

# Recognition Review – Experiences from Other Jurisdictions

*Updated May 31, 2021*

## Introduction

The origins and meanings of monuments, street, park and building names are being scrutinized in jurisdictions around the world, as part of an effort to identify figures who contributed to acts of violence, oppression and discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities through colonialism and other processes. In order to identify best practices, staff are actively monitoring global developments to understand how other jurisdictions are responding to proposals to rename streets and facilities and requests to remove monuments. This document includes a snapshot of these case studies.

## Scope and Methodology

Between the end of June 2020 and the end of May 2021, 430 case studies were identified, primarily dating from 2017-2021, using news articles and online government documents. These case studies were drawn from Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and 11 other countries. Most of the case study text has been copied directly from news articles or government documents with some minor edits for content clarity only.

This document focuses primarily on publicly-owned assets (streets, buildings, monuments). Geographic names and monuments on private property were generally not included. Educational institutions in Canada were examined, as well as a few institutions from other countries that were studied during the summer of 2020.

Similarly, case studies relating to US Confederate monuments were examined primarily from June-August 2020. Due to the extensive number of case studies related to this topic, Confederate monuments were not included in the scope after this time. Many of these US case studies focused on examples where the monuments were removed rather than where they were retained. This is reflected in the summary of findings numbers below. For any monument case studies without sources, see:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Removal\\_of\\_Confederate\\_monuments\\_and\\_memorials#Laws\\_hindering\\_removals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Removal_of_Confederate_monuments_and_memorials#Laws_hindering_removals)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_monuments\\_and\\_memorials\\_removed\\_during\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_monuments_and_memorials_removed_during_the_George_Floyd_protests)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Removal\\_of\\_Confederate\\_monuments\\_and\\_memorials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Removal_of_Confederate_monuments_and_memorials)

## Summary of Findings

Overall, 64% of the cases studied relate to anti-Black racism; 27% relate to anti-Indigenous racism; 4% relate to both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism; 4% relate to other groups; and 1% to a combination of groups.

Staff collected and analyzed data from various municipalities and found that, generally, an appetite for change exists in light of community concerns. Key findings include (Canadian cities identified in parenthesis):

- **Reviewing names:** 129 municipalities changed a street/public asset name (Montreal, Halifax); 37 did not (Kitchener); 2 added interpretive plaques
- **Anti-racism statements:** 13 municipalities issued anti-racism statements (Mississauga)
- **Additional forms of commemoration:** 15 are looking into a variety of ways to honour Indigenous and equity-deserving communities (Halifax)
- **Advisory committees:** 47 established advisory committees, and 135 included public consultation (Halifax, Winnipeg)
- **Review of monuments:** 178 removed monuments (Victoria, Regina, Halifax); 26 kept monuments but added or plan to add new interpretative plaques or make other modifications (Kingston); 17 kept monuments and made no further changes

Other findings and trends include:

- **Questions about the origins and meanings of monuments and place names are not new.** While these debates took on increased prominence in summer 2020, following the killing of George Floyd and the global protests that followed, they are part of a legacy of ongoing activism by Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities. This document includes case studies dating back to 2017, though earlier examples are known to exist as well.
- **Generally, cities have either chosen to rename, reinterpret or remove assets, or take no further action.** Some types of actions are more commonly associated with certain types of assets than others. For example, providing additional information through signage is a common approach for contextualizing monuments, but is rarely used for street names, which, unlike monuments, do not have a single focal point to share this information with all viewers.
- **Many of the larger renaming projects have made use of advisory committees.** These committees consist of community leaders, with an emphasis on including Black and/or Indigenous members, and people from other communities impacted by the name change. They often provide arms-length guidance on public engagement strategies and assist with the name selection process.
- **Cities are still just beginning to address the complex and challenging issue of understanding how systemic racism and discrimination are embedded in place names and monuments.** While discussions have often been sparked by controversy around a particular street name or monument, a number of jurisdictions have taken the opportunity to conduct a more wide-reaching review of their assets. Most of these broader reviews are still in the early stages, and will continue to be monitored to identify further best practices to apply in Toronto.

## Case Studies related to Henry Dundas

Seven case studies relate to Henry Dundas, including four in Ontario (Belleville, Dundas County, London, and Hamilton, which includes the former town of Dundas) and three in Scotland (Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow). The most prominent of these has been the public debate over Edinburgh's Melville Monument to Henry Dundas and whether it should be removed or

reinterpreted. A petition signed by over 13,000 people urged Edinburgh City Council to remove the statue of Dundas from atop the monument. The petition requested that the column portion of the monument be retained, but with a plaque added to educate the public on Dundas', and Edinburgh's, involvement in the slave trade. It also asked the Council to rename Dundas Street, Melville Street and Melville Crescent after Joseph Knight.

Edinburgh's solution was to adopt a "retain and explain" approach towards the monument. Wording for an interpretive plaque was developed by a panel consisting of City Council Leader Adam McVey, Deputy Council Leader Cammy Day, Edinburgh World Heritage, an expert from Edinburgh University, and Sir Geoff Palmer of Edinburgh's independent Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group. On March 17, 2021, the City of Edinburgh's Development Management Committee approved the permanent installation of the plaque. It reads:

*"At the top of this neoclassical column stands a statue of Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville (1742-1811). He was the Scottish Lord Advocate, an MP for Edinburgh and Midlothian, and the First Lord of the Admiralty. Dundas was a contentious figure, provoking controversies that resonate to this day. While Home Secretary in 1792, and first Secretary of State for War in 1796, he was instrumental in deferring the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade. Slave trading by British ships was not abolished until 1807. As a result of this delay, more than half a million enslaved Africans crossed the Atlantic. Dundas also curbed democratic dissent in Scotland, and both defended and expanded the British empire, imposing colonial rule on Indigenous peoples. He was impeached in the United Kingdom for misappropriation of public money, and, although acquitted, he never held public office again. Despite this, the monument before you was funded by voluntary contributions from British naval officers, petty officers, seamen, and marines and was erected in 1821, with the statue placed on top in 1827.*

*In 2020 this plaque was dedicated to the memory of the more than half-a-million Africans whose enslavement was a consequence of Henry Dundas's actions."*

## Contents

Snapshot of Case Studies .....	7
Summary of Findings by Location .....	7
Canadian Case Studies .....	9
Ontario .....	9
Other Provinces .....	45
Alberta .....	45
British Columbia .....	46
Manitoba .....	54
New Brunswick .....	57
Newfoundland and Labrador .....	58
Nova Scotia .....	60
Prince Edward Island .....	74
Quebec .....	77
Saskatchewan .....	79
Federal Government .....	84
United Kingdom Case Studies .....	86
England .....	86
Scotland .....	113
Wales .....	121
UK Central Government .....	128
US Case Studies .....	131
Alabama .....	131
Alaska .....	136
Arizona .....	137
Arkansas .....	141
California .....	143
Colorado .....	155
Connecticut .....	159
Delaware .....	164
Washington D.C. ....	164
Florida .....	166
Georgia .....	176

Idaho .....	183
Illinois .....	185
Indiana .....	192
Iowa .....	194
Kansas .....	195
Kentucky .....	195
Louisiana .....	196
Maine .....	209
Maryland .....	211
Massachusetts .....	223
Michigan .....	228
Minnesota .....	229
Mississippi .....	230
Missouri .....	231
Montana .....	237
Nevada .....	237
New Hampshire .....	238
New Jersey .....	239
New Mexico .....	240
New York .....	245
North Carolina .....	251
North Dakota .....	262
Ohio .....	263
Oklahoma .....	264
Oregon .....	265
Pennsylvania .....	266
Rhode Island .....	272
South Carolina .....	273
Tennessee .....	275
Texas .....	279
Utah .....	294
Vermont .....	294
Virginia .....	297
Washington .....	326

West Virginia .....	328
Wisconsin .....	330
Federal Government.....	330
Other International Case Studies .....	335
Australia .....	335
Barbados .....	343
Belgium .....	344
Germany .....	347
Greenland .....	349
India .....	349
Ireland .....	349
Mexico .....	351
New Zealand .....	351
Slovenia .....	356
South Africa.....	356
Spain .....	359

## 1 Summary of Findings

### Snapshot of Case Studies

- Total of 430 case studies
- 72 case studies are Canadian; 38 are from the UK; 288 are American; 32 are from other international countries (Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Germany, Greenland, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain)
- 129 changed the street/community/public asset name, 37 retained the name with 2 adding interpretive plaques, 72 are under review
- 13 municipalities or institutions issued anti-racism statements. Of these, 2 Canadian cities have, as yet, made no further changes
- 15 are looking into other ways to honour Indigenous and equity-deserving groups
- 47 established advisory committees
- 135 mentioned that they included public consultation
- 178 removed monuments, 26 retained monuments with modifications (such as an interpretive plaque), 17 retained monuments with no modifications, 22 case studies related to monuments are under review
- 59 case studies noted costs
- 39 case studies noted the size of street or number of residents. Very few of the streets studied are main thoroughfares
- 19 case studies are related to universities or schools
- 273 (64%) case studies relate to anti-Black racism, 118 (27%) to anti-Indigenous racism, 19 (4%) to both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, 17 (4%) to other groups, 2 (less than 1%) to both anti-Indigenous racism and other groups, 1 (less than 1%) to anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and other groups

### Summary of Findings by Location

#### **Canada (72 case studies):**

- 30 changed the street/public asset/community name, 12 retained the name, 18 are under review
- 7 noted that they issued anti-racism statements. 2 of these have taken no further action.
- 8 mentioned that they are looking into additional ways to honour Indigenous and equity-deserving groups
- 10 established advisory committees
- 34 mentioned they included public consultation
- 5 removed monuments, 4 retained monuments with modifications (such as an interpretive plaque), 1 retained a monument with no modifications, 3 are under review
- 9 case studies noted costs
- 5 case studies noted the number of residents
- 13 case studies are related to universities or schools

- 16 (22%) case studies relate to anti-Black racism, 42 (58%) to anti-Indigenous racism, 5 (7%) to both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, 7 (10%) to other groups, 2 (3%) to both anti-Indigenous racism and other groups

#### **UK (38 case studies):**

- 7 changed the street/public asset name, 8 retained the name with 2 adding an interpretive plaque, 11 are under review
- 3 noted that they issued an anti-racism statement
- 4 mentioned that they are looking into additional ways to honour equity-deserving groups
- 6 established advisory committees
- 14 mentioned they included public consultation
- 4 removed monuments, 11 retained monuments with modifications (such as an interpretive plaque), 3 retained monuments with no modifications, 5 are under review. Central government advocated for retaining statues with interpretation.
- 2 case studies noted costs
- 4 case studies noted the number of residents and/or size of streets
- 35 case studies (92%) relate to anti-Black Racism, 1 (3%) relates to anti-Indigenous racism, 2 (5%) relate to other groups

#### **US (288 case studies):**

- 81 changed the street/public asset/community name, 11 retained the name, 39 are under review
- 4 noted that they issued an anti-racism statement or are looking into additional ways to honour Indigenous and/or equity-deserving groups
- 31 established advisory committees
- 76 mentioned they included public consultation
- 160 removed monuments, 9 retained monuments with modifications (such as an interpretive plaque), 12 retained monuments with no modifications, 13 are under review. 4 states passed laws hindering the removal of monuments, 3 are considering a law hindering renamings and/or removals.
- 44 case studies noted costs
- 28 case study noted the size of street and/or the number of residents/businesses
- 4 case studies are related to universities
- 209 (73%) case studies relate to anti-Black racism, 61 (21%) to anti-Indigenous racism, 14 (5%) to both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, 3 (1%) to other groups, 1 (less than 1%) to anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and other groups

#### **Other International Countries (32 case studies):**

- 11 changed the street/public asset/community name, 6 retained the name, 4 are under review
- 2 mentioned that they are looking into additional ways to honour Indigenous groups
- 11 mentioned they included public consultation



- 9 removed monuments, 2 retained monuments with modifications (such as an interpretive plaque), 1 retained a monument with no modifications, 1 is under review
- 4 case studies noted costs
- 2 case studies noted the size of the street or the number of residents
- 2 case studies are related to universities
- 13 (40%) case studies relate to anti-Black racism, 14 (44%) to anti-Indigenous racism, 5 (16%) to other groups

## 2 Canadian Case Studies

### Ontario

#### **Ajax, Ontario – Nov. 2020 – renamed street**

An Ajax street named after a German naval captain is getting a new name. Ajax council voted 4-3 on November 17 to rename Langsdorff Drive after hearing from several delegations, including a Holocaust survivor, from both sides of the issue.

The street, in the Bayly Street and Pickering Beach Road area, was named after Hans Langsdorff, the captain of the Graf Spee, the German ship involved in the Battle of the River Plate. The battle was in September of 1939 and was the first Allied naval victory in the Second World War.

The town took its name from the HMS Ajax, one of the three Allied ships involved in the battle. In August, Ajax council voted to reject the name Graf Spee Lane for a new street.

Steve Parish was the mayor when the street name was dedicated in the mid-2000s. Langsdorff hasn't been linked to any Nazi atrocities, Parish noted.

Town staff will start the process of coming up with a new name for the street.

<https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/10268861--an-opportunity-to-right-a-wrong-ajax-street-named-after-german-captain-to-get-new-moniker/>

#### **Beckwith, Ontario – Aug.-Dec. 2020 – renamed street**

The council of Beckwith Township near Ottawa is proposing to change the name of a private road that includes a derogatory term for Indigenous women after months of controversy and over the objections of the road owners. Reeve Richard Kidd says he's confident the council will pass the proposed bylaw on Dec. 1 to change Squaw Point Road to Monarch Lane.

Kidd said it's the first time the township has sought to change the name of a private road. "We didn't realize that we had to pass a bylaw on a private road to change (its name)," he said. "We thought, 'We don't own it.' Like, it's not our property."

The council is moving forward with the change against the wishes of the two owners of the road, said Kidd. "These two individuals own the land. They signed a document for us saying they didn't

want (the road name) to change,” he said. Minutes from a township council meeting in September say that one of the owners wanted to keep the name “for various reasons including the historic value he wishes not be lost in the community.”

Kim Watson, a member of the residents’ association, says they voted on the issue and asked to change the name in August. She said their request was sent to Beckwith Township council and then was forwarded to the upper-tier government of Lanark County. The county sent the request back because the township has the authority to make the change on its own.

Watson was a member of the committee that organized the name change and went door to door getting recommendations for new names. “We chose Monarch Lane for the monarch butterfly because it’s been struggling this last while,” she said. “We want (the name) to get a change. It’s well past time.”

Kidd said most private roads in the area are owned by road associations, comprising multiple landowners, but this road is owned by two people and there are 25 people that own properties, cottages and houses on the road and have the right to use it.

As of December, the road name has been changed to an Algonquin name that means “woman.”

Ikwe Point Road, while different from two previously suggested names — Monarch Road and Anishinaabekwe (meaning Anishinaabe woman) Point — is still “pretty significant and part of the word we were interested in,” said Maureen Bostock of the Lanark County Neighbours for Truth and Reconciliation.

Kidd added the road owner, Thomas Gardiner, wanted the name of the road revised to an Indigenous word. “That was what was important to him, that it didn’t become just another street name,” Kidd said. The word “Ikwe” honours the historical significance of the landmark and the role the Indigenous people played in the area’s history, he noted.

The township’s historical committee also plans to install a plaque at the road entry explaining the name change. The offensive road sign was taken down two days after council approved the name change during a Dec. 2020 council meeting, according to the reeve.

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/2020/11/09/eastern-ontario-reeve-seeks-to-change-road-name-derogatory-to-indigenous-women.html>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/01/07/from-offensive-to-historical-beckwith-road-name-changed-to-meaningful-algonquin-word.html>

### **Belleville, Ontario – Sept. 2020 – retained name of Dundas Street**

Calls to change the Dundas Street name have not reached Belleville city hall requesting similar action, says Mayor Mitch Panciuk. He said not a single request or delegation has been filed with the City of Belleville to change the name of the historic street as it runs parallel to the Bay of Quinte east and west through the city. In Ontario, The King’s Highway 2 is often referred to as Dundas Street inside city municipal boundaries such as Toronto and Belleville.

“The last thing we heard about was when we had a deputation regarding Meyers’ Pier and we had some folks suggest we change the name. Council heard from them and lots of people who said

not to change the name,” Panciuk said of the January deputation, “because it doesn’t change history.” Council at the time voted to look into changing the pier named after city founder Capt. John Walden Meyers but the name still stands despite historical accounts of him owning Black slave members of the Levi family.

“It’s hard to put 21st Century thinking into 17th or 18th Century politics. With respect to Dundas Street itself, I’ve never heard anyone suggest we rename Dundas Street,” Panciuk said. “It’s hard to compare Toronto with anyone else because they have their own unique circumstances.”

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/local-news/no-plans-to-rename-dundas-street-in-belleville-amid-global-petitions-mayor-panciuk>

### **Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario – Feb. 2021 – renamed buildings**

Carleton University is renaming three campus buildings as part of its commitment to Indigenous reconciliation and the fight against anti-Black racism. The university said the buildings are being renamed as part of the New Names for New Times initiative, and “to demonstrate the university’s commitment to Indigenous reconciliation” and its stand against anti-Black racism.

The three set to be renamed by the next academic year are University Centre, Residence Commons and Robertson Hall.

Robertson Hall, in particular, caught the attention of a group of students because of its namesake — Gordon Robertson — and his role in the controversial High Arctic relocation program in the 1950s. At the time, Robertson was the clerk for the Privy Council and commissioner of the Northwest Territories before becoming Carleton University’s chancellor between 1980 and 1990. The relocation program resulted in 87 Inuit being moved 1,200 kilometres from their home in Inukjuak, a northern Quebec community, to Grise Fiord and Resolute, in what is now Nunavut. Three other families were also moved north from Pond Inlet, Nunavut, all part of the Canadian government’s plan to assert sovereignty in the Arctic during the Cold War.

The building renamings are happening in collaboration with the Algonquin Nation, Black community and Inuit. It’s uncertain when the new names will be announced.

Excerpt from a press release issued by the university on Feb. 3, 2021:

*We are keenly aware that the names of our buildings – like those on campuses across Canada – are not representative of our community or the current Canadian population.*

*University Centre: Carleton is of course situated on the traditional, unceded and unsundered territory of the Algonquin Nation. We propose to go beyond land recognition and initiate a process that will engage Algonquin communities – notably Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan – towards naming this central and high-profile facility at the crossroads of all campus activity.*

*Residence Commons: We also propose to engage Black communities in a process to name the beautiful Residence Commons, a central hub of student life, in a manner that reflects the importance of their contributions and achievements on campus and beyond. This is timely in the wake of the historic social movement sparked by the tragic killing of George Floyd, and the growing recognition of historic and present injustice in Canada.*

*Robertson Hall: Finally, it is with the gracious support of the Robertson family that a process will be initiated to engage the Inuit community towards naming our main administrative building Robertson Hall in the spirit of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to acknowledge and honour the Inuit of Canada.*

*We are fortunate that Kahente Horn-Miller (AVP Indigenous Initiatives), Michael Charles (AVP Equity and Inclusive Communities), Benny Michaud (Director, Centre for Indigenous Initiatives), and Jerry Tomberlin (Provost) have already agreed to play key roles in this initiative.*

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/carleton-university-renaming-robertson-hall-1.5964267>

<https://newsroom.carleton.ca/2021/new-names-times-initiative/>

### **Dryden, Ontario – Aug. 2020-Apr. 2021 – renamed street**

Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of Dryden, Ont. are calling for a new name for Colonization Avenue. A video made by Lloyd Napish, 32, of Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) pushed city council to publicly address concerns that having a street named Colonization Avenue is counter to its attempts at reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Dryden's Working Circle committee is tasked with coming up with a "proper process for the sake of ensuring a fair, open and transparent dialogue" on the name change and reporting back to council next month, Mayor Greg Wilson said at a council meeting on August 24.

On January 11, Dryden Council confirmed its intention to rename Colonization Avenue. The decision was made Monday night following a request from the newly formed Working Circle. The City of Dryden's Working Circle was approved in July after being suggested by councillor Norm Bush. It's made up of five community members and five city representatives, who are all working together to improve relations between the city and Indigenous communities and partners. The next step will be seeking public input over a 60-day period once it is formally approved by Council.

Working Circle member Shayne MacKinnon says the City strategic plan talks about being an inclusive community with an exceptional quality of life with a goal to foster positive relationships with Indigenous peoples and area First Nations. He stresses physical changes would go a long way in reconciliation efforts and will show Dryden will not stand for racism.

The Working Circle will be responsible for the presentation of three names for Council to consider. MacKinnon stresses they will be seeking public input on potential names, Indigenous or not, and will also be seeking potential names from schools and seniors.

He adds the Working Circle will be immediately educating the community and residents along Colonization Avenue through mailouts, information packages, references, and a social media campaign. A virtual public meeting is also planned to discuss the potential name change.

MacKinnon says the costs will be minimal and believes they can piggyback on existing City resources.

The Working Circle is hoping for a Council decision in April as well as a potential new name on June 21 on Indigenous Peoples Day.

MacKinnon notes if Council decides to proceed with the name change, they will assist impacted residents in the transition. That would include the creation of a Help Line to assist residents with needed changes.

Council says examining the name Colonization Avenue and considering changes is part of their strategic goals and aligns with the mandate of the Working Circle to foster better relations.

On February 17, MacKinnon said the cost to change all the street signs adds up to around \$3,000, with little to no cost for residents to change their address.

Executive Director of the Dryden Native Friendship Centre Cheryl Edwards said “the naming process is January to March, a full recommendation and council vote hopefully in April, planning process and preparation in May and the naming community event would be on June 21st.”

The committee has also proposed for guidance and a help line on the City website to assist residents in changing their address.

As of April 14, Dryden’s Indigenous Working Circle and city councillors have narrowed down two new names for Colonization Avenue, which will be split into two roadways. The Dryden Fire Service requested that change to make it easier to respond to emergencies.

Colonization Avenue North will be renamed Boozhoo Avenue, while Colonization Avenue South will be renamed Memorial Avenue. Council’s official decision is expected by April 26’s virtual Council meeting.

“Boozhoo Avenue has a number of reasons behind it,” explained councillor Shayne MacKinnon, who also serves as co-chair of the working circle. “It’s the Ojibway word for ‘welcome’. Folks visiting our community will see that avenue. It recognizes the Indigenous population of our community and the area. I think it’s very appropriate to welcome people to our community.”

Prior to the Colonization Avenue renaming process, Dryden’s only other street name derived from the Ojibway language was Wabigoon Drive. Councillors noted more Ojibway representation was needed throughout the community, which supported the Colonization Avenue renaming process.

“Memorial Avenue pays tribute to community members who have passed, and how we came together to make a historic and positive change for Dryden,” said co-chair of the Working Circle, Cheryl Edwards. “This also pays tribute to first responders, police and volunteers who have dedicated their lives to provide emergency services to our community and surrounding area. It also pays tribute to our Indigenous ancestors who are and were caretakers of this area,” adds Edwards.

By the end of the consultation period, the Dryden community had submitted over 400 names to the Working Circle, of which 265 unique names were identified for possible consideration. Each of the 10 members of the group then chose 10 options each, before narrowing them down to 3 options overall. Other short-listed names chosen by the Working Circle included Boozhoo, Sunset or Memorial Avenue for Colonization Avenue North; and Memorial, Harmony or Barclay Avenue for Colonization Avenue South.

On April 26, Councillors passed a bylaw to change Colonization Road North to Boozhoo Avenue and Colonization Road South to Memorial Avenue.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/push-to-change-name-of-colonization-ave-in-dryden-ont-gains-traction-1.5700958>

<https://www.ckdr.net/2021/01/11/215613/>

<https://www.ckdr.net/2021/02/18/dryden-working-circle-committee-shares-success-so-far/>

<https://www.drydennow.com/articles/council-to-approve-new-names-for-colonization-avenue->

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/city-of-dryden-renames-colonization-avenue-3668524>

### **Dundas County, Ontario – June 2020 – retained name**

The Mayor of North Dundas, Tony Fraser, and the Mayor of South Dundas, Steven Byvels, commented on a petition to change the County's name.

"Dundas County has been around for a long time, and changing names is not an easy thing," said Byvels. "The Mayor of Toronto is contending with the same thing right now. Certainly, what he was doing is not the right thing by today's standards, and I don't think it was right then."

Mayor Fraser commented: "Our County is what it is because of the efforts of those who established it," he said. "I think these questions encompass the whole of Canada and it is more than one issue on social media. Do they want to change names for just changing the name or is it about changing the fabric of who we are?" Fraser stated that going down such a path could open up a Pandora's Box of issues.

<https://www.cornwallseawaynews.com/2020/06/16/petition-asks-to-change-the-name-of-dundas-county/>

### **Durham District School Board, Whitby, Ontario – Feb.-May 2021 – reviewing school names**

- See Renaming Policy on pages 26-28 (pdf pages 30-32):  
<https://calendar.ddsb.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-04-19-1900-Board-Meeting/8c361b6f-f3c0-4b9e-b089-ad1100fab489>

The Durham District School Board is rethinking its policy on school names following Julie Payette's resignation as governor general amid bullying allegations. Julie Payette Public School in Whitby opened in 2011.

At the board's Feb. 1 standing committee, trustees directed staff to bring forward a revised draft policy on school naming — and renaming — this spring.

"The naming of schools is an important decision that has a lasting impact on a school community," said board chair Carolyn Morton, noting that two new DDSB schools opening in September 2021 will need to be named soon. "With the recent news involving the name of one of our schools, it is critical that we consider our policies around the naming of schools before new committees are created to name these new schools," she said.



Whitby trustee Niki Lundquist noted the issue is bigger than controversy around one school. "We have other schools named after historical male figures who have certainly done things that are historically problematic," Lundquist said, citing "systemic racism and genocide" as examples.

DDSB trustees did not specifically address renaming Julie Payette P.S. at the Feb. 1 meeting.

The board's current policy on naming schools includes guidelines for potential names. Options include: "persons recognized as having made a significant contribution to our society in the region, province, or country;" a historical name which once applied to the area where the school is located; the name of the district the school serves; or the name of the street the school is located on.

In a statement on February 4, the board said it will be considering a new name for Julie Payette Public School in the coming months. "We will be discussing the recent news with the School Community Council to gather further input," the statement reads.

On May 17, trustees approved a motion from Whitby Trustee Niki Lundquist to strike committees to consider renaming Julie Payette P.S. in Whitby and Sir John A Macdonald P.S. in Pickering.

Lundquist says concerns about the school names have been raised by staff and parents, including a petition with more than 1,100 signatures calling for Julie Payette P.S. to be renamed Leslie McFarlane P.S.

As for Sir John A. Macdonald P.S., Lundquist says the school's name is incompatible with the board's equity commitments. "This is something that should have been done some time ago," Lundquist said. "It's a very challenging thing to recognize the need for truth and reconciliation while having a school named after a historic figure who has caused irreparable harm and multi-generational harm to a group of students who are within the DDSB."

In 2017, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario called on school boards across the province to rename schools bearing the name of Canada's first prime minister, calling Macdonald "the architect of genocide against Indigenous peoples."

Pickering Trustee Chris Braney said he has heard from members of the public about the name of Sir John A. Macdonald P.S. and supported the motion to start the renaming process.

The next step is for the DDSB to establish a naming committee for each school. The committees will be responsible for providing the board with a short list of recommended names — the committees also have the options to recommend that the name of a school remain unchanged.

DDSB trustees approved a new school naming policy on April 19, which includes criteria and guidelines for a school's name to be changed. Under the new policy, there are several scenarios in which a school is eligible to be renamed including if the current name "does not align with the board's commitment or legal responsibilities to Indigenous rights, human rights, anti-oppression, anti-racism, anti-discrimination and equitable and inclusive education."

The new policy says acceptable school name options include: a "renowned individual of historical significance whose contribution to the local community, Canadian society or to the world is recognized and valued;" a geographic landmark associated with the location of the school such as a street name; or the name of a significant Canadian event.

<https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/10321790-durham-board-to-revise-its-school-naming-policy-following-julie-payette-controversy/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/durham-board-considering-name-change-for-julie-payette-public-school-1.5902060>

<https://www.thestar.com/local-oshawa/news/2021/05/17/durham-schools-sir-john-a-macdonald-p-s-julie-payette-p-s-could-soon-have-new-names.html>

### **Dysart et al, Ontario – Apr. 2021 – reviewing park name**

Dysart et al took steps to confront the legacy of Sam Slick Park's namesake as the cultural resources committee debated whether to rename it. The municipal committee discussed the controversial figure April 22, coming to no decision but opting to create a subcommittee to make recommendations. That was due to the alleged racism present in the character's book, *The Clockmaker*, written by Thomas Chandler Haliburton, the namesake for the County and village.

The Rotary Club of Haliburton originally created and named Sam Slick Park, situated across from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. A plaque at the location discusses that history. The committee discussed adding a secondary plaque to further contextualize the name.

