



Planning, Streets and Traffic Committee

January 27, 2020

5:00 p.m.

City Service Center – 915 Quarrier Street – Conference Room

Agenda

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.

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.

A request of Councilmember Will Laird to lower the speed limit of Lancaster Avenue, Washington Avenue, Venable Avenue, and Toledo Avenue from 30 MPH to 25 MPH.

Miscellaneous

Approval of the Minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting

Municipal Planning Commission

Checklist for Application for Rezoning

MPC Hearing Date: Jan 8, 2020

Bill #: _____

Applicant Information	Property Information
Name: <u>JERICK FARMS, INC.</u>	Address: <u>303 OHIO AVE</u>
Address: <u>PO BOX 6092 (HQS. W/ 25362)</u>	Tax Map and Parcel: <u>WC 25 PART OF PARCEL 288</u>
Phone: <u>(304) 389 3409</u>	Zoning District: <u>R-8</u>
Agents Name, Address, Phone (If other than Applicant): <u>QUENTIN A. WALKER</u> <u>PO BOX 6092</u> <u>CHARLESTON, W. VA 25362</u>	Property Owner and Mailing Address: (if other than applicant)

IMPORTANT: This application must be typed or legibly printed and filed by the filing deadline with the Planning Department in person or by mail to 915 Quarrier Street, Suite 1 Charleston, WV 25301. The following items must accompany this application: 1) a petition to rezone using the format in the sample provided; 2) a Bill sponsored by a member of Charleston City Council using the format of the sample provided; 3) a map of the area proposed for rezoning, drawn to scale; 4) a list of the owners, with their mailing addresses, of the properties within a 250 foot radius of the property for which the rezoning is being sought; 5) \$125.00 filing fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the City of Charleston. In addition, you or your representative must be present at the scheduled public hearing in order to present your request and answer questions. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

PETITION

The following items shall be included in the petition which shall be filed in the format of the attached sample:
Section I

1. Statement of petitioner's identity as contract purchaser, agent or owner.
2. Property Address including Kanawha County Tax map and Parcel No.

Section II

1. Description of the use for which a rezoning is being requested and specific district being requested.

Section III

1. Applicable Sections of the Zoning Ordinance.
2. Statement of compliance with the City of Charleston Comprehensive and Neighborhood Plans.
3. If applicable, justification for a variance from the City of Charleston Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Plans.

Section IV

1. Statement of sponsorship of the Bill to Rezone by a member of City Council.
2. Statement of inclusion of a list of all property owners within 250 of the subject property.
3. Statement that the subject property is shown on a map of the subject property that is attached.
4. \$125.00 filing fee.

BILL

The following items shall be included in the Bill submitted along with the above petition:

1. Name of sponsoring member of City Council
2. Bill filed electronically with the Planning Department in the exact format shown on the attached sample Bill.

I hereby affirm that all of the statements and information contained in or filed with this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Quentin A. Walker
Signature

12/9/2019
Date

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:

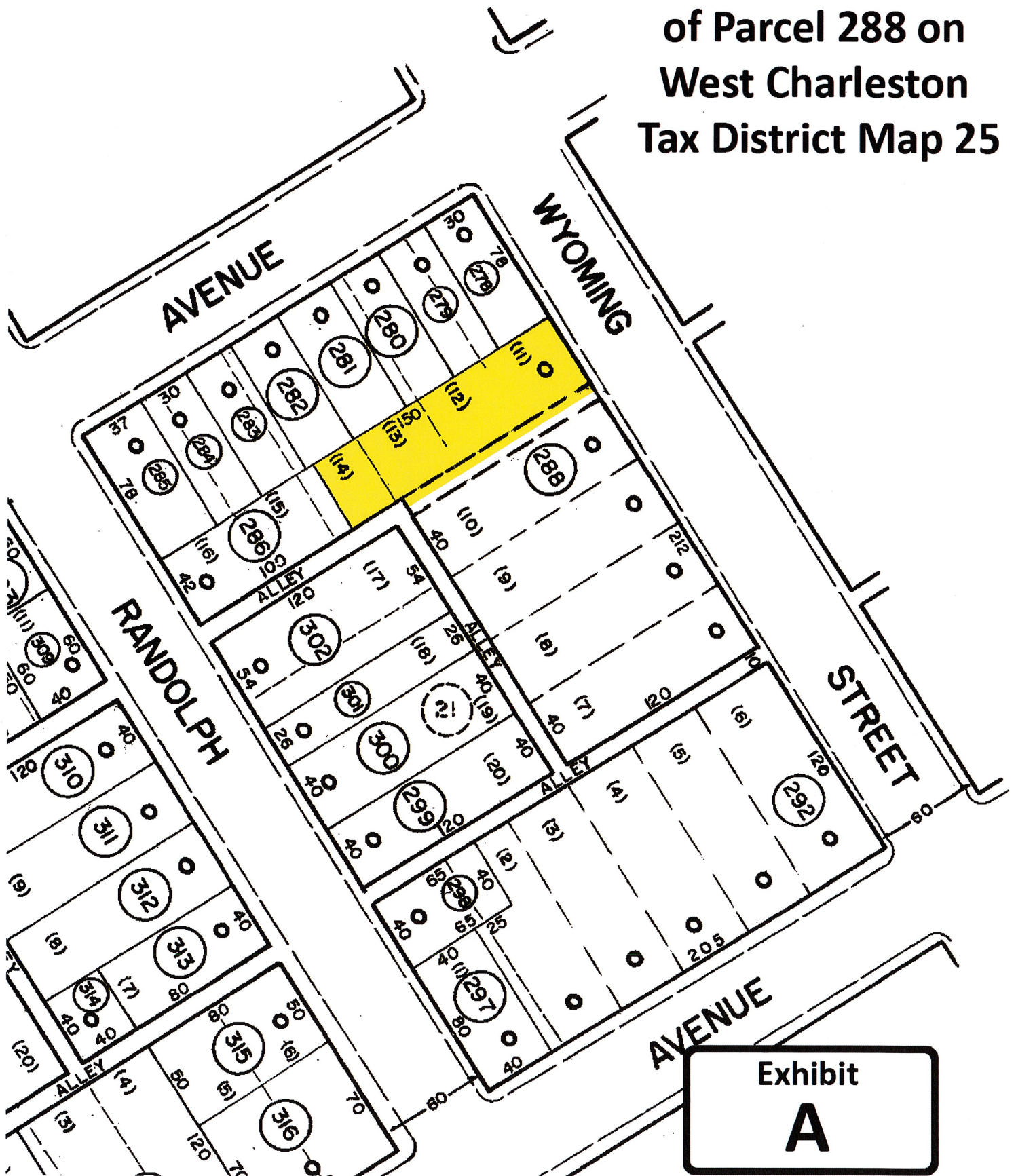
1. The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, enacted the 1st day of January 2006, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning from a R-8 High Density Residential District to a C-8 Village Commercial District the following described parcels of land:

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.

Showing a portion
of Parcel 288 on
West Charleston
Tax District Map 25



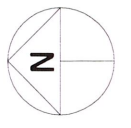
Exhibit

A



REZONING FROM R-8 TO C-8

STAFF
EXHIBIT



Planning, Streets, and Traffic Committee
Staff Analysis
January 27, 2020

REQUEST:

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, as shown with the drawing attached as Exhibit A hereto.

