have for trying to rename Court Street?

MR. KINZER: I don't think they know, but what I'm suggesting is that as things are planned for the Martin Luther King Day and celebration, the poster series and the drawings are being promoted as we speak. The programs that are planned for Martin Luther King's celebration are being planned as we speak. As they participate in those programs, being a part of the street renaming would be an additional activity that they would be a part of not only next year but for the rest of their lives, they can remember that. If you

talk to children who have been participants in that parade, the march from Elizabeth Street to the Capitol, they can tell you what they did, who they were with, how they were a part of a history-making event. They can tell you that and they can continue to tell you that for the rest of their lives. I'm suggesting that when we rename the street that these children can be a part of that history-making program. Thank you very much.

MS. TEETER: What is the timeframe for letting the tenants in the medical building that there's an address change to patients?

MR. VRIENDT: The post office will honor that old address for a very long time.

MR. MARGOLIS: Anybody else to speak in favor of the application?

MR. ENGLISH: My name is Ronald English, 4009 Kanawha Turnpike, South Charleston, 25309. I had the opportunity several years ago to appear before one of the Councils when they were considering naming Sullivan Way. They wanted to name it some other street name, but I suggested Sullivan Way because Dr. Leon Sullivan gave us a way up, a way out and a way over as far as the poverty that he was addressing. I'm glad to hear that the name proposed for Dr. Martin Luther King is Martin Luther King Way because 900 and so cities have named streets after Dr. King. Fifty years after his assassination we come to do that. I think it is so significant that we are doing it 50 years because those streets named right after his assassination were in tribute to his work but also the tragedies that brought his life to an end. Had it not been for the tragedy that brought his life to an end the way it did, we would not have named any streets Martin Luther King, Jr., Way or neither would we likely have had a Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. It was because of the way that he died and what he died for. This Martin Luther King Way is a way of celebrating the life of one who was the drum major for justice. Therefore, to position it on Court Street where the halls of justice reside and where justice is disseminated would be a significant statement that Court Street, hall of justice are a part of the tribute that we have made to the drum major of justice. I often heard him say that the arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice and, therefore, this would be a significant way in which this community would show that the arc of our community bends towards that kind of justice that would recognize. Streets that were named for him after his assassination now are economically depressed, are politically disenfranchised because they are located in cities or located in parts of cities where that has happened over the last 50 years. Charleston is among the last to be considering naming a street after Dr. King, but as the Bible says, the first shall be last and the last shall be first and the message this city would be the first in the mission to name a street downtown where the halls of justice are located, where the commerce is across the street and where people will come to the center of the City in order to see and celebrate as they shop and as they do other things in the City. This is a place where it would be most significant, and I think that would attract the attention of the nation to Charleston, West Virginia or Charleston in West by God Virginia, so that people will see that here something unique took place 50 years later, not just in tribute to him, but in terms of the stigma that it will make to this community in tribute to the drum major of justice. Thank you.

MR. MARGOLIS: Questions of the Commission? (No response.) Anybody else to speak in favor?

MR. BURTON: My name is Robert Burton. I am a displaced person from the Triangle District. I'm one of the people that the Urban Renewal removed from the Triangle District. When you want to talk about symbolism, I'll give you symbolism. Until you've been displaced, and you've seen your family lose everything that they owned, my family's restaurant, businesses, and to go into a strict poverty. I am for the proposal, but I am not for the street. The reason I am not for the street, for those who lived in the Triangle District and was displaced, we need that street to stay Court Street. The reason why is this, this is where our struggle took place. This is where we had our tent city when we fought to keep our homes and keep our businesses. We were displaced by bulldozers who came in and removed us. I was a 12-year-old child who stood there and watched men who lived in the mud, lived in the muck, and who had

tent cities to try to control and keep what we had. That name, Court Street, has significance to us who lived in the community. I've done my survey, I've talked to the people who lived there, and we do not want – we want a street named Martin Luther King, but we do not want Court Street to be replaced. It has significance and honor to us so we can continue on and have some attachment to our families and to a love that we had that was on that street. That's where our black dentist was, our doctors' offices, where our community was, it's where we grew up, this was our everything. You wouldn't believe the devastating amount of pressure upon a lot of families that were displaced and had to leave and relocate into other parts of the City and even other states. One time, this community had a population close to 100,000 people, but because of Urban Renewal they displaced the black community. I'm not a westsider; I'm actually a downtowner. At that time, Charleston was divided up into three sections: downtown, East End and the West Side. I am now a displaced person on the West Side, but in my heart, I am still a person that's in the Triangle District.