Committee member Kate Butler said there is an opportunity to educate people on the issue. Mayor Andrea Roberts said she read halfway through *The Clockmaker* but was not necessarily convinced a renaming is needed.

"We're aware of it and we need to deal with it in some way," committee member Jim Blake said. "We don't need to have any complaints to be progressive and move ahead."

Member Shelley Schell said the municipality should address the issue, but she was concerned about removing history. Member Anna Babluck said she would like to rename the park but have a plaque explaining the history and former name.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/04/29/committee-debates-renaming-sam-slick-park.html>

### **Emo, Ontario – Feb. 2021 – renamed street**

On February 2, Emo council unanimously decided to change the name of their Colonization Road.

Harold McQuaker, Mayor of Emo, said he thinks it was a good decision. "We have many other First Nations communities that are in our district and in the surrounding area," McQuaker said. "I think along with the other councillors that it was a good move by our community and that's why we did it."

McQuaker said there are some suggestions of names for the road but it is still being discussed. He adds that the sign will be changed fairly soon but probably not before the spring.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/02/03/emo-councillors-vote-to-change-colonization-road-name.html#:~:text=Last%20Tuesday%2C%20Emo%20council%20unanimously,surrounding%20area%2C%E2%80%9D%20McQuaker%20said>



**Fort Frances, Ontario – Sept.-Oct. 2017 – retained street name, Nov. 2020-May 2021 – renamed street, created naming policy**

- For street naming policy from Feb. 8, 2021, see:  
<https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/FileStorage/619A9ABBF81C499FBCB187A560B201D2-COW%20CONSENT%20Fort%20Frances%20Street%20Naming%20Renaming%20Po.pdf>
- For Amending Road Names report from Feb. 8, 2021, see:  
<https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/FileStorage/C766955CE0164E818244E163818D5256-COW%20CONSENT%20Amending%20Road%20Names%20-%20Fort%20Frances%20-%20C.pdf>
- For consultation summary report from Mar. 15, 2021, see:  
<https://fortfrances.civicweb.net/FileStorage/200EC5BE2AC2447A9FB6943CCD89BDAC-Colonization%20Road%20Brochure%20Consultation%20Summary%20-%20.pdf>
- For public consultation, see <https://fortfrances.ca/public-notice-consultation-period>

In 2017, Fort Frances town council referred the question of renaming Colonization Road to its planning and development committee.

One of three councillors on the committee noted that he doesn't want residents to have to update their contact information and related documents. "The real cost to the people who live there to change everything would be astronomical to the town of Fort Frances."

Coun. Caul said her ultimate reason for deciding to vote against having the road's name changed was that it would affect those living in the 132 residences located along Colonization Road East and West, as well as five business owners.

In a report from municipal planner and Chief Building Official Tyson Dennis, he indicated "personal time"—which is hard to put a price tag on—would be the only cost for most individual property owners to get their personal identification, memberships, and mailing address information changed.

On a commercial or business property, there could be fees associated with business name registration and address, which only could be determined on a case-by-case scenario, Dennis added.

Meanwhile, a report from the Operations and Facilities executive committee indicated it would cost the town an estimated \$2,669.51 (\$1,273.96 for new signage and \$1,395.55 for labour) to replace six standard green street name signs and seven blue "La Verendrye Parkway"-style signs.

In addition to that, it would cost staff time (and thus the taxpayer money) to re-label all of the property files and road construction plans currently in the Operations and Facilities office, as well as the GIS asset database. The Operations and Facilities division also operates two facilities addressed "Colonization Road." While there is no signage requiring changing on these facilities, there would be additional staff time to change this information on any billings, insurance, and so on.

Excerpt from Oct. 23, 2017 Council meeting minutes:

*936 Albanese - Perry: THAT the report dated October 19, 2017 from T. Dennis, Chief Building Official / Municipal Planner re: Request to Re-name Colonization Road be approved to agree*

*with the recommendation of the Planning & Development Executive Committee to receive the information and take no further action at this time. CARRIED.*

As of November 10, 2020, the town of Fort Frances is set for a debate over its controversially named Colonization Road, for the second time in four years. Town councillor Douglas Judson, who supported a failed bid to change its name in 2017 before his election, said he sees a growing appetite to move forward on the issue in the community, located about 350 kilometres west of Thunder Bay.

Judson announced November 10 he had tabled a resolution that, if approved, would launch a consultation process to rename the street. The resolution, expected to be debated on Nov. 23, has the support of several First Nations and Indigenous groups in the area.

Judson hoped the movement to rename Fort Frances' road could spur constructive dialogue in the community. The councillor has organized a Nov. 25 panel discussion on the issue entitled Colonization in Context. It will feature Lloyd Napish, a councillor with Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake) First Nation, who is part of the effort to rename Colonization Avenue in Dryden, JoAnne Formanek Gustafson, a local educator, Jeffrey Denis, a professor of sociology at McMaster University, whose doctoral thesis explored settler-Indigenous history and relationships in the Rainy River District, and a local Indigenous youth and elder.

Town council was slated to debate the renaming of the road on November 23, but the vote to rename the road was deferred, allowing more time for consultation. The next meeting is on December 14. Committees are now charged with developing a timeline and process to have the road renamed.

On March 15, the Fort Frances Planning and Development Executive Committee voted to recommend to the full council that it proceed with renaming both Colonization Road West and Colonization Road East.

The vote followed the presentation of a staff report outlining the feedback from a consultation brochure that was distributed to town residents. According to the report, many of the 37 responses support the name change, and "only a select few" stated outright objections. "Many respondents expressed concern for the Town's image perception in the eyes of others if change is not initiated," the report says.

The town also received numerous letters and emails prior to the consultation period. According to Councillor Douglas Judson, the leading proponent of the name change, over 240 people provided comments in 52 letters, and only 10 individuals opposed renaming the road.

Council's road renaming policy provides for a period of public input on suggested names. Judson wants council to consider input from local Indigenous people in particular. Judson said the new name for at least one of the two sections of Colonization Road should reflect local Indigenous heritage, culture or language.

On March 22, Last night, Council agreed with a recommendation from committee to proceed with renaming Colonization Road East and West.

Fort Frances Councillor Douglas W. Judson stated at the meeting that he "shares the disappointment of those who wrote to council about the process which was followed on this issue. Instead of taking a position at the outset on the painful legacy of colonization in our

community and acknowledging it, our approach invited a public debate about whether colonial policies and history were actually racist and harmful. That was irresponsible, as we have now heard from numerous constituents. We already had answers to those questions from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Ontario Human Rights Commission.”

“During our meeting, I asked council to address this deficiency by making the next step of our process clearly focused on reconciliation and our explicit reasons for renaming Colonization Road. I proposed that we do so by not just committing to change the name, but by asking our community to propose names which reflect Indigenous history, culture, or language, or the themes of reconciliation.”

Along with the name changes, two resolutions were proposed to council. The first resolution was brought forward by Judson. He proposed that at least one name of the new roads reflect Indigenous history, culture, or language or reconciliation.

The other resolution was an educational aspect, a plaque for example, about the road and the history. This was presented by Coun. John McTaggart. McTaggart said the name change should be coupled with an educational component to tell residents why this change was a long time coming. “We as community leaders can make the decision to change the street name,” McTaggart said. “If that’s all we do, we have done a disservice by not following through on trying to promote and educate why we changed the name. Let us not hide our history or disguise it, let us learn from it and do better going forward.”

While all councillors voted for an educational component to the name change, none voted for Judson’s proposal.

This marks the beginning of the 30-day consultation in which members of the public are encouraged to submit name recommendations to council. The town will hold a public meeting on April 26, in order for residents to provide input as well as propose a street name.

An online survey about the new names proposed by the public for Colonization Road East and West in Fort Frances has confirmed significant support for at least one of the roads to be given a name of Indigenous significance.

On April 29, the list of submitted names was published as part of the Planning & Development Executive Committee agenda. The Committee meets on May 3 and will generate a shortlist from the over 70 suggestions from the public. The shortlist will be presented to council for a final decision.

The unofficial survey, administered online between April 29 and May 2, was promoted and targeted to Fort Frances-based users of popular social media platforms. The survey generated over 2,600 engagements, with representative distribution across age groups. 361 people completed the questionnaire over the 4-day period.

Participants were asked to select their ‘top 3’ choices in four categories of proposed street names, as well as their overall ‘top 3’ preferred names. A scoring formula was then applied to the results to determine rankings.

The tabulated results demonstrate overwhelming support for at least one length of Colonization Road to be given a name in Anishinaabemowin. In the overall ranking, 7 of the ‘top 10’ names were from the Indigenous category. Agamiing (“at the shore”), was the clear frontrunner, though

Amik (“beaver”), Nibi (“water”), Boozhoo (“welcome”), Ziibi (“river”), and Biidaaban (“dawn arrives”) were also among the top 10. The cumulative score of all of the Indigenous names was approximately 2 to 3 times that of any other category.

Sunset – a nod to the region’s tourism marketing – also polled strongly. 70% of survey participants agreed that Indigenous leaders or elders should be consulted, and 60% indicated that the eastern and western roads should have different names.

The unofficial survey was launched by Councillor Douglas Judson as a constituent engagement initiative. While non-binding on council’s decision, it once again demonstrates strong community support for visible symbols of reconciliation, equity, and Indigenous heritage in Fort Frances.

On May 10, town council voted 4-3 to change the name of Colonization Road East to Agamiing to honour Anishinaabe people in the areas and Colonization Road West to Sunset Road as a nod to both the region and the Sunset Country Métis community in the area.

Coun. Douglas Judson said “I hope this experience tells council is that there is an appetite for social change in this community, and that we, as leaders, have to direct these discussions toward a vision. It isn’t good enough to shy away from equity issues because they might offend the prejudices or privileges of others. I hope we can do better in the future.”

Three of the signs for the former Colonization Road will be donated to museums, including the Fort Frances Museum, the Manitou Mounds Interpretive Centre and the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg.

<https://www.tvo.org/article/northwestern-ontario-debates-its-colonization-roads>

<https://www.ffmpeg.com/news/local/news/road-name-stay#:~:text=Colonization%20Road%20in%20Fort%20Frances,its%20regular%20meeting%20Monday%20Onight.>

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/fort-frances-to-debate-renaming-colonization-road-2867547>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/fort-frances-colonization-road-committees-1.5814384>

[https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/fort-frances-takes-a-step-toward-renaming-colonization-road-3545872#:~:text=Google%20Street%20View\)-,FORT%20FRANCES%2C%20Ont.,West%20and%20Colonization%20Road%20East.](https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/fort-frances-takes-a-step-toward-renaming-colonization-road-3545872#:~:text=Google%20Street%20View)-,FORT%20FRANCES%2C%20Ont.,West%20and%20Colonization%20Road%20East.)

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2021/03/23/fort-frances-councillor-doug-judson-comments-on-decision-on-colonization-road/>

<https://ffmpeg.com/news/local-news/colonization-road-change-approved/>

<https://www.netnewsledger.com/2021/05/02/fort-frances-survey-finds-solid-support-for-indigenous-name-to-replace-colonization-road/>

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/fort-frances-council-narrowly-approves-renaming-of-colonization-road-3767541>

### **Hamilton, Ontario – June 2020 – retained name of former Town of Dundas**

A petition, launched in June in the wake of the protests against anti-Black racism to rename Dundas Street W. in Toronto, has received 14,713 signatures and prompted a Town of Dundas resident to request Hamilton councillors consider renaming the town. Councillors agreed to receive the information.

Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas NDP MPP Sandy Shaw stated through her spokesperson about renaming the Town of Dundas, after supporting Horwath's call to rename Dundas Street that "No proposals at all for the Town of Dundas have been made, as far as we're aware."

Dundas Coun. Arlene VanderBeek said she has received three requests from residents to look at changing the town's name, two from the same person. "No one is anxious to change the name," she said. The second-term councillor has taken "quite a bit of time" studying the issue. Most people, she said, don't even know where the Dundas name came from.

Dundas's name and identity were fought for during the contentious and highly emotional amalgamation debates prior to 2000. "Dundas Forever" became a clarion call among residents who fought against what they argued was the forced amalgamation of the town into the new City of Hamilton.

VanderBeek doesn't want to change the name of Dundas, a view that is also shared by her residents.

<https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/10071482-dundas-name-still-emotional-statement-for-residents-long-after-amalgamation-says-coun-arlene-vanderbeek/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/toronto-may-rename-dundas-street-west-is-hamilton-s-dundas-next-1.5607907>

### **Hamilton, Ontario – Dec. 2020 – reviewing statue**

Hamilton City staff are "seriously" considering recommending the removal of a statue of Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald from its present perch downtown in Gore Park.

This statue of Macdonald was the first erected in the Dominion of Canada (as it was commonly called at the time), only two years after Macdonald's death. Hamilton's Board of Trade purchased the bronze statue of Macdonald shortly after his death in 1891. Measuring eight feet and three inches in height, the statue arrived in Hamilton on October 30, 1893 from London, England.

The removal of the statue "is our high priority item" says the City of Hamilton's Project Manager for Indigenous Initiatives Nicole Jones.

City Manager Janette Smith will bring forth a report to Council early in 2021 seeking Council's decision on the future of the statue. Jones says many members of Hamilton's Indigenous communities have expressed to the City the pain the statue causes them as a reminder of Canada's racist and colonial policies against Indigenous peoples. During consultations, Jones says people shared they "feel angry constantly seeing these colonial structures and statues that enforced assimilation upon our people".

"It is disheartening", says Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee member Laura Workman that it has taken this long to have the discussion of removing the statue.

"The Sir John A. Macdonald statue remains a significant part of Hamilton history and culture and is appreciated by the citizens and city council of Hamilton", states the Hamilton Public Library's local history department. Hamilton's "Sir John A. Macdonald Society holds a celebration of Sir John A. Macdonald each year on his birthday, by placing a wreath of flowers at his statue to commemorate his accomplishments" the page continues. The yearly gathering of Hamilton's Sir John A. Macdonald at the statue to celebrate the birthday of MacDonald was raised as a concern during consultations with Hamilton's Indigenous communities, Jones says.

The statue has become a place of protest in recent years. In 2015, the members of the Indigenous communities and supporters held a protest of the statue on the 200th anniversary of Macdonald's birth. More recently, on October 9, Land Back supporters held an information picket at the statue. On November 9, the statue was covered in red paint.

The City's Indigenous strategy office says planning is underway to help Hamiltonians better understand the complex legacy of Macdonald and Canada's past. Other local landmarks are being reviewed, with a focus upon including Hamilton's Indigenous history in contemporary places and commemorations. Further public consultations on this part of Hamilton's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will occur in 2021.

<https://www.thepublicrecord.ca/2020/12/city-staff-seriously-considering-removal-of-macdonald-statue-from-downtown-hamilton/>

### **Kenora, Ontario – Sept. 2017 – renamed street by extending the name of another road**

In May 2017, citizens of Kenora requested that the name of Colonization Road be changed, but City Council held no substantive debate. Although the administration advised renaming it "Reconciliation Road," Council decided simply to treat it as an extension of Nash Street.

<https://www.tvonews.com/news/northwestern-ontario-debates-its-colonization-roads>

### **Kingston, Ontario – fall 2018-July 2020 – retained monument with plaque**

- For July 7, 2020 report to council re: John A. Macdonald Legacy Project, see: [https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/38616783/City-Council\\_Meeting-2020-21\\_Report-20-159\\_Update-Your-Stories-Our-Histories-Project.pdf/31d0b430-d33e-e875-3f2b-69c9b6c9f280?t=1593713872818](https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/38616783/City-Council_Meeting-2020-21_Report-20-159_Update-Your-Stories-Our-Histories-Project.pdf/31d0b430-d33e-e875-3f2b-69c9b6c9f280?t=1593713872818)
- For public consultation, see: <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/projects-construction/your-stories>

In one of many conflicts around past historical figures and their present-day representations, people have been calling for the removal of the statue of Sir John. A. Macdonald in Kingston, Ont., but the city's mayor says that won't happen.

"I think that the conversation around Macdonald's legacy is an important one to have," said Mayor Bryan Paterson, who added he supports peaceful protests, but draws the line at



vandalism. Patterson said the city has no plans to remove the statue, but plans to take other actions by "adding to history rather than tak[ing] away from it,"

Patterson said council will be discussing suggestions on how to address the concerns around Macdonald in July, which include renaming other places after Indigenous historical figures and changing the plaque attached to the Macdonald statue to include "both the good and the bad," he said. But the protesters criticized the latter suggestion.

A city staff report reviewed at Council on July 7 put forward suggestions from the city's "Your Stories, Our Histories" public engagement project. That project, part of the umbrella "Sir John A. 360°" initiative, gauged public response to how the city should be representing Macdonald's history locally.

A local touchpoint for the debate has been a statue of Macdonald in City Park. Protesters have repeatedly called for its removal, but the city has opted rather than to remove historical monuments, to add context to them. "While most of the people who participated in the 'Your Stories, Our Histories' project indicated a desire to see the monument remain in place, others continue to call for its removal," the report noted.

The report made the following recommendations:

- Remove the script reading "The Spirit of Sir John A." from the Engine 1095 tender in Confederation Park.
- Replace the book plaques adjacent to the monument to Sir John A. Macdonald in City Park and Engine 1095 in Confederation Park with interim notices that indicate new text is under development to tell a more complete and inclusive account of their histories in a Kingston context.
- Form a working group that includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members, representing a diversity of perspectives, to develop text that addresses issues specific to the history and legacy of Sir John A. Macdonald in Kingston that can be shared online and on-site through the City of Kingston website and in relation to local landmarks managed by the City of Kingston.
- Add a land recognition statement, developed by the Indigenous community, to the City of Kingston website and to all City of Kingston e-mail signatures; and
- Confirm the City's support to name The Third Crossing in a way that reflects and celebrates the stories and contributions of Indigenous communities in this region, both past and present.

Several recommendations in the report were passed, including removing the plaques that stand by the Spirit of John A. locomotive in Confederation Park and the statue of Macdonald that stands in City Park. They will be replaced with new plaques that "tell a more complete and inclusive account of their histories in a Kingston context," according to the city report.

Council also voted to form the working group that includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to develop a more historically accurate account of Macdonald on the city's website. The group also unanimously agreed to add a land recognition statement to the city's website and at the bottom of all email signatures. Lastly, the city will support naming the city's third crossing in a way that reflects and celebrates the Indigenous community.

But council voted to defer their decision on whether to remove the name of "The spirit of Sir John A." from the locomotive at confederation park. The debate over that matter won't happen until the first quarter of 2021.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/protesters-call-for-removal-john-a-macdonald-statue-1.5622353>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7157727/council-changes-sir-john-a-macdonald-kingston/>

<https://getinvolved.cityofkingston.ca/sir-john-a-360>

<https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/kingston-to-consider-changes-to-macdonalds-monuments>

### **Kitchener, Ontario – June 2020 – retained name, created equity and inclusion policy**

The municipality was named after Horatio Herbert Kitchener who established concentration camps during the Boer War, but the municipality is not looking into a name change at this time.

The city has prioritized making concrete changes to dismantle systemic barriers and eliminate anti-Black racism and will be creating a corporate equity and inclusion policy. It will also develop an equity, inclusion and diversity training program and establish a strategy to collect and report publicly de-aggregated demographic data of staff, volunteers and service users.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7072598/renaming-ontario-municipalities-racist-history/>

### **Kitchener, Ontario – May 2021 – reviewing street name**

Grade 10 history students at Grand River Collegiate Institute are calling for the City of Kitchener to rename Indian Road where the Ontario high school is located. In an open letter, GRCI history students say Indian Road is insensitive and offensive to Indigenous Peoples and should be changed. The open letter noted the school's leadership and work in the past to remove inappropriate use of Indigenous references on school jerseys, the school's mascot and art work. "However, we remain fully aware of the remaining street name alongside our learning environment," the letter said.

"These public buildings and spaces exist on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Neutral Peoples, and we believe that our community must make a commitment toward addressing names that are offensive to Indigenous people on whose traditional lands we learn."

Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic noted the city has hired the director for the city's new Director of Equity, Anti-Racism and Indigenous Initiatives. He also asked for student and teacher contacts to keep them informed. Gingrich said Lindo has also been in touch with the class.

The City of Kitchener said they appreciate the work of students and city staff will reach out to them. "Reviewing the name of Indian Road will be part of a larger initiative the City is undertaking that looks at the naming of public spaces (e.g. roads, parks, facilities, etc.) This will be done through the Reconciliation Action Plan work," the statement said. "The process for changing street



names takes time and involves community input. In the case of Indian Road, it will require meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities and leaders."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/indian-road-name-change-grade-10-students-grand-river-collegiate-institute-kitchener-1.6023171>

### **London, Ontario – June 2020 – retained name of Dundas Street**

In light of concerns about systemic anti-Black racism raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, Leroy Hibbert, of LUSO Community Services, feels a conversation is needed at city hall about the names of Dundas Street and the recently completed Dundas Place. Changing Dundas Street's name would subsequently change the address of residences and businesses along its route through central and east London.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Jennifer Grainger points to numerous other street names in London whose namesakes wouldn't live up to modern values. "If we are going to rename some of our streets, it makes sense to look at each individual and try to judge each person by the standards of his or her own time," says Grainger. "You don't necessarily need to change everything and every street," says Hibbert. "But when we come into knowledge of things that aren't necessarily productive, I think we have an obligation to make some adjustments in that area."

The process to change a street's name begins with an application at city hall, including a \$512 fee. After staff review the request, council can hold a public meeting prior to making a final decision. Unless council decided otherwise, the proponents of the name change would be required to cover all signage costs plus \$200 in compensation paid to each property owner whose address is changing.

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/renaming-dundas-street-to-erase-link-to-racist-1.4978890>

### **London, Ontario – Sept. 2020 – reviewing street name**

Backed by a city councillor, a London girl's efforts to change the name of Plantation Road will be discussed at city hall. Ward 12 Councillor Elizabeth Peloza has sent a letter to the Civic Works Committee calling for a review of city hall's bylaws related to street names. "In support of the municipal council's commitment to eradicate anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and people of colour oppression and to ensure our own actions reflect our words," reads Peloza's letter.

In June, 10-year-old Lyla Wheeler said the street name in her Oakridge neighbourhood needs to change because of its ties to slavery. Her online petition has gathered more than 4,000 signatures.

Peloza's letter requests the review specifically include the concerns expressed in Wheeler's petition, "Recognizing historically, the word 'Plantation' has a strong correlation to slavery, oppression and racism."

In a separate letter supporting Peloza's motion, the African Canadian Federation of London and Area (ACFOLA) backs a, "comprehensive policy which will allow the renaming of streets that bring

back the ugly face of the past which treated Black people inhumanely.” ACFOLA adds it would like the name of Plantation Road changed.

Peloza also seeks to have staff establish a list of potential street names that reflect, “the contribution London’s Historic Black Families, Indigenous communities and people of colour.”

The letter was discussed at the civic works committee on September 22 and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

At the London City Council meeting, Peloza's motion passed by a 14-0 vote, though some councillors expressed concern about how the new process will work.

Coun. Paul Van Meerbergen said any new renaming process must include proper consultation of residents and be clear about any costs that come with changing street names.

Coun. Kayabaga said what's most important is revamping a process that is almost 30 years old and limits input from community groups. She said the current process is "elitist" because in the case of new streets, developers often get first crack at suggesting street names.

Coun. Steve Lehman, whose ward includes Plantation Road, said residents on that street should know there is no immediate plan to change its name. "We need to have a process to help us do the right thing," he said.

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/mobile/bid-to-change-slavery-related-name-of-plantation-road-going-to-council-1.5107311>

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/plantation-road-debate-gets-london-on-road-to-review-of-street-renaming>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/council-roundup-street-renaming-bylaw-revamp-goes-ahead-victoria-park-towers-clear-heritage-hurdle-1.5744052>

### **Mississauga – June 2020 – issued anti-racism statement**

On June 24, 2020, Mississauga City Council took a strong stand against anti-Black racism, systemic racism and discrimination in all forms.

“We are in a pivotal moment right now and it is incumbent on all institutions, including the City of Mississauga, that we take action to address racism and discrimination,” said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. “To be good on the outside, we must be good on the inside. It is important that our institutions are representative of the people they serve and that everyone is treated fairly and with respect, free from bias and discrimination. Today’s motion commits the City as a corporation and a community to confronting racism and discrimination, and in particular anti-Black racism and discrimination, and take meaningful action. Our work to confront these challenges is never done, but I am confident that by working with Council, city staff, and the broader community, we can take significant steps forward.”

The City recognizes that racism and in particular, anti-Black racism and discrimination is a crisis that requires immediate action. The City reaffirmed its strong commitment to addressing systemic racism and discrimination by supporting policies and programs that address the

inequities that racialized groups, Indigenous Peoples, and in particular Black communities continue to experience in Mississauga and committing to the safety and livelihood of its Black residents naming anti-Black racism as a pervasive threat to the safety and enjoyment of life in the city.

The Mayor's Office in consultation with the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee will:

- Convene a series of community-led consultations on systemic racism, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination using an intersectional lens, and identify areas for systemic change in the community;
- Convene a Black Caucus to advise on the equity issues and priorities identified by Black communities in Mississauga, and report back to Council publicly in six months;
- Review the terms of reference for the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to ensure it is fulfilling its mandate and that it focuses in part on anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism; and
- Review the City and Region of Peel's consultation and communications strategy with respect to racism and discrimination and the reform of our institutions; and
- Work with the Region of Peel carry out the Region's anti-racism public education/awareness campaigns at the City level.

The City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer will:

- Name, condemn and stand against anti-Black racism in all its forms;
- Review on an ongoing basis, internal policies and programs to ensure all are free from racial bias and do not negatively impact racialized groups;
- Ensure continued implementation and progress of the recommendations from the City's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, including proceeding with the planned Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Survey when business returns to normal and build public accountability and commitment to bring to life recommendations from the Strategy;
- Engage our Black employees and their allies in a series of conversations on anti-Black racism to understand their experiences in the workplace and build a plan to address systemic inequities; and
- Continue to educate all new and existing employees on the City's Respectful Workplace Policy and Respectful Workplace Statement of Commitment, as well as staff's daily commitment to the compliance with the Respectful Workplace Policy.

"We are listening and learning. There is work to be done and we must do better. We must ensure that our organization's values, programs and policies are free from systemic racism and discrimination of any kind. I want our Black employees to know that I am committed and our Leadership Team is committed to addressing racism in the workplace and that racist and anti-Black sentiments have no place at the City of Mississauga. I want all employees to know and understand they have a shared responsibility in preventing and addressing anti-Black racism and discrimination in all its forms," said Paul Mitcham, City Manager and Chief Administrative

Officer. “We must continue with the implementation of our Workforce and Diversity Inclusion Strategy which will help ensure we are creating an equitable work environment that values and respects individuals for their talents, skills and ability. One that recognizes the uniqueness of all employees and is accessible, equitable and fair for all.”

<https://web.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/mississauga-city-council-stands-against-anti-black-racism-systemic-racism-and-discrimination/>

### **Mississauga – June 2020 – reviewing street name**

In response to a petition to change the name of Winston Churchill Blvd., Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie said that she would be “open to having this conversation” but that it is not an easy process.

“Changing a street name has significant costs and consequences for everyone with an address on the street. Winston Churchill runs close to 20 kilometres north-south. I would encourage people to write to Council so we can have a discussion. This would probably be best dealt with through a review of all street names and municipal institution names in our City,” she said.

<https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/10017802-online-petition-calls-for-renaming-of-winston-churchill-boulevard-in-mississauga/>

### **Orillia, ON – 2018-July 2020 – retained monument with modifications**

- For Working Group Terms of Reference, Final Report and Recommendations, and public consultation, see: <https://www.orillia.ca/en/living-here/champlain-monument-working-group.aspx#>

Parks Canada says a monument to Samuel de Champlain in Orillia is being reinstalled with changes. The original monument in Orillia portrayed the French explorer along with several other figures, including four statues of First Nations people represented in a way some considered racist.

Parks Canada owns the structure and the land it sat on, and took the monument down for refurbishing after a 2015 assessment showed it was deteriorating. In a release, Parks Canada said only the figure of Champlain will be reinstalled immediately. The other bronze statues, including those portraying Indigenous people, will be the subject of further consultation with First Nations and other stakeholders starting later this year, Parks Canada said.

The federal agency said its decision was informed by public consultation and the recommendations of a working group, which had been studying the issues for eight months. In 2018, this working group was formed with representatives from Parks Canada, the City of Orillia, the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, the Huron-Wendat Nation, the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario, and two citizens-at-large from the City of Orillia. The group had the mandate to pursue public consultation and to recommend to Council and Parks Canada an appropriate path forward for the Champlain Monument that is respectful and representative of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives.