APPLICABLE CODE:

Charleston Zoning Ordinance, adopted November 21, 2005, Article 28-030

STANDARD OF REVIEW:

A rezoning is a change to the zoning map, which requires a legislative decision. Therefore the Committee's role is to make a recommendation to City Council. The Committee should determine if the request is spot zoning and if it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. A rezoning is considered spot zoning when all the following factors are present: A small parcel of land is singled out for special and privileged treatment; The singling out is not in the public interest but only for the benefit of the landowner; the action is not in accordance with the comprehensive plan. If a request is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan, the commission should consider if the original zoning classification was in error, or if the character of the area has changed significantly since the adoption of the comprehensive plan. Proposed uses should be treated with care, because once rezoned, any use that is permitted within the district would be permitted 'by right' with no review by the Committee.

HISTORY:

The site is currently split by two zoning districts. The zoning ordinance stipulates that when two districts exist on a site, the most restrictive applies. This presents a significant barrier for reuse of the commercial structure as it is not suited to the R-8 zoning that covers the loading dock area of the structure. Most of the site is zoned C-8.

The property was most recently used as a post office. Federal agencies do not need to comply with local land use controls. This accounts for the ongoing zoning non-conformity on the site.

ANALYSIS:

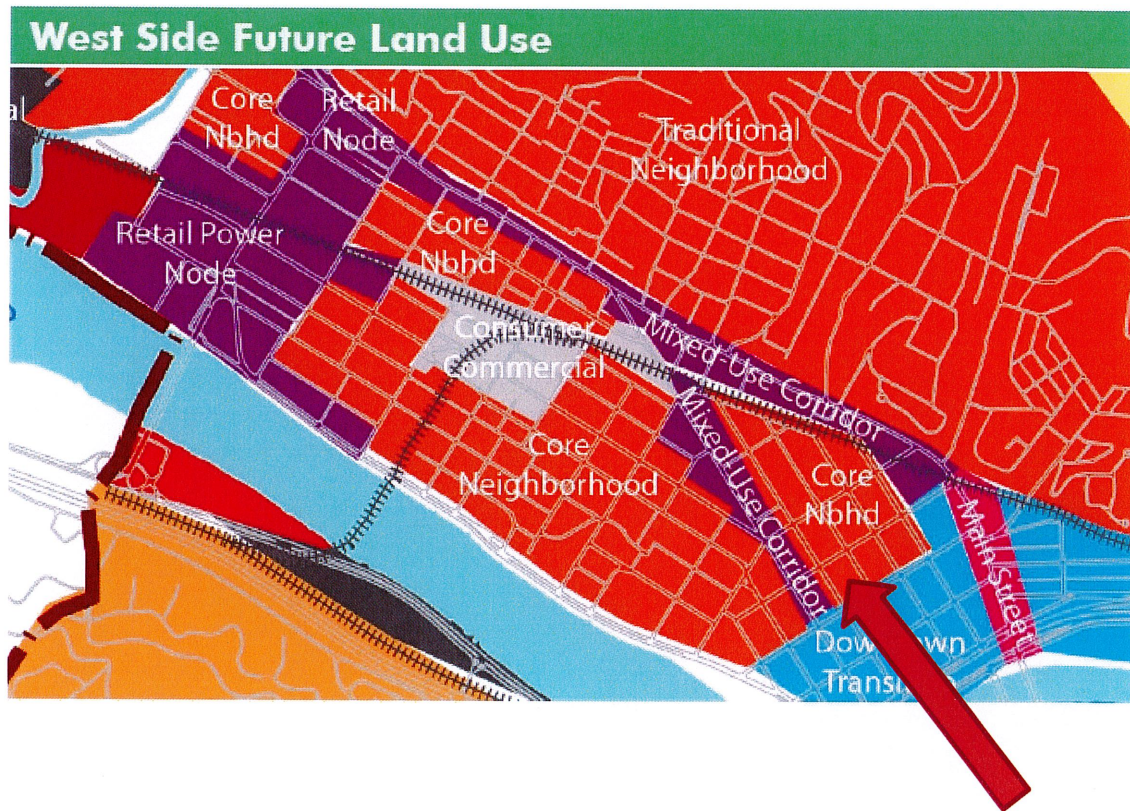
Existing Land Use and Zoning: The property is zoned C-8 Village Commercial District and is developed as a box style retail facility that has formerly housed Kroger and a post office.

Surrounding Land Use and Zoning: The surrounding areas include general commercial and residential uses including single-family units to the east and north, single and multi-family units to the west, and commercial uses to the south including financial institutions, paint supply, and non-profit uses.

Current Zoning: The R-8 district allows for medium-intensity residential uses including single and multi-family uses, etc. and as a conditional use assisted living facilities and hospitals, among others.

Proposed Zoning: The C-8 district allows for general medium-intensity commercial uses including offices, retail, restaurants, personal services, etc. and as a conditional use indoor self-storage facilities, among others.

Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan: The comprehensive plan's future land use map designates the property as "Core Neighborhood", Which is to preserve the historic, walkable neighborhoods in Charleston's flat core city.



Summary: This application to rezone the property is in pursuit of removing the conflict between R-8 and C-8 zoning on the site. This is compliant with the comprehensive plan as it will promote the reuse of an existing structure in the flat core of the city.

RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends **approval** for the following reasons:

- The rezoning is a minor expansion of a commercial district and is consistent with the future land use map which designates this property as "Core Neighborhood".
- Rezoning will remove the prescence of two zoning districts on the site making reuse and redevelopment easier for a structure that was developed and used for decades in a commercial capacity.

City of Charleston

Application

Requesting Closing of City Streets, Alleys or Rights-of-Way

Applicant Information	Property Information
Name: <u>JERICK FARMS, INC.</u> <u>QUENTIN A. WALKER</u>	Street, Alley, or Right-of-way to be closed or abandoned: <u>303 OHIO AVE</u>
Address: <u>PO BOX 6092</u> <u>CHARLESTON, W.VA. 25362</u>	Tax Map and Parcel: <u>WC 25 PARCEL 288 + 292</u>
Phone: <u>(304) 389-3409</u>	Agent's Name if Different from Applicant:

IMPORTANT: This application must be typed or legibly printed and filed with the Planning Department in person or by mail to 915 Quarrier Street, Suite 1 Charleston, WV 25301. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

The following supporting documentation must be submitted with this application:

- A current certified appraisal.
- A filing fee of \$100.00.
- A survey map of the property requested to be closed. The survey map must provide the names and tax map and parcels numbers of all adjacent property owners.
- A metes and bounds legal description of the property requested to be closed.
- A list including name and mailing addresses for all current property owners within 250 feet of the proposed abandonment or closing.
- A statement outlining the reason for the requested closure. This statement includes the proposed benefit to the public as a result of the abandonment.
- A statement of justification for the proposed closure. This statement will include circumstances pertaining to the subject property such as topography, limited access, or other physical restraints.
- A statement regarding the current use of the street or alley or right-of-way. This statement includes information as to whether or not the property is currently a part of the City's pattern of roadways.
- A statement identifying any encroachment (buildings, fences, etc.) on the subject property.
- A Bill prepared by, or at the request of, a member of City Council who has agreed to introduce the Bill proposing closure.
- If applicable, a request that the property be donated along with a determination of eligibility for donation.
- If applicable, documentation that the petitioners are low to moderate income.