I heard about your symbolism to Donnally Street. Let me give you a symbol. There's no greater symbol in this country, in this nation, in this State than Dr. Martin Luther King. When you talk about diversity, you're talking about Dr. King. You used the word diversity but who gave you diversity? Who gave you these civil rights laws, who made it so people could work? Who made it so women could be who they are? He went to other countries and helped fuel their movement. So, when you're talking about diversity, you're talking about the greatest symbol of all times greater than a street named Donnally Street. We're talking about Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King.

Let me give you some history of Donnally Street that you don't know. There's a prestigious building called the Mattie V. Lee Home who was a black nurse. It was built in 1920. It's still there. The Pretera Center now has taken it over. It's a place for what we call First Step for women who are on drugs and alcohol. I worked there personally under WVU. I went and taught nutrition to these women as part of their health. Also, he was a Baptist minister, am I correct? There is the great prestigious Metropolitan Baptist Church which sits there, which at one time it did sit on Court Street, but it was rebuilt in the 70s and placed on Donnally Street. So, what greater connection could you give Dr. King to honor his legacy as a Baptist minister, as one who cared about diversity for the Mattie V. Lee Home, the Metropolitan Baptist Church, and even the prestigious YWCA sits on the property which is surmountable. The John F. Kennedy Center sat there. The president John F. Kennedy came here and christened this center. My father was the director of that center. August 1963. And, in November of 1963, he was assassinated. Well, I'll give you some history if you want some history.

Another thing is this. The land where the Martin Luther King Center sits on was personal for us. This was the place where the Donnally Street playground sat on, Lions Field, and we actually did everything there. But the people who lived in the Triangle District, the people who lived in Washington Manor, the people who actually lived in the Triangle District, we would rather see your symbolic Donnally Street changed to Martin Luther King Way or Street because there's no greater symbol in this City, in this State or this nation than Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. And why would you change Court Street as Dr. Martin Luther King Way and around the corner sits the King Center. Where is her connection at? The connection should be right there where the King Center sits itself. You have the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center sitting on Dr. Martin Luther King Way or Street. You've got Metropolitan Baptist Church which he was associated as a Baptist minister. You have the diversity that he stood for. There's the Mattie V. Lee Home standing there. And what is adjacent to that street? He fought segregation, am I right or wrong? Where there's a segregated black high school Garnet, which is now Garnet Career Center, which stands adjacent to Martin Luther King Street. You call it Garnet Career Center. That's the school that my father went to, Garnet High School

I'll give you some history. I ask the Council, Ma'am, Ms. Dooley, I am 100 percent for your proposal. Ms. Weinstein, I love your proposal. It's time. It's time. It's time. It's time. It's time for you to make sure that this happens. I'm also one who was an NAACP president in the City of Montgomery in Fayette County. I worked hard to make sure that the Dr. Martin Luther King birthday was going to become a reality. Yes, I'm a past president of the NAACP. I fought hard in this City in more ways than you can think of. For rights, for all human beings, and what did he stand for? It's time. I commend Ms. Dooley. You're the first person who actually brought this forth. We've had many people who had many chances and many opportunities, but they did nothing.

MR. MARGOLIS: Do you have a question?

MS. HYPES: Thank you for enlightening us. I didn't catch your name.

MR. BURTON: Robert Burton.

MS. HYPES: Thank you.

MR. PUSHKIN: My name is Mike Pushkin, I live at 609 Hall Street, 25302 here in Charleston. As the elected representative elected to represent the 37th District, which is not only where Court Street is, but it was created to be the minority influence district in West Virginia. It's the only minority influence district I know of in West Virginia. I wanted to show up to voice my support for the proposal as written, to rename Court Street as Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Way. First of all, why do we name streets after people is to honor their legacy, honor what they have given to society, honor their history, and I don't think there's any question about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In naming Court Street, like was stated before, we're not taking that honor away from any other family from any other name. Court Street, as far as I know, is named for the courts, not named for anybody named Court, whereas, Donnally Street is named for an old founding family in Charleston, as we look at other streets like Patrick Street or Lee Street that have a history in Charleston, some not the best history in Charleston. We're not talking about changing that history; we're talking about renaming Court Street, which was also a main thoroughfare into the Triangle District.