Over the course of eight months (from October 2018 to June 2019), the Samuel de Champlain Monument Working Group conducted extensive and inclusive consultations that involved workshops, an online questionnaire, one-on-one meetings with subject experts, and background research. Their report of July 2019 recommended the following:

1. That the Samuel de Champlain Monument be re-installed with only the central figure of Samuel de Champlain atop the plinth and that this installation occur immediately.
2. That the First Nations figures along with the figures of the Fur Trader and Missionary be the subject of further consultation with First Nations. It is the hope of the Samuel de Champlain Monument Working Group that future work, with the aim of re-imagining their presence in the immediate vicinity of the original Monument, will result in a meaningful and concrete example of Reconciliation.
3. That the text of the original Monument's "in-set plaque" be updated so that it will honour the original intent within the context of contemporary knowledge and wisdom.
4. That additional interpretive signage/pieces be developed and created with the participation of First Nations representatives to tell a historically accurate story of Samuel de Champlain and his relationship with First Nations.

As of July 23, 2020, Parks Canada deferred the return of the statue 'to allow for additional progress on the implementation of the Samuel de Champlain Monument Working Group recommendations'. The reinstallation plan is being deferred following more consultation and decision making regarding the future interpretation and representation of the First Nations story, with the goal of honouring the past within the context of contemporary knowledge and wisdom.

Phase 2 of the consultation process will be reconvened in the coming weeks on a priority basis. Some minor cleaning work will take place on the site in the coming days to remove paint from the stairs.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/champlain-monument-1.5223945>

<https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/breaking-news-return-of-champlain-monument-deferred-2585510>

### **Oshawa, Ontario – June 2018 – renamed street**

- For public report from June 14, 2018, see:  
[http://app.oshawa.ca/agendas/development\\_services/2018/06-18/REPORT\\_DS-18-126.pdf](http://app.oshawa.ca/agendas/development_services/2018/06-18/REPORT_DS-18-126.pdf)

In June 2018, Squaw Valley Court was renamed as Revelstoke Court. The roads in the area had originally been named after ski resorts. Upon receiving complaints, council talked to homeowners on the court and gave them a questionnaire about what they would like to do. To compensate homeowners for the change, the city paid them \$250 each.

Excerpt from Council meeting minutes, June 25, 2018:

### *Proposal to Rename Squaw Valley Court - Recommendation*

- 1. That pursuant to Report DS-18-126 dated June 14, 2018, Squaw Valley Court be renamed to Revelstoke Court and the appropriate by-law be passed and that the ex-gratia payment of \$250 to each household affected by the street name change be charged to the 2018 Planning Services Operating Budget as set out in said Report; and,*
- 2. That pursuant to Report DS-18-126 dated June 14, 2018 the newspaper advertisement requirements of Notice By-law 147-2007 be waived given the consultation process that has occurred concerning the proposal to rename Squaw Valley Court to Revelstoke Court and given the localized nature of the matter.*

<https://www.durhamradionews.com/archives/112302>

### **Ottawa, Ontario – July 2020-Jan. 2021 – renamed street**

The name of Hector-Louis Langevin could be removed from a street in Ottawa's Rideau-Rockcliffe neighbourhood in the new year. Councillor Rawlson King gave notice of motion on December 9 asking Council to rename Langevin Avenue to Commanda Way.

In July, King asked residents for feedback on renaming the street named after one of the fathers of Confederation. Langevin is considered a key architect of the residential school system. Commanda Way would be named after Algonquin elder William Commanda. Commanda, who died in 2011 at the age of 97, served as chief of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, near Maniwaki, Que., for almost two decades. He spent years advocating for the rights of Indigenous people in Canada and for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

King said the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition community forum made three suggestions for a new name for the street: Commanda Way, Wabano Way and Anishinaabe Mikan. He said consultation on the name Commanda Way was done with the residents of the street and Ottawa's Indigenous community.

King's motion says his office would cover all costs related to the renaming, including any costs for new street signs.

On January 27, City Council passed the motion change the name of Langevin Avenue to Commanda Way.

At the start of the Council meeting, Mayor Jim Watson used his state of the city address to announced that he also wants to rename the Prince of Wales Bridge over the Ottawa River the Chief William Commanda Bridge.

In 2021, the city plans to transform the 141-year-old decommissioned rail bridge west of LeBreton Flats into an active transportation corridor with space for pedestrians, cyclists and cross-country skiers to traverse the Ottawa River.

"This bridge crossing the Ottawa River, which has been deemed sacred by the Algonquin people for thousands of years, should bear an Indigenous name," said Watson.

When the bridge was completed in 1880, it was used to transport natural resources from Algonquin lands to the north, Watson said. "That reality is part of Canada's dark colonial past, one

that we must recognize if we want to engage in meaningful reconciliation with our Indigenous partners." Watson has already sought support from partners in the Algonquin community.

Watson's proposal now falls under the city's commemorative naming process, which includes a 60-day public consultation period, and gives city council final authority to approve the proposed new name. Watson said Wednesday, he hopes to reopen the bridge as the Chief William Commanda Bridge later this year or early next year.

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/councillor-proposes-new-name-for-langevin-avenue-in-ottawa-s-lindenlea-neighbourhood-1.5224835>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/rename-langevin-avenue-motion-1.5885779>

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-renames-langevin-avenue-after-algonquin-leader-william-commanda-1.5284528>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/prince-of-wales-bridge-william-commanda-bridge-1.5890658>

### **Ottawa, Ontario – Jan.-Feb. 2021 – retained street name**

Residents of a west-side Ottawa neighbourhood are looking to distance themselves from the controversy of the former president of the United States and have called upon their area councillor to help rename their street.

In the neighbourhood of Central Park, Ottawa, there are many references that point to the Big Apple, including a Trump Avenue, a quiet street of brown brick single-family homes. It's the latter that has residents asking for a change.

This isn't the first time people have wanted to remove Trump's name from Ottawa's road map. Neighbours called for a name change in 2016, as well.

Residents asked Coun. Riley Brockington to help them take action. On January 23, Brockington hand-delivered flyers to each house, asking homeowners whether or not to move forward. The city requires 50 per cent plus one to initiate the change. Brockington says, if the answer is in favour, he will put together a local committee and new names can be submitted for review.

The hope is that it could take as little as six months to finalize the deal and fire the old name.

Also, a fun fact about Trump Avenue: there are 62 homes on the street, which happens to be the number of lawsuits the former president and his allies filed in state and federal courts seeking to overturn the 2020 election results.

On February 17, a vote on whether to change the name of Trump Avenue in Ottawa's Central Park neighbourhood ended in a dead heat.

Of 42 votes received from 62 homes on Trump Avenue, 21 were in favour of changing the name and 21 against, River Ward Coun. Riley Brockington tweeted on February 17.

To start the name-changing process and form a working group, the vote needed 50 per cent plus one. "As 32-plus households did not vote in favour, the matter will not proceed any further," Brockington said.



<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/residents-of-ottawa-s-trump-avenue-call-for-name-change-after-ex-president-s-tumultuous-time-in-office-1.5281669>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/trump-avenue-ottawa-name-change-1.5886702>

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/bid-to-rename-ottawas-trump-avenue-ends-in-a-tie>

### **Peterborough County, Ontario – May 2021 – reviewing bridge names**

- For staff report to Council on June 2, see pages 58-61:  
<https://peterboroughcounty.civicweb.net/filepro/document/276454/County%20Council%20-%2002%20Jun%202021%20-%20Addendum%20Agenda%20-%20For%20Mark%20Up.pdf>

Two bridges in Peterborough County may soon be renamed so they aren't offensive. Coon's Bridge in Apsley may be renamed Raccoon Bridge, and Squaw River Bridge north of Buckhorn may become Miskwaa Ziibi River Bridge.

The recommendation from county staff will be discussed by county council at a virtual meeting on June 2.

The proposal comes after the province renamed seven lakes and watercourses in Ontario that previously had the name "Coon" in them to "Raccoon" — including Coon Lake in North Kawartha Township, renamed Raccoon Lake since March 1.

A notice of the lake's new name from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry states that the move came in response to several complaints from people that the name "Coon" was "highly offensive." The ministry has jurisdiction over all lakes, rivers and streams, states the county staff report, so they can rename at will.

Meanwhile the county has authority to rename its own infrastructure, so staff searched records to see if any name changes might be required. They found Coon's Bridge on McFaddens Road over Eels Creek near Apsley in North Kawartha Township, which staff suggests be renamed Raccoon Bridge.

However, the name is apparently obscure: there's no signage, it's nowhere near Coon's Lake and North Kawartha Mayor Carolyn Amyotte said she never knew it was called Coon's Bridge.

While Amyotte says she has "no issue" with renaming the bridge to something non-offensive, she said she'd like to know whether residents have other name suggestions first. She also said she's heard from upset cottagers and property owners on Coon Lake who say they were never consulted on the lake renaming.

Meanwhile in Trent Lakes, the Squaw River Bridge on Tate's Road, northwest of Flynn's Corners, is also recommended for renaming. That name ought to have been changed years ago, states the report — it was an oversight. The Squaw River was renamed Miskwaa Ziibi River years ago by the provincial government, the report explains. At the time one of two county bridges over the river — the one on County Road 36 — was renamed Miskwaa Ziibi Bridge, but the other bridge on Tate's Road was overlooked.



Meanwhile no complaints from the public about the bridge names are mentioned in the report: the county is simply being “proactive and responsible by ensuring that offensive names are not continued in digital data, maps and signage.”

<https://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/10403796-less-offensive-names-proposed-for-two-bridges-in-peterborough-county/>

### **Prince Edward County, Ontario – July-Nov. 2020 – reviewing monument**

- For public consultation, see [https://haveyoursay.thecounty.ca/sir-john-a-macdonald-truth-and-reconciliation?tool=story\\_telling\\_tool#tool\\_tab](https://haveyoursay.thecounty.ca/sir-john-a-macdonald-truth-and-reconciliation?tool=story_telling_tool#tool_tab)

Prince Edward County officials have opened an online portal for the public to comment on the legacy of Canada’s first prime minister and the future of his statue in downtown Picton. The County is seeking public comments as part of a community review of the fate of the statue which has also been vandalized recently but was restored. A town hall event is planned for the fall and the public will be notified of the meeting date once it is confirmed.

Prince Edward County mayor Steve Ferguson said he understands the longstanding issues need resolution but contended damaging public property is not the path forward to righting wrongs, especially in one of Canada’s oldest municipalities steeped in tradition.

A working group was formed in July under the Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee to conduct public consultation, research and ultimately to make recommendations about the future of the “Holding Court” statue. The recommendations will be forwarded through the heritage committee to council for a decision. The goals of the group are:

- Follow the scope of the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 10 Principles of Truth and Reconciliation
- Conduct research, carry out public consultation and prepare documentation, as necessary, to assist PEHAC in their recommendation to assist Council in their decision on the future of the Holding Court” statue
- Assist staff to prepare a report to PEHAC and ultimately Council by December 1, 2020, or as soon as feasible, outlining a recommendation for the future of the “Holding Court” statue.

Holding Court was a gift to the municipality from the Macdonald Project. The life-sized statue was done by renowned Canadian artist Ruth Abernethy and is a depiction of Macdonald’s first case in the Picton Courthouse in October 1834. It was presented to the municipality during a grand Canada Day celebration in Picton in 2015 to mark the bicentenary of the birth of country’s first prime minister.

On October 20, the ‘Holding Court’ Statue Working Group, declared the bronze portrait of Sir John A Macdonald as a young lawyer should be removed from downtown Picton.

Following nine meetings, the group made the decision through confidential ballots. The five options provided for ranked votes to show a most-to-least preference included remove, modify, relocate, replace, and keep.

The decision moves to the Heritage Advisory Committee the following week for its comments before it is to be sent to council Nov. 17.

The Working Group's criteria for its recommendation, was around the three main principles of Haudenosaunee law: Ka'nikonh'ri:io (commitment, respect and responsibility), Skénnekowa (the ability to resolve issues, love, and gratitude), and Ka'satsténhsera (generosity and collective thinking).

The committee is composed of eight members: two from Black Indigenous People of Colour, Black Lives Matter, All are Welcome; one from The Mohawks of Bay of Quinte; two from the Heritage Advisory Committee; one from the Museum Advisory Committee; one member of Council; David Warrick from Friends of Macdonald. Of the eight eligible voters, seven voted.

The decision to keep, remove or relocate the Sir John A Macdonald 'Holding Court' statue on Main Street Picton may come down to legal opinion when council holds its special meeting Nov. 17. The Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee recommended on Nov. 4 that council "acknowledge" the working group's decision, and seeks further consideration and engagement on the topics of permanent removal, or a more appropriate location, on either public or private property.

PEHAC's motion recommends obtaining legal opinion before any temporary or permanent removal of the statue. A legal opinion from the municipality's counsel is hoped to be delivered in time for council's special meeting. Should removal prove unworkable due to legalities with the public art donation agreement contract signed in 2015 between the Macdonald Project, artist and municipality, PEHAC recommends supporting the Working Group's second highest ranked recommendation, which was to modify the statue in its existing location.

PEHAC also supports the working group's recommendation to develop a public art policy for future installations of art and to support efforts to showcase more Indigenous art and culture, particularly from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, based on the neighbouring Tyendinaga community. The development of a public arts policy is to be finished by the end of next year and it would include reaffirming a commitment to anti-racist attitudes and views and supporting marginalized communities.

In her submission to PEHAC, member Liz Driver also focused on the need for qualitative analysis she felt was missing from the Working Group's decision – including synthesis of public opinion, a record of Chief R. Don Maracle's presentation, engagement with Kingston's "positive and constructive approach" to its connection to Sir John and a deeper look at a submission from the County's museum noting the statue does not fit the site's mission.

PEHAC member Don Payne agreed the Working Group failed to complete an organized assessment of public opinion. "I think that council would have been better served by a more open process that encouraged the involvement of a much broader range of people. I understand that the Kingston process took a year and a half with the benefit of a facilitation by a professional consulting firm. We took about three months with no external help to guide the process."

The committee is advising that a firm decision on a permanent removal or relocation, should happen no later than September of 2022. If the statue can't be removed, PEHAC agreed to support the working group's second option to modify the statue in its current spot in front of the library in Picton.

In a lengthy special meeting on November 17, Prince Edward County council decided to leave the statue in its current Main Street location, voting 12-2 in favour of not moving the Holding Court statue and seeking permission and feedback from the Macdonald Project group, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and artist Ruth Abernethy to add additional interpretation.

Council listened to more than three hours of deputations by the public and while most favoured keeping the sculpture in place, a number of impassioned pleas were made to have the piece removed.

After much discussion, Coun. Ernie Margetson's motion to have the statue removed pending further public consultation was amended by fellow councillor Phil St-Jean to have it remain in front of the library.

Council also directed staff to develop a public art policy reaffirming Prince Edward County's commitment to anti-racist attitudes and to inclusiveness of marginalized peoples in the community. The policy, to be developed in consultation with the Prince Edward County Arts Council, will be presented to council at a committee of the whole meeting no later than September 30, 2021.

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/local-news/portal-welcomes-input-on-fate-of-pictons-sir-john-a-macdonald-statue>

<https://www.kincardineneews.com/news/local-news/working-group-to-hold-court-over-macdonald-statue/wcm/183487da-73e5-4550-b316-83a2a47b2113>

<https://www.countylive.ca/working-group-declares-macdonald-statue-should-be-removed/>

<https://www.countylive.ca/sir-john-holding-court-statue-fate-may-come-down-to-legal-opinion/>

<https://inquinte.ca/story/pehac-supports-recommendation-for-sir-john-a-statue-removal-council-decides>

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/local-news/macdonald-statue-to-remain-on-min-street>

### **Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario – July-Oct. 2020 – renamed building**

- For advisory committee report, see: <https://www.queensu.ca/principal/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.opvc2www/files/files/Building%20Name%20Advisory%20Committee%20Final%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>
- For public consultation, see: <https://law.queensu.ca/about/consultation>

Over the eight weeks, starting August 4, an advisory committee will be deliberating over whether to rename the faculty of law building, currently named after Sir John A. Macdonald.

The committee will be made up of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and will consider views from the community before presenting their recommendations to the dean of law. The dean will then offer his recommendation to the principal of the university, who in turn will offer his recommendation to the university's board of trustees, which will have the ultimate say in the renaming process. The public has the opportunity to submit comments to the university.

On October 19, after significant consideration and months of public consultation, Queen's University says it is renaming its law school building.

While Macdonald is "rightly celebrated" for his role in founding modern Canada, his full historic legacy cannot be ignored, said law school dean Mark Walters. "We now have a richer and better understanding of the hurtful views and policies he and his government advanced in relation to Indigenous peoples and racial minorities," said Walters who, with university principal and vice-chancellor Patrick Deane, recommended the change to the board of trustees, which was approved on October 19.

Public consultations with more than 3,000 people over two months led to a 65-page report that recommended the school's name be changed. Details on how the university will decide on a new name will be released at a later date.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7249344/renaming-sir-john-a-macdonald-queens/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/sir-john-a-macdonald-law-school-queens-university-1.5768385>

[https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-sir-john-a-macdonalds-name-to-be-removed-from-queens-law-school/?cmpid=rss&utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-sir-john-a-macdonalds-name-to-be-removed-from-queens-law-school/?cmpid=rss&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

### **Russell, Ontario – June 2020 – retained name but honoured another person with the same name**

- Fore renaming resolution, see pages 184-185 of June 15, 2020 council meeting agenda: [https://russell.civicweb.net/filepro/document/80065/Regular%20Council%20Meeting%20-%202020\\_06\\_15%20-%20Ordre%20du%20jour%20-%20Pdf.pdf](https://russell.civicweb.net/filepro/document/80065/Regular%20Council%20Meeting%20-%202020_06_15%20-%20Ordre%20du%20jour%20-%20Pdf.pdf)

Russell is named after Peter Russell who, in the late 1700's, was the Receiver General of Upper Canada, now known as Ontario. "It is time to change the name, once you hear it, you cannot un-hear it," says Denis Agar, calling for the name of his hometown to be changed. "Our town's name-sake was not only a slave owner, but an advocate for slavery."

The Mayor of Russell, Pierre Leroux, suggested that the town keep the name but tie it to some other worthy person named Russell. This would include Russell Township, Russell Village and Russell County.

Leroux said he's willing to discuss a name change, keeping in mind the financial impact of such a move. Later he issued a news release announcing that, at the council meeting on June 15, he'll introduce a motion confirming that neither township government nor local residents want to be associated with Peter Russell.

Leroux is proposing to re-dedicate the Russell designation through creation of a community-based committee. They will review submissions as to why various candidates might be worthy of becoming the municipality's new namesake: "The only criteria will be that whoever is being nominated must have the first or last name Russell."

The community will be tasked with choosing who best represents its interests.

"Through cooperation, investigation and dialogue, we will determine which Russell best defines us. If approved by council, this endeavour acknowledges our past, confirms the amazing community we live in today, and becomes an example for our future."

Along with this name change, the Township has announced that they are also creating a Russell Township Community Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee which will help to "better understand and represent residents."

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/petition-calls-on-town-of-russell-to-change-its-name-1.4980625>

<https://nationvalleynews.com/2020/06/12/mayor-wants-change-meaning-russell-name/>

<https://www.narcity.com/news/ca/on/toronto/russell-township-is-rededicating-its-name-due-to-racist-ties>

### **Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario – 2017-Sept. 2020 and Feb. 2021 – retained statue with interpretive plaque, renamed publication**

- For public consultation in 2017, see: <https://www.ryerson.ca/equity/programs-reports/truth-reconciliation-ryerson/>

The Ryerson community installed a plaque by the statue of Egerton Ryerson, contextualizing his role in the creation of Canada's residential school system. The plaque was one of the recommendations generated from Ryerson's community consultation report in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The university pledged to unveil a plaque "outlining [Egerton] Ryerson's participation in the establishment of the residential school system in Canada and the harm that was caused by the system that robbed many Indigenous Peoples of their culture and left them with psychological, emotional and physical damage."

The plaque, which was first unveiled in January 2018, reads:

*"This plaque serves as a reminder of Ryerson University's commitment to moving forward in the spirit of truth and reconciliation. Egerton Ryerson is widely known for his contributions to Ontario's public educational system. As Chief Superintendent of Education, Ryerson's recommendations were instrumental in the design and implementation of the Indian Residential School System. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reported that children in the schools were subjected to unthinkable abuse and neglect, to medical experimentation, punishment for the practice of cultures or languages and death. The aim of the Residential School System was cultural genocide."*

It concludes with two quotes, one by Chief Sitting Bull ("Let us put our minds together to see what kind of lives we can create for our children"), the other from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ("For the child taken, for the parent left behind").

On July 24, 2020, Ryerson released an Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review. A new presidential committee was also announced to implement the recommendations from the report to confront anti-Black racism.

On Sept. 2, Ryerson President, Mohamed Lachemi, announced that a Presidential Task Force is being appointed to:

- Conduct broad, open, and transparent consultations to gather feedback from students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners, and others about what the university can do to reconcile the history of Egerton Ryerson;
- Examine and more fully understand Egerton Ryerson's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, education, residential schools and how that aligns with Ryerson University's values and mission;
- Examine how other universities have dealt with the challenges of monuments and statues;
- Develop principles to guide the recommended actions that Ryerson could take to respond to Egerton Ryerson's legacy and the findings of the consultations; and
- Submit a final report with recommended actions regarding the statue and other elements of Egerton Ryerson's history.

On February 24, the magazine long known as the Ryerson Review of Journalism announced it is temporarily removing "Ryerson" from its name. The biannual magazine published by the Ryerson School of Journalism will place brackets in front of its name, going by the 1/8 3/8 Review of Journalism, the Review, or the 1/8 3/8 RJ until the end of the winter semester.

The move comes after the school of journalism announced in December it would review the names of its two student publications -- the Review and the Ryersonian -- given their namesake's legacy.

The 15 final-year undergraduate and graduate students currently running the Review say that while they don't have the power to permanently change the magazine's name, they want this year's publication to reflect the processes that are currently underway.

<https://www.ryerson.ca/news-events/news/2018/07/plaque-unveiling-a-step-towards-truth-and-reconciliation/>

<https://www.ryerson.ca/news-events/news/2020/07/ryerson-releases-anti-black-racism-campus-climate-review/>

<https://www.ryerson.ca/news-events/news/2020/09/ryerson-to-appoint-task-force-to-examine-egerton-ryersons-history/>

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ryerson-review-of-journalism-temporarily-cuts-ryerson-from-its-name-1.5322963>

### **Toronto, Ontario – March 2020 – renamed part of street**

- See report dated Feb. 25, 2020:  
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-146566.pdf>

Renaming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent

Community Council Decision - The Toronto and East York Community Council, March 12, 2020:

*1. Approved the name "Ursula Franklin Street" for the renaming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent.*



2. Requested the Manager, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, in consultation with the Director, Engineering and Construction Services, to work with the University of Toronto to identify additional placemaking opportunities within and beyond the university campus grounds to promote Black history and notable Black persons of Canadian significance for honourific and permanent naming.

#### Origin

(February 25, 2020) Presentation from the Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

#### Summary

*This report recommends approval of the re-naming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent, as "Ursula Franklin Street"*

*Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.*

#### Background Information

(February 25, 2020) Report and Attachment 1 from the Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services - Renaming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-146566.pdf>

#### Communications

(March 4, 2020) Letter from Meric S. Gertler (TE.Supp.TE14.3.1)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/comm/communicationfile-101368.pdf>

(March 4, 2020) E-mail from Nathalie Des Rosiers (TE.Supp.TE14.3.2)

(March 6, 2020) Letter from D. Alissa Trotz (TE.Supp.TE14.3.3)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/comm/communicationfile-101408.pdf>

(March 10, 2020) E-mail from Ceta Ramkhalawansingh (TE.Supp.TE14.3.4)

(March 10, 2020) E-mail from Christopher R. W. Wilson (TE.Supp.TE14.3.5)

(March 10, 2020) Letter from Nathalie Des Rosiers (TE.Supp.TE14.3.6)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/comm/communicationfile-101516.pdf>

(March 11, 2020) Letter from The University of Toronto Union Students' Union Executive (TE.Supp.TE14.3.7)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/comm/communicationfile-101593.pdf>

(March 11, 2020) Letter from Peter Martin (TE.Supp.TE14.3.8)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/te/comm/communicationfile-101605.pdf>

#### Motions

1 - Motion to Amend Item moved by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam (Carried)

*That: 1. Toronto East York Community Council request the Manager, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, in consultation with the Director, Engineering and Construction Services, to work with the University of Toronto to identify additional placemaking opportunities within and beyond*

*the university campus grounds to promote Black history and notable Black persons of Canadian significance for honourific and permanent naming.*

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.TE14.3>

### **Toronto District School Board, Toronto, Ontario – Apr. 2021 – reviewing school names**

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) says it will conduct a city-wide review of school names this summer to “better reflect the diversity of the city.” The board will form a group made up of students, parents/guardians, educators, community members, and experts in anti-racism work, to conduct the sweeping review.

“This plan aims to improve the naming and renaming process for schools to ensure that school names better represent the diverse people, cultures and history of Toronto, including, but not limited to, Indigenous and Black leaders and the contemporary values of the city,” the TDSB said.

The review is expected to be completed by the end of June 2021.

“It’s important that our schools and programs, including the names of schools, reflect the diverse people and communities that we celebrate at the TDSB. I fully support this plan and look forward to reviewing the proposal,” TDSB Chair, Alexander Brown said.

Calls have been growing for school’s boards, and municipalities, to change names of schools, buildings and streets that honour people with a history tied to colonialism and slavery. A Change.org petition calls for the TDSB to rename Jarvis Collegiate.

The resolution states: *That a special purpose reference group comprised of students, parents, TDSB educators, community members, appropriate qualified experts and individuals involved in anti-racism work, be established:*

- i. to inform the consultation process;*
- ii. to propose amendments to policy and procedure, Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas, so that school naming or renaming can be made from time-to-time to reflect the diversity of the City;*
- iii. to provide a proposal for a city-wide review of all school names so that TDSB schools reflect the diversity of Toronto’s success;*

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2021/04/28/tdsb-to-conduct-city-wide-review-of-school-names-to-better-reflect-diversity/>

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Renaming%20Schools%20Celebrating%20the%20Diversity%20of%20Toronto.pdf>

### **Vaughan, Ontario – June 2020 – retained name**

Vaughan, Ontario was named after Benjamin Vaughan, a pro-slavery politician. Vaughan Mayor, Maurizio Bevilacqua, said he’s not looking at changing the name of the municipality, although the August civic holiday that was locally called Benjamin Vaughan Day was renamed



John Graves Simcoe Day on June 16, 2020. The mayor said residents have a strong connection to the City of Vaughan and that they're proud of it, but he changed the name of the August civic holiday because Benjamin Vaughan doesn't reflect the values of the city.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7072598/renaming-ontario-municipalities-racist-history/>

### **York Region District School Board, Vaughan, Ontario – Sept. 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed school**

- For YRDSB Renaming Report, see: <https://yrdsb.civicweb.net/FileStorage/02DC66D697654611AA245988580C6A4C-Board%20Report%20Renaming%20of%20Vaughn%20Secondary%20School%20F.pdf>
- For public consultation, see: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-renaming-process>

The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) has unanimously voted to rename a Vaughan high school that bears the name of the city's founder due to his racist past. In a statement released on September 16, the school board said that it will move to change the name of Vaughan Secondary School, located on Clark Avenue in Thornhill.

A report by staff at the school board notes that Vaughan Secondary School, which opened in 1989 and now serves a diverse community of around 1,150 students, is named after the City of Vaughan rather than its founder. Nonetheless, the report states that renaming the school would be a way for the board to "demonstrate its commitment to racial justice in general and to eliminating anti-Black racism in particular."

Benjamin Vaughan was a Jamaican-born British parliamentarian who owned slaves and vehemently argued against ending slavery. According to the report, Vaughan also argued that enslavement was "good for Africans."

The report estimates the costs associated with changing the school's name at about \$90,000. The process for selecting a new name would be made by trustees in conjunction with students and families from the impacted schools, as well as the equity and inclusivity advisory committee and community partners.

In January, after a months-long consultation process with York Region community members to rename a Vaughan high school, a bitter dispute has led to accusations of anti-Semitism and resulting allegations of racism.

On January 19, the results of a community survey found a plurality of residents want the school to be named after a Somali-Canadian woman, the late journalist Hodan Nalayeh.

Now, David Sherman, a Board of Trustees member within the York Region District School Board, is alleging "certain groups" in the community have collected name submissions from outside the country to improperly bolster support for naming the school after Nalayeh. Sherman claims that has led submissions to be overwhelmingly in favour of Nalayeh, contrary to what the "local community" wants.

Black community advocacy groups say Sherman's comments are racist, and say Nalayeh's name was legitimately the first choice of the highest number of those surveyed by the school board, in a fair process.

As well, two other trustees, including the board chair, said Sherman's views do not reflect their views or those of the board and they see no issues with the survey.