Applicant Signature: _____

Quentin A. Walker

Date: _____

12/9/2019

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:

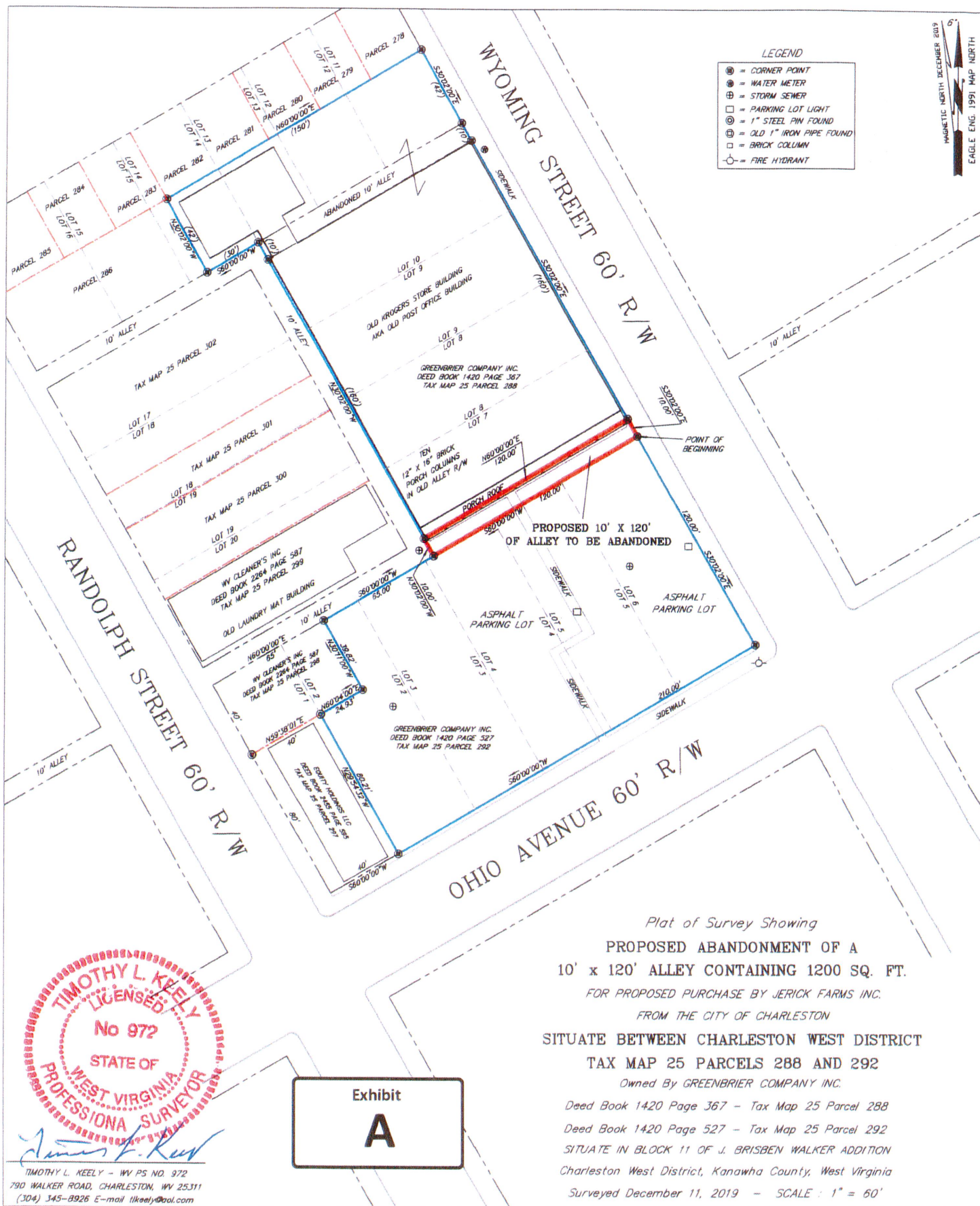
1. Being a portion of the alley that runs between and is perpendicular to Randolph Street and Wyoming Street, in the City of Charleston, West Virginia, in Charleston West Tax District of the City of Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia, is more particularly described as follows:

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'

Exhibit
A

TIMOTHY L. KEELY
LICENSED
No 972
STATE OF
WEST VIRGINIA
PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR
Timothy L. Keely
TIMOTHY L. KEELY - WV PS NO. 972
790 WALKER ROAD, CHARLESTON, WV 25311
(304) 345-8926 E-mail tlikeely@aol.com

Rolston & Company

Real Estate • Appraisals • Sales • Consulting

405 Pennsylvania Avenue, Charleston, WV 25302
Telephone (304) 345-0500 • Fax (304) 345-4665
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



Planning, Streets, and Traffic Committee
Staff Analysis
January 27, 2020

REQUEST:

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.

APPLICABLE CODE:

City Code and City of Charleston's Guidelines for Closing of Street and Rights of Way.

STANDARD OF REVIEW:

To ensure that the right of way is not needed as part a pattern of streets, either now or in the future; that the closure will not negatively affect access to other parcels of land; and the City's standards for closure are met. The Committee should also take into consideration the various City Department's comments and impose or maintain easements for utilities.

HISTORY:

None.

ANALYSIS:

The petitioner is the contract purchaser of the property located at 303 Ohio Avenue and the alleyway bisects the site separating the structure from the parking lot. The alley had been functionally closed for years when the site was used as a post office; blocked by a gate. The public has not had use of the alley and has suffered not harm.

RECOMMENDATION AND FINDINGS:

The Planning Department recommends **approval** for the following reasons:

1. Closure of the portion of right-of-way will not disrupt the existing pattern of streets or negatively impact traffic flow.
2. Legal access provided by city rights-of-way will not be adversely affected.
3. Closing the right-of-way will allow for viable reuse of the structure as an owner will be able to control access between the structure and adjacent parking.
4. The real estate appraisal has established fair consideration for the property at \$5.66 per square foot.

Municipal Planning Commission

Hearing and meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 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
Chad Robinson
Adam Krason
Dallas Staples
Deanna McKinney
Mary Beth Hoover
Terry Pickett
Alice Hypes

Members Absent

Teresa Moore
Lisa Fischer-Casto
JoEllen Zacks
Shawn Taylor
J.D. Stricklen, Kanawha County Rep.

Staff Present

Dan Vriendt
John Butterworth

Call to Order: Aric Margolis

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.

MR. MARGOLIS: Is the applicant here to speak?

MR. WALKER: My name is Quentin Walker and I am petitioning to have the rezoning on the property at 303. The front portion of that property as you will see on the map that you have there is zoned all commercial. The very back portion which is the loading dock area is still in the residential area. We'd like to have that included in the property in its entirety as commercial property only, out of the residential district.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions of the applicant?

MR. WALKER: That building on 303 was originally the Kroger store years ago and then became leased to the postal service. The back portion of that, for whatever reason, was never zoned commercial. The way the zoning lines on the map fall, it shows that in residential area. It really should be corrected so that it's all part of the same property.

MR. VRIENDT: There's a color map in your packet.

MR. MARGOLIS: We see the loading dock. The parcel we're talking about is the loading dock and everything to Wyoming Street?