I don't think it's just a fitting way to commemorate the achievements and the accomplishments and what was given to this country by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but it's also a way to commemorate the history of the African American community in Charleston that was displaced when the highway came in, when the mall came in, Urban Renewal, and I fully support this proposal. I also think it's fitting what was said by Rev. English that what better place for it than a place where people go to seek justice, to name it after the man who gave his life for justice. Thank you.

MR. MARGOLIS: Thank you. Any questions? (No response.) We're getting a little long here. Does anybody have any new information they would like to present in honor of the petition?

MR. JEYAKARAN: Thank you for the opportunity; I'll be very brief. My name is Hector Jeyakaran and I represent Embassy Suites currently at 300 Court Street and Atrium Hospitality. Our company purchased the hotel about four and a half years ago and has invested significant funds in it this year and will continue to do so. I say that only to voice our commitment to downtown Charleston. I feel that it would be an extremely complimentary step to the other efforts to put the City of Charleston and West Virginia on the national map to take this step and rename Court Street Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Way. As an individual and as a company we would be honored to support that initiative. Thank you, very much.

MR. MARGOLIS: Thank you, it was good to hear from the property owner. Any questions for the gentleman?

MR. MARTIN: I promise I'll be the briefest speaker of all. My name is Ricardo Martin. I am president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP. I stand in support of the application for the renaming of Court Street to Martin Luther King, Jr., Way. Obviously, the NAACP is arguably the oldest civil rights organization in the land, and I feel comfortable saying not only on behalf of the Charleston branch, but I'll extend it to say on

behalf of the State Conference of Branches of the NAACP statewide, we stand in support of this application. Thank you.

MR. MARGOLIS: Thank you. Anybody else to speak in favor of the petition?

MS. PROCTOR: Good after noon. My name is Jaclyn Proctor. My work address is at the Town Center Mall. My home address is in Huntington. Why am I speaking before you today? Because I am here as a member of the Martin Luther King West Virginia State Holiday Commission. I was appointed to that position by former Governor Manchin several years ago and I continue to work with the Commission. We, but I in particular, would be delighted to have the opportunity to share not only the Commission members but statewide, which is what we're supposed to do, what our bylaws indicate for us to do, to share in the significance of this street name change. I wanted to say there are a number of activities that the Commission has planned for January and February and into March. I wanted to take a public to thank Dr. Jenkins for allowing us to have a poster and essay contest facilitated at State. Very young children from all across the State painted and designed images of what they thought of Dr. King and how powerful and important he is. We are trying to elevate that on a State level, and we think that it would be a crown, so to speak, of the State in general and Charleston in particular to have the street renamed. Thank you.

MR. MARGOLIS: Thank you. I think we've heard plenty in favor. I'm going to open the floor to anybody here to speak in opposition.

MS. FAEGRE: My name is Jeanine Faegre. I sit on Charleston City Council. I represent Ward 5. I concur with Mr. Burton regarding the renaming of Court Street. I, with all due respect to Ms. Dooley, but more particularly the memory and the leadership of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I think that Court Street should stay the same. Those halls of justice have had a lot of great leaders go through them, one of which was the late, great Judge Zakaib. There are many leaders within our City and State that deserve recognition, one of which is – I'm sure that the young generation coming up will recognize his name. Chuck Overstreet was the first black fire chief named in the State of West Virginia and surrounding states. Tom Tolliver has done so much to lead in our City and to nurture young children within our area. There are so many others. For example, Dr. Martin Luther King, for his leadership. There would be so many that would not have the opportunities they have today. I also want to say this. Our State is one of the poorest in the country. We have children that depend on our food stamp program. Had it not been for John F. Kennedy visiting Southern West Virginia when he was running for president, we would not have the food stamp program in the country that feed those that are less fortunate. I think today is time, but I think it is a little too fast, because there are so many others that deserve the recognition that have given us leadership within our City, within our State. Cecil Underwood – and by the way I'm a democrat. Cecil Underwood was first elected as the youngest governor in the State of West Virginia. Then he became the oldest elected governor in the State of West Virginia. Given what is going on in our City today, we need to focus our attention on the crime, the young adults that are getting killed on a monthly basis. There is so much more that needs to be addressed within the City right now other than renaming Court Street. I am all for naming a street within our City after the very honorable Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I think that there's just a lot of things that we need to put our attention to right now in saving our young adults and helping our City thrive for what all she can be.