While Sherman said he supports "the advocacy of grassroots groups to combat anti-Black racism," he said the board needs to listen to "parents and current students" about name preferences. Further, he alleges the Vaughan African Canadian Association "objected to the inclusion of Holocaust survivors for mere consideration." Several members of community advocacy groups in York Region who are Black and picked Nalayah's name for the school said they never objected to Holocaust survivors being on the shortlist.

Nalayah was killed in a July 2019 attack on a hotel in Somalia. She was known for writing about Canada's Somali diaspora, focusing on youth and women. At the time of her death, members of the Somali-Canadian community in Vaughan called her an "icon" for sharing positive stories about the diaspora.

In November, the York Region District School Board sent a survey to students and families, alumni, staff, board advisory committee members, community groups and associations along with the "broader Vaughan community" to ask who they'd like the school to be named after. Respondents could enter three choices. On the YRDSB website, the process is outlined: the survey was not a vote but would determine the most popular names to create a shortlist.

That shortlist will then be submitted for consideration, and community members will be invited back in February to discuss their views. The Board of Trustees will have the final vote.

On January 19, at a Property Management Committee virtual meeting, the survey results were presented. Out of 992 accepted submissions, about 42 per cent picked Nalayah as first choice. Another 17 per cent picked Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, author and activist, and 2.5 per cent picked Andrew Wiggins, an NBA player from Vaughan, as their first choices. The other submissions were split among about 40 others including Alex Trebek and Drake.

The survey results said 205 of those who submitted choices were students, 191 were parents, and 687 were either from Thornhill, Vaughan or residents elsewhere in York. Participants could choose more than one category to identify their affiliation with the school.

On March 2, trustees at the York Region District School Board voted 10-2 to rename a secondary school in Vaughan, Ont. after a late Somali-Canadian journalist known as a positive voice for her people. Formerly known as Vaughan Secondary School, it will now bear the name of Hodan Nalayah, trustees decided at a board meeting.

<https://www.cp24.com/news/yrdsb-votes-to-rename-vaughan-secondary-school-citing-namesake-s-racist-past-1.5108007>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/09/16/slave-owners-name-gets-dropped-from-vaughan-secondary-school.html#:~:text=This%20week%20York%20Region%20District,the%2018th%2Dcentury%20slave%20owner.>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2021/01/22/bitter-dispute-over-renaming-a-vaughan-school-after-somali-woman-leads-to-accusations-of-anti-semitism-racism.html>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/york-region-district-school-board-secondary-school-vaughan-hodan-nalayah-1.5934420>

### **Wilmot Township, Ontario – July 2020-May 2021 – removed statue**

- For Notice of Motion, see pages 6-8: <https://calendar.wilmot.ca/council/Detail/2020-07-27-1900-Township-of-Wilmot-Special-Council-Meeting/7eedd2bb-8e3a-45f8-9b66-ac01010f74bb>
- For public engagement, see: <https://www.wilmot.ca/en/living-here/prime-ministers-path-public-engagement.aspx#>

Wilmot councillors voted in favour of moving a statue of Sir John A Macdonald from its current location in front of Wilmot's township offices in Baden to a new location.

Councillors also voted Monday night to put the Prime Ministers Path project on hold until more public consultation can be done. The project aims to put statues of all Canada's prime ministers in a park beside the township offices.

Now, township staff have been tasked with working with the local Indigenous community to find a new location for the Macdonald statue.

Over the course of three hours, council heard from a number of people during the meeting on July 28 from both sides of the issue: those who supported the project and leaving the statue where it is and those who said the project needed to be ended and the Macdonald statue removed. Councillors also received letters or emails from more than 30 people.

Council voted unanimously in 2016 to place the privately-funded art project at Castle Kilbride in Baden, after it was rejected by the City of Kitchener and by officials at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Excerpt from the Council Motion:

*An Indigenous consultant, who will be provided an honorarium for contributing their expertise to this report, will be contracted and two members of Wilmot Council will be part of the Indigenous consultant appointment process.*

*AND, Wilmot Township staff will meet as required with the consultant and Indigenous groups of the community and other identified marginalized group and a member of the Prime Ministers Path Project Committee in a transparent consultation process that is implemented with accountability and where all members have equal rights, privileges, and obligations to have a beneficial dialogue to discuss concerns, generational suffering and factual historical omissions.*

*AND, to efficiently aid the process and to prevent further trauma to the Indigenous community who previously provided input on these statues, the comments and reports from the University of Wilfrid Laurier and the City of Kitchener will be entered as relevant material for inclusion in the final report along with transcripts of Indigenous delegates' presentations to council during the July 13, 2020 Township of Wilmot Council Meeting and all presentations from Createscape Waterloo Region.*

Following another session of Wilmot council in late August 2020, the fate of Baden's controversial Sir John A. Macdonald statue is clear. Temporarily, the statue, which has divided the community over the past two months on its presence, will be moved to a rental facility

funded by township taxpayers. SJAM will be stored with the "Unfortunate Four" statue, which was originally supposed to be added to the Prime Ministers Path behind Castle Kilbride. The cost of storing the statues will range from \$11,750 to \$12,750.

Meanwhile, a report that highlighted three different options for the statue wasn't accepted by council and was the cause of confusion among the public. Instead, the following amended motion/reported passed: "That council not accept report ILS-2020-16, that staff be directed to immediately relocate the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald to a rental storage facility."

The statue was removed and taken to storage on September 3. Township council are expecting a report next March on the future of the statue and the path project.

Starting in April, First Peoples Group has been retained to design and lead the engagement strategy and have been working with a staff working group to prepare for this process to begin in April/May, 2021. The engagement strategy will include a broad online outreach, an educational component, and opportunities for focused conversations with Wilmot residents. These sessions will be designed with COVID restrictions in mind.

The staff working group for this project consists of Councillors Barry Fisher and Jenn Pfenning, CAO, the Director of Information and Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk, the Director of Corporate Services, the Curator/Director of Castle Kilbride, the Assistant Curator, the Communications Specialist, and the Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk. This is a staff working group who works with the First Peoples Group. The project lead from First Peoples Group is Melissa Hammel, Vice President. First Peoples Group designed and will lead the engagement while the staff working group provides them with the local resources to carry out the engagement and advises on the local community partners or members who have indicated their desire to be involved.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/john-a-macdonald-statue-wilmot-to-be-moved-1.5665548>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/wilmot-prime-minister-statue-indigenous-racism-1.5663937>

<https://www.newhamburgindependent.ca/news-story/10145600-baden-s-sir-john-a-macdonald-statue-to-be-moved-to-rental-storage-out-of-the-public-eye/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/sir-john-a-macdonald-statue-baden-moved-storage-1.5711080>

### **University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario – Oct. 2020 – reviewing name**

The University of Windsor wants public input into the possible renaming of a residence building named in honour of Sir John A. Macdonald. The residence building at the University of Windsor, commonly called Mac Hall, is now under review by a newly formed committee. It was formed after a petition began circulating demanding the name change.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/university-of-windsor-possible-renaming-john-a-macdonald-building-1.5747575>

### 3 Other Provinces

#### Alberta

##### **Calgary, Alberta – July 2020 – renamed park**

- For Notice of Motion from July 14, 2020, see pages 261-262: <https://pub-calgary.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=134873>
- For anti-racism statement from June 15, 2020, see: <https://pub-calgary.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=134732>

The city could rename the downtown James Short Park over its namesake's history of anti-Chinese racism. Coun. Druh Farrell has proposed a motion to ask city staff to discuss the history of a man whose name is on a city park, parkade and public school in Calgary. If council agrees, the city would work with the Chinatown community to report back with possible new names for the park and parkade, as well as future programming or installations to explain relevant history.

Council's priorities and finance committee looked at Farrell's motion on July 14 and decided to forward it to council for debate on July 20. Council also unanimously passed a motion in June that called for consultation among other steps to support anti-racism work.

On July 21, Calgary city council voted in favour of opening the door to renaming the downtown James Short Park. Now that the motion has passed, the city will work with the Chinatown community to report back with possible new names for the park and parade, as well as future programming or installations to explain relevant history.

Following the decision, council agreed to update their municipal naming policy to ensure names "are not linked with discrimination, oppression and systemic racism".

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/james-short-park-could-be-renamed-due-to-history-of-anti-chinese-racism>

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/we-cannot-fail-them-council-vows-to-take-action-on-systemic-racism-as-public-hearing-ends>

<https://calgarysun.com/news/local-news/council-votes-to-open-the-door-to-renaming-james-short-park-due-to-history-of-anti-chinese-racism/wcm/1002ca52-e46b-4e22-80fa-d58063081dd8>

##### **Calgary, Alberta – Jan. 2017 – renamed bridge**

In 2017, Calgary city council voted to change the name of the Langevin Bridge to Reconciliation Bridge. Hector-Louis Langevin was an architect of Canada's residential school system.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/langevin-bridge-reconciliation-bridge-calgary-1.3949341>

### **Calgary Board of Education, Calgary, Alberta – Feb. 2021 – retained school name**

The call to rename Calgary's Langevin School, named after one of the men behind Canada's residential school system, is growing louder — bolstered by current and former students who say the name is offensive to Indigenous peoples and reinforces racism. It's been an issue as far back as 2015.

Joy McCullagh, who is in Grade 8 at the school, said she did some research and ended up writing a letter to the trustees at the Calgary Board of Education. In part, it read: "We now know residential schools didn't treat Indigenous people right. It was very traumatizing for them. We know this because residential school survivors have told stories about what life was like. They had to practise the Europeans' religion and speak English and they were forbidden to speak their own language." McCullagh said her letter went unanswered.

A student action group presented to the Langevin school council and they've agreed to keep it in their agenda.

Marilynn Dennis, board chair for the CBE, said there is no existing process to change a school name. "There is a focus now on one school, but this is much bigger than that. This is about how we name schools in the first place and what factors we consider when we are looking at the possibility of renaming a school," she said. "We do have in policy renaming, yet we don't actually have a process for renaming schools."

While Dennis acknowledged the lack of process as "problematic," she said there isn't any work being done to develop such a process. "It's going to take longer than this board of trustees has time to do because renaming a school is not going to be quick work," she said. "I would say we're not going to see any schools renamed during the remaining term of this board of trustees."

The board chair said the CBE will not give a school an interim name until there is a process in place. And, when asked if the CBE would acknowledge the name of the school was problematic, she said the board did not have a stance on the matter. "To honour the traditions of schools, we need to be able to hear all voices in something as important as renaming," she said. "[Some] feel that there is an educational opportunity that is lost by changing the name of the school because the name of a school can be used as an educational tool."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/students-advocates-seek-name-change-for-langevin-school-1.5918731>

## **British Columbia**

### **New Westminster, BC – Sept.-Oct. 2019 – removed statue, renamed street and square**

In May 2019, the City of New Westminster voted 4-2 to remove a statue of B.C.'s first chief justice, Matthew Begbie, from outside the provincial courthouse.

Council made the decision following a debate centring around the proper way to give context to Begbie's role overseeing a 1864 trial that resulted in the hanging of five Tsilhqot'in chiefs, and a sixth chief a year later.



As a result, the city will "engage in a conversation with the Tsilhqot'in Nation about the history and legacy of Judge Begbie," and work with the Tsilhqot'in and New Westminster community to "find an appropriate place for the statue."

Begbie served as the chief justice of British Columbia for close to four decades — first during the gold rush, when British Columbia was a colony of the British Empire, and then after the province joined confederation. While he was given the nickname "The Hanging Judge" after his death, 22 of the 27 people he put to death were Indigenous. During a period when Tsilhqot'in chiefs were at war with the Colony of British Columbia, five chiefs were deceived into meeting with government officials for the purpose of peace talks. They were instead arrested, tried and hanged. In 2014 the province apologized to the Tsilhqot'in Nation for hanging the chiefs and exonerated them. In 2018 the government of Canada also exonerated them, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went to B.C.'s Central Interior and apologized to the First Nation in a special ceremony.

Two months after the city removed the Begbie statue from in front of the New Westminster court house, city council considered the motion to rename Begbie Square and Begbie Street to Chief Ahan Square and Chief Ahan Street. A motion by Coun. Chuck Puchmayr states Begbie Square and Begbie Street are located in the vicinity of the site where Tsilhqot'in Chief Ahan was wrongfully executed in 1865.

The motion notes that the federal and provincial governments have both exonerated Chief Ahan and the five Tsilhqot'in war chiefs who were wrongfully executed in Quesnel "under the hand" of Begbie. It also says the city removed the Begbie statue as a result of a request from the Tsilhqot'in national government.

A second motion considered at the meeting called on Metro Vancouver to consider a new name for Sapperton Landing Park that better reflects the site's First Nations history. Puchmayr is proposing the City of New Westminster ask Metro Vancouver to rename Sapperton Landing Park as Qayqayt Landing Park. The motion also asks Metro Vancouver to evaluate further opportunities to view its park names through an Indigenous lens.

According to the motion, the Qayqayt First Nation, also known as the New Westminster Indian Band, was unceremoniously removed from its village in the vicinity of Sapperton Landing Park and moved across the Fraser River to Brownsville. The motion says this unlawful intrusion caused irreparable harm and devastation of the Qayqayt people, and the loss of their village caused a loss of identity and dignity and displaced generations of New Westminster's original inhabitants.

Council meeting minutes, Sept. 9: pages 7-8, items 38 and 39

38. Motion: Renaming Sapperton Landing Park, Councillor Puchmayr

*Whereas the Qayqayt First Nation, also known as New Westminster Indian Band was unceremoniously removed from their village in the vicinity of Sapperton Landing Park and moved across the Fraser River to Brownsville,*

*And whereas, this unlawful intrusion caused irreparable harm and devastation of the Qayqayt people.*



*And whereas, the loss of their village caused a loss of identity and dignity while displacing generations of New Westminster's original inhabitants.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the City of New Westminster Council asks the Park administrator, Metro Vancouver, to rename Sapperton landing Park to QayQayt Landing Park.*

*Be it further resolved that the City of New Westminster asks Metro Vancouver to evaluate further opportunities to view Metro Vancouver parks namings through an indigenous lens.*

39. Motion: Renaming Begbie Square and Begbie Street, Councillor Puchmayr

*Whereas the city of New Westminster has now removed the statue of judge Begbie from the current Begbie square and have done so as a result of a request from the Tshilqot'in national government.*

*And whereas one of the drivers of this action was to remove the judge Begbie statue from the courtyard called Begbie square which is a part of the entrance of the provincial Supreme courthouse where the provinces first Indigenous court presides.*

*And Whereas Begbie Square and Begbie Street are located in the vicinity of the site where in 1865 Tsilhqot'in Chief Ahan was wrongfully executed.*

*And whereas; the government of Canada and the government of British Columbia have both exonerated Chief Ahan as well as the five Tsilhqot'in war Chiefs, Lhats'asin, Biyil, Tilaghd, Taqued and Chayses, which were wrongfully executed in Qunellmouth (present Quesnell) under the hand of Judge Begbie.*

*Therefore, be it resolved that New Westminster Council proceeds with changing the Name of Begbie Square and Begbie Street by renaming them Chief Ahan Square and Chief Ahan Street.*

Council meeting minutes, Oct. 28, 2019: pages 6-7, item 36

36. Motion: Renaming Begbie Square and Begbie Street, Councillor Puchmayr

*a. Tsilhqot'in National Government letter dated October 3, 2019 regarding Renaming of Begbie Square and Begbie Street to Chief Ahan Square and Chief Ahan Street*

*b. Portrayal of Hanging of Chilcotin Chiefs (On-Table)*

*Whereas the City of New Westminster has now removed the statue of Judge Begbie from the current Begbie square and have done so as a result of a request from the Tsilhqot'in national government because of Judge Begbie's role in the wrongful execution of Chiefs Lhats'aŝ'in, Biyil, Telad, Taqued and Chayses, in Qunellemouth in 1864 and Chief ?Ahan in New Westminster in 1865;*

*And whereas; the government of Canada and the government of British Columbia have both exonerated Chief ?Ahan as well as the five Tsilhqot'in war Chiefs, Lhats'aŝ'in, Biyil, Telad, Taqued and Chayses, who were wrongfully executed;*

*And whereas one of the drivers of this action was to remove the Judge Begbie statue from the courtyard called Begbie square which is a part of the entrance of the provincial Supreme courthouse where the provinces first Indigenous court presides;*

*Therefore, be it resolved that New Westminster Council proceeds with removing the name of Begbie Square and begin a process to identify an appropriate new name for this important civic space;*

*Be it further resolved that through the City's examination of our street naming policy that we review the name of Begbie Street; and*

*Be it further resolved that through our reconciliation process the City find a way to acknowledge, recognize and tell the history of the wrongful conviction and execution of the six T̓silhqot'in chiefs in Qunellemouth and New Westminster.*

On October 21, 2019, council unanimously approved the motion to remove the name of Begbie Square and begin a process to identify an appropriate new name for the civic space that's located in front of the law courts on Carnarvon Street. The motion also asks that the city review the name of Begbie Street.

In a letter to city council, Tribal Chair Joe Alphonse said the T̓silhqot'in National Government fully supports a proposal to rename Begbie Street and Begbie Square.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/begbie-council-decision-1.5125568>

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/vancouver-news/begbie-street-square-renamed-chief-ahan-new-westminster-bc-1945594>

[https://newwestcity.ca.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=newwestcity\\_7eeb5a5347774a0fbbc1606148da0796.pdf&view=1](https://newwestcity.ca.granicus.com/DocumentViewer.php?file=newwestcity_7eeb5a5347774a0fbbc1606148da0796.pdf&view=1)

[https://www.newwestcity.ca/council\\_minutes/1028\\_19/Public\\_Meeting\\_CityCouncil-RegularfollowingPH\\_REGPH-7.2019.pdf](https://www.newwestcity.ca/council_minutes/1028_19/Public_Meeting_CityCouncil-RegularfollowingPH_REGPH-7.2019.pdf)

<https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/update-new-westminster-to-consider-renaming-of-begbie-square-and-begbie-street-3109761>

### **New Westminster School District, New Westminster, BC – June 2020-May 2021 – renamed school**

New Westminster residents will have a chance to share their ideas about the renaming of Richard McBride Elementary School in the new year. A district renaming committee – which includes staff, union reps, students, community members, the district aboriginal coordinator and others – met for the first time on Nov. 5 to lay the groundwork for a community consultation process.

McBride's parent advisory council brought the idea of the renaming to the school district in June, expressing their concerns over having a school named after someone with McBride's past. McBride was the 16th premier of British Columbia, from 1903 to 1915. He held publicly expressed views against Asian and Indigenous people and against women's suffrage, and throughout his time in office he oversaw legislation reflecting those views.

Associate superintendent Maryam Naser, who is part of the renaming committee, said committee members want to make sure they consult with the entire New Westminster community, not just Sapperton residents, about the name change.

Naser noted the committee has also expressed a desire to hear from communities that may have been harmed by McBride, and it has already reached out to Chief Rhonda Larrabee of the Qayqayt First Nation for input.

The committee has also set out a timeline for community consultation that would open up a name submission window in January and February 2021. The committee will review name submissions and do further consultation, as needed, in March and April, with a goal of bringing a final report – including a shortlist of potential names – to the school board’s operations committee meeting on May 11, 2021. A final decision on the new school name will be made by the school board in a closed meeting and announced at a public meeting.

Trustee Maya Russell suggested the committee should consider broadening its outreach to other Halkomelem-speaking Indigenous nations, along with the Qayqayt.

#### TIMELINE: THE RENAMING PROCESS

- Dec. 10: Renaming committee meets to finalize background information about the school renaming, a process for name submission (including guiding questions) and engagement tools (such as newspaper advertising, school newsletters and the school district website).
- Jan. 6 to Feb. 18, 2021: Window is open for name submissions and community consultation. Committee engages with students at McBride, Glenbrook Middle and New Westminster Secondary schools. Committee meets again to review the engagement process and adjust as needed.
- March 2021: Committee meets to review name submissions, consults with stakeholders as necessary and creates a draft report, including a shortlist of names.
- April 2021: Committee meets to review its draft report and shortlist and to prepare a presentation for the school board.
- May 11, 2021: Committee presents final report to the school board at its operations committee meeting.

As of May 25, the New Westminster school board voted to approve the new name for Richard McBride Elementary School, effective Sept. 1.

“Skwo:wech,” the Halq’eméylem word for “sturgeon,” was the final choice of the committee tasked with renaming the school, in preparation for the opening of a replacement for the existing 1929 school building.

A total of 276 name suggestions were submitted through the community engagement process, and associate superintendent Maryam Naser noted that four main themes emerged through suggestions from the community: a sense of community or neighbourhood; values (such as peace, respect, welcoming, kindness); distinguishing characteristics of the area (such as river, viewpoint, salmon, hilltop); and Indigenous names, representing values and history.

In the end, the committee arrived at four shortlisted names based on its consultation with Qayqayt First Nation Chief Rhonda Larrabee and other Indigenous knowledge-keepers. The other three were Q’ép, a Halq’eméylem word that means “gather together”; Skaiametl, the Halq’eméylem name used to describe the settlement now known as New Westminster; and Kwiyeqel, meaning “to climb a hill.” Once the shortlist was set, Skwo:wech was the unanimous choice of all the members of the committee.

The committee cited a number of reasons for choosing Skwo:wech, including its ties to the Fraser River, which has always been central to New Westminster's history, and the historical importance of the primary food source for Indigenous communities on the river. The long-lived sturgeon also figures largely in the myths and stories of Coast Salish Peoples.

<https://www.newwestrecord.ca/news/got-an-idea-for-the-richard-mcbride-school-renaming-you-ll-have-a-chance-to-share-it-soon-1.24246073>

<https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/goodbye-richard-mcbride-hello-skowech-elementary-school-3810318>

### **North Cowichan, BC – Oct. 2020 – reviewing street name**

North Cowichan thinks Indian Road, located close to Quamichan Lake, should be renamed. In a letter to council asking that speed bumps be placed on the road, a resident added that "this is a highly inappropriate name for a street if we seek to travel the path towards reconciliation."

While discussing traffic calming measures on Indian Road (Quamichan area) at its meeting on Oct. 7, council acknowledged that the road should be renamed and directed staff to refer potentially renaming the road to the First Nations Relations Advisory Committee for further consideration, consultation, and action.

<https://www.cowichanvalleycitizen.com/news/north-cowichan-looks-to-rename-indian-road/>

### **Powell River, BC – May 2021 – reviewing city name**

At the May 12 community-to-community-to-community meeting, elected officials and staff from Tla'amin Nation, City of Powell River and qathet Regional District had as an agenda item the renaming of Powell River to tiskwat (Teeskwat).

Powell River mayor Dave Formosa said he has given the matter a lot of thought and his suggestion would be, in conjunction with civic elections in a year and a half, that the item should be put on the docket for the public of Powell River to vote on.

City councillor Cindy Elliott said she is in favour of referendums. She added that referendums conducted in populations that haven't had sufficient education and background sometimes are not that successful.

"If a referendum is held during the next election, we need some sort of education campaign to start fairly soon so the population is extremely educated about the issue prior to the vote," said Elliott. "That benefits the entire community as far as understanding the history and what the benefit of a name like this could do for our relationship with the Tla'amin people."

Tla'amin executive councillor Dillon Johnson said education is something Tla'amin could help with. "I imagine this might be tough to justify from the city's point of view," said Johnson.

"Resources are always really tight. It is all about how it's framed – what the question is and what information has been shared." Johnson said it's another piece in reconciliation.

City councillor George Doubt said he thinks care is required if the process is undertaken. He said if the approach is a method that “we are the group of people who would like to change the name of the City of Powell River to something we think is better, do you agree or not, it will automatically divide people into people who think yes and people who think no.

“I would rather see open engagement with the public on questions like: is it time to change the name of the place where we live to something more respectful and more descriptive of who we are?” said Doubt. “If we approach that from a consultation and educational point of view and try to get people to buy into a better name to call this place in the future, there is way more chance of getting to a successful conclusion.”

Tla’amin legislator Brandon Peters said he agreed with Doubt and thinks there will be a great deal of resistance. “People are resistant to change,” said Peters. “If you say: ‘do you want to change the name,’ the answer is going to be ‘no.’”

Tla’amin executive councillor Erik Blaney said “people need to know that whenever Powell River comes out of our mouth, it’s painful. You look at who Israel Powell was and what he did to our people. [After B.C. joined Canada in 1871, Powell was named Superintendent of Indian Affairs, serving in that post until 1889.] The legislation he tabled impacted indigenous people across Canada. We lost our culture and our connection to the land because of this guy.” Blaney said Powell was also a strong advocate for residential schools. He said the referendum idea is good and provides time to put together the educational materials needed and really work with the community.

The mayor added that a committee could be formed to start having a conversation about what is the best way to start the conversation within the city.

<https://www.prpeak.com/local-news/powell-river-renaming-discussed-at-meeting-between-city-qathet-regional-district-and-tlaamin-nation-3791274>

### **Vancouver, BC – July 2018, update May 2019 – created renaming policy**

- For City Asset Renaming Policy from July 2018, see:  
<https://council.vancouver.ca/20180724/documents/motionb6.pdf>

In July 2018, Councillor Andrea Reimer introduced a motion on notice that asked staff to draft a renaming policy, similar to the one Toronto follows. Council unanimously passed the notice of motion.

The proposed process includes a petition from a street’s residents that show at least 75 per cent support for the name change, and consultation with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh band councils for proposed names that have Indigenous significance.

This framework would give city staff the ability to consider renaming requests, which could diversify Vancouver’s street names.

Coming up with a framework for assigning new names to city buildings, landmarks and streets is a process that shouldn’t be rushed, said John Atkin, head of Vancouver’s civic-asset naming committee.

He said the committee has been drafting suggestions on what a renaming policy might look like. But its members are also waiting to co-ordinate its recommendations with other factors, such as corporate sponsorship and naming rights, as well as consultation with the three local First Nations.

For now, Atkin is suggesting a gentler option: adding descriptors to street names to honour people's contributions. And for existing street names like Trutch or Dunsmuir, the descriptors would make it clear that these people were responsible for abhorrent policies. But Reimer reasoned that a renaming policy ultimately falls under city council's jurisdiction.

As of May 30, 2019, Atkin, and Mali Bain, a member of the renaming committee, both said that the naming committee chooses place names without much external input. What research gets done and on which communities is almost entirely determined (and carried out) by committee members.

So far, there hasn't been any real discussion about actively opening the committee up to a more public process, although some members believe it would increase the diversity of potential names for civic assets.

Bain said that the committee would benefit from increased public engagement, but that there is "zero budget" in the city for the committee, or for naming in general. Active civic engagement requires money and staff time the committee just doesn't have, she said.

Without citizen input, the inclusion of names from marginalized groups depends entirely on the dedication of committee members, many of whom may not belong to those communities.

<https://www.thestar.com/vancouver/2018/07/24/vancouver-councillor-proposes-renaming-policy-to-help-city-better-reflect-its-values.html>

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2019/05/30/Renaming-Vancouver-Streets-Places/>

<https://vancouver.ca/your-government/civic-asset-naming-committee.aspx>

### **Victoria, BC – Aug. 2018-July 2020 – removed statue**

It cost the City of Victoria \$30,000 in the summer of 2018 to take down the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald that stood outside the entrance to City Hall. As of Feb. 2019, an additional \$10,000 had been earmarked to find a way to either donate or relocate it. The Mayor put a small budget allocation next to the action item so there would be some money once the decision is made. However, some citizens have argued that the \$10,000 could be better spent elsewhere. Other councillors worry that the money won't be enough to cover the costs. It was expected to take another year to complete the public consultation process and come to a final decision.

City council met with local Indigenous leaders to discuss the removal of the statue, and there were several community consultation meetings, the last being held in early March, 2020, to help determine what should be done with the statue. Discussions will continue with the City Family – a group comprised of city councillors and representatives of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations – but not until after the reconciliation dialogues are complete in July 2020.



<https://globalnews.ca/news/5007406/cost-to-remove-statue-of-john-a-macdonald-from-victoria-city-hall-grows/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/john-a-macdonald-statue-relocation-1.5040218>

<https://www.bclocalnews.com/news/victoria-unlikely-to-make-decisions-about-sir-john-a-macdonald-statue-until-2022/>

## Manitoba

### **Libau, Manitoba – Sept. 2020 – renamed street**

The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON) and the Rural Municipality of St. Clements announced on September 14 that Libau's Colonization Road will be renamed following consultation with members of both communities.

On September 21, the BON will submit a formal letter requesting that the name of the road be changed. After that, a public hearing as well as consultation with the Colonization Road's residents about the potential name change will take place.

It is estimated that the name would be changed either by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7340971/libau-manitoba-brokenhead-ojibway-nation-rename-colonization-road/>

<https://winnipegssun.com/news/news-news/road-in-rural-municipality-to-get-name-change-due-to-offensive-moniker>

### **Winnipeg, Manitoba – Jan.-July 2020 – created committee to investigate renamings and removals**

- For Welcoming Winnipeg Policy from January 2020, see: <http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/DMIS/DocExt/ViewDoc.asp?DocumentTypeId=2&DocId=7666>
- For public consultation, see <https://winnipeg.ca/Indigenous/welcomingwinnipeg/pdfs/What-We-Heard-WW-final.pdf>

A report sent to Winnipeg's city council on January 30, 2020, shows low support for changing street or park names or removing historical markers despite the sometimes-problematic history of people they're named after.