MR. WALKER: Yes.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions for the applicant?

MS. PICKETT: How close are the houses to the loading dock?

MR. WALKER: I can't answer that exactly. It appears from the map and the work that I've done that the back portion, which the loading dock is now part of and has been for 50-some years probably, purchased that property from the real estate in front which the houses are facing what would be Maryland Avenue, I think, and the back portion of that, which would be the loading dock, at one point was the back part of those three or four lots there.

MS. PICKETT: What's there now? Is it vacant?

MR. MARGOLIS: It's an existing loading dock.

MR. WALKER: It's been part of the original Kroger store.

MS. PICKETT: So, it's been an illegal loading dock for a lot of years?

MR. MARGOLIS: No.

MR. WALKER: It's been zoned residential; it should have been corrected many years ago.

MR. VRIENDT: The post office is a government entity and they don't have to follow local zoning.

MR. WALKER: I don't want to get into this and not be able to get the zoning corrected.

MR. MARGOLIS: That's the parcel we're talking about and it's been like that since the 60s?

MR. WALKER: Yes. Everything from the building back to the fence falls in the residential zoning and the building itself and the parking lot is all commercial.

MR. MARGOLIS: Do you have any statement to give?

MR. VRIENDT: I would just say that I think this is almost considered an error in the zoning map, where this is a correction. It's bringing the zoning in alignment with the existing use of land. This has long been

an issue here. No matter what use goes on this property, they would need to get this rezoning done. There's a caveat in the Zoning Ordinance. If your parcel is split by two zoning districts, you take on the more restrictive. Even though this is one-tenth of his property, it ends up being the controlling zoning for the entire property. When the post office was there, they're a governmental agency so they supersede local zoning.

MR. MARGOLIS: Not if they're leasing, only if they own it.

MR. VRIENDT: Only if they own. The next part of this is going to be an alley closing and I think the post office often treated that alley as their own as well.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions for staff?

MS. TEETER: What is that building to the right?

MR. WALKER: A residential structure and I think it's vacant now along with a number of properties across the street that are boarded up and vacant. I don't think it's occupied.

MR. VRIENDT: I would also mention that there is a companion conditional use permit application that's going to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals in a few weeks for the approval of the use. The rezoning really needs to occur whether he gets approved for the conditional use or not.

MR. MARGOLIS: Like you said, it was an error in the map.

MR. ROBINSON: What's the conditional use for?

MR. VRIENDT: To do an indoor storage facility.

MR. STAPLES: Motion to approve.

MS. MCKINNEY: Second.

MR. KRASON : Just to be clear, I guess we're looking at it as the condition that's existing with a loading dock there. By rezoning that we are permitting any commercial structure to occupy that space. We shouldn't assume that it's going to stay open space behind those houses. Since they are so close, I assume there will be code requirements for how far he would have to set back.

MR. MARGOLIS: There's 10 feet if you're abutting a residential use.

MR. KRASON: If they did build anything, they would have to maintain at least 10 feet.

MR. MARGOLIS: Right. Any existing structure that might be closer than that would be grandfathered in, but any new structure would have to be 10 feet.

MR. WALKER: What I would think would be that the rezoning that would take place would run from Wyoming to Randolph, not just the portion that the loading dock is on. If you look at the map – and I'm looking at a different map than you are – it would probably be better as far as the map is concerned to change the zoning or correct it from Wyoming to Randolph as a straight line. The building is sitting on the property line so there won't be any additional structures going back towards that houses.

MR. VRIENDT: We're just rezoning the parcel that you own and not the other half. That's still a residential lot. If someone wanted to do something nonresidential on there they could come in and make that case.

MR. KRASON: How wide is that back there, 25 feet?

MR. WALKER: It's probably 40 feet from the back of the building over to the opposite side of the loading dock is probably a 40-foot give-or-take space.

MR. KRASON: And those adjacent property owners were notified of today's meeting?

MR. BUTTERWORTH: I spoke to several on the phone.

MR. KRASON: Is the intent to leave it a loading dock?

MR. WALKER: It will stay just like it is. There's no reason to change it.

Motion and Vote: On motion of Dallas Staples, seconded by Alice Hypes, the Commission voted 10 to 0 to approve Bill No. 7859.

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.

MR. MARGOLIS: Is it the same petitioner?

MR. VRIENDT: Same petitioner.

MR. MARGOLIS: Do you want to explain this one to us? I don't know if you stated your address for the record.

MR. WALKER: My address would be P. O. Box 6092, Charleston, WV 25362. The reason for that is the alley way in the front of this building being left open would prohibit me from securing the parking lot in front of the building to the building which would not only be security for other use of the parking lot at some point which would be outside area parking, but it would also not enable me to secure the building for customers, people who come into the facility. I would like to build a fence from the building out to the corner with exception of the setback on the corner of Ohio and Wyoming and then the entire area will be fenced, also with the exception of the parking that belongs to this property but has been used for a long time by the residents of that four-unit apartment building there. They use that property and have since it was a Kroger as parking for their tenants. The purpose of that 10 by 120 right of way closure is to be able to secure the building to the parking.

MR. MARGOLIS: When Kroger built that, they treated that as their fire lane probably.

MR. VRIENDT: Yes. It was open for the public to traverse that.

MR. MARGOLIS: Did the post office fence it off?

MR. VRIENDT: They did. They're trucks were on this half.

MR. MARGOLIS: It's in essence been closed for 20-30 years.

MR. VRIENDT: What I would mention is in this part of the west side all the alleys make an H and you know over the years we've closed off a lot of these alleys. This alley makes an H here, but this part of the H will remain open so these houses, if they choose to access the rear of their property from the alley, will remain open. It's in no way landlocking anybody.

MR. MARGOLIS: This is just a 10-foot right of way?

MR. VRIENDT: Just a 10-foot right of way.

MR. MARGOLIS: Do we know if there are any major utilities?

MR. WALKER: There are not.

MR. MARGOLIS: Can they build on this in the future because there are no utilities on it?

MR. BUTTERWORTH: If there was a sewer main or something the Sanitary Board would reserve an easement to continue maintaining their line. Mr. Walker can build a fence, but they just need to gain access to the utility if they needed to work on it.

MR. MARGOLIS: Since there's no utilities there's no future easements to be had.

MR. VRIENDT: Correct.

MR. MARGOLIS: Any questions of the Commission to the applicant or to staff? (No response.)

Motion and Vote: On motion of Terry Pickett, seconded by Dallas Staples, the Commission voted 10 to 0 to approve Bill No. 7860.

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

MR. MARGOLIS: What's this Letter of Support?

MR. VRIENDT: John is going to talk about the Land Reuse Agency and some things they're working on. (John Butterworth spoke to the Commission about how the Land Reuse Agency works and the projects they're working on.)

Motion and Vote: On motion of Adam Krason, seconded by Mary Beth Hoover, the Commission voted 10 to 0 to write a letter of support for the Land Reuse Agency's legislative initiatives.

Minutes of the December 4, 2019, MPC meeting: On motion of Adam Krason, seconded by Deanna McKinney, the Commission voted 10 to 0 to approve the minutes.

Adjournment.

Planning, Streets and Traffic Committee
December 16, 2019
City Council Chambers – 501 Virginia Street, East

Members Present

Mary Beth Hoover
Naomi Bays
Becky Ceperley
Will Laird
Adam Knauff
Jennifer Pharr
Chad Robinson

Members Absent

Staff Present

Dan Vriendt
Terri Allen
Matt Hartline

Call to Order: Mary Beth Hoover

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

MS. HOOVER: We have one item on our agenda tonight which is the street renaming of Court Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. As most of you all know now that there has been a compromise that has been laid on the table for us to consider. I'm going to refer to Jennifer Pharr to give us a little bit of history and background of why this came about and why this was even proposed.

MS. PHARR: The historical information about this street renaming, I will go back to the very beginning of when this took place. I was at a YWCA board meeting in the middle of October and Kitty Dooley and I both sit on the board at the YWCA. We were talking about an event that an organization that we are involved with, we were working together for a Martin Luther King event on Martin Luther King Day at the Martin Luther King Center. This organization has been trying to put forth this event for several years and we have just now been able to work with the City of Charleston and several other organizations to collaboratively put together an event that commemorates his life and having kids with vignettes where they're interpreting parts of his life that may not be well known, like he went to Morehouse College at 15 or 16 years old, he went to graduate school at Boston University, his wife is a classically trained pianist, to have different things to commemorate why he was the person who he was beyond the "I Have a Dream" speech. While Kitty and I were having this conversation, she said we don't have a street in the capital City of Charleston that is dedicated to his name, why don't we find a street and let's rename a street. So, the Mayor was a presenter at that event; we talked about it briefly and then two weeks later we started talking about the actual street, which street was the one that we were going to try to pursue.

As many of you know, many of the founders of the City of Charleston have streets named after them, whether it be Donnelly, whether it be Quarrier, whether it be Virginia, and some of the streets are State streets. We don't have any control over the State streets or if we do have some naming rights it takes a tremendous amount of time in order for that to be a process. We wanted to have this street

renamed prior to his birthday. I contacted Dan Vriendt, City Planner, and asked what the application process was. To my surprise, it's really not that detailed. It's a three-page application. One of the requirements is that you have to be a property owner in the City of Charleston. Kitty owns not only her home, but she owns a business on the west side. At that point in time we decided that Court Street would be the street to pursue.

The significance of Court Street was it wasn't named after a founder, it was a prominent street. In many other states the streets are tucked away somewhere where you can't see it or the significance of it. Court Street starts at the Boulevard, comes down past the courthouse, comes to the Judicial Annex. Martin Luther King was a man that stood for social justice. He was a man that stood for fairness and lost his life because of that. That street ends at Habitat For Humanity. You have to go past the King Center in order to get to Habitat. Earlier we learned in Council that Huntington Banks is giving a generous donation to help to renovate the Martin Luther King Center. It just seemed like a natural fit.

We started this process again and in the middle of October we decided at the end of October along with Toinette Jenkins who is the First Lady of West Virginia State University that we would pursue this. The entire intent was to talk to every business owner that would be affected. But in order to meet the deadline we had to submit the application. I think it was November 11th or 12th. It was done and the next day it was on the news and so people knew about it. It was never a malicious idea to not inform the business owners.

Dan Vriendt informed me that letter would go out to each of the property owners that would be affected. Not only did we try to reach the property owners but to speak to the tenants as well. Shonk Plaza, for instance, has about four or five tenants in that plaza. The St. Francis Pavilion, the old Cagney's, there are about five businesses that are there that all belong to the hospital; we tried to reach out to all of them. Embassy Suites signed off on it as did Habitat For Humanity. National Travel did as well. When we actually started speaking to people that were opposed including the Greek Orthodox Church, we met with them several times and had a conversation. Fr. Joseph has been amazing as far as having conversations and many people have shown up tonight that have been contacted.

At that point when we realized that there was opposition it was already in process. It went to Municipal Planning Commission; it was a public meeting. There were plenty of people that were there that spoke publicly. Mary Beth sits on that Committee as well as the chair person of Planning, Streets & Traffic. Lots of good dialogue came about from that particular meeting. It passed 12 to 1 at that point in time. There was some other conversation and things that came about from that including a petition, including people that actually lived in the Triangle District. That's another piece of history that I think we need to talk about in Charleston.

There were about 600 families that were displaced in the name of Urban Renewal, meaning the interstate system, the mall, the hotels, things that are located on Court Street now, churches, places of worship, they were completely dismantled and destroyed. One of the residents that was there, Mr. Robert Burton, he stood up at the Municipal Planning Committee and he was opposed to the actual renaming. Towards the end he said he was a hundred percent for it because of what Martin Luther King stood for. We were able to have a separate meeting with him and to learn that his mother had apartment complexes, she had a business and she had a home that was there. Once Urban Renewal came through, they did not receive restitution, they did not receive anything through eminent domain; they were just left high and dry.

Many of our kids don't know about the Triangle District. They don't know about the Block District and the significance of all of the African Americans, all of the immigrants, everyone that was responsible for that community and how much it meant to them. Last night we decided after much

conversation, I reached out to faith-based congregations and we met. Every person that was invited showed up. What that shows to me is that we have a community in Charleston that really wants to have conversation about how we go forward.

Delegate Doug Skaff is here. He and I have had several conversations. From this application we have decided that honoring Dr. Martin Luther King would be a way of putting the honorary name underneath of the Court Street name would not change the addresses so people would not be displaced at all. There would be no expense except for the signs that would have to be made. We could still have something that would honor Dr. Martin Luther King who was so instrumental for not just people of the African American community, but for people period. So, Delegate Doug Skaff has an idea to turn Brawley Walkway into a heritage walkway where we can commemorate those that actually built the City of Charleston, whether it be immigrants, African Americans or whomever. I think that's a great opportunity for us to work with the State as well as the City and to have a way to transform an area that we've been talking about so much and what is it that we're going to do with this piece of property.

Besides that, we talked about international food festivals and a number of other things. This compromise came about because we could actually sit down with the minister of Shiloh Baptist, with Metropolitan, with Rabbi Urecki with B'nai Jacob, just so many other people, Rev. Sylvia. Deb Weinstein was there, Kitty Dooley was there, I was there, Mary Beth was there, Pastor Thompson, Rabbi Urecki, Pastor John Sylvia, Fr. Joseph Hazar, Rev. John English and Anthony Kinzer who is a local historian. I hope that this history provides some missing pieces of the puzzle to some folks and to know that it's something to commemorate the significance of the Triangle District, the significance of Court Street and the sentiments that people have an emotional attachment to that name, also to be able to say that we're moving forward and we want to work together with everyone that lives in Charleston. Thank you. MS. HOOVER: Thank you Jennifer. Thank you, Councilwoman Pharr. I agree. The conversation that has happened over this street naming and some of the meetings that we've had with individuals and even after the Commission meeting has, I think – and I've expressed this to so many people – opened up a can that needed to be opened. We need to be telling these stories of the Triangle, the Block District. We need to be sharing all the history of St. George, how when they got to Charleston and what had happened and why they are on Court Street. These stories need to be told. Hopefully this conversation does not end here and does not end at City Council, that it will move forward as we start to develop programs and events that can make all of our children and all of us, even us in City Council, learn the history of Charleston and everything that we may have forgotten and needs to be discussed.

With that being said, I'm going to ask people if they would like to speak in favor or against this. In the essence of time would like it to be a minute or two and please don't repeat anything that anybody else says. This isn't typically a public forum; it is a public meeting. The Planning Commission is actually that public forum. I think all of us agree here in the City of Charleston, we want people to be heard, we want to know how you feel about this compromise and how we move forward.

MR. SEARS: My name is Brent Sears; I'm the owner of Sears Monument Company which was started in Charleston, West Virginia in 1911 nearly 109 years ago. We've been in three different locations in Charleston. In 1972, we moved to our current location at 124 Virginia Street. Sears Monument Company has been in the business of preserving family memories and heritage for 107 years. There have been many changes to our manufacturing processes during these 107 years.

I'm here to speak against the name change of Court Street. After the compromise from last night this is all kind of backwards. Our company stands for the preservation of the name. It is obvious that, in general, we do not like change. Understanding that, I would suggest we rethink the name of Court Street for the following reasons. Change for the sake of change is confusing for the current

population. Any change is difficult much less a change of a documented four-lane street such as Court Street. Court Street is where the courts stand. The City of Charleston courts are on Court Street. Hundreds of people come to Court monthly in order to conduct business in the City of Charleston. The courthouse is located on Court Street. Small Claims Court as well as Circuit Courts are located on Court Street. Changing the name would only confuse more people.

Another reason for speaking against the name change of Court Street is the cost to the tax payers. The City of Charleston and Kanawha County will bear the majority of these costs. The signage change has been estimated at \$15,000 which I confirmed by a national online sign company for the six two-sided LED backlit signs at the corner of Court Street, Kanawha Boulevard, Virginia Street, Quarrier Street, Lee Street, Washington and Donnelly. Don't forget the two other streets, Smith and Piedmont that have to be changed also. They are not LED or lighted but still have to be changed at some cost. That's just the beginning.

What about all the citations that our police, City and county and State officers distribute to law breakers. Unfortunately, I'm not a perfect person; I've received more than one of these citations in my 44 years of driving. I believe each of those citations had the address of the courthouse in Kanawha County preprinted on them. Was the cost to reprint these forms included in the estimate of the cost of changing the name of Court Street? What about the bronze letters on the County Courthouse? Has the replacement of those letters been included in the cost? Has the installation cost of any of the above items been included in the cost to make this change? Do the majority of the tax payers who will bear this cost agree with paying for this street name change?

My final point narrows from the thoughts of Martin Luther King, Jr. Obviously, I did not know him personally. I'm not sure he ever came to West Virginia. Honestly, that's beside the point. Rev. English who spoke at his funeral must have known him well. I wonder if Rev. King would approve of the costs to illuminate his name like this. The cost will be borne by the people of the City and County regardless of their race or socioeconomic standing, costs that I do not believe have begun to be tabulated. I've been told this issue is settled, that the votes on City Council have already been arranged as is happening on our nation's capital. I ask for your consideration of all the factors when you make your consideration of the final decision. Thank you.

MS. HOOVER: Thank you, Mr. Sears. Let me point this out, that the votes are not settled, it's not already been arranged. That's why we have this meeting here. That's why we have the Planning Commission meeting. We have this Planning, Streets & Traffic Committee meeting and then it goes to full Council which is 26 members. I just wanted to point that out.

MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Karen Williams. I don't have a prepared speech, but I wanted to say that I am the daughter of attorney Charles E. Price who was the first black graduate of West Virginia University Law School. He graduated in 1948 and his law practice was on Court Street. I walked those streets as a child. I remembered the businesses that were there, the churches, the community, the people that lived there. We talk about the cost, what was the cost of losing all of the history and the businesses, the black businesses, all the culture that was there, all the things that we relished as young people. Some people may have looked at that community as slum and blight, but it's what we had. When it was done as far as calling it Urban Renewal or calling it the interstate's coming to town, those people were displaced. My father had to move his law practice. Yes, he was assistant prosecuting attorney here in the City of Charleston. My family served this City well and I think it would be an honor, and you have my support and my family's support for a compromise of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, along with Court Street. Yes, we value the law and the court system, but I think we also need to have inclusion. I think

we need to value diversity and we need to open those doors to change because maybe we won't lose 40 percent more of our population. Thank you.

PASTOR CROZIER: My name is Wayne Crozier; I'm the pastor and founder of Abundant Life Ministries in Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia. I moved to Charleston in January of 1993. I have heard a lot of the history of Court Street. Unfortunately, most of it I had never heard anything about until most of this came up. I have a 16-year-old daughter. I asked her about it. She didn't know most of the history of Court Street. I am 100 percent for renaming Court Street to Martin Luther King Way. The reason being, I believe that is the best way to preserve the history of Court Street. This will bring attention like never before. Again, with Ms. Williams, I think part of the decline in Charleston, West Virginia, is because we do not change, we do not progress, but it really is time for change. I went to Morehouse College; I happened to be in the same dorm and the same floor with Dr. King's younger son, Dexter. I believe it's important for young people as they grow up to be able to look up and see the name like Martin Luther King and wonder what did he do? I think it will help change as far as crime with unity in our community. I'm not for the compromise; I'm for 100 percent of Martin Luther King Way.

MR. BURTON: I'd like to address everyone. My name is Robert Burton. I lived every minute, every second, every hour, every day, every year on Court Street. Court Street is more than just the judicial court system. My family had many businesses there: restaurant, a bar, apartment buildings. My mother was a lady that worked hard to have everything that she had was displaced. I am one of the displaced people of the 600 homes of the Triangle District. I am one of the ones that was displaced by Urban Renewal. I'm also one of the ones out there at Tent City where we tried to stop Urban Renewal and the bulldozers from bulldozing those 50-plus businesses. We were ran over, mistreated at the time. At the time I think it was Mayor Dotson who was the Mayor of the City of Charleston at that time. Arch Moore was the governor of the State at that time.

At that time, we weren't given the chance as those who had money. We weren't able to relocate. We weren't able to do anything that was going to make things better for us. I saw my friends not only live there but died there. So, Court Street has a significant value in my heart, but I'm going to tell you something that means more to me. I'd still like to see Martin Luther King Way happen, but I'd like to still see it in the spot with Court Street, but we have to have some type of plaque to give back to those people that were displaced. We have to recognize those people. How are we going to move on with the future and we want to forget about those displaced and those who are dead? Change comes with a cost, sir. You can't put a price on change. You can't put a money value on anything. Money doesn't mean a thing. What means something is our future, future generations, those who come together as one. We need to learn to come together as one and stop going against each other over little small details. This City needs to change. It needs to advance on to greater and a larger portion of the United States. You can't stay the same forever. Change is inevitable. Change is going to happen. With or without us, change is going to happen. If it doesn't happen now or it happens later, what a shame for these people, fifty years from now for our children to make this change while we turn a blind eye and a deaf ear, and we do not make that change. How embarrassing would that be to look a child in his eyes, and we had the opportunity, but we didn't because we were worried about the money. Money? I ask each and every one of you to vote that this will happen. This has to happen now, now, now.

MR. SYLVIA: My name is John Sylvia; I'm the Pastor of St. Paul AME Church. St. Paul was established on Court Street. It started a place of worship in 1892. The year after in 1893 it built the facility at 155 Court Street and it was there until Urban Renewal. There were several members who worshiped on Court Street that are still members here now, on 2nd Avenue, displaced, and I talked to many of them and they have no problem at all, even though they remember the memories of Court Street and the

Triangle District, they know all about that. But they recognize that sometimes there are some things greater than us individually and there's something greater than us corporately. I think when we don't want to make a change to honor an individual like Mr. Martin Luther King, I think we greatly understate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. It's long overdue. Leon Sullivan, we named that street and I was impacted by him directly as a young man. We just don't know how much of an impact Dr. Martin Luther King has had on this country, on this world. For us to be concerned about how much it's going to cost to make the change, change for the sake of change, this is something that is greater than any individual. During the meeting yesterday, I heard the dynamics, I heard that there are African Americans who wanted to keep the name Court Street because of the memories and there were other nationalities and Lebanese and Jewish community who all remember that area. But there are some things that are greater than us. Dr. Martin Luther King, his legacy is so great that many consider him to one of the founding fathers because his efforts and his sacrifice really brought this country to where it stands for what the Constitution actually stood for. It was almost like another revolution. We can't place a value on what Dr. Martin Luther King stands for in this country. I went along with the compromise because some recognition is better than none. I know all the members that I talked to say, yes, we want it to be fully named Dr. Martin Luther King even though Court Street will vanish. I even suggested let's make it an honorary Court Street and change the name to Dr. Martin Luther King and keep Court Street. If people want to hold on to their memory that's fine, but there are some things greater than our individual interests. That's why I went along with the compromise. I personally think you need to honor Dr. Martin Luther King for who he was to this country.

RABBI URECKI: Good evening. I'm Victor Urecki, Rabbi at B'nai Jacob Synagogue. I'm not speaking on behalf of the Jewish community but about the Jewish community. The Orthodox Jewish community of Charleston came in the 1890s. We started actually where the St. Francis Hospital was. Eventually when they got 60 families, they bought the old Temple and moved to Virginia Street. As the Jewish community grew, we became wedded to Court Street; Court Street became our home. Some of our greatest memories where Rabbi Cooper served and began his career here, his legendary career. We just celebrated our 125th anniversary and the number of times Court Street came up, if I had a nickel for each time it was brought up, we would be doing pretty well at the synagogue. Having said that, when I heard about the name change, I was actually emotionally touched because the Jewish community and the African American community thanks to Martin Luther King, Jr., cannot be understated. Rabbi Cooper became a civil rights activist because of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. That's why he became West Virginian of the Year and was given that honor because of Dr. King's work and the influence on Rabbi Cooper. Many of the rabbis of my generation, including myself, I would not be a rabbi if not for Dr. King. So, it's not that it represents something to the African American community but as my revered teacher said the future of America will be as long as we remember the legacy of Dr. King.

Having said all that, I appreciate the meeting last night that we were in and the beautiful compromise, the elegant compromise. I thought about that as I put my rabbi hat on because this Sabbath we were reading from the Book of Genesis. In the Book of Genesis, we were talking about Jacob wrestling with an angel. If you remember that story, Jacob, which means hanging on to the heel, wrestled an angel and eventually God changes his name to Israel, the one who struggles with God. I thought about the idea of name changes in the Hebrew Bible, it's constant. You don't lose the identity, you gain something else and I thought what a better tribute to have Court Street and Martin Luther King, Jr., wedded. You would have the holder on to the heel. In other words, Orthodox tradition, Court Street; you would also have the struggle which is what Martin Luther King represented. So, I thought that's an elegant compromise. If there's any way we could possibly do that, I would look forward to

walking down the street of Court Street and honoring the traditions of our people and also look forward to walking down the street of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well. Thank you.

MR. ENGLISH: My name is Ronald English. This compromise shows that there is something that both sides have touched on that has come from their hearts. Therefore, because of how we arrived at that compromise I think it had become a teaching moment in this community that tells us to reveal and see what may have been underground. But when we see it, we can hear it. This compromise represents the movement toward healing between faith communities that have shared that force and between communities that have been disbanded because they were moved out and those kinds of principles that Dr. King fought for, lived for, died for, and for that to happen in Charleston, West Virginia, I think it's most significant. I don't know anywhere else in the country that a street would run from the political center, the commercial center and then into an area that will be given tribute for being the Triangle District where the hearts and minds and souls of black folk in this community have resided. This is the kind of compromise that represents the kind of lesson that the drum major for justice would bring us. But it also helps us in this moment to show how a community responds in such a way that it blesses both of us and it opens up ways for us to understand each other from a different kind of way because we have done this work. Dr. King said the time's always right to do the right thing. And this is the right time to do the right thing in this place for this moment.

MS. BRYANT: I'm Jackie Bryant. I just heard about this last week. Coming to mind, I know two other people that have lived in West Virginia that perhaps since some people have a problem with Martin Luther King, that is Carter G. Woodson and George Washington Carver. They lived in West Virginia. So, perhaps it should have been one of those two. But for people to object, all I know is that my Godmother had a business on Court Street, and when she had to move it took her on out of this world. So, I'm fighting for her and the other black businesses that were on Court Street. We, black people, need to have presence in Charleston, West Virginia. I'm appalled that you have people still keeping their prejudices alive. I'm going to keep calling you out if that's what you want to be. It's appalling that you all don't take heed and especially black people in the City of Charleston.

REV. SMITH: Hello. I'm Rev. Roberta Smith. I'm the president of the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance. I like the compromise because it tells me it's a beginning of something and when you come to a compromise you come to other things. I heard you mention in the Council meeting that you opened a can, we took an electric can opener today, because it opened up the opportunity to learn. I think there's people over here saying that you don't know if Dr. King came to West Virginia. He came in January 1960, so he has been here. I'm looking forward to opening up about the Triangle. Obviously, I was too young to know about the Triangle, but since time has passed, I have learned a lot and I think the City needs to pay homage to that heritage. We have Syrian immigrants that was here. Why isn't there a celebration of the Syrians and African Americans that was in that community? Why isn't it an annual day where we can lift up what was there. However people thought of it, it was theirs, am I correct? I believe I'm correct in saying that. Compromise, it's a start because there are other places we need to go. Changing the signage as an honorary, fine, but what are we going to do next, what's the next step? I believe that my members would be open going to the next step. Who knows? It may be years later, it might change permanently, we don't know, but you've got to start somewhere.

FR. HAZAR: I'd like to address the people that ask the question. Is there anyone here in this room right now who does not believe that the Rev. Martin Luther King had a huge impact on this country or is there anyone in this room who would be opposed to honoring Martin Luther King, please raise your hand. I think that says something. Let me show you a picture. (Showing a Life Magazine cover.) You notice the man standing to the right of Martin Luther King is dressed a lot like I'm dressed. This was the Greek

Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory who in 1965 marched with Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama. To imply that because we're against changing the name of Court Street which has significance to our community to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way for any reason other than holding on to our own history becomes divisive and I think we have to be very careful in having this conversation. The Syrian/Lebanese communities were attacked also by the KKK in this country. So, to call our motives anything less than pure is divisive, and I think we have to be very careful of that.

One of the major problems with the renaming of Court Street was, as Councilwoman Pharr said, the process went very quickly, no one knew what the process was, and it just went very quickly. As a result of that we weren't given the opportunity to put our input in. When I met the committee – and by the way I want to commend Councilwoman Pharr for doing such an excellent job in communicating with us, albeit it was a little bit after the application was submitted, but she's done an excellent job communicating and working out a compromise. I am a man of my word and I said I would not stand in the way of a compromise; however, I do feel like I do have to say I feel that the compromise does not honor Dr. King the way he should be honored. I think there's probably better ways, but there was a real rush to do this before his birthday and I understand that, although I know, well, I guess we don't know, only the Lord knows, but I think he's going to have a birthday in 2021 as well where we can also honor him. I asked the Committee to take a step back and allow St. George Cathedral to work with them in finding the best way to honor Dr. King, not just with our community but with all of Charleston.

People from my church asked me if we could rename Court Street or put in a petition to rename Court Street to St. George Street or St. Raphael Street. St. Raphael was the bishop who founded our church in 1895. There was a community there before that but 1895 is when it became an official church. My answer to them was no because Court Street does not belong to one group; it does not belong to one people. Court Street belongs to all of the people of Charleston; it would be wrong for us to take over a section of the City, we all have to live together. While Martin Luther King was a great American, I also agree with the sentiments that there are other great black Americans who came from Charleston and spent time in Charleston. I'm an implant here; I'm from New York. I was raised in Upstate; it looks more like Charleston. But I was really moved and touched that the street was named after Leon Sullivan who was born here and went on to make a global impact. So, our main issue was, one, we have a long-standing history in this community, and we weren't addressed before the application was made; and, number two, we felt there might be better ways of honoring Dr. King. And just now because of these conversations we're able to discuss these things and some great conversations have come out of this.

I met with Mayor Goodwin last week and I was so happy that all of this happened for a reason I believe because I was able to meet with her and we'll work together on future things. So, I'm not upset that any of this happened because I think good fruit will come of it. I would like to say that when we rush things, when we don't take everybody's history and feelings into account, we leave people out, we make mistakes just for the sake of getting something done quickly. Again, thank you for indulging me and thank you, Councilwoman Pharr, for all of your work on this project. God bless you all.

MS. HOOVER: I'd like to wrap up the public speakers.

MS. DOOLEY: When we talk about Martin Luther King, Jr., recognizing him in the capital City, I said this at the initial meeting. This is long overdue. As you all know, in the history of the City of Charleston, there are a number of people who have a number of different things that are named in their honor. So, this doesn't have to be the be-all end-all. But this needs to be done. The process that was set up by the City was followed. If the City is of the mind to change the process, then the City can do that. To suggest that the process was not followed and that it was somehow improper, it's just not true. We didn't have

to ask anyone's permission to do this and I just want to be clear we made a good faith effort because we do have the event that we think will highlight the life and work of Dr. King that's coming up. But this is something that should have been done decades ago. I believe that that's the bottom line. If it seems like a rush, maybe the idea came about quickly but this is certainly an idea whose time has come. As I said at the first meeting, and as Rev. English has said, it's always the right time to do what is right, according to Dr. King. This is the right thing to do, this is the right time, and I would ask that you vote in favor of this resolution and recommendation as presented before your Committee. That's not to exclude anyone else from taking any other action in this City that they believe appropriate to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King, of Booker T. Washington, of George Washington Carver, of any other individual that they believe made a difference in the life of Charleston, West Virginia, and the United States of America. Thank you for this time and this opportunity and for listening to people who had something to say on this most important issue.

MS. HOOVER: Thank you.

(Discussion continued.)

MS. HOOVER: Thank you everybody who has spoken out tonight. I want to bring this back to the Committee table for our discussion. I'd like to see if there are any Council people that would like to speak on this issue.

MS. CEPERLEY: I just want to know what is before us? Is the resolution before us the compromise, and so that is the one we would pass and move, correct?

MS. HOOVER: Yes. Right now, the motion that is on the table is to request we have an honorary street of Martin Luther King Way on Court Street.

MR. ROBINSON: Who introduced the resolution with the compromise? Don't we have the original bill in front of us that we have to amend?

MR. VRIENDT: Street names are kind of a different animal; they're not a resolution or a bill. You can amend the name as to however you see fit.

MR. ROBINSON: But we have the original request in front of us; is that correct?

MR. VRIENDT: You can vote on the original request or you can vote to have the honorary street naming.

MS. CEPERLEY: I'd like to move the compromise, Madam Chair.

MS. HOOVER: Does anybody have any questions on moving the compromise?

MR. KNAUFF: I'd like to abstain from the compromise.

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

MS. HOOVER: Can we have a discussion on the compromise that's now on the table.

MR. LAIRD: It's been a long night already. I think we owe it to the folks that are here to discuss a little about where we are. First, I want to thank the folks who have been working on this from the start and worked on the compromise. I think it has been a great educational experience, learning experience, for many of us, my children included. I've included them in the conversations around this issue; I think we've opened up a great conversation. I feel like I'm sitting here tonight like I've watched something beautiful happen. This feels like progress, this feels like a community coming together in a compromise which is in a way a lost art. I have great friends who have worked on both sides of this compromise. My great friends from St. George. I love Delegate Skaff's idea for Brawley Walkway and if you guys are cooking at any sort of international food festival I'm there every time. When I received word of this compromise today, I was in the process of calling all of my constituents who had voiced opposition to this. Dr. King is a hero to all of us. I believe in honesty and accountability. I was having this very difficult conversation with my constituents who had voiced opposition in telling them I was a hundred percent for renaming Court Street. That said, I can't envision a more poetic resolution than this compromise. It

was discussed that Court Street was a good option because of what Dr. King represented, equality and justice that our courts are supposed to embody and so I really like the idea of having both names on a sign. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way/Court Street. I think that's a beautiful poetic compromise and it feels like progress, it feels like folks came together. For those reasons, I'm in favor of the compromise.

MS. HOOVER: Would anybody else here at the table like to say anything?

MR. ROBERT SHEETS: This should have been done about 50 years ago. As a Council member I only received calls against, and my suggestion was going to be renaming Donnally Street Martin Luther King Way because that was a slave owner's family's name. But the compromise that you worked out sound great and involves the rest of the community that has been involved on Court Street because I know there is a long history that goes with it within the Lebanese and Greek communities there and it's a shame what happened to them but we can't go back and rewrite history, but we can say yes. I can see us having an international festival down here on Court Street out from the mall.

MR. BRADY CAMPBELL: I would like to get on the record I was at the last Committee meeting and spoke in opposition of the change, not that I was opposed to changing a street name to Martin Luther King, but rather with the speed with which it was brought forward and whether the Committee had properly weighed the opinions or positions of those people affected by the name change. After hearing this tonight, I think the compromise is a wonderful idea and I am in support of it.

MS. HOOVER: Thank you, Councilman Brady. Does anybody else have anything else they would like to share?

MR. KNAUFF: I'll be abstaining from the vote. I haven't had a chance to speak to any constituents that spoke for or against the renaming of Court Street. They didn't know about the compromise.

Motion and Vote: On motion of Becky Ceperley, seconded by Chad Robinson, the Committee voted 6 to 1 (Adam Knauff abstaining) to recommend approval of the compromise of having an honorary street naming of Court Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Miscellaneous:

Approval of the Minutes of the November 25, 2019 meeting: On motion of Chad Robinson, seconded by Becky Ceperley, the Committee voted 7 to 1 to approve the Minutes.

Adjournment.