

Honorary Naming of City Streets

Council Presentation
December 6, 2022



We do amazing.

Current Ordinance

- Allows the renaming of existing city streets or any segment thereof in **honor** or **memory** of any person **living** or **deceased** and shall not change the numbering of buildings or official street addresses.

Current Process

- Request received from Mayor, Council, City or outside organization to the Clerk of Council
- The application is sent to the responsive department to determine if there is a conflict of interest (Engineering, Parks and Rec, etc.)
- Clerk of Council places honorary naming request on her agenda for action by Council
- If Council approves referral, Clerk of Council will forward to Honor Board for consideration

Current Process - Continued

- Honor Board meets and agrees upon a recommendation
- Recommendation from Honor Board and corresponding resolution, if applicable, is placed on the Clerk of Council's agenda along with meeting minutes for Council's action.

Types of Requests

- Public Facilities
- Trees
- Plaques
- Benches
- Sports Fields
- Portions of the Riverwalk
- **Street Names**

Honorary Street Naming Requests

- Since 2005 - we've had 16 requests
 - 2005 1
 - 2007 1
 - 2011 1
 - 2013 2
 - 2015 3
 - 2017 3
 - 2018 1
 - 2019 1
 - 2021 3

Installing Honorary Street Designation Signage

- Upon the approval of City Council for an honorary street designation, the Traffic Engineer is authorized to erect appropriate signage in a color distinguishable from standard street signage.
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- Signs are purchased by requesting organization or family members
- City installs signage

Proposed Criteria

- Honorary street names should reflect Columbus values and community interest
- Honorary streets may be named for an individual, living, or dead, if the individual has provided creditable service to the community and has attained prominence locally based on contributions to the public
- Honorary streets may be named to recognize a significant historical event or individual
- Honorary street names do not have any impact on addressing and do not change the official street name.

Proposed Criteria - Continued

- Only one honorary street name designation sign shall be allowed on a single street sign pole below the City's standard street sign
- Length of honorary designation shall be for 5 years (can be renewed for two 5-year periods but must go back through the process).
- Honorary street name designations will be temporarily displayed for a period of five years, unless otherwise approved by City Council (after completing a new renewal process). Upon request at any time, the honorary street name sign may be returned to the applicant or applicant's representative with City Council's concurrence.

In any event, at the end of the five-year period, the city will remove the honorary street name sign and make it available to the applicant or applicant's representative.

Proposed Criteria - Continued

- The Honoree must have resided in the City of Columbus/Muscogee County during his or her lifetime, during which time he or she shall have preferably resided adjacent to or was located on the City Street specified for dedication in the application.
- Cumbersome, corrupted, or modified names, discriminatory or derogatory names, from the point of view of race, sex, color, creed, ethnicity, religious affiliation, political affiliation, or other social factors are not acceptable

Submissions

- If a community member or group suggests names, they will be required to undertake an outreach effort within the community to gather and document support for the name and for the specific corridor/street or location for the honorary street marker/sign
- Each honorary street designation request must be accompanied by a petition with at least 51% of property owners/persons along that street, to include names, addresses, and phone numbers.

Submissions

- A completed application should be submitted to the Clerk of Council outlining the contributions and service of the individual that is being recommended for an honorary designation

Implementation

- Once a name is approved by City Council, the City Manager or his/her designee shall work to implement the approved name to include appropriate signage, plaques, and/or dedication.
- All signage (fabrication and installation fees) to be paid by individuals or organizations submitting nomination. Cost based on material, fabrication and installation.

QUESTIONS