Community consultations for Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History shows 49 per cent of respondents did not want historical markers removed, even if, from a modern perspective, the actions of the honouree were controversial. However, 23 per cent of respondents were fine with changing or removing names.

The city of Winnipeg embarked on the community consultations after Mayor Brian Bowman announced in January 2019 that the city would review how it names streets and places, acknowledging the lack of Indigenous history in the city's naming systems.



In the report to council, people who participated in the community consultations said Indigenous names should be given priority when naming new streets, places and trails. Many said in cases of problematic names, perspective should be added rather than the name removed.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy ("Welcoming Winnipeg Policy") was developed in January 2020 to guide the city in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. It aims to ensure that contributions, experiences, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are reflected truthfully in Winnipeg's stories, historical markers, and place names.

The policy establishes a process for requesting and implementing initiatives to recognize and commemorate various historical people and events. This process includes an application that will require community support; input/review from the related/impacted department in partnership with the Indigenous Relations Division (IRD); publication of requests; on-line and in person options to provide input on requests; and an established committee of community members to provide recommendations, for final decisions by Council.

The Welcoming Winnipeg Policy will act as a lens for existing naming and renaming processes, by-laws, motions and policies related to historical markers and place names. The existing bylaws, policies and council motions concerned with naming or renaming place names or historical markers processes will continue until they are reviewed by the departments in partnership with IRD. For requests that do not have a formalized process, applications will come to IRD, and IRD will review with the related/impacted department if applicable.

As part of the process for requesting and implementing initiatives to recognize and commemorate various historical people and events, the committee will provide recommendations for final approval by City Council. Applications to be a member of the committee were accepted up to July 27, 2020. Qualifications for committee members include:

- Professional or community work that reflects an applicant's interest and expertise in Winnipeg's history and the ongoing impacts and legacy of colonization, locally and internationally;
- Skills, education and experience in specific areas (such as research, project evaluation and policy analysis) that would allow an applicant to contribute to committee recommendations and influence change;
- Ability to work effectively within a diverse group to collaboratively address a common goal and are willing to work within City of Winnipeg systems and protocols to address municipal issues; and,
- Ability to attend meetings on a regular basis, the first meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 12, 2020.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6408599/whats-in-a-name-consultations-show-low-support-for-renaming-winnipeg-streets-places/>

<https://winnipeg.ca/ourstories/2020/200724-2.stm>

### **Winnipeg School Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba – Oct. 2020-May 2021 – renamed school**

The Winnipeg School Division will begin the process of potentially renaming Cecil Rhodes School, starting by consulting with students, parents and members of the community. The division's board of trustees passed a motion on October 19 to begin this process.

An online petition asking the division to change the school's name garnered more than 1,700 signatures, while trustees also received dozens of emailed letters of support from parents, former students and residents in the city's Weston neighbourhood.

Rhodes was a British businessman, imperialist and politician who controlled and exploited southern Africa in the 19th century. He firmly believed in the superiority of the English, which he called "the first race in the world," and many say he planted the roots for South Africa's former apartheid government.

The motion asked the division to start the consultation process with the goal of renaming the school during the 2020-21 school year. Administration has been asked to report back to the board with the results of the consultation process no later than March 31.

On January 22, the division launched an online survey asking for the community's thoughts on renaming the school, which has students from nursery to Grade 9. The survey, which is also available in paper form upon request, asks respondents to whether they think the name should be changed, and to say whether the name of the school has had an impact on them.

The survey is the second stage of a two-phase consultation process mandated by the school division's board of trustees in October. The first phase of consultation was within the school. The school held an "in-house inquiry" to get student opinions on renaming. Teachers were advised to remain as neutral as possible.

The school division will provide assistance from intercultural support workers where needed to ensure equity for community members.

On May 3, Winnipeg School Division trustees voted 6-1 to change the name of the 113-year-old Cecil Rhodes School and to take the necessary steps to find a more appropriate name. A committee will be created to come up with one that reflects the spirit of reconciliation.

The school's new name will be in place no later than September 2022.

The division surveyed families at Cecil Rhodes School and across central Winnipeg earlier this year and only a slight majority of 55 per cent favoured change, with 45 per cent against it.

Jennifer Chen is a trustee who has been vocal about her concerns the school is named after a white supremacist. Chen said some community members have recommended the school be named after a number to avoid future concerns of using a public figure as a namesake. She said another option is to name the school after a local community leader.

A spokesperson for the division said there is no estimated cost for the change at present.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/cecil-rhodes-school-renaming-motion-1.5768918>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-cecil-rhodes-school-renaming-survey-1.5883999>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/cecil-rhodes-school-rename-winnipeg-1.6013273>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/05/05/next-step-taken-toward-renaming-cecil-rhodes-school.html>

## New Brunswick

### **Saint John, New Brunswick – Feb. 2021 – commission reviewing street names**

- For report to Council from Feb. 8, 2021, see: <https://pub-saintjohn.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=6813>

At its meeting on February 8, council approved the creation of a civic commemoration committee and a policy that will guide the city through future place-naming debates.

It's looking at renaming public spaces whose names are tied to slavery, and is planning to recognize Abraham Beverley Walker, who was born and raised in Saint John and became the first Canadian-born Black lawyer.

The civic commemoration committee isn't expected to be fully active until 2022, but the February 8 approval from council was the first step in the committee's creation.

Council also plans to look at renaming some city streets, but faces a few hurdles on that initiative.

A report presented to council said that renaming streets is generally avoided unless there's a public safety issue, because it can create confusion for emergency service providers and cause inconvenience to residents and businesses.

Any street rename request would first have to meet the province's 911 guidelines. The rename request would then have to be supported by the street's residents and businesses before it was recommended to city council.

For now, the city's communications manager Lisa Caissie said in an email, Saint John city staff will be researching and looking at how other municipalities have successfully managed something similar.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/saint-john-to-rename-places-tied-to-slavery-1.5907772>

### **Province of New Brunswick – 2014-Feb. 2017 – renamed places and street**

On February 28, 2017, New Brunswick officially replaced five place names in the Saint John area that used the anachronistic word "Negro."

The province announced that Negro Lake in Grand Bay-Westfield will be called Corankapone Lake in honour of Richard Wheeler, whose African name was Corankapone. The New Brunswick Black History society's Ralph Thomas says this man brought other members of the black community in Westfield to Sierra Leone in search of a better life.

Negro Point in Saint John is being renamed Hodges Point, after the Hodges family who were black loyalists, while Negro Head will become Lorneville Head.

Negro Brook in Grand Bay-Westfield being changed to Black Loyalist Brook, while Negro Brook Road was changed in 2016 to Harriet O'Ree Road, named for a woman who lived on the route in 1861. In 2016, Susan Tyler, who had lived on the road for 45 years, was the only permanent resident of the road.

The announcements came with the agreement of the municipalities of Lorneville and Saint John.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/new-brunswick-renames-5-places-with-negro-in-their-names-1.3305242>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/racist-names-saint-john-1.3947958>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/racist-road-alma-new-brunswick-1.3545939>

## Newfoundland and Labrador

### **Province of Newfoundland and Labrador – Apr.-May 2021 – reviewing lake name**

The provincial government has taken the first steps toward renaming a central Newfoundland lake Wantaqo'ti Qospem, which means "peaceful lake" in Mi'kmaw.

A motion was introduced in the House of Assembly on April 21 to rename Red Indian Lake, near Buchans. The move comes after consultations with Indigenous leaders throughout the province, according to Premier Andrew Furey. "I think [the name is] not reflective of where we should be in society right now, and it's an important symbol, albeit a symbol, in the path of reconciliation," Furey said.

Chief Mi'sel Joe of the Miawpukek First Nation picked the new name, he said.

Furey said the lake's renaming goes beyond simply changing a name, "not just for change itself, but for education to the public on our Indigenous histories, and the fact that this is a part of changing some of the systemic issues that exist."

However, the decision to rename Red Indian Lake is causing tension and fraying Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations in central Newfoundland, say some people in the area, as they speak out against the way the process has so far been handled.

Natasha Jones of Buchans Junction said as an active member of the Qalipu First Nation, she was shocked to hear of the change as she didn't even know the issue was on the radar, leading to "a feeling of being betrayed by the government." In turn, she said, the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the area has begun to break down. "They thought the Indigenous members locally knew about the decision and were part of it and left them out. And so local Indigenous people were having to defend themselves and say we weren't part of the conversation," said Jones. "Everybody locally was left out, and so there was a lot of mistrust and there was some name calling," she said.

Jones is in favour of renaming the lake, saying the current name is derogatory toward Indigenous people. However, she said the province should have used a reconciliation-based process in order to do so, and consulted locals and Indigenous groups in the communities near the lake, including Buchans, Buchans Junction and Millertown. "I just think the government mis-stepped by

consulting just the top Indigenous leaders and not giving a say to all residents... by kind of overstepping it, it really hurt community members," Jones said.

Buchans Mayor Derm Corbett said people are so upset about the lack of local consultation on the name change, he's written a letter of objection to Premier Andrew Furey, Indigenous Affairs Minister Lisa Dempster and some members of parliament. "The process that government used, it has made a lot of people feel disrespected," he said. He called the situation an "opportunity lost" for Dempster to encourage reconciliation with Indigenous people in the area.

Corbett said there are many Indigenous people in the three communities along the lake who wanted to give input on a new name. "I mean, it didn't have to be a major consultation. But for people to flick on the news and see the minister simply say this is done.... that wasn't good enough. People consider this to be a very flawed process and they have taken slight," he said.

On April 29, following feedback from area residents, Indigenous Affairs Minister Lisa Dempster said she and Premier Andrew Furey had another meeting with Indigenous leaders. "There was consensus that given the interest, and we want to let people know their voices were heard, that we would just take some time to pause right now and reflect," she said.

Dempster will now organize a consultation process so residents can weigh in on renaming the central Newfoundland lake.

Starting May 18, the provincial government launched public consultations on renaming Red Indian Lake.

Residents of Buchans, Millertown, and Buchans Junction will have opportunities to express their views in public sessions scheduled for the following week. Because of public health guidelines, space is limited. Those interested in attending must call their local town office to register. Residents and others will also be able to submit their views by regular mail, email, and online in the coming days.

As of May 21, consultations on renaming Red Indian Lake are underway, but the general consensus seems to be that it shouldn't be changed at all. Buchans Mayor Derm Corbett and Millertown Mayor Fiona Humber both agree that most residents do not want to see the name changed.

Mayor Humber explains that some say if the name must be changed, they'd support "Beothuk Lake" or something else that represents the Beothuk culture.

Humber explains why most people don't want the name to be changed. She says nobody in the area considers the name to be derogatory because they've never used it in that way, and some people find it shocking the change is being suggested.

Corbett describes a "packed house" and a "lively discussion" at the consultations in Buchans as well. He says while it wasn't unanimous, there were a large number of people who want to keep the name as is. He says the major point brought forward was that the term "Red Indian," in the context of being a descriptor of the lake, is not negative, but rather a nod to the Beothuk's use of red ochre.

Corbett says it has never been explained to the Indigenous people he knows why the name is so unacceptable, noting they consider the name one that reflects respect for the people and their culture.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/red-indian-lake-to-be-renamed-1.5997556>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/lack-of-consultation-renaming-red-indian-lake-1.6001730>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/red-indian-lake-renaming-paused-1.6006978>

<https://vocm.com/2021/05/14/public-consultations-red-indian-lake/>

<https://vocm.com/2021/05/21/buchans-millertown-mayors-red-indian-lake/>

## Nova Scotia

### **Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia – 2016-present – retained name, addressing historic and contemporary anti-Black racism**

- For Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race report from Sept. 2019, see: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/ldp/findings.html>

The release of a ground-breaking report in September 2019 examining early "entanglements" between George Ramsay, the ninth Earl of Dalhousie, and the institution and legacy of slavery uncovered a valuable new layer in the history of Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia.

Chair of the research panel, Afua Cooper, said the panellists had "extensive discussions" about whether to suggest a name change, but ultimately decided against it. "The name Dalhousie University is no longer associated with this gentleman from Scotland," said Cooper, who is also the James R. Johnston chair in black Canadian studies at Dalhousie. "When people think Dalhousie University today, they're thinking about the research that it does, the Nobel Prize-winners that it has produced, not about Lord Dalhousie, who had really, really derogatory ideas about black people."

Cooper said the cost of changing the school's name was also a factor, and the panellists felt the money could be better used for scholarships or hiring faculty.

It also provided a compass for Dalhousie University's response to this legacy. That response began the day the university received the report, with a public apology issued for its namesake's views and actions on race and slavery and a scholarship launched honouring contributions to the community made by individuals of African descent. Firm institutional support and guidance continue now under the oversight of Theresa Rajack-Talley, Dal's vice-provost, equity and inclusion, who began her role in the summer of 2019. "I am committed to unwavering efforts to steward progress long sought by the community that rests on a foundation laid by many," says Dr. Rajack-Talley, who in her capacity as vice-provost also leads Dal's Human Rights and Equity Services (HRES) office.

The panel's work was commissioned by Dalhousie University in 2016, extending from the university's institutional commitment to diversity and inclusiveness with the goal of helping to



reconcile with elements of Dalhousie and Nova Scotia's past to build a stronger future. The panel and its report and recommendations have been a key milestone in this larger journey.

The Lord Dalhousie report's recommendations fall into four key categories: regret and responsibility; recognition; repair; and implementation. Each section contains recommendations, a carefully constructed list — both specific and broad in their mandates.

To answer recommendations around recognition, for instance, Dalhousie is working with the University of King's College on planning a joint academic conference that will expand upon the work of the Lord Dal Panel by inviting scholars and historians of slavery to campus. The conference, currently expected to take place in October 2021, would be one of the first of its kind in Canada. Dr. Rajack-Talley says student and community voices are essential to the conference's success, as is the proposed engagement with other U.S. institutions that have walked this journey and can help inform effective measures to enact the report's recommendations. Leading up to the conference, Afua Cooper, chair of the scholarly panel will present the report's findings to Dal's community, the African Nova Scotian community as well as to the wider Halifax region.

Also related to recognition is the recent acquisition of Richard Rudnick's iconic painting *Freedom Halifax 1824* — one of the few artworks that depict the arrival of Black refugees to Nova Scotia from the United States — by Dal's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on an indefinite loan. It will be displayed in the Marion McCain Building. And the naming of Da Costa Row on the Sexton Campus — in honour of Mathieu da Costa, the first recorded person of African descent to arrive on nearby shores — took place in the fall of 2019.

The Lord Dal Panel recommended curricular review and updates to reflect its findings. To that end, faculty members from a wide range of disciplines are currently working on expanding Dal's current Black Studies minor into a major — one that would feature new courses in local and national Black history. Approval for this program will be sent to the Senate no later than April 30, 2021. The school is also developing a research institute for Black Studies in Canada, which will also be presented to the Senate for approval by April 30, 2021.

Dr. Rajack-Talley says Dal will soon be looking to develop memorandums of understandings with historically Black universities and colleges in the U.S., universities in the Caribbean and elsewhere so as to grow Black studies programs and research avenues — proposed in the report.

Since June 2018, Dalhousie's African Nova Scotian Strategy has been in development. The office of the vice-provost, equity and inclusion will hire a director, African Nova Scotian community engagement. This position was developed as part of the African Nova Scotian Strategy, and the director will work with the Strategy Chair and interim African Nova Scotian Advisory Council to finalize the strategy to strengthen and better serve African Nova Scotian communities.

To ensure the best outcomes possible, Dr. Rajack-Talley is in the process of setting up a number of university-wide committees centred around areas reflected in the Lord Dal report's recommendations and past Strategic Direction pillars. Some, such as a committee on student access and success, will address questions about how to provide more resources to support African Nova Scotian and other underrepresented student populations to study at Dal. Another will tackle improvements to recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups of faculty and staff, including those from the African Nova Scotian community.



Elsewhere, an HRES-led committee is leading the development of a set of guidelines and/or policies around racialized violence. Once created, the document will be used in orientations and other student, staff and faculty workshops as a way to reflect the history uncovered by the panel and raise awareness regarding the prevalence of anti-Black racism today. Dr. Rajack-Talley is also helping ensure the work to address the Lord Dal recommendations is incorporated within the broader institutional action plan she's developing for equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) for the university.

The school also hosted a public forum on anti-Black racism in June 2020 and Hired their first director of African Nova Scotian community engagement in September.

[https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/sociology-social-anthropology/news-events/news/2019/09/05/dr\\_afua\\_cooper\\_chairs\\_the\\_scholarly\\_panel\\_to\\_examine\\_lord\\_dalhousie\\_s\\_history\\_on\\_slavery\\_and\\_race.html](https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/sociology-social-anthropology/news-events/news/2019/09/05/dr_afua_cooper_chairs_the_scholarly_panel_to_examine_lord_dalhousie_s_history_on_slavery_and_race.html)

<https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/01/31/from-apology-to-action--moving-forward-on-lord-dal-panel-recomme.html>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/dalhousie-university-panel-slavery-racism-apology-name-change-1.4941053>

<https://slavery.virginia.edu/fall-2021-uss-conference-call-for-papers-is-out/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-dalhousie-university-apologizes-for-racist-actions-views-of-schools/>

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/funding/approcres/scholarshiprefs/africanns.html#:~:text=Dalhousie%20University%20offers%20graduate%20scholarships,pursue%20graduate%20studies%20at%20Dalhousie.>

<https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/06/12/commitment-and-action-on-anti-black-racism--work-moves-forward-o.html>

[https://www.dal.ca/news/events/2020/06/05/speak\\_truth\\_to\\_power\\_forum\\_on\\_anti\\_black\\_racism.html](https://www.dal.ca/news/events/2020/06/05/speak_truth_to_power_forum_on_anti_black_racism.html)

<https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/10/08/meet-dal-s-new-director-of-african-nova-scotian-community-engage.html#:~:text=Jalana%20Lewis%20is%20thrilled%20to,role%20she%20began%20in%20September.>

### **Halifax, Nova Scotia – May 2021 – reviewing street names**

When builders created Halifax's distinctive Hydrostone neighbourhood more than a century ago, they chose to honour celebrated explorers. There are streets named after William Grant Stairs, Christopher Columbus, John Cabot and Henry Morton Stanley, among others.

But now some residents are taking a closer look at the legacies of the men the streets are named for, part of a national trend examining whether people honoured on the country's maps are worthy of celebration.

Frances Early, a retired Mount Saint Vincent University history professor, lives on Stairs Place in the Hydrostone, named after the Halifax-born explorer who was instrumental in some of the most violent expeditions across Africa. A few blocks over is Columbus Place, which is just down from Cabot Place.

She said the street names weren't chosen by the city or its citizens but by the construction company that built the housing after much of the area had been levelled by the Halifax Explosion in 1917. It was a time when the military town of Halifax was enamoured with all things British and imperial.

Jonathan Roberts, a history professor at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, said in a recent interview that Stairs was a leading figure in several trips to attempt to "pacify" parts of Africa. Stairs' journals outline the strategy he adopted on his travels, which included ambushing villages and killing thieves who stole from his encampment. Roberts said he wanted to inform residents of Stairs' notoriety, and he has created an online petition to have the street renamed.

Roberts and Early's efforts reflect a growing conversation around names and the place they have in society, said Lauren Beck, a professor of Hispanic studies at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick. She said the "moral anxiety" around names has shifted over time with our values.

Beck is tackling the issue in her upcoming book, "Canada's Place Names and How to Change Them," which she expects to see published in 2022. The book looks at names across the country through racialized and gendered lenses. In her book, Beck said she will address how names are given, the power to legitimize and maintain a name and a strategy to change names in a way that doesn't alienate too many people. "Many of the names on our maps, when they do celebrate people, many of those people are wealthier people, or they're politicians who have a very specific role in our society," Beck said. "What would we call our places if we were given the opportunity to make them welcoming and inclusive, reflective of the population, rather than just one demographic?"

Coun. Lindell Smith, whose district includes the Hydrostone neighbourhood, said on May 14 that concerns about street names in the area have not been put to council. He said he supports replacing the explorers' names but still needs to get feedback from residents. "We've gone through processes where we've looked at the historical context of street names and asset names, so it's not a process we don't know how to do," Smith said of the city. "I think it might be a good time to have those discussions if they're coming forward."

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7866470/halifax-calls-to-rename-streets/>

### **Halifax, Nova Scotia – 2017-Nov. 2020 – removed statue, created advisory committee, renamed streets**

- For advisory committee terms of reference from October 2017, see:  
<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/171003rc1414.pdf>
- For Task Force Report from July 2020, see:  
<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/200721rc11110.pdf>

In January 2018, Halifax Regional Council voted to temporarily remove the statue of Edward Cornwallis until a further decision is made on how the Halifax founder is commemorated throughout HRM.

The 12-4 vote came after about 90 minutes of debate during council's regular meeting after a motion was added to the agenda in response to the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs pulling out of the process.

The approval meant that the statue would be housed in storage temporarily at a cost of about \$25,000 while HRM continues its review of how it commemorates Cornwallis.

Council also voted to continue to engage with the assembly of chiefs on the issue.

In October 2018, "The Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History" was formed. It reflected an equal partnership between Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and the Mi'kmaw community, as represented by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (ANSMC). The Committee was tasked to advise Regional Council on the following:

- (a) Proposed changes to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets, including Cornwallis Park and Cornwallis Street.
- (b) Recognizing and commemorating the indigenous history in the lands now known as Halifax Regional Municipality.

#### Background on the Advisory Committee

*In October 2017, Halifax Regional Council approved the creation of a Special Advisory Committee on Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History was established, with the mandate of providing advice to Regional Council regarding the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets (e.g. park, statue, street) and on the recognition and commemoration of indigenous history in the lands now known as the Halifax Regional Municipality.*

*Council approved a budget for the committee of \$50,000, for research, public engagement, and other required supports, and a stipend for each committee member of \$150 per meeting, up to \$2,100. There was no reporting period established for the committee.*

*The names of the 10 members, five proposed by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and five by staff from the Halifax Regional Municipality, were presented on July 17, 2018 to Regional Council, which ratified the appointment of proposed members.*

*In August 2018, the co-chairs requested a change in the governance structure of the committee. This motion was approved by Regional Council in October 2018, following similar motions passed by the committee, then by the Assembly.*

*In December 2018, an administrative approach to the new governance structure was ratified between the Halifax Regional Municipality and Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative) on behalf of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia.*

*Originally established as a Special Advisory Committee to Regional Council, the new governance structure better reflects the equal partnership between the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and the committee now has the ability to set its own processes and procedures.*

*The mandate and membership of the committee remain the same. However, the original budget of \$50,000 will now be funded equally by the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Assembly, and the administrative support for the committee will also be equally shared.*

*The new committee has also been asked to complete its work within two years.*

*A motion was passed at the first meeting of the newly constituted committee on Jan. 21, 2019 for the Special Advisory Committee to be renamed the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History.*

The task force held several public engagement sessions, the last being held in October, 2019.

Following the engagement sessions, it will be the responsibility of the task force's appointed co-chairs and its team to clearly lay out and define how the Halifax Regional Municipality can move forward with commemorating both its Indigenous and colonial history. The task force will take all public input and write a report with a recommendation to council on how the municipality can approach its history and move forward. The report was made public on July 17, 2020.

The task force recommended that the statue of Cornwallis "not be returned, under any circumstances, to a position of public commemoration." Instead, it should be kept in storage until it can be displayed in a civic museum created by council, the report said. It added that Cornwallis Park should be renamed "Peace and Friendship Park" and repurposed for the creation of a performance space.

The task force members considered a number of options for the statue, including destroying it or melting it down so the bronze could be used to create a sculpture" more in line with current community values." They looked at 65 submissions about how the Cornwallis name should be recognized by the city going forward. "The majority of them (39 of 65) did not want the statue to go back up. 14 did want it to go back up, either in its original location or another location, and 12 wanted it to go back up in a museum.

In the end, it decided that the best place for the statue would be a museum where it could be used for public education about past wrongs. No such museum exists in Halifax, it concluded, recommending that the regional municipality commit to creating one.

The task force said Cornwallis Street no longer has its place in Halifax. Instead, it should be renamed New Horizons Street, subject to approval by the congregation of the New Horizons Baptist Church.

The report also notes the "near-absence" of public Mi'kmaq commemorations across the city and a large part of the task force's recommendations includes identifying ways Nova Scotia's Indigenous peoples can take a greater place in the public sphere. The Mi'kmaq community should be involved in the naming of new streets and other city assets. It also recommends adding the Mi'kmaq language to more city signage.

There is an important difference between history and commemoration, the task force concludes, adding that community values change over time. Sometimes, the report notes, "there are occasions when older forms of commemoration no longer fit with the ethical standards of today. To make changes for that reason is not to 'erase' history, but to take a responsible approach to maintaining the integrity of public commemoration."

Other suggestions of the report include: supporting youth activities that recognize Indigenous heritage; distributing copies of the report in schools and libraries throughout the region; funding the Point Pleasant Park Mi'kmaq Heritage Area Interpretive Plan; launching a co-operative process for creating outdoor spaces that memorialize Indigenous history, residential-school survivors and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The group also pushed for the creation of displays created by Mi'kmaq artists and designers to honour their culture at the Halifax Port and Halifax Stanfield International Airport. Another suggestion, it cites, is to add Mi'kmaq language to naming and signage, and to replace anglicized Mi'kmaq names, such as Chebucto Road, with their original names, K'jipuktuk Road.

Many of the recommendations will cost little or nothing, while others will require investment that will enhance cultural infrastructure, including economic benefits through tourism, the report said.

On July 22, 2020, council voted to accept the recommendations of the task force. But the report received a small change before it was passed by council. Coun. Lindell Smith asked that before Cornwallis Street be renamed that the community be consulted on what name they would prefer. The task force had recommended that the street be renamed New Horizons Street after the New Horizons Church. Smith urged council to allow the community in the area, which has previously voiced support to name the street in honour of Rocky Jones, to be consulted on the topic. That amendment was unanimously accepted by council.

HRM's Chief Administrative Officer will report back to council annually on the progress of the recommendations.

The first phase of the museum strategy is expected to go before council in the first quarter of 2021, including an overview of 32 HRM-owned and non-HRM-owned museums within the municipality. Proceeds of the sale of the former Dartmouth City Hall building has generated \$2.48-million in a capital reserve that could be used for the museum.

#### Details:

#### Establishment of Advisory Committee – The Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History

- In April, 2017, Council requested staff to create a report. The report would contain terms of reference and recommendations for the composition of an independent, inclusive, expert panel to review and advise them regarding:
  - o the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets
  - o recommendations to recognize and commemorate Indigenous history in Halifax.
- The Initial staff report about the establishment of the committee was presented to Council in Oct. 2017. It included:
  - o The legislative authority of Council to create a committee
  - o Background on Edward Cornwallis, his statue and his commemoration in Halifax
  - o Local regulatory and policy context
  - o Examples from other jurisdictions facing similar issues with controversial statues, such as New Orleans
  - o Engagement undertaken to create the terms of reference for the committee.
    - City staff corresponded with a wide range of individuals and organizations to develop the terms of reference.

- Individual citizens also provided comments about the committee's composition.
  - The draft terms of reference were shared with representatives identified by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs.
- Recommendation to create a committee of 8 members, who could seek input from other experts not represented on the committee. 10 members were eventually selected.
  - Half of the members were proposed by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. The other half were proposed by City staff.
  - There would be two co-chairs with leadership experience – one from an Indigenous and one from a non-Indigenous community
  - The other members were to have experience and expertise in: history and commemoration; military history; Mi'kmaq history; Indigenous and non-indigenous community experience.
- Staff would provide support to the panel in the areas of:
  - Secretariat
  - public engagement
  - advice with respect to municipal policy
  - practical implications of various options
  - The City's Indigenous Advisor would also support the work of the committee
  - Recommendations of the committee would return to Council through City staff so that staff could provide practical implications of the panel's recommendations.
- Support for the committee was estimated to cost between \$50,000-\$75,000. Council approved \$50,000 and city staff were to manage the budget. This later changed with half of the funds coming from the City and half from the Mi'kmaq Assembly, who shared administrative support.
- Committee members were intitled to an honorarium of \$150 per meeting to a maximum of \$2,100.
- The committee formed a year later, in October 2018, and began work in January 2019.
- In the interim, the statue of Cornwallis was removed and placed in temporary storage. The initial cost estimate for this was \$25,000, which was to be covered using capital funds.

#### Responsibility of Advisory Committee

- Provide advice and make recommendations to Council, through staff, on:
  - Proposed changes to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets
  - Recognizing and commemorating Indigenous history in Halifax
- These were to be done through research, outreach and engagement, and through the formulation of advice and recommendations.
- Complete the work within two years.