We have City workers that haven't had a raise in years. Refuse workers, sanitation workers, and I believe the cost is anywhere from \$6-\$16,000 to rename Court Street. That's with signage, businesses redoing their letterheads. I think the post office only honors a change of address for two years. I'm not real sure on that, but we need to check on that. With all due respect, I do think the time comes for Charleston to recognize a street in honor of Dr. King that; I just think that we need to address some other issues that are at the forefront right now. Thank you, very much.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions of the Commission?

MS. MCKINNEY: I would like to say due to the fact that I have not heard of other petitions of a street being changed with any of those names, but for a young African American female myself we need hope in this City, we need change. Yes, we have a lot of deaths, but don't you think that would kind of lighten up the African American community to actually see one of their hero's name on a street? I think the time is now to start giving hope to our youth. I think it's very important because they need hope, something to look forward to and all these children that are participating in his upcoming birthday I think this would be a gift for all. I think we should not look at the crimes and say this is not the time for that because this is the petition that came forward, his name came forward, and let's just respect who came first.

MS. FAEGRE: I agree with that, Deanna, absolutely. We have the Martin Luther King Center. Two years ago, when the warming stations started my family and I went there, and we fed those that were at that warming station for the first time and there was a young man who was homeless, and he was a junior in high school and that weighed heavy on my heart. I understand exactly what you're saying. I'm in favor of naming a street; I just think that Court Street has been there for so many years like Mr. Burton said. That is a memory for him; that's obviously a memory that he has discussed with his children and his grand children and there are so many leaders that have walked those halls of justice and that is primarily why I think that it should also stay as Court Street.

MS. STAPLES: When you mention Governor Underwood, there are stretches of interstate in the names of Cecil Underwood. Chuck Overstreet is a friend of mine. I was the first African American police chief in West Virginia. I don't look for a street to be named after me. We're getting off track about crime and feeding. While it's a concern of the whole City it's not this body's responsibility to deal with those types of things. We're here about a street naming. That's it.

MR. MARGOLIS: That's it. Yes, ma'am.

MS. JENKINS: I'm Toinette Jenkins, First Lady of West Virginia State University. This is Deb Weinstein.

MS. WEINSTEIN: I'm the CEO of the YWCA of Charleston and I wanted to get on the record that our Board of Directors voted at its last meeting to support this initiative.

MS. JENKINS: We wanted to come before, especially after the Councilwoman's enlightened opinion. Some 51 years ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., fought in Memphis, Tennessee, for low income workers that were sanitation workers and unfair working conditions. But not just for the sanitation workers, but for all. We come before you in support of Dr. Martin Luther King in recognition that, yes, a pay raise is much needed for the sanitation workers, but it is a small step, some \$16,000. This is a legacy we're talking about, a lifetime legacy. Therefore, West Virginia State University supports this initiative as well and so does the YWCA. Thank you.

MR. MARGOLIS: Anybody else to speak in opposition of the petition?

MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Brady Campbell; I'm a City Council member representing the 19th Ward. I came here today to express my concerns. Something that's been mentioned several times is the speed with which this has been initiated and the change has been asked to take place. As many folks have said here today it's been 50 years since Rev. King's passing and here we are trying to, in a six-week or eight-week period, make this name change and enact it. To change a street name is to make sure not only owners of these properties but also the doctors and their patients understand that this taking place. Something I would like to bring up is that, as the First Lady just said, this is a legacy, this is a huge decision and it's very important which street we name and which change. I'm all for changing a name and representing the commitments and the changes that Rev. King made.

One thing I'd like you guys to take into consideration is, is this the correct street here. This street has been named Court Street for over 125 years. When the street was first put in there were two buildings basically. There was a court house and there was a church. That church still sits there today. Or a house of God, St. George. I sat here today listening to everyone, listening to Mr. Burton speak and there is such

history in this City. Someone mentioned that this City was built on immigrants and those coming here to work and to make a living for themselves. I can't think for myself of a single street or building named after a Syrian or a Lebanese member of our community. The corner of Court Street and Washington Street is where St. George sits, and I would ask that we give weight to what that piece of property and those members of that congregation would like to do. I'm not sure at this point if there's been the opportunity for proper discussion about the feelings for that organization.