#### Process

- Held regular meetings once a month
- Members of the public could provide written submissions on the topic at any time



- There were two phases of public engagement:
  - o June 2019 – four sessions. Residents were invited to present their recommendations on:
    - How to best recognize and commemorate Indigenous history in Halifax
    - The commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets
  - o Oct. 2019 – two sessions where residents were asked how Halifax should recognize and commemorate Indigenous history. Part of these discussions included thoughts on commemorating history in general.
- Committee meeting overviews and highlights are available at: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/a-c/task-force-commemoration/meeting-information>
- The task force spent approximately \$13,000 including items such as advertising for public engagement, transcription of public sessions, meeting expenses, etc. Honourariums totalled approximately \$6,400. This was less than the \$50,000 allocated to them.

#### Recommendations of Advisory Committee

- A report with recommendations was completed at the end of April, 2020 and will be sent to City Council for approval on July 21, 2020. City staff recommend that council approve the report's recommendations.
- The committee made 20 recommendations:
  1. That the statue of Edward Cornwallis not be returned, under any circumstances, to a position of public commemoration.
  2. That the Cornwallis statue be retained in storage pending the creation of a civic museum (see also recommendation 6), owned and operated by the HRM according to the highest professional museological standards, and that the statue then be transferred to the collection of the civic museum.
  3. That Cornwallis Park be renamed "Peace and Friendship Park."
  4. That the renamed Peace and Friendship Park be repurposed, and possibly redesigned and re-landscaped, to accommodate the creation of a performance space; that any organized activities in the park include programs that have a focus on youth; and that civic programming there include an emphasis on education as a way of addressing and combating racism of all kinds.
  5. That Cornwallis Street, subject to an expression of approval by the congregation of the New Horizons Baptist Church, be renamed "New Horizons Street."
  6. That the HRM prioritize the creation of a civic museum, owned and operated by the HRM according to the highest professional museological standards, and begin immediately to explore potential funding and planning processes for this purpose.
  7. That, pending the opening of the civic museum, the HRM create a virtual museum, along with working with and supporting the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre to enhance its capacity for displaying material representations of Mi'kmaw history.
  8. That the Point Pleasant Park Mi'kmaq Heritage Area Interpretive Plan (June 2008) be made a priority for HRM action, and that the process of assembling funding proceed without delay.
  9. That the HRM, as the capital city of Nova Scotia, initiate a process (with full participation by representatives of the Mi'kmaw community) by which further outdoor spaces for the recognition and commemoration of Indigenous history can be identified and appropriate action taken, and that priority be given to memorializing



- survivors of the Shubenacadie Residential School and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
10. That the process leading to finalization of the art and commemoration components of the Cogswell Street Redevelopment Project be continued and supported, and that every opportunity be taken to involve Mi'kmaw artists and designers in all aspects of the process, including architectural design.
  11. That in the interests of ensuring that the art and commemoration components of the Cogswell Street Redevelopment Project are accompanied by the continued and enhanced health of North End Halifax communities, a rigorous requirement be applied for affordable housing in all the related developments, and that the relevant criteria be developed with the full participation of the Mi'kmaw community in the area.
  12. That the HRM explore the development of bonusing guidelines that will offer incentives for elements of any development that will demonstrably bring benefits to the Mi'kmaw community, through commemorative installations or in any other evident way, and that representatives of the Mi'kmaw community participate in assessment of proposals that apply for such an incentive.
  13. That the diversity of new names for streets and other HRM assets be enhanced by working with the Mi'kmaw community to generate an expanded list of potential names.
  14. That opportunities be comprehensively explored for additional usage of the Mi'kmaw language in naming and signage, beginning with currently anglicized Mi'kmaw names being adjusted back to the Mi'kmaw original, such as Chebucto Road to K'jipuktuk Road.
  15. That the HRM work with the Halifax International Airport Authority and the Halifax Port Authority, and with Mi'kmaw artists and designers, to develop welcoming displays drawn from Mi'kmaw culture and history.
  16. That the HRM work with Mi'kmaw organizations to offer opportunities for educational programming, supplementary to formal education, in such areas as Treaty Education and Mi'kmaw Language Education, and that libraries in particular be supported to create such programs.
  17. That copies of this report be placed in schools and libraries throughout the HRM.
  18. That the HRM prioritize support of youth activities furthering the recognition and commemoration of Indigenous history, and that a small fund be created that can provide grants on an adjudicated basis to Indigenous or non-Indigenous recipients who propose activities that will bring benefits in this area.
  19. That where and when possible, the HRM look for and facilitate the holding of major Indigenous events that combine economic benefits with the opportunity to showcase Mi'kmaw history and culture.
  20. That the HRM continue to nurture its close and productive relationships with Mi'kmaw organizations that can assist with the effective recognition and commemoration of Indigenous history, including (though not limited to) Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative), Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (the Mi'kmaw education authority), and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre.
- A chart at the end of the report provides a timeline (short or long term) for each recommendation and indicates which City department should lead each project.

## Result

- City Council passed a motion agreeing to the above recommendations, with one exception. They noted that the community should be consulted on the name choice for Cornwallis Street, rather than simply renaming it New Horizons Street.
- Halifax's Chief Administrative Officer will report back to council annually on the progress of the recommendations.
- The first phase of the museum strategy is expected to go before council in the first quarter of 2021, including an overview of 32 museums in Halifax, both those owned and not owned by the City.

#### Committee Members

- See attached list for further information about the background and experience of the committee members.

On Tuesday November 17, 2020, Halifax Regional Coun. Sam Austin submitted a motion at the city's council meeting, requesting a staff report on the renaming of streets that use the outdated term "Micmac." One option, he said, is to correct the spelling of Mi'kmaw. Austin's motion was born out of the Cornwallis task force that recommended the city look at the process of naming streets and facilities in the HRM. Austin is also going to ask for a new name for a portion of Micmac Boulevard that acknowledges the Black community that existed there two centuries ago.

Halifax Regional Council unanimously passed Austin's motion late in the afternoon of November 17. The next step is for city staff to return their report to council.

<https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/council-votes-to-remove-cornwallis-statue-temporarily-826579>

<https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/a-c/task-force-commemoration>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6094960/cornwallis-task-force-public-consultations-hrm/>

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/cornwallis-statue-park-and-street-need-to-go-halifax-task-force-1.5028757>

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/halifax-committee-recommends-changing-name-of-cornwallis-street-park-1.5029791>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7189003/edward-cornwallis-task-force/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/cornwallis-final-report-rename-street-park-1.5653599>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7201222/halifax-council-cornwallis-task-force-report/>

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/local/cornwallis-task-force-report-get-thumbs-up-from-hrm-council-475973/>

<https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/council-approves-report-and-recommendations-from-cornwallis-task-force-2580839>

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/halifax-council-takes-first-step-in-renaming-things-named-micmac-1.5193496>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7468347/hrm-council-renaming-mic-mac/>

<https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/inactive-boards-committees-commissions/task-force>

### **Kentville, Nova Scotia – July 2020 – renamed street**

The Town of Kentville, N.S., is setting up a committee to rename a street named after Edward Cornwallis.

Kentville town council's recent unanimous support of a motion approving the renaming of Cornwallis Street comes at a time when Black Lives Matter protests throughout the globe are calling for action that will bring an end to all forms of racism.

Kentville's mayor estimates that the street renaming process could take up to six months by the time an ad hoc committee of council is formed to oversee the process, conduct research, consult with the public and come back to council with a recommendation for a new name.

Coun. Eric Bolland, the council member who tabled the motion calling for the street to be renamed, will lead the ad hoc committee that will be established. Snow said representatives of the nearby Annapolis Valley First Nation will be invited to provide guidance.

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/provincial/kentville-council-commits-to-renaming-cornwallis-street-as-new-bridge-nears-completion-475923/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/kentville-forms-committee-to-change-name-of-cornwallis-street-1.5654042>

### **Lunenburg, Nova Scotia – July 2020 – possibly creating anti-racism task force**

Lunenburg Town Council is exploring the possibility of forming an anti-racism task force after receiving a petition to rename Cornwallis and Creighton streets in honour of Black and Mi'kmaq historical contributions to the community.

Council has directed staff to prepare a council report, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders and experts, with a view to forming a task force or special committee to promote anti-racism, with a particular emphasis on anti-Black and Indigenous racism. It's been asked that a preliminary report be ready for the Aug. 25 council meeting.

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/provincial/petition-to-rename-two-lunenburg-streets-revise-interpretive-panels-in-honour-of-black-mikmaq-history-tabled-with-town-council-anti-racism-task-force-may-be-formed-479495/>

### **Sir John A. Macdonald High School, Upper Tantallon, Nova Scotia – Nov. 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed school**

- See renaming recommendation report from Dec-Jan. 2021:  
[https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/sja\\_renaming\\_report\\_2020-2021.pdf](https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/sja_renaming_report_2020-2021.pdf)

A high school in Upper Tantallon, N.S., has decided to change its name, saying the current one doesn't reflect school values. The principal of Sir John A. Macdonald High School said they will

begin the process of renaming on November 12, after a years-long discourse on Macdonald's legacy. On Nov. 4, the 13-member council voted unanimously to drop the former prime minister's name and start a process to select a new moniker that won't alienate Indigenous students. Principal Fitzgerald said a letter is being sent out on November 12 to ask parents and students for suggestions of a new name. The Halifax Regional Education Centre's guidelines on school naming will also be shared.

The priority for the school, which has just over 1,000 students, is creating an inclusive environment, she said. The school has about 30 Indigenous students.

The deadline for submissions is Nov. 26, Fitzgerald said. After the suggestions are gathered, they will be reviewed by a committee that includes chosen staff and two students. The committee will choose a top three options for a new name, and then the school's students will vote for one of the three. Fitzgerald said she hopes to file the paperwork to the HREC board by mid-December to finalize the name change.

As of March 31, Sir John A. Macdonald High School in Upper Tantallon is being renamed Bay View High School. The Halifax Regional Centre for Education says the principal at the schools engaged students, staff and the school community in the renaming process. The name change will take effect in September 2021.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7458765/sir-john-a-macdonald-high-school-n-s-name-change/>

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/sir-john-a-macdonald-high-school-near-halifax-changing-its-name-to-be-more-inclusive-1.5186521>

<https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/two-halifax-area-schools-getting-new-names-3595717>

### **Sydney, Nova Scotia – June-Aug. – renamed street**

Cornwallis Street in Sydney is to be renamed. Municipal policy dictates that those affected have input into the renaming of local streets. Mayor Cecil Clarke said several alternative names have already been offered up by the public and people on the street will be asked for their opinions before a new name is chosen. Clarke said a public meeting is not possible because of COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, the municipality will send letters to property owners asking for their input.

Cape Breton Regional Municipality senior planner Karen Neville said letters were sent to Cornwallis Street property owners and residents requesting their feedback on the street name. She will recommend that council pass a motion to circulate the list of compliant names back to the residents and homeowners for a vote. The street's new name will then be selected at random from the top three as submitted by the identified stakeholders. Once a final decision has been made, a 60-day notice will be mailed to residents and property owners informing them of the new street name.

As of Sept. 29, Cornwallis Street will be called Legacy Street. The name has the endorsement of Membertou Chief Terry Paul who said the new name is a fitting tribute to the history and legacies of the many notable Cape Bretoners who have contributed positively to Unama'ki (Cape Breton Island) over the years.

CBRM officials came up with a list of 29 names and sent it out to property owners and residents on Cornwallis Street and asked them to pick just one name. Municipal staff then took the three names with the most votes, put them in a hat and drew one name.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/residents-to-get-say-in-renaming-sydney-s-cornwallis-street-1.5624559>

<https://www.capebretonpost.com/news/local/sydney-street-to-get-new-name-472883/>

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/provincial/new-name-for-sydney-street-formerly-known-as-cornwallis-487525/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/cornwallis-street-in-sydney-will-cease-to-exist-in-september-1.5694132>

### **Province of Nova Scotia – Mar. 2021 – reviewing place names**

Councillors in Barrington voted unanimously on March 22 to pressure the province to get rid of derogatory place names within the municipality's boundaries.

The issue was put before council when Chuck Smith, president of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society, made a presentation explaining the derogatory and offensive meaning behind the word "Negro," which is found in some place names in Barrington.

Barrington Coun. Shaun Hatfield said the move follows a 2018 complaint lodged with the province by a citizen over place names including Cape Negro, Cape Negro Island, Negro Harbour and Squaw Island.

Barrington's website says the area was named by French colonialist navigator Samuel de Champlain, who wrote in the 1600s that he called the area Cape Negro "on account of a rock which from a distance looks like one."

The motion to seek action from the province was put forward by Hatfield, who said the names should be changed to acknowledge the negative impact on Nova Scotia's Black community.

Sue McKeage, communications director for Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, said the province has received two applications to have the names changed, and engaging with residents in the Barrington area is the next step in the process.

She said in-person meetings had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the province is moving forward with alternative methods, including a mailing to residents, a new website and a survey feedback form. "The consultation is expected to continue for several months so we are sure to give all residents a chance to be heard," McKeage wrote. "To date, we have engaged with several stakeholders about the name change, including provincial offices, local municipalities, and other groups."

To replace the name, Hatfield said Cape George was suggested during the meeting to honour David George, a Black Loyalist who travelled to nearby Shelburne, N.S., to preach among the Black settlers in the community of Birchtown.

## Prince Edward Island

### **Charlottetown, PEI – June 2020-May 2021 – retained monument with plaque**

Charlottetown city council is keeping a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald on public display, and will open talks with P.E.I.'s Indigenous community about how best to present Canada's contentious history of its dealings with Indigenous people. Council passed the motion by unanimous consent at a special meeting on June 25, 2020.

"Leave as is," said Charlottetown Mayor Philip Brown, in reference to the bronze statue of Canada's first prime minister. "And start the conversation, get the dialogue going and provide as much as we can of the whole picture that represents Sir John A. Macdonald."

Coun. Mike Duffy, who introduced the motion, told council that most people who have contacted him are in favour of keeping the statue, and opening up dialogue. At one point, council considered taking no vote on the issue. Duffy spoke against that.

Several council members supported the idea of erecting a plaque near the statue that would discuss Macdonald's links to Canada's troubled history in relation to Indigenous people.

A survey by the Native Council of P.E.I. has found a split of opinion among people identifying as Indigenous about what they feel should be done with a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald in downtown Charlottetown. Among respondents identifying as Indigenous, 52 per cent felt it should be removed and 45 per cent said it should stay in place with an educational plaque added. Only three per cent thought it should remain as it is.

The survey was shared on the Native Council of P.E.I.'s Facebook page and website, and was open to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. A total of 334 people responded, with 75 identifying as Indigenous. The overall results of the survey were less evenly split, with 62 per cent saying it should be taken down, and 35 per cent supporting the addition of an educational plaque. Surveys such as this, which solicit responses online from one organization's website or social media accounts, are not considered as accurate as random surveys.

Regarding consultation, 84 per cent of total respondents said the Native Council of P.E.I. should have been consulted about the statue earlier. In a news release in September, the council said it is still waiting to be included in discussions with the city.

As of December 1, some changes could be coming to a controversial statue in downtown Charlottetown. Despite feedback from interest groups asking for its dismantling, however, the Sir John A. Macdonald bench isn't going anywhere.

The statue at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Row featuring Canada's first prime minister came up at Charlottetown council's most recent meeting of the standing committee on economic development, tourism and event management. There, the committee heard that discussions have been ongoing with organizations representing Indigenous people — L'nuey, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of P.E.I. and the Native Council of P.E.I.

The first choice out of those discussions is to remove the statue. However, council voted unanimously in June to leave the statue where it is but possibly add to it following discussions with interested parties.

The committee was told by staff with the city that the stakeholders want changes made so that the statue no longer serves as a photo op and instead educates the public through some form of signage or a plaque detailing Macdonald's involvement setting up the residential school system. No one on the committee was specific about what changes could be made that would transform the location from one that serves an entertainment purpose to an educational one.

Coun. Julie McCabe, chairwoman of the committee, said it's important the city act on this issue after it committed earlier this year to listening to the Indigenous community. McCabe said after the meeting the committee wants to establish the terms of reference first before making any sort of recommendation to council. "The terms of reference will give us the focus of where we want to go," McCabe said, noting that the stakeholders don't want to see the statue stay in place with no changes made.

Coun. Terry MacLeod said during the meeting he had concerns about making any changes to the statue. He said it shouldn't be left up to the city to tell people they can't take selfies at the statue. "At the end of the day, John A. Macdonald is everybody's prime minister," MacLeod said.

On January 11, during council's regular public monthly meeting, Coun. Mike Duffy asked why the issue around the Sir John A. Macdonald statue has not progressed in seven months.

Coun. Julie McCabe, chairwoman of council's standing committee on economic development, tourism and event management, said meetings with stakeholders, such as L'nuey, the Mi'kmawq Confederacy of P.E.I. and the Native Council of P.E.I. are ongoing and information between those groups and the city is being shared.

Coun. Terry Bernard echoed Duffy's frustration, saying that it really comes down to rewriting the plaque located adjacent to the statue to tell Macdonald's full story. Bernard said it should not take seven months to rewrite the plaque that details Macdonald's history.

On January 28, the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils, a joint forum that governs organizations that act in the shared interest of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation, issued a statement, signed by Lennox Island Chief Darlene Bernard and Chief Junior Gould from Abegweit First Nation. They are taking issue with the way the City of Charlottetown is planning to deal with the controversial statue of Sir John A. Macdonald.

"We understood when we were asked for input following the City's decision to keep the statue last summer, that we were to provide recommendations on how that statue could be offset to address the situation in keeping with reconciliation objectives. What was not made clear was that the only intent to engage us was to assist in rewriting the existing plaque," the chiefs said in the statement.

They say recent correspondence from the city indicated the city planned only to change the plaque and nothing else.

The assembly said it had made five suggestions to the City to amend the art installation and "tell the true story of this individual and begin to address the trauma that its presence is continuing to perpetuate," the statement said.



Those recommendations are:

- Add another figure such as an Indigenous child or elder.
- Fill in or seal off the empty space on the bench so it can't be used for photo opportunities.
- Install signage so viewers understand "the devastating role that Sir John A. Macdonald played in the Indigenous history of Canada."
- If the artist engaged is not Indigenous, a Mi'kmaw artist should be hired as a consultant.
- Complete the work as soon as reasonably possible with elements in place by spring at the latest.

"We had hoped that while work was underway, signage would have been immediately placed on the bench to a) remove the photo opportunity and b) advise that a project is underway to amend the installation to tell the true and complete history of Sir John A. Macdonald and his role in the policies and laws which continue to have devastating impacts on the Indigenous Peoples of Canada," the statement said.

The chiefs said the matter has "dragged on too long" and that simply rewriting the plaque is not good enough. It said the assembly of councils remains open to future engagement, but said it "does not support the simple rewriting or addition of a small plaque to be an acceptable solution."

Mayor Philip Brown said there's been miscommunication. The City thought it had an agreement in place with Mi'kmaw leaders to replace the plaque. However, Brown added nothing is off the table. "We're working towards addressing all the points," he said, and the City hopes to "work this out co-operatively." He added that any experts or scholars engaged would be both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Brown said the city is also taking into account that much work is about to be done in the area around the statue, including by Parks Canada to Province House, all of which will be taking into account the full history of Canada.

On May 10, Charlottetown city council voted 8-1 in favour of adopting the five recommendations presented by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils. Only Coun. Mike Duffy voted against the resolution, referencing a survey last summer that indicated the majority of respondents wanted the statue to remain as is.

Councillors raised several questions leading up to the vote, such as who will pay for the modifications, where the new signage and Indigenous statue will be placed and how the empty space on the bench will be filled in to discourage photo opportunities. Some councillors asked whether the recommendations were negotiable. One suggestion raised during discussion was putting the new statue of the Indigenous figure in a different place.

Coun. Julie McCabe said the resolution would offer a compromise and help advance reconciliation with the Indigenous community. "If we look at John A.'s policies and their impact on Indigenous organizations, we don't have to diminish his legacy as our prime minister," she said. "The key to council's resolution was balance and reconciliation, and by working with these recommendations, you can't really have one without the other, so the two pieces of our coming together will really demonstrate that balance."

Although one of the recommendations is to complete the work as soon as possible, McCabe said expectations need to be realistic. "We're still living in a pandemic situation and there is going to be some consultation that will have to happen with the original artist, with the Indigenous groups. There's certain things that can happen right away ... most will be able to be accomplished, hopefully, by the fall deadline."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-charlottetown-macdonald-statue-1.5627744>

<https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/local/charlottetown-council-votes-to-leave-statue-of-sir-john-a-macdonald-in-place-466490/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-john-a-macdonald-statue-native-council-survey-1.5727632>

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/canada/charlottetown-committee-discusses-controversial-statue-526157/>

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/canada/charlottetown-councillor-says-city-dragging-feet-on-controversial-statue-issue-539702/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-mi-kmaq-sir-john-a-macdonald-statue-1.5892143>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-sir-john-a-macdonald-statue-charlottetown-council-1.6021185>

## Quebec

### **Chambly, Quebec – April 2018 – renamed street and park**

In April 2018, the name of Sir John Colborne was removed from a street and park in the town of Chambly, near Montreal, for his actions in quelling the 1837 Rebellion. Citing Colborne's "merciless war practices," city hall announced that "the municipality no longer wishes to showcase this name on its territory and is withdrawing it." It will instead commemorate Joseph Ostiguy, a former mayor.

The process of the name change angered residents, who say they were not consulted.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-quebec-towns-street-name-change-forces-a-confrontation-with-history/>

### **McGill University, Montreal, Quebec – July 2020 – retained statue**

Students at McGill University have raised objections to a prominent statue of James McGill, the university's founder, who owned five enslaved people. There have been objections to the statue for years, but these have increased in the during the summer of 2020 as anti-racism protests have happened around the world.

In a statement issued on July 31, 2020, McGill said “there is no plan for its removal.” The university is taking “a range of steps,” said the statement, including trying to enhance support for Black students and to recruit, hire and retain “underrepresented” faculty. It will also research McGill’s links with slavery and colonialism, it said, appointing two postdoctoral scholars who will investigate this history so that McGill can “consider how best to acknowledge and engage meaningfully with its past.”

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/mcgill-students-return-to-campus-to-protest-statue-school-admits-slave-owning-history-but-says-no-to-statue-s-removal-1.5048072>

### **Montreal, Quebec – August 2018-June 2019– renamed street**

Amherst Street, Montreal, was named after British General Jeffery Amherst who advocated the use of biological warfare, through smallpox blankets, to kill Indigenous people.

Mayor Denis Coderre announced the city’s plan to change the name in 2017. In August 2018, the city announced it would change the name to that of an Indigenous person who helped shape the city, in the spirit of reconciliation. A committee of Indigenous people was created to help pick a new name for the street, which was renamed Atateken Street in June 2019, denoting the idea of equality among people in the Mohawk language.

According to the city, organizations in the neighbourhood and merchants' associations were kept informed of the renaming process as it progressed.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-amherst-street-rename-1.4784843>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/amherst-street-renamed-atateken-symbolizing-fraternity-and-peace-1.5184562>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5416159/montreal-amherst-street-renamed/>

### **Montreal, Quebec – Aug. 2020 – retained subway station name**

Despite the city's insistence that renaming Lionel-Groulx metro station after famed jazz musician Oscar Peterson isn't in the cards, a petition calling for the change has garnered over 25,000 signatures. City officials have repeatedly refused to consider renaming the station. Lionel Groulx, a famed priest and historian and key figure in Quebec history has been the subject of re-examination in recent years due to his racist views.

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/petition-to-rename-lionel-groulx-metro-station-after-oscar-peterson-reaches-25-000-signature-goal-1.5066867>

### **Montreal, Quebec – Aug. 2020 – reviewing monument**

A group of activists toppled a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald in Place du Canada in downtown Montreal on the afternoon of August 29 in the aftermath of a protest calling for the defunding of the police force. City workers removed the statue from the ground with a crane the following

morning. The statue of Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, has been the site of repeated acts of graffiti in recent years, and it has often been covered in red paint.

On Twitter Saturday, Quebec Premier François Legault wrote that "whatever one might think of John A. Macdonald, destroying a monument in this way is unacceptable. We must fight racism, but destroying parts of our history is not the solution. Vandalism has no place in our democracy and the statue must be restored."

There has been an online petition with more than 46,000 signatures asking Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante to take down the statue. In a statement Saturday, Plante wrote that the city's public art office and heritage experts will co-ordinate the statue's restoration.

The city hasn't yet said what it plans to do with the statue — whether it will be restoring it to the same spot in Place du Canada, adding a contextual plaque, or putting it in a museum.

Catherine Cadotte, a spokesperson for Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante, said Monday the city would take "some time to reflect on the future of this statue" and consult with "partners and experts."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/defund-police-protest-black-lives-matter-1.5705101>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/john-a-macdonald-montreal-1.5706485>

## Saskatchewan

### **Regina, Saskatchewan – July 2020-Apr. 2021 – removed statue**

- For Macdonald report, see pages 119-128 of Mar. 31, 2021 council agenda packet:  
<http://reginask.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=4223&Inline=True>
- For online public comment page, see: <https://beheard.regina.ca/john-a-macdonald-legacy-review>

In July 2020, Kerry Bellegarde-Opoonechaw and Eveningstar Andreas created an online petition to urge the City of Regina to remove the statue of the first Canadian prime minister. The petition, which outlines Macdonald's mistreatment of Indigenous people, has gathered more than 2,500 signatures.

Mayor Michael Fougere said the city is in the middle of a public consultation process regarding the statue, which includes consulting with Indigenous leaders and communities as well as the public. He said there are a few options as to what will happen with the statue of Macdonald, including leaving it where it is and adding plaques that address Macdonald's problematic legacy with Indigenous people. He said other options are to move the statue to another location in the city or to destroy it.

A temporary sign has been chained to the statue noting that the municipality is reaching out to the public to guide their response.

On September 3, a group of Conservative MPs, including Andrew Scheer, held a rally in Regina's Victoria Park to voice support for the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald. They were met by protesters calling for the statue's removal.

One question in the November 2 Regina mayoral debate drew a lot of attention and conflicting answers. It revolved around the John A. Macdonald statue in Regina's Victoria Park.

Darren Bradley was against moving the statue. George Wooldridge said he would leave the statue issue up to the people via a plebiscite. Jerry Flegel said the city needs to provide context for the statue and that both sides of history need to be detailed. Sandra Masters said that without representing the Indigenous side of history, the statue cannot stay how it is.

Michael Fougere said a city report will be back before city council in January. He said there are a lot of hurt people in the city and it would be good to have both sides presented.

Jim Elliott went further, saying it should be removed or moved and Dewdney Avenue should be renamed. He said the process would be a way to engage with Indigenous people. Tony Fiocco said the removal or moving of the statue would be a part of Truth and Reconciliation.

On March 31, a report by Regina's City Administration will be presented to council. It recommends council temporarily remove the statue of John A. Macdonald from Victoria Park. The report is based on an ongoing review of the monument of Canada's first Prime Minister.

The administration recommends the statue be put into storage while the next stage of the legacy review determines the best way to tell Macdonald's full story to the public.

The recommendation, approved by Executive Committee, reads:

*That City Council:*

*1. Direct Administration to relocate the Sir. John A. Macdonald Statue and place it into storage while consultations occur with partners and public on an appropriate future location, as well as an accompanying balanced educational programming and narrative.*

*2. Direct Administration to report back to City Council in Q1 of 2022 with the results of an engagement process to determine the final location of the statue.*

According to the report, there will be budget implications to the communications and engagement approach as well as relocation of the statue and treatment of the site. These activities can be completed for between \$25,000 and \$35,000 and can be found in existing budgets within 2021 and 2022.

In addition to exploring relocation of the statue, the next phase of the Review will include outreach and engagement to:

- Communicate the findings of the Elder consultation and specific next steps to interested parties and the public.
- Continue to seek guidance from Indigenous residents, artists and elders on relocation efforts, interpretation and context setting, and programming opportunities for the statue.
- Clearly identify the intent of the John A. Macdonald Legacy Review and the City's responsibility in telling a complete story.
- Provide an accessible online space for conversation and educational information.
- Encourage participation on the Be Heard Regina Legacy Review page.
- Ensure Be Heard Regina is regularly reviewed and moderated to remove inappropriate or offensive comments or other materials if they appear.
- Provide updates to interested parties regarding the status of the Legacy Review.

On March 31, Regina's city council voted seven to four to remove the Sir John A. Macdonald statue from Victoria Park. The statue will now be put into storage while the city does public consultations on a new location.

Councillor Cheryl Stadnichuk said while she's heard some people say this is erasing or amending history, she sees the move as making amends with history and telling the full story of Sir John A. Macdonald. "If we want to talk about erasing history, it was John A. Macdonald and decades of governments that erased Indigenous history," she said. "We want to talk about cancel culture, it was John A. Macdonald and decades of governments that tried to cancel the entire culture of Indigenous people."

Councillor Lori Bresciani, who voted against the removal, said she's concerned that if the statue is placed in storage, it won't be put back up. As well, Bresciani said, she's concerned the general public didn't get to voice their opinion. "The engagement that the City of Regina did was absolutely disappointing," Bresciani said. "To our history we've got the good history and the bad history and no one is perfect. But in this situation the general public deserves a say."

Councillors Bob Hawkins Bresciani proposed separate amendments throughout the meeting to leave the statue in its place while further consultation takes place. Both amendments were defeated six to five.

On April 13, city crews removed the statue of John A. Macdonald. The statue was then taken and secured in one of the city's storage facilities, where it will remain until a consultation process provides a next step for what do to with it.

Consultations — which are to take place sometime in the coming year — are intended to, in part, discuss a way to strike a balance regarding Macdonald's full legacy, both as a founding father of the nation and as someone whose policies played a significant role in harms done to Indigenous and other ethno-cultural communities in Canada.

Emmaline Hill, manager of social and cultural development with the city, said while the statue's removal went ahead without any spectators present, steps were taken to ensure some level of presence or ceremony wasn't required in keeping with reconciliation or the city's relationship with the Indigenous community.

She noted the statue weighs 1,100 pounds, meaning the city needed a fair amount of equipment to remove it.

The city chose not to tell the public when the statue was coming down, due to concern over safety. "The date of the move was not released in advance due to security reasons and to ensure the area could be kept safe as the work was completed," the city said. "A public art collection curator was on site to ensure that the statue was properly handled and safely transported to storage until it can be re-installed in a new location."

The city said it is still exploring new locations for the statue's relocation and that a recommendation will be brought to city council by early 2022. Additional context regarding Macdonald's legacy will be added to the statue for when it is placed in its new home.

Earlier this month, the city launched an online space called Be Heard Regina for people to share their stories about Macdonald's legacy. Hill said that site has proven popular, with lots of engagement noted so far.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/removal-john-a-macdonald-statue-regina-1.5637249>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/conservative-mps-rally-at-statue-met-by-protesters-1.5710639>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/statue-draws-polar-responses-from-regina-mayoral-candidates-1.5787755>

<https://regina.ctvnews.ca/regina-s-john-a-macdonald-statue-should-be-temporarily-removed-city-administration-1.5365869>

<https://www.regina.ca/parks-recreation-culture/arts-culture/public-art-collections/legacy-review/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-council-john-a-macdonald-statue-removed-1.5971413>

<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/john-a-macdonald-statue-removed-from-victoria-park>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7757860/regina-john-a-macdonald-statue-removed/>

### **Regina, Saskatchewan – July 2020-Apr. 2021 – reviewing street name**

For the last four years, BigEagle-Kequahtoway, founder of the Buffalo People's Art Institute, has been advocating for Dewdney Avenue to be renamed Buffalo Avenue or — using the Lakota word for buffalo — Tatanka Avenue.

Edgar Dewdney was the Indian commissioner of the North-West Territories (NWT) from 1879 to 1888, where he carried out Prime Minister John A. Macdonald's orders to use starvation as a means to subjugate Indigenous peoples. In 1881, Dewdney was also appointed as the Lieutenant-Governor of the NWT. While in that role, he picked Regina as the region's new capital in 1882.

In July, a petition organized by Decolonizing Relations, a Regina-based social justice initiative, gathered more than 550 signatures in support of changing the street's name to Buffalo Avenue. The petition was presented to a City of Regina clerk on July 29, requesting a response to the petition by the end of August.

BigEagle-Kequahtoway said the city did respond to the group, saying it would initiate community consultation and complete a report on its findings by the first quarter of 2021.

As of March 31, 2021, city administration is developing a legacy review process for the name change request. Mayor Sandra Masters said renaming Dewdney Avenue could become expensive, as when a street name is changed, the land titles change. "Then it's the requirement of all businesses and residents to have to register and address change at land titles," she said. "And that becomes very expensive and onerous."

Masters said engagement will determine the best course of action for Dewdney Avenue.

At the April 14 council meeting, questions were asked about where the proposed renaming of Dewdney Avenue sits. City Clerk Jim Nicol said due to other issues — such as the statue and the



renaming of Dewdney Pool and Park—the Dewdney Avenue issue won't likely be discussed until well into the summer or even the fall.

Nicol explained the street issue is much more complicated given it runs the entire length of the city and contains approximately 2,500 addresses. "So that is part of the reason why there will be a much more extensive consultation, because it is on a far larger magnitude," he said.

Nicol said renaming streets in Regina is exceedingly rare. To his knowledge, it was done just twice — in the early 1900s for College Avenue and in the 1970s for Saskatchewan Drive.

<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/buffalo-art-project-on-dewdney-avenue-continues-call-for-streets-name-change>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-dewdney-pool-rename-1.5972873>

<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/dewdney-park-renamed-debate-over-dewdney-ave-to-continue>

### **Regina, Saskatchewan – Mar.-Apr. 2021 – renamed public pool and park**

On March 31, Regina city council voted unanimously to rename Dewdney Pool "Buffalo Meadows Pool."

Dewdney Pool was named after Edgar Dewdney who the Indian Commissioner of the North West Territories in the late 19th century, which included Saskatchewan, Alberta and parts of B.C. His policies included withholding rations from Indigenous People to force them to settle on reserves. Dewdney chose Regina as the region's capital in 1882 before Saskatchewan was a province.

Renaming the pool will cost about \$1,000 to make a new pool sign. City administration said that money will come from the current budget to maintain the pool.

On April 7, the Regina planning commission voted eight to one in favour of renaming Dewdney Park in the North Central neighbourhood to Buffalo Meadows Park. The new name will go before Regina's city council the following week.

The new park name was approved by the North Central Community Association and Central Zone board. If city council approves the renaming, then the city would work with local groups and a local elder to hold a ceremony in spring 2021.

On April 14, city council voted nine to two in favour of renaming Dewdney Park Buffalo Meadows.

Questions were raised by Coun. Lori Bresciani (Ward 4) and Terina Shaw (Ward 7) — both of whom voted against the change — about the public consultation process involved. They were told a petition of 600 names as well as consultation with the North Central Community Association helped to guide the Regina Planning Commission toward recommending the change by an eight-to-one margin.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7732053/regina-council-dewdney-pool-renaming/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-dewdney-pool-rename-1.5972873>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/rename-dewdney-park-buffalo-meadows-1.5979549>

<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/dewdney-park-renamed-debate-over-dewdney-ave-to-continue>

### **Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – Mar. 2021 – reviewing street name and renaming process**

Saskatoon city hall is set to look into establishing a process to handle requests to rename streets and buildings based on “historical context.” The civic naming committee asked for the study after a historical researcher requested it consider renaming a long, leafy street on the city’s east side.

McPherson Avenue is named for David Lewis MacPherson, who served as Prime Minister John A. Macdonald’s minister of the interior. The different spellings appear to be the result of an historic typo. MacPherson is understood to have been responsible for executing temperance activist John Lake’s request to halt the surveying of Metis river lots, and instead establish the townsite that became Saskatoon.

Stephanie Danyluk, who made the request, characterized his actions as “egregious” colonial policy, and has said there are other more worthy contributors to local history who deserve to be commemorated. In her presentation to the committee, Danyluk said many Indigenous place names in the area were overwritten with colonial names, and this would be a way to restore that history.

Coun. Mairin Loewen, who sits on the three-member committee, suggested MacPherson would not have a street named for him today. “This would not be a person that this committee, and the community, would want to uphold or valorize in this way,” Loewen said during the meeting on March 9.

The committee heard that while the city has a policy to rename streets in some circumstances, it is largely procedural and does not address the unique circumstances of Danyluk’s request.

Loewen said it “makes sense” to reflect on what is appropriate. She put forward a motion asking city administrators to look at how other municipalities have handled similar requests in the past. “We should expect more of these,” she said.

Coun. Troy Davies supported Loewen’s motion, which was subsequently amended to include his suggestion that “key stakeholders” be involved. He suggested the Saskatoon Tribal Council would be important to consult.

The committee voted unanimously in favour of Loewen’s motion, and is expected to receive the administration’s report at its next quarterly meeting.

<https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/city-hall-to-study-renaming-requests-based-on-historical-context>

## **Federal Government**

### **Canadian Coast Guard – July 2020-Apr. 2021 – renamed ship**

Canadian Coast Guard ship (CCGS) Edward Cornwallis will be renamed.

Fisheries and Coast Guard Minister Bernedette Jordan made the announcement on July 6 that she will work with local Mi'kmaq chiefs to come up with a new name that reflects their place in Canadian history. The release named Chief Terry Paul (Membertou) and Daniel N. Paul (Saqmawiey) as the two Mi'kmaq leaders who would be working with Minister Jordan on finding an appropriate name.

Currently, the ship is being worked on to extend the ships operating lifespan. It is expected to set sail under a new name in early 2021 when the repairs are complete.

As of April 5, 2021, the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Edward Cornwallis has been renamed in honour of a historic Peace and Friendship Treaty.

Mi'kmaw elder and author Daniel Paul got a call on Sunday from the office for Bernadette Jordan, the minister for Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the coast guard. They let him know the ship has officially been renamed after his suggestion: the CCGS Kopit Hopson 1752.

The Treaty of 1752 was signed on Nov. 22, 1752, between British governor Peregrine Thomas Hopson (Cornwallis's successor) and Mi'kmaw Chief Kopit.

Paul said naming the ship after Hopson and Kopit is simply the "appropriate" thing to do, and shows what can be accomplished when two people on opposing sides sit down and decide to do something positive.

The 1752 Peace and Friendship Treaties set out long-standing commitments between the Crown and the Mi'kmaw, Maliseet and Peskotomuhkati people.

<https://www.country94.ca/2020/07/06/ccgs-edward-cornwallis-to-be-renamed/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/mi-kmaq-rename-former-cornwallis-coast-guard-ship-for-1752-treaty-1.5975933>

### **Department of Transportation, Canada – Mar. 2021 – retained airport name**

Federal Transport Minister Omar Alghabra's office says the government has no plans to change the name of Montreal's airport, despite an online petition calling for the removal of Pierre Trudeau's name. "Our government's priority remains the health and safety of Quebecers and all Canadians during these difficult times, and that is exactly what we are focusing on," spokesperson Allison St-Jean said.

Former PQ Premier René Lévesque collected thousands of signatures. The petition, launched on March 1, says new reports about Trudeau's response to the PQ's election in 1976 make him unworthy of the honour.

The petition was signed by PQ Leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon and Marie-Anne Alepin, president of the nationalist Société St. Jean Baptiste, along with other sovereigntist and labour leaders. It lists multiple reasons for pulling Trudeau's name from the airport, from his handling of the October Crisis to his approach to the repatriation of the Constitution.

It also cites a recent CBC News story about a telegram written by former U.S. ambassador Thomas Enders in which he said Trudeau had suggested to Montreal businessman Paul

Desmarais that he make things as tough as possible for the fledgling PQ government and move jobs out of Quebec.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-airport-name-petition-1.5934111>

### **Parks Canada (Point Pelee National Park) – Oct. 2020 – renamed park area**

Parks Canada and Point Pelee National Park have taken another step to acknowledge the area's Indigenous history with the renaming of the park's day use area in the Anishinaabemowin language. What was formerly known as the Pioneer area recently became known as Madbin Jina, which means "sit a while."

Parks Canada said in the news release the renaming is part of a variety of projects to advance reconciliation, and to rebuild and strengthen the connection to the traditional culture and history of the park.

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/point-pelee-invites-visitors-to-sit-a-while-in-honour-of-caldwell-first-nation>

### **Parliament Buildings, Ottawa – June 2017 – renamed building**

On June 21, the federal government announced that is renaming the Langevin Block building, which sits across from Parliament Hill, out of respect for Indigenous Peoples. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says keeping the name of Sir Hector-Louis Langevin — someone associated with the residential school system — on the building that houses Prime Minister's Office clashes with the government's vision.

Instead, the building will be called the Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/3545470/ottawa-langevin-block-renamed/>

## **4 United Kingdom Case Studies**

### **England**

#### **Ashbourne, England – June 2020-Jan. 2021 – removed statue**

The debate over what to do with a controversial wooden carving that fell from grace in spectacular fashion in the summer will be reignited on November 26.

The Black's Head that has watched over the town from the Green Man gallows sign in St John Street for centuries is currently being stored away by Derbyshire Dales District Council - after it was rushed away from its perch in June.

A national petition which branded the historic caricature "racist" and called for its removal gathered 86,000 signatures before it was closed, and a counter-petition to keep it in place has gathered 10,000 signatures - but the toxic divide it created ran deeper than an online dispute.

Derbyshire Dales District Council recently completed an independent inquiry into the head's sudden removal - which was carried out one evening by residents ahead of a planned removal the following morning by district council contractors. And Ashbourne Town Council has since expressed an interest to take on the ownership of the head and the grade II\*-listed gallows sign structure, which was gifted to Derbyshire Dales District Council in the 1990s.

District councillors are set to meet on Thursday, November 26 to discuss a report on assets in its ownership, including the head, and public participation is invited. The district councillors will also be asked to consider the town council's offer to take on the ownership during next week's meeting.

Town councillors were due to discuss the potential future of the carving, should their offer be accepted, and they were also due to be asked to prepare a statement outlining their position to the district councillors, which would be sent in ahead of the November 26 meeting. The town council was also asked to consider appointing one of the members to make a representation about the issue at the meeting, on behalf of the council.

Ashbourne Town Council has previously discussed an interest in bringing the head back into the town, and considering taking on its ownership. At that meeting, shortly after the head was removed, it was mooted that the carving could be put on public display, perhaps in a new heritage centre, once that project could be explored again.

The history of the head is convoluted and open to debate - but some believe it was a fertility symbol, others think it depicted a Turkish coffee merchant, and most people believe it was a statue of a servant who used to visit the town with either Sir Walter Raleigh or Samuel Johnson.

The group that started the original online petition said Ashbourne's head, which they believed was a racist caricature or even a symbol of slavery, had no place in a modern town centre. But for now, it remains in the Derbyshire Records Office until a decision can be reached over its long-term future.

As of January 29, new laws to protect England's cultural and historic heritage must be considered before a controversial wooden carving is officially removed from Ashbourne's streetscape, Derbyshire County Council has said.

The authority, which is keeping the town's controversial Black's Head sculpture under lock and key in its records office, has written to the custodians of the Green Man gallows sign Derbyshire Dales District Council to express disappointment over the lack of public consultation over the head's removal in the summer.

Derbyshire County Council leader Barry Lewis has written to the district council's leader Garry Purdy, pointing out that removing the head on a permanent basis, as the district council decided to do at a meeting late last year, would need listed building consent from Historic England.

Mr. Lewis also pointed out that the government's new policy in regard to historic statues and landmarks has changed this month and any removal or alteration would need planning permission.

Lewis said he would like to see a proper public consultation over what should happen to the head, which some feel is an offensive racist caricature, and he hopes that will now happen as part of the planning process.

He said: "It was Derbyshire County Council's understanding that any decision regarding the future of the head, which is being held in our Records Office's storage unit, was going to be subject to a full public consultation exercise. It is disappointing that local residents are not being consulted and involved in the decision on the future of the head prior to any statutory process being enacted. Local residents' comments on the removal of the head, through a Listed Building Consent application process, will only be in light of impacts on the sign's historic significance, rather than the wider community's desire, or not, to keep the head in place. This is because Derbyshire Dales District Council has already decided to pursue its permanent removal as owner. Notwithstanding this, the head is a notable part of the sign, and was in place at the time of listing, and therefore is likely to contribute the listed structure's historic significance."

He said: "The need for this public scrutiny has been strengthened by the Secretary of State's recent announcement to put in to law the requirement that planning permission or listed building consent to be obtained for the removal of any historic statues, plaques and other monuments, as these processes afford local people the chance to be properly consulted. Derbyshire Dales District Council's decision to pursue removal of the head does not align with the general ethos of 'retain and explain'."

Many in the town, including some members of Ashbourne Town Council, called for a public consultation to let the town decide whether it should be put back up or not, but Derbyshire Dales District Council decided, at a meeting in December, that it should never go back on to the gallows sign. The preference, they concluded, was for it to go on display in a museum or heritage centre, under the care of Ashbourne Town Council, with a plaque alongside it explaining its history - which is still being widely debated.

<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/ashbourne-blacks-head-for-discussion-4708488>

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/head-statue-debate-back-on-as-county-council-steps-in/>

### **Beccles, England – July 2020 – retained name with plaque**

Town councillors have decided they will not be renaming a town centre road after concerns were raised about its name. A resident of Beccles had told the town council they believed the origins of Black Boy Meadow, in the town centre, to be racist, and asked councillors to consider renaming the road.

However, at a town council meeting on Tuesday July 7, councillors decided they would be standing by the road's name after consulting local historians. The town council say a local historian told them the pub was most likely named after King Charles II, who was nicknamed the "black boy of England", allegedly for his head of black hair.

After a unanimous decision against renaming the road, it will continue to be called Black Boy Meadow, however it was agreed by councillors that an information board explaining the history of the name would be put up on the road.

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/politics/council-will-not-rename-black-boy-meadow-after-racism-concerns-made-1-6736169>

### **Birmingham, England – June 2020-May 2021 – retained monuments with plaques, retained street names**

- For information about public consultation, see “Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business” consultation analysis report from May 2021, specifically the introduction and pages 40-45: [https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=NE1Lu5VGwQGmJZgppfql2ORU7bXlWgsoRrWvsl71QA3tXBCTRigeKQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcTPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9lXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d\)](https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=NE1Lu5VGwQGmJZgppfql2ORU7bXlWgsoRrWvsl71QA3tXBCTRigeKQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcTPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9lXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d))
- For action plan, see final report, especially pages 36-37: [https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=rclDuj885EAFMk5oRvLfU52ZYPZ2X11oDKnp8HU4s66Cjl09BNLraA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcTPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9lXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d\)](https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/Birmingham/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=rclDuj885EAFMk5oRvLfU52ZYPZ2X11oDKnp8HU4s66Cjl09BNLraA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWcTPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9lXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d))

Statues could be moved from prominent positions in Birmingham city centre as a result of a review prompted by Black Lives Matter protests. All of the city's statues, monuments and building names are set to come under review as part of a report into equality, heritage and Birmingham's multi-cultural identity.

The authority has not confirmed which figures could be a risk of removal but a petition by the Birmingham Anti-Racist Campaign (BARC) called for the Horatio Nelson and James Watt statues to be moved to a museum. The BARC petition calls for Nelson's statue to be removed saying: "Nelson was a white supremacist and defender of slavery." Statues of Watt, and other memorials such as James Watt School, should be moved or changed on the basis the petition says: "James Watt's father was a wealthy colonial merchant and involved the transatlantic slave trade. James Watt benefited from this and was directly involved in the transportation of a young male slave."

Other memorials flagged by the petition, signed by 653 people include the Boer War memorial in Cannon Hill Park, Matthew Boulton memorials, Curzon Street Station and the Curzon Building, and memorials to Joseph Chamberlain. The petition, claims the city is “littered” with statues with “murderous links with slavery,” which should be reviewed because they “glorify those linked with slavery and British colonial history.”

On May 18, 2021, the council's report entitled ‘Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business’ will be discussed to examine how the city is tackling inequality.



A Birmingham City Council spokesperson said: “The council is in discussion with Birmingham Museums Trust to draw up a proposal to engage in a wider conversation with residents and the public about heritage, injustice, inequality and multi-cultural citizenry. This will include a review of the appropriateness of local monuments and statues on public land and council property. We will also ensure that other plaques accompanying our monuments properly and fully explain their historical context, where appropriate.”

The report's goal, in relation to monument removals and place renaming, was to:

- Review the appropriateness of local monuments and statues on public land and council property.
- Review street and public space naming protocols to ensure that potential names properly reflect and respect the city's history and communities.
- Review the displays of art in civic buildings to ensure they also tell the full story of Birmingham

The formal consultation process ran from 8 September 2020 to 14 December 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, consultations were held on-line. More than 4,000 people engaged with this consultation. Engagement methods included community focus groups, conversations facilitated by partner organisations, bespoke youth engagement via social media, engagement with council staff and an online survey.

There were 18 questions on the online survey. Three relate to the above goals. The questions and responses were as follows:

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposal “We will review the appropriateness of local monuments and statues on public land and council property. We will also ensure that the plaques accompanying our monuments properly and fully explain their historical context, where appropriate.”

#### Key Findings

- 65% of respondents agree to this proposal compared to 24% who disagreed.
- 249 respondents provided comments to their answer.
- Key themes: Historical Accuracy, contextualising monuments with plaques, removing monuments of leaders that committed major crimes against humanity e.g. Slavery and Genocide, allowing Birmingham to vote on this proposal.
- It is clear amongst the feedback that the exercise needs to be conducted democratically and in a transparent manner. It's important to draw attention as to why it is important for Birmingham as a city to carry this action out to avoid being reactionary to events happening in America. It should be made clear to the general public what this signifies and means for them.
- Historical Accuracy: 42% responded to erasing and/or whitewashing of the past: It's consistently mentioned that completing removing/destroying the statues will have a detrimental impact. 26% of respondents felt it is better to relocate them to a sensitive place such as within a museum, with details provided for context. This is to avoid rewriting history and hiding Britain's role in the slave trade.
- Logistically Complicated: How does the City consider this in the context of Joseph Chamberlain – he is a notable civic leader with multiple institutions named after him but

was an imperialist? This sets out the challenges and complicated landscape this action will be placed in.

- Democratic Vote: needs to be debated as a stand-alone issue with majority of the city.
2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposal “We will review our street and public space naming protocols to ensure that potential names properly reflect and respect the city’s history and communities, together with our wider Heritage Strategy.”

#### Key Findings

- 63% of respondents agree to this proposal compared to 20% who disagreed.
  - 152 respondents provided comments to their answer.
  - Key themes: Historical Accuracy, Logistically Complicated, Cost Implications, Celebrate Birmingham Heritage, Democratic Vote, Reactionary.
  - The sentiments are similar from the local monuments proposal but there is a greater emphasis on focusing on new public spaces as public perception changes over time.
  - Celebrating Birmingham Heritage: Street names should reflect Birmingham’s heritage and past.
  - Logistically Complicated: 5% felt that it would be better to apply the protocol to all new developments, reducing confusion and logistic complications in renaming and changing road signs. Like the question above, it should only be applied to road signs which glorify extremely problematic public/historical figures. Renaming current road signs could create a lot of confusion. However, it was also seen as a positive step for Birmingham.
  - Reactionary: Major theme that social media and far-left activists are strongly influencing the policies (Edward Colston statue in Bristol). There is mention of renaming other contentious public spaces such as Saddam Hussein mosque (it is potentially worth highlighting in future documentation that this facility was later renamed Birmingham Jame Masjid Birchfield, demonstrating that no single community is being targeted).
  - Democratic Vote: 10% of respondents felt that this would be a costly and unnecessary exercise and should only be carried out if it can be voted on. Supplement this with education and raising awareness.
3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposal “We will review the displays of art in our civic buildings to ensure they also tell the full story of Birmingham, including the renaming of a room in the Council House to properly mark the contribution of Black Asian Minority Ethnic civic leaders.”

#### Key Findings

- 63% of respondents agree to this proposal compared to 21% who disagreed.
- 158 respondents provided comments to their answer.
- Key themes: Merit-Based and Inclusive Recognition, Reactionary/Influenced by Social Media, Unnecessary, Needs Clarity.
- Overall, it is suggested that the strategy needs a short, medium and long-term strategy and framework to be effective. The proposal’s tone and context for the above questions have themes which appear reactionary to the global BLM protests. In the social media age, its impact and significance will be reduced to virtue signalling and pandering to popular public opinion, rather than meaningfully tackling inequality and community

divisions in the city. There is an emphasis on continuous, open and dialogue between civic leadership and communities to ensure these objectives are being addressed effectively.

- Inclusive: Need to recognise other minority groups (Birmingham's Irish Community) and ensure equal recognition across protected characteristics such as the contribution of women.
- Clarity: 13% do not fully understand the selection process and require greater clarity on the proposal.
- Reactionary: 14% of respondents felt this proposal was reactionary in comparison to 4% of respondents for the above question.
- Suggestion to have an exhibition display, which highlights exceptional individuals. Removing pieces of art could be deemed as censorship.

The final report included the following points as part of the city's strategic action plan:

- Engage with communities to review the appropriateness of local monuments and statues on public land and council property. We will also ensure that the plaques accompanying our monuments properly and fully explain their historical context, where appropriate. (May to Sept. 2021). Led by Cultural Development Service. Success will be measured by:
  - o Register developed on all monuments and statues on public land and council property
  - o Review undertaken on appropriateness of monuments and statues.
- We will review our street and public space naming protocols to ensure that potential names properly reflect and respect the city's history and communities, together with our wider Heritage Strategy. Led by Transport & Connectivity. Success will be measured by:
  - o Refreshed Street Naming Policy which enables a wider range of names reflecting diverse themes to be introduced (June 2021)
  - o Consideration of street names for inclusion on a pre-approved list reflecting Birmingham's diverse culture (Dec 2021)
- The Cultural Development Service will refresh Birmingham's Heritage Strategy in consultation with communities to reflect on the contribution from of all our communities in telling the Birmingham story and setting out our ambitions going forward. (November 2021). Led by Cultural Development Service. Success will be measured by:
  - o Consultation and engagement with communities on the refresh of Birmingham's Heritage Strategy.
  - o Refreshed Birmingham's Heritage Strategy published.
- We will review the displays of art in our civic buildings to ensure they also tell the full story of Birmingham, including the renaming of a room in the Council House to properly mark the contribution of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic civic leaders. (Spring 2022). Led by Cultural Development Service. Success will be measured by:
  - o Review undertaken on all art in civic buildings
  - o A room renamed in the Council House to mark the contributions of Birmingham's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic civic leaders.

However, on May 18, the leader of the council announced that a review of the city's street names and statues will not result in any being removed or renamed.

Speaking after it was revealed that a majority of Brummies supported the council's plans for a review of its street names and statues that may have links to colonialism and slavery, Cllr Ian

Ward said that instead efforts would be made to 'further explain the lives of the characters depicted'.

It had been thought that some statues and street names in the city could be renamed or removed, a move backed by a majority of respondents to a public consultation on the matter. However, it now appears that the review will not result in any significant changes, with efforts instead set to be made to 'contextualise' certain statues and street names.

"We will not be taking down statues in this city," said Cllr Ward. "What we will do, if there is a need to do it, we will further explain the lives of the characters depicted in those statues, in order to give a fuller and more rounded historical account of their lives that will add to the city's history.

"We need to tell the city's history, warts and all. There are many things in the city's history that we can be proud of - there are many things that challenge us and we need to learn the lessons from them. But we must tell the city's history warts and all.

"And when it comes to street names, we're also not going to be changing street names, but I must say the city is not set in concrete, and the city does evolve. And the names of roads and streets may change over periods of time and, as the city moves on, there's a need to recognise other aspects of the city's life and history, hence the change of Paradise Circus to Lyon, which is a reflection of the city's long partnership and twinning arrangement with the city of Lyon in France.

"I repeat, we will not be taking down any statues - in fact at the height of the clamour at the end of last summer for the removal of statues, I was involved in putting a statue back up, a resighting of the Thomas Atwood statue in Chamberlain Square."

"Let me make this absolutely clear - we are not in the business of re-writing history, or pulling things down," continued Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities. "We cannot and we will not deny our past. What we will do is properly explore and explain it. The bad, as well as the good, and we will learn from it. And of course, as we build the Birmingham of the 21st century, we want it to reflect who we are now, just as our Victorian forefathers, their Birmingham reflected who they were."

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-monuments-review-after-blm-20493338>

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/council-leader-adamant-removing-statues-20622688>

[https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/birmingham/Decisions/tabid/67/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_DecisionDetails/mid/391/Id/dd14362e-5696-4ce2-8c40-e2c4dd3a7f06/Default.aspx](https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/birmingham/Decisions/tabid/67/ctl/ViewCMIS_DecisionDetails/mid/391/Id/dd14362e-5696-4ce2-8c40-e2c4dd3a7f06/Default.aspx)

### **Bristol, England – Dec. 2020-Feb. 2021 – reviewing street names**

Two of Bristol's historic city centre streets that were renamed as part of the 'cult of Colston' could have their original names restored, a council chief has confirmed. The roads that are currently called Colston Street and Colston Avenue, date back centuries, but had their original names changed by city leaders in Victorian times, to honour Edward Colston, who had died 140 years earlier.

For hundreds of years before that, Colston Street was called Steep Street, and Colston Avenue was called St Augustine's Back or Bank.

Now, residents living on Colston Street have lobbied their local councillor, writing letters and submitting a petition, asking for the original Steep Street name to be restored, and also asking for Colston Avenue's original name to be restored.

Cllr Kye Dudd, who is on the city council's cabinet as head of transport and energy, said he supported that idea, and would help make it happen. He has formally proposed it to be considered by the mayor's new History Commission, set up in the wake of the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston in June.

The commission, which includes historian and TV presenter David Olusoga, and a number of other leading academics in the city, is examining Bristol's past. But this is the first time it has been confirmed that the issue of the renaming, or name restoring of, a specific street or streets would be considered by the commission.

Colston Avenue forms part of The Centre in Bristol, the wide city centre space that originally contained the River Frome and the St Augustine's Reach part of the harbour. It's a main road along the west side of The Centre, and only called Colston Avenue for a short section.

Both streets were renamed in the second half of the 19th century, at roughly the same time as the building of the Colston Hall, with the statue of the slave trader following in 1895, as the city authorities, Merchant Venturers and council chiefs created what critics since 1920 described as the 'cult of Colston'. Other buildings followed, including a pub at the top of Colston Street that is now renamed as the Bristol Yard. The Colston Arms, further up St Michael's Hill nearby, is still considering its future name.

As of February 21, the History Commission has urged ministers to stay out of debates on the future of dozens of city streets named after slave traders.

Prof Tim Cole, the commission's chair, said a new audit by Bristol city council had identified a handful of streets named after Colston, whose company enslaved at least 80,000 Africans, and dozens more streets named after other slave traders. "It should be up to people who live on those streets to decide – it is an uber-local issue," he said. "If a bunch of people who live on Colston Avenue want to change the name of their street they should be empowered to do so."

While Minister Robert Jenrick's proposed new "retain and explain" planning policy will apply only to plaques and monuments, there are growing concerns that ministers' inflammatory rhetoric will make it harder for locals on opposing sides to have conciliatory discussions about the future of street names.

The commission will also be making recommendations to highlight the struggles of workers and other marginalised groups in the city. "We have to recognise that the formal statues in the city completely fail to represent Bristol. There's only one woman and that's Queen Victoria. There's been barely any recognition of black people and the working class. It's been wealthy white men who have been put on pedestals and that needs to change," said Costley.

Although the commission has limited resources, it turned down funding from the influential Society of Merchant Venturers, which once counted Colston as a member and managed

institutions in the city bearing his name, in order to maintain its independence. The society said it respected the commission's decision.

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/two-bristols-colston-streets-set-4787474>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/feb/21/keep-out-of-bristols-slaver-street-names-debate-ministers-are-told>

### **Chatham, England – June-Dec. 2020 – renamed car park**

A car park bearing the name of a slave trader has moved a step closer towards being renamed after councillors formally proposed plans. Medway councillors approved a recommendation to rename Sir John Hawkins Car Park in Chatham town centre.

Throughout autumn a working group of councillors has been discussing names of monuments and memorials throughout the Towns and whether they remain appropriate in the 21st Century. The list included cemeteries, parks, schools, halls, and car parks.

In October, the working group had agreed the Sir John Hawkins Car Park would be renamed and the proposal would be brought before the council. But at the time no agreement had been reached on an alternative. The cross-party group has now proposed to rename the car park St John's Car Park – due to its proximity to St John the Divine Church. This was supported by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which discussed the findings during a virtual meeting on November 26.

The group also considered four complaints received by the council regarding a statue of Lord Kitchener on Dock Road. As the council does not own the land where it is located next to the Kitchener Barracks development, councillors decided to write to the statue's owners passing on the concerns.

The plans will next be considered by the council's cabinet.

On December 15, Cabinet agreed to rename the Sir John Hawkins car park in Waterfront Way, Chatham to St John's car park.

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/slaver-car-park-name-change-draws-closer-238215/>

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/news/article/801/update\\_on\\_medway\\_s\\_cultural\\_landmarks\\_monuments\\_and\\_place\\_names](https://www.medway.gov.uk/news/article/801/update_on_medway_s_cultural_landmarks_monuments_and_place_names)

### **Chesterfield, England – June 2020-Jan. 2021 – retained street names**

- For Commemorations Review from January 12, 2021, see:  
[https://chesterfield.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34348/Report\\_CommemorationsReviewPhase1January2021.pdf](https://chesterfield.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34348/Report_CommemorationsReviewPhase1January2021.pdf)

As of January 20, Chesterfield Borough Council has confirmed it does not have any plans to change street names in the area – after residents raised concerns as part of a review.



Following Black Lives Matter protests around the world last summer, the authority announced it would look at street names across the borough. The council has now revealed that a 'very small number' of street names 'have associations with the transatlantic slave trade and/or colonialism through significant historical figures'.

"This includes three roads named after Boer War generals – Lord Roberts Road, Redvers Buller Road and Baden Powell Road in the Birdholme area of Chesterfield," a council report states.

The report also reveals that members of the public raised concerns with the council about the street names Rhodes Avenue in Newbold and Rhodesia Road in Brampton. Rhodesia – now Zimbabwe – was named after Cecil Rhodes, the controversial imperialist. But according to the report: "There is a weight of evidence that these particular street names were named for William Rhodes, the former mayor of Chesterfield, alderman and freeman of the borough.

The council has confirmed it does not have any plans to change street names at this point.

The report describes renaming streets as a 'lengthy and complicated legal process to complete' and includes consulting with residents and businesses on the road.

<https://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/people/chesterfield-council-has-no-plans-change-street-names-after-concerns-raised-3106827>

[https://chesterfield.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34348/Report CommemorationsReviewPhase1January2021.pdf](https://chesterfield.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34348/Report%20CommemorationsReviewPhase1January2021.pdf)

### **Exeter, England – July 2020-Feb. 2021 – retained statue with plaque**

On February 11, Exeter City Councillors unanimously voted to reject a bid to relocate a 116-year-old statue of a Victoria Cross-winning war hero. The monument of General Sir Redvers Buller has been in place outside Exeter College for more than 100 years, but its future was in doubt after the city council announced a review in response to the Black Lives Matters protests.

The authority had begun the process to relocate the statue as it was deemed 'inappropriate' to be so close to a 'learning environment.' But thousands protested against the move, with a petition set up to drive opposition declaring: 'We cannot stand by and let historically illiterate people erase our history.'

The council meeting also confirmed that an arts-based engagement project with residents is set to be established to create a new public art strategy in the city.

Temporary information boards will also be erected near to the statue.

Consideration is set to be given to whether the statement 'He saved Natal' on the plinth should be removed - following claims it 'sought to advance British imperialist interests in other countries'.

The Grade-II listed bronze statue depicts the general astride his favourite horse Biffen. The words 'He saved Natal' on its plinth are a reference to General Buller's actions in South Africa.

The general, born in Devon, purchased a commission in the British Army and won the Victoria Cross during the Second Zulu War, rescuing a number of comrades while under enemy fire. He was later appointed head of the British forces sent to South Africa during the Second Boer War,



presiding over Black Week in which it was defeated three times by the Boers with nearly 3,000 men killed, wounded and captured. Upon his return from South Africa, the British Army requested he resign, in part as a scapegoat for the failures of the military command.

Despite this General Buller was awarded the freedom of Exeter and presented with a jewelled sword by the County of Devon. Unusually the statue, paid for by public subscription, was unveiled while he was still alive.

The local newspaper said he was rumoured to have been involved in the introduction of concentration camps in the Boer War but historians have disputed the accuracy of these claims.

Cllr Phil Bialyk, leader of the council, confirmed that in light of the new comments made by Parliament on the removal of monuments, it would no longer be submitting a planning application to relocate the Buller statue. He added: 'But I must stress that we will be addressing the issues which first brought this to the attention of many councillors.' He said the council would strive to make public art and monuments as 'representative of our inclusive and diverse communities as possible.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9245465/Councillors-vote-unanimously-reject-bid-relocate-116-year-old-statue-General-Redvers-Buller.html>

### **Hull, England – June 2020-Mar. 2021 – retained monuments**

Hull city council has reportedly begun compiling a list of 'major statues of concern' in the area after officials admitted they could not be seen to be doing 'nothing' in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests. Statues highlighted as part of a racism review are those subjects who are considered to have held outdated views or links to the slave trade and imperialism.

It is thought that the authority stressed that the list should not be made public unless directly approached.

The list reportedly included the King Billy statue in Market Place, Queen Victoria's statue in the city centre square that shares her name and the Zachariah Pearson plinth in Pearson Park. Statues of poet Philip Larkin in Paragon Interchange, Mahatma Gandhi in the Museums Quarter and Andrew Marvell in Trinity Square also appear to be quietly under review by the council.

The paper's report suggesting that Larkin's name is on the list has caused upset among supporters. His biographer James Booth said: "Anyone who reads only Larkin's published poems will find no trace of racism. "The offensive comments in his letters were meant to be read by a small number of correspondents only. He would be mortified to know that his words were causing hurt to vulnerable readers for whose ears they were not intended. Most of his rich and varied correspondence can give no offence. But, at the extreme, there are letters in which he shares with Monica Jones, Kingsley Amis, Robert Conquest and Colin Gunner the casual racism common in post-war England."

Documents seen by The Telegraph, suggested that officials were worried that a racism review could cause a backlash. "All this needs to be done sensitively. It is important we are reviewing things behind the scenes," the leaked messages read. "We are not publicising any of this unless

directly approached as [I] agree sometimes raising an issue creates the problem. But if asked, and we said we had done nothing, I think [it] would raise concerns in the current climate.”

Council staff arguing via email said that the poet was a “complicated” figure and that many in Hull “recall him with affection”. Others said: “We do need to be clear and careful, and recognise that views unpalatable to us may not detract from achievements.”

It was suggested that the council should ensure that “if challenged” they could “reflect the current recognition of what practices are no longer acceptable”. This “subtle” attempt would be done by updating information on the named people to “recognise some of their shortcomings”. “This way we aren’t rewriting history but just highlighted some of their deficiencies when we look back against today’s standards,” officials said.

As of March 8, Council bosses have confirmed no Hull statues are being considered for removal. A council spokeswoman provided an update, confirming that their review ascertained that “no further action was required” and that all statues and memorials in the city would remain standing. “As no further action was required in relation to any of the statues or memorials in Hull, and none are at risk of, or being considered for, removal, it was not publicised. The council want to be clear that any reports to the contrary are incorrect.”

[https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/queen-victoria-king-billy-secret-5082183?\\_ga=2.260266116.885510625.1615217897-1299200594.1612988682](https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/queen-victoria-king-billy-secret-5082183?_ga=2.260266116.885510625.1615217897-1299200594.1612988682)

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9335495/Statue-poet-Philip-Larkin-placed-councils-secret-racism-review-list.html>

<https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/council-confirms-hulls-historic-statues-5086120>

### **Liverpool, England – Jan.-June 2020 – retained street names and statues with plaques**

- For “Remembering our Black History” statement, see council agenda from Jan. 15, 2020, pages 5-6:

<http://councillors.liverpool.gov.uk/documents/g17303/Public%20reports%20pack%2015th-Jan-2020%2017.05%20City%20Council%20Meeting.pdf?T=10>

The introduction of new plaques placed on Liverpool roads with names linked to slavery will go ahead, having been delayed by the coronavirus crisis.

Mayor Joe Anderson confirmed on June 7 that the plans, which were backed unanimously by the council in a motion in January, had been paused after the pandemic hit but said work on the project would resume.

At the time of the council's motion on the new plaques, Mayor Anderson said more visible recognition of the city's links to slavery was an important step in reconciling the city with its history and improving public education.

The Highways Department was responsible for:

- commissioning the information plaques to accompany street and place names explaining the origin of their names and their relevance to Liverpool's historical slave trade.
- identifying new streets which could be named after Liverpool-based abolitionists and BAME figures of note in order to celebrate our city's rich history of fighting for justice for diversity.

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/plaques-highlighting-liverpools-slavery-links-18380746>

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/major-liverpool-roads-set-new-17577731>

### **London, England – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – established commission to review landmarks, removed monuments**

- For Tackling Racism Taskforce Report from January 21, 2021 see:  
<http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s146118/TRT%20Outcomes.pdf>

The Mayor of London announced a commission to review and improve diversity across London's public realm to ensure the capital's landmarks suitably reflect London's achievements and diversity. The Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm will focus on increasing representation among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, women, the LGBTQ+ community and disability groups.

The Mayor previously pledged his support for a number of new memorials in the capital, including for Stephen Lawrence, the Windrush generation, a National Slavery Museum or Memorial, and a National Sikh War Memorial.

The Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm will review the landmarks that currently makes up London's public realm, further the discussion into what legacies should be celebrated, and make a series of recommendations aimed at establishing best practice and standards. It will be wide in scope and consider murals, street art, street names, statues and other memorials.

It will be co-chaired by Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement Debbie Weekes-Bernard and Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE, and will comprise arts, community and council leaders across the capital, as well as historians.

Statues and monuments linked to slavery and racism could be removed from the heart of London's financial district after local officials asked the public to help decide their fate. The City of London Corporation said on September 1 that residents, workers and the general public will have three months to offer their opinion on "which landmarks they think are a problem and what action they would like to see taken."

"Like many areas of the country, the City of London has a number of statues and other landmarks with links to the slave trade and historic racism," Caroline Addy, co-chair of the City of London Corporation's Tackling Racism Taskforce, said in a statement. "It's important that we acknowledge and address this legacy with openness and honesty, and carefully consider what should be done."

On January 21, the City of London approved the removal from its ceremonial Guildhall home of statues of two figures that symbolise the financial sector's historic role in slavery. The move was voted through by the City's elected representatives.

Following Black Lives Matter protests, the corporation that runs the Square Mile financial district set up a task force on tackling racism, which recommended removing statues of William Beckford and John Cass from the medieval Guildhall.

“The view of members was that removing and re-siting statues linked to slavery is an important milestone in our journey towards a more inclusive and diverse City,” the City’s political leader Catherine McGuinness said.

Cass was a member of parliament and merchant in transatlantic slave trading during the early 1700s. Beckford was two times Lord Mayor of London in the 18th century and had plantations in Jamaica with slaves.

The statue of William Beckford will be moved to unknown location and replaced with a new artwork. The likeness of Sir John Cass will be returned to its owner, the Sir John Cass Foundation.

The corporation, which looks after the Square Mile - London's financial district - said it was also considering the future of a number of other statues as well as road and building names with links to the slave trade.

The City’s Tackling Racism Taskforce also carried out an informal public consultation that received 1,580 written responses from people across London and outside the capital. It found that 1,067 people from outside the Corporation believed that contested historical items like the statues should “be retained on public display and remain in situ”. Whereas 75 per cent of respondents from inside the Corporation thought the controversial items “should either be contextualised or removed from public display.”

The statues of Cass and Beckford will be removed by April, and will be “covered in some way (temporarily) with an explanatory note as to why, whilst the working group consider the way forward”. The removal of Beckford’s statues from inside the grade I-listed Guildhall will also require “listed building consent” a form of planning permission.

On February 9, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced the members of his Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm.

Following an open recruitment process, 15 panellists have been selected to form the Commission and work to improve diversity in the capital’s public realm. The Commission’s role is to enrich and add to the current public realm, and advise on better ways to raise public understanding behind existing statues, street names, building names and memorials. The Commission is not being established to preside over the removal of statues.

The members include a range of leaders from the arts, architecture, community engagement and business sectors. They are:

- Toyin Agbetu – social rights activist and founder of Ligali.
- Riz Ahmed - Actor, writer, creator, producer, musician, director and activist.
- Robert Bevan - architecture critic and heritage consultant.
- David Bryan MBA FRSA - chair of Battersea Arts Centre, Brixton House and Voluntary Arts.
- Aindrea Emelife – art historian, writer, independent curator and presenter.
- Pedro Gil - director and founder of Studio Gil.
- Jack Guinness – founder of The Queer Bible.

- Gillian Jackson - director of engagement at the House of St Barnabas and a trustee of Culture24.
- Revd. Professor Keith Magee ThD FRSA - senior fellow in culture and justice UCL.
- Lynette Nabbosa – founder of Elimu.
- Sandy Nairne CBE FSA –historian and curator.
- Eleanor Pinfield – director of Art on the Underground and member of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group.
- Jasvir Singh OBE - chair of City Sikhs.
- Binki Taylor - Brixton business owner and partner in the Brixton Project.
- Dr Zoé Whitley - director at Chisenhale Gallery.

Sadiq has created the Commission to help ensure London's achievements across the full sweep of the capital's rich and diverse history are properly reflected around the city. It will focus on increasing representation among Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, women, LGBTQ+ and disabled groups, as well as those from a range of social and economic backgrounds.

It will work alongside a Borough Working Group of local councils, and a Partners Board, including ActionSpace, Art Fund, English Heritage and Shape Arts, Arts Council England, Black Cultural Archives, Historic England and Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts). These groups will support the Commission by providing further knowledge and advice on a range of areas including art, heritage, the voluntary and community sectors, diversity and the public realm.

The Mayor has previously commissioned a statue of suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square, and pledged his support for a number of new memorials in the capital, including for Stephen Lawrence, the Windrush generation, a National Slavery Museum or Memorial, and a National Sikh War Memorial.

Sadiq Khan, said: "For far too long, too many Londoners have felt unrepresented by the statues, street names and building names all around them, and it's important that we do what we can to ensure our rich and diverse history is celebrated and properly commemorated in our city. I'm delighted to bring together this inspiring group of leaders from across London to form the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. Each member brings with them great insight and knowledge that will help to improve the representation of our public landscape."

Tory mayoral rival Shaun Bailey said: "London is a city built on history — sometimes bad, more often good, and always complicated. But Sadiq Khan wants to reduce our history to politics. A commission of 15 unelected activists should not get to decide which statues to pull down and which streets to rename — which history my children are allowed to see. My preference is always to put up new statues instead of tearing down old ones. That's how we truly celebrate our black role models and pioneering women."

A City Hall spokeswoman said commission members would not receive a salary but added: "However, the Mayor is committed to creating an inclusive and representative board, and support will be considered to ensure that individuals working as independent practitioners or in small civil society organisations or charities whose capacity may be limited are able to participate."

She added: "An open call for members was made with the roles advertised online, shared widely with industry contacts, organisations and with individuals, and through the press. All panel members applied and applications were assessed against the criteria for the role."

On February 24, Toyin Agbetu resigned from the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm after a series of damaging stories and pressure from Shaun Bailey, the Conservative Mayor of London candidate, who urged Mr. Khan to remove him immediately for his 'racist past'. Mr. Agbetu has refused to apologise for his comments - claiming he is a victim of a Tory conspiracy.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-unveils-commission-to-review-diversity>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/01/business/city-of-london-racism-slavery/index.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-finance-diversity-idUKKBN29Q1H5>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/statues-removed-london-slave-trade-b1791189.html>

<https://www.newsweek.com/historic-statues-removed-central-london-over-slave-trade-links-1563642>

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/zone-1-news/statues-slavers-removed-city-londons-19678549>

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-members-of-landmark-commission>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/riz-ahmed-diversity-commission-panel-london-statues-streets-b919130.html>

<https://www.nation.lk/online/hard-left-vaccine-sceptic-toyin-agbetu-resigns-from-sadiq-khan-s-statue-commission-59379.html>

### **Brent, London, England – Sept. 2020 – reviewing park name**

Brent Council has launched a review that could see Gladstone Park face a name change due to its links to slavery. The well-known area is named after Sir William Gladstone, who opposed the emancipation of slaves.

The Dollis Hill park faces the council review alongside Gladstone Park Primary School and Gladstone Park Gardens which are also named after the former Prime Minister. A spokesperson for Brent Council said: "Gladstone Park, Gladstone Park Gardens and Gladstone Park Primary School were identified for further review, following a review of names of buildings, places and streets in the borough with historical figures involved in the slave trade.

A spokesperson for Brent Council said: "The council will also work with Friends of Gladstone Park, to involve them in choosing an alternative name from those put forward in the exercise with schools. The council is currently considering the consultation process for the prospective renaming of Gladstone Park Gardens.

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/brent-park-could-face-name-18930434>

### **Camden, London, England – June 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed council-owned apartment building**

The name of a well-known block of Camden Council flats named after Cecil Rhodes – a colonialist in South Africa in the 19th century – has been changed because he was seen as a racist.

The majority of the 82 tenants voted for the new name of Park View House in a vote held in February. They had been asked to rename their 60-year-old block in Somers Town by council officials following the protests in June 2020 in London from the Black Lives Matter movement.

Several names came up – a mixture of suggestions from tenants, outsiders and pupils at the neighbouring secondary school Regency High – including Billy Richmond, a 19th-century black boxer, and Inayat Court, after heroic Asian woman Noor Inayat Khan, who was sent as a special operative in the Second World War to France but was captured and executed, refusing to disclose names of fellow Resistance fighters. Another suggested name was Fleetside because the estate is thought to be above the subterranean flow of the River Fleet.

<http://camdennewjournal.com/article/rhodes-revisited>

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/renaming-crh>

### **Ealing, London, England – June-Nov. 2020 – renamed street**

The Ealing Council has given notice of its intention to rename Havelock Road – named after Henry Havelock, general in the colonial army involved in suppressing the 1857 Uprising – as Guru Nanak Road, inviting any objections to the move by November 21.

The Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha is located on Havelock Road in Southall, which has long had a significant presence of people of Indian origin. The move announced in June elicited majority support for the proposal from residents who responded to the initial consultation.

The Southall process has now moved to a statutory consultation with the council issuing the notice under the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act, 1939. The notice says: “Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the council of the London borough of Ealing to make an order to: Assign the name Guru Nanak Road to that part of the highway between King Street and Merrick Road Southall (currently forming part of the highway known as Havelock Road, Southall)”.

The council said that the final decision will be taken in accordance with the street naming protocol, which confirms that any change proposal should “respect and balance cultural and historical identities, sensitivities, and heritage”. Local stake-holders such as the Fire Brigade, Royal Mail and businesses directly impacted by the change will also be consulted.

The consultation document says: “Ealing is home to the largest Sikh population outside of India and sited within Havelock Road, is the largest Sikh Gurdwara in western Europe.”

On November 27, the Ealing Council in west London announced the renaming of part of Havelock Road as Guru Nanak Road following a public consultation. The name change will come into effect early in 2021 after some procedures are completed.

The council said decision to make the change has been taken in accordance with the Street Naming Protocol which confirms that any change proposal should “respect and balance cultural and historical identities, sensitivities, and heritage”.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/renaming-southall-road-after-guru-nanak-in-advanced-stage/story-Uki0InvKIALIplho2atSMO.html>



<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/renaming-southall-road-after-guru-nanak-cleared/story-hZdi3xWo2ajayHmXwxizVP.html>

### **Hackney, London, England – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – formed advisory committee, renamed gardens**

- For Hackney Naming Hub website, see: <https://hackneynaminghub.commonplace.is/>

In June 2020, Hackney Council launched a naming review to listen to the views of residents, partners and others about how to tackle public spaces named after slave and plantation owners.

Review, Rename, Reclaim is a collaboration between the Council and community leaders, cultural experts, historians, teachers and young people that share one thing in common; a passion to make Hackney's public spaces more representative of the communities that live there.

The renaming framework is thorough and has been designed to be more inclusive of local communities. The process was developed in 6 stages:

- Stage 1 – identify and research: Audit and research sites, objects or symbols that have a historic link with African enslavement of unethical colonialism
- Stage 2 – propose remedy: Taskforce to classify identified names using a transparent process of decision-making and recommend options to remove and rename
- Stage 3 – raise awareness: Inform and educate residents and businesses to mitigate concerns around changes in the public realm
- Stage 4 – consultation: establish if consent is required, consult and engage with local residents and businesses on new recommendations
- Stage 5 – remedial action: submit recommendations to the Council for approval, log as an official record and take action based on public consultations
- Stage 6 – report on the impact of the action

The Hackney Naming Hub was launched in December 2020 and seeks to address underrepresentation in the public realm. The Hub will help crowdsource alternative names that meet the criteria of the Review, Rename and Reclaim programme. Residents are invited to submit ideas that acknowledge the achievements of those with African and African-Caribbean heritage for this renaming programme. However, it is recognised that there is a lack of representation across Hackney's streets and shared spaces that fail to represent their rich diversity of people and communities. Therefore, they welcome the inclusion of stories that represent all migrant and established communities, women, LGBTQI+ communities and people with disabilities.

The first action taken by the Review, Rename, Reclaim project was to take down the name of Cassland Road Gardens in December 2020 and replace it with a welcome sign. The garden was named after Sir John Cass, director of the Royal African Company, who profited from the transatlantic slave trade in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville and the council's equality lead, Cllr Carole Williams, said the naming review has taken the council on an "insightful journey into the often-hidden history of Hackney": "This is the first location to be renamed as part of the review and it already feels like a step in the right direction as we make our public places more inclusive to the community who live here today.

Public consultation will take place from February 22 to April 4. Local residents will have the opportunity to vote for one of four shortlisted name choices for the Gardens and to give their views on renaming streets, buildings and public spaces in Hackney.

The renaming of the gardens will set an example of best practice with active learning and reflection to make sure future renaming is an example of best practice.

Other names identified for review include Sir John Cass, Cecil John Rhodes, Sir Robert Geffrye and Francis Tyssen.

<https://hackney.gov.uk/naming-review>

<https://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/vote-to-rename-hackney-green-space-7658844>

### **Museum of the Home, Hackney, London, England – July 2020 – retained statue with plaque**

The Museum of the Home in Hackney has decided to leave the figure of Sir Robert Geffrye in place, opting instead to 'reinterpret and contextualise' it. Geffrye was involved in the transatlantic slave trade and made his money with the East India Company and the Royal African Company. He donated the funds for the buildings which now house the museum which until recently, was named after him.

A statement from the board of trustees said: 'The board believes that the museum should reinterpret and contextualise the statue where it is, to create a powerful platform for debate about the connection between the buildings and transatlantic slavery. 'The museum has a responsibility to reflect and debate history accurately, and in doing so to confront, challenge and learn from the uncomfortable truths of the origins of the museum buildings.' The museum said that although the overall response was in favour of removing the statue, the "feedback showed that what to do with the statue is a complex debate, full of nuance and different opinions". They've pledged to hire more staff from BAME backgrounds and use the statue as a platform for discussion.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/robert-geffrye-museum-of-the-home-statue\\_uk\\_5f22cd32c5b6a34284b769a5?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAG5UAzcZZLU5cRKnNE02tjjaN2d63AuiMuee1TFjW0KEIKEJXhsEoftxaJsulTiPv4w2oVh4sEbRhdBs6E-myilZk\\_MZKWbc40p8ukp6SEVShmrqUZqMVdKZWg1Y\\_K4uC00XGAJNWuQ8G2UVjRTs-jzPOO1LjhRibfcdSZNA8u-](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/robert-geffrye-museum-of-the-home-statue_uk_5f22cd32c5b6a34284b769a5?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAG5UAzcZZLU5cRKnNE02tjjaN2d63AuiMuee1TFjW0KEIKEJXhsEoftxaJsulTiPv4w2oVh4sEbRhdBs6E-myilZk_MZKWbc40p8ukp6SEVShmrqUZqMVdKZWg1Y_K4uC00XGAJNWuQ8G2UVjRTs-jzPOO1LjhRibfcdSZNA8u-)

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/31072020-diane-abbott-criticises-museum-of-the-home-decision-geffrye-statue?utm\\_campaign=1786011\\_31072020%20MA%20newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,12A3F,27M6NU,42FXC,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/31072020-diane-abbott-criticises-museum-of-the-home-decision-geffrye-statue?utm_campaign=1786011_31072020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,12A3F,27M6NU,42FXC,1)

### **Haringey, London, England – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – renamed street**

- For public consultation and FAQ sheet sent to residents, see:  
<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture/review-monuments-building-place-and-street-names-haringey/renaming-black-boy-lane>

Black Boy Lane in Haringey, London is to be renamed due to its links with racism.

Residents and businesses on Black Boy Lane are being asked to take part in a renaming consultation as part of Haringey Council's review on monuments, buildings, place and street names in Haringey – which was launched on June 12 in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Black Boy Lane was identified as needing immediate review, with a council report noting that "Black Boy" is now commonly used as a derogatory name for African-heritage men. The exact origin of the street name is still debated. The council believes Black Boy Lane does not reflect the "values and diversity" of Haringey in the 21st century.

As part of the consultation, the council is asking residents to consider new alternative names that celebrate some of the borough's most notable influencers, and truly reflect the borough's rich heritage. The two names that have been shortlisted for residents to consider are Jocelyn Barrow Lane and La Rose Lane. The consultation launched on September 28 and will run until October 26.

As of December 7, Councillors agreed to hold a consultation on renaming Black Boy Lane, in West Green, to La Rose Lane in honour of John La Rose – a poet, essayist and publisher who founded the Caribbean Artists' Movement and publishing company New Beacon Books.

At a meeting of Haringey's corporate committee on December 3, two residents warned the renaming could cost households and businesses large sums of money – significantly more than the £300 proposed by the council as a payment made to cover potential disruption.

Anne Taylor, who lives in the street, said people could face delays in receiving pensions and benefits and have to pay extra fees to ratify