MR. TAYLOR: Councilman, may I ask you a question. If the proposal was to rename the street after the Honorable Paul Zakaib, would you be opposed to the speed at which this has moved through?

MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, sir. I believe that if you're going to change a name of a street it's a huge deal. We've talked about GPS systems, we've talked about name changes on letterheads.

MR. TAYLOR: Who hasn't been provided notice?

MR. CAMPBELL: I'm not sure at this point if all the tenants for all the buildings have been. I've heard that we have notified all the property owners, but I also realize that there is a large piece of property owned by St. Francis or St. Thomas that has a number of doctor offices in there.

MR. TAYLOR: What would be their relief?

MR. CAMPBELL: Their relief?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. CAMPBELL: If they objected, I can't speak for them; it would be speculation.

MR. TAYLOR: They should be present to day; am I not correct?

MR. CAMPBELL: They certainly should have that opportunity.

MR. TAYLOR: Has anybody prevented them from exercising that opportunity?

MR. CAMPBELL: Not that I know of, but then they may not have known. Not all those people would be Charleston residents.

MR. TAYLOR: That is speculation on your part, right?

MR. CAMPBELL: It is speculation on my part.

MR. MARGOLIS: In respect with this Commission, there's a timeline to submit applications, property owners are notified. Whether it was this hearing or next hearing, based on history on what happens in front of here, I'm not sure anything would have changed by a delay.

MR. CAMPBELL: I've had people come to me and express concern about how the haste with which this is going on. One of the things I've heard mentioned several times here today is the applicant for this change wants this to be made before Rev. King's birthday so they can have certain events. Again, I ask that when the Board takes this into consideration that don't let that cloud your decision making. I ask that you understand that this is a long, permanent change hopefully if it's to occur and to sit back and think and make sure that we have chosen the correct street, that the name is what is wanted by those people on the street. That's all I ask. I stand up here and I realize I'm not saying what is necessarily popular opinion today, and I almost think it's some sort of irony that this is the discussion, but I would like everyone to take that into consideration.

MR. TAYLOR: What do you propose would be the proper amount of delay before this decision could be made? What has to be exercised to convince you that everybody that has an interest has expressed themselves?

MR. CAMPBELL: Perhaps, sir, an opportunity for each person that does business on that street to weigh in yes or no, to offer their feelings. I certainly would be happy to go and try to track down all those people. I think Councilwoman Pharr has also said she's made an attempt to talk to those people. Again, I think that additional weight should be given to the congregation at St. George since they have such a long history at that location. I think giving them the opportunity to schedule something where they can invite those members of their congregation there to openly discuss that and perhaps make suggestions as well.

MS. MCKINNEY: It's been on the news and things like that. I'm sure people had knowledge that there was a hearing today. It's been in the paper, it's been in the news, it's been on social media. It's been out there. The thing that I'm kind of confused with is the who rushing part. I don't see how it's being rushed because it's like the gentleman said if it was any other person or any other day, would we be going through the same problem of it being rushed.

MR. KRASON: One of the good things about this process is there's obviously plenty of media coverage here today. If we make a recommendation, this still has to go to Council; this isn't final approval. People will have plenty of opportunity to weigh in with their representative.

MS. HYPES: I, for one, was blindsided by it because this thing is dated on the 12th. My mon died on the 15th, I buried her, and then we had Thanksgiving. I didn't know about it until I got the envelop with this in it. So, there may be people that don't know.

MR. MARGOLIS: Dan, just for clarification, when did the notifications go out to the property owners approximately?

MR. VRIENDT: The 18th of November.

MR. MARGOLIS: Sir?

FR. JOSEPH HAZAR: Chairman and Honorable Board, my name is the Rev. Fr. Joseph Hazar; I'm the Dean of St. George Cathedral. I took the opportunity with that introduction from the Councilman to come up and speak to you. I want to first of all thank Ms. Dooley and the Committee for all the work that they have done. I think it's admirable and it's important work that they're doing. As the gentleman earlier today spoke about having been displaced from Court Street, I represent over 400 families in St. George Orthodox Cathedral, which is on 190 Court Street. It's very painful for them to have Court Street renamed because that is part of their heritage. When their ancestors left the Middle East because of persecution where they were being killed, where to this day in Syria and Lebanon people are being beheaded and crucified for being Christian, they flocked to Charleston, West Virginia, and lived on Court Street. The City through eminent domain removed them from their homes on Court Street where I believe the Town Center Mall is, in that area, of course the church was the center of where they lived. When they heard about this in the media, they were hurt, and they were afraid to say anything because they didn't want to appear to be opposing the black citizens of our community. The Middle Easterners have also been persecuted against and have prejudice against for many years up until today. I shared this in a meeting with Ms. Dooley and the Committee earlier today. I very much respect the work that they are doing, and I am very much in favor of naming a street Martin Luther King, Jr., Way or Street somewhere in this City.

The rush that we were talking about since this came out, and we heard through the media, was that our Parish Council has not been able to meet yet. We meet once a month and it really hasn't been a month since we received notice or anyone has told us, and so our Parish Council has not had the opportunity to meet to discuss it. So, I'm coming a little bit on my own behalf, but also I've spoken to a number of my congregants who are concerned about this change. Why I believe it happened too quickly is because I wanted an opportunity – and I shared this with Ms. Dooley – for our community to be a part of the planning of this. We have one of the largest buildings representing, as I said, over 400 families, and I want to fight for justice just as one of our Greek Orthodox leaders in this country, Archbishop Iakovos marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, Alabama, in 1965. So, I'm very much for changing a street, but we're not sure that Court Street is the right street. I think that we didn't include enough people in the conversation.

As a leader of a large community, sometimes I have to come in and make strong decisions and say that we have to do things a certain way. Those never go over very well. But as a hierarchical church, I'm required to do that. The thing that works the best is when I include everybody. When I open it up, I ask who wants to be a part of this committee. I hear everybody out, I listen to all the concerns, I get all the

ideas, things that I myself could not have thought of and then we work together with coming up with a solution. I think that's for me why we feel the process has been rushed because we weren't able to give our input. The founder of our church in 1895 – the community was before that time, but in 1895 a man by the name of Raphael Hawaweenye came to gather all of the Syrian and Lebanese immigrants in what we called the diaspora at the time. That man has since been canonized by the church as St. Raphael of Brooklyn. He is somebody who we would honor, and we would love as a community to see a street named after him. However, I did not suggest that we change the name of a street, of Court Street or Lee Street, which we're on the corner of, to St. Raphael Way because I don't want this to be our community and your community and the Italian community and the Greek community. I want this to be all of our community. The only way we can do that is if we all together come together, and I think Dr. Martin Luther King represented not only the black Americans but anyone who had an obstacle in their life. I believe he represented those who were economically challenged, those who were immigrants, but we all want to come together and have him honored in the right way. Those are my humble requests to the Committee. I would like more time to go back to this committee and work on some other possibilities and ways because I don't think we should be fighting racism and inequality; I think we should be teaching acceptance and promoting unity. The difference is in a fight people get hurt. When we love, that light, no matter where it's at, is going to give light because light can't be overtaken by the darkness. I'd rather instead of forcing this have everybody involved and let's shine the light brightly by coming together and not having one community. I told Ms. Dooley earlier today I want to walk with you hand in hand.

Something Ms. Dooley brought to my attention earlier today was that there are streets in Charleston named after slave owners. To me, this was more jarring than not having a Martin Luther King, Jr., Way. And what kind of a statement would it make if Martin Luther King, Jr., replaced one of the street names of a slave owner. I think this is something to be considered.

Please forgive me, I'm used to speaking from a different kind of pulpit. I appreciate you all listening.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions? (No response.) I'm going to let the applicant speak in rebuttal if they so choose and I'm going to limit it to one person because for a street naming, we've spent a lot of time.

MR. SKAFF: I wasn't going to, but something enlightened me. My name is Doug Skaff; I'm at 3 Joplin Place. I came today because of the admirable work that Ms. Dooley, Ms. Weinstein, this is mind boggling that we didn't have a Martin Luther King Way or Street in Charleston, West Virginia. I was out of town. When I first found out about it through the media, it blew my mind. I went back to look at what monuments we had, I know we had the Center, but it just floored me.

Where I'm at, I'm a consensus builder. I think we need a street, I think we need the longest street in town, I think we need a Martin Luther King something, but I don't think we need to stop there. We should be in unanimous support behind a Martin Luther King Way, Street, somewhere. If there's any opposition at all, we should respect that regardless of their race, regardless of their heritage, whatever. I'm not saying that Court Street's not the right street. I don't know if it is. But we've heard some things some people believe that are very adamant today that I didn't know those people were out there. They spoke today that maybe makes sense that we need to consider more thought and more people. Change is hard, change is tough, but I think change is good. I love the direction our City is going. More inclusive, more diverse, it's amazing. If it was up to me, I think we should rename the Courthouse Martin Luther King Courthouse. That is a huge statement. The only one I know of in America is Newark, New Jersey. That would be a huge statement. If it's on Martin Luther King Way that's great, that's even a bonus. But the bottom line here is why don't we have a statue anywhere of Martin Luther King. There should be so much we can do. I think to honor all our heritages, to honor the work that this Committee has done, I don't want to see this initiative die. I don't want to see us not name a street somewhere in this town. If

it's Court Street maybe that's the perfect street, hey, I'm all for it. If it's another street I'm all for it. That's not what I'm trying to say here. We need consensus. We all know about how people get fired up over a name change. We've seen it in the past. We all know how long it took for Shawnee Park. Shawnee Park was a slam dunk. It took months, it took years, they missed soccer tournaments because they delayed Shawnee Park because there were residents that said they didn't want Shawnee Park to happen. So, my point is, if we need to have another forum, if we need to delay this a couple of weeks, it's worth it. If we can vote today and pass this then that's worth it too. But I don't think that we should disenfranchise anybody whether you're Lebanese, Italian. Fazio's is located over there because that's where a lot of Italians lived. You look around there, do you see any Italian homes there now? It's all businesses.

I'm a member of St. George Orthodox Church. I'm honored to be a member of that church. My grandparents had grocery stores where Laidley Tower is. There's a great sign over on Shrewsbury Street that says former community of black Americans throughout the block that were preceded by Greek, Lebanese, Syrian and Jewish immigrants. To me, that is special. Ms. Councilwoman and I have been talking candidly we need to do more, we need to do more to honor Martin Luther King, we need to do more to honor all our heritages. Brawley Walkway, that should be a Heritage Walkway. We should honor the past Lebanese people of our town. We should have the Jewish and the first rabbi that came to Charleston. We should honor the first Italian. That whole Walkway. We should move the bus stop. We should make that park and put a statue of Martin Luther King where that park is. We should do all this to honor those who came before us.

All I'm saying is I would hate to see this initiative die, but if it needs to be delayed to save this initiative, I'm all for that. Let's pick a street that we can all unite behind, we can be unanimous, and we can rally and tell the world that we have a street. If it's Court Street at the end of the day, it might be. I'll be the first to volunteer St. George Church or wherever to hold a big public forum and, sir, if nobody shows up, shame on them, but if they do then maybe we'll learn something, and we'll get even more recognition for Dr. Martin Luther King when this day is done. Thank you for your time.

(Discussion continued.)

MR. KRASON: I would make a motion that we approve the street naming.

MR. MARGOLIS: We have one more.

MS. TEETER: Very briefly. Coming from a family that was displaced from there and coming from a teenager who worked in that area probably way before some of you were born, I think everyone is very supportive of this action. We've heard all the accolades and we can go on and on. I would ask you to be sensitive to the people who have grown up in that area because I came here today a hundred percent in support of this. I also said I've got a little nostalgic feeling because I walked those streets, I worked those streets, I was down there. My family did get displaced from there. I'm just saying I think we're going to move forward with this, I think it's going to be very positive for the community and for our City and maybe reach out to some of the people who have that sort of sentimental feeling. That shouldn't be the ultimate decision of why it goes or doesn't go. I think it would be nice as a committee that that would be the first place that I would reach out to, to some of the people who do have some of that nostalgic feeling about that area.

Motion and Vote: On motion of Adam Krason, seconded by Deanna McKinney, the Commission voted 10 to 1 to approve the street naming.

MR. MARGOLIS: I would like to point out to members in the audience that we are just a recommendation to City Council. This is not the last of this; it moves on a couple more steps. If you want to speak at that event check with Dan, check with Council persons.

MS. HOOVER: Just so everybody knows that date is December 16th. It going to follow our City Council meeting in the AV room.

Minutes of the November 6, 2019, MPC meeting: On motion of Adam Krason, seconded by Dallas Staples, the Commission voted 11-0 to approve the Minutes.

Adjournment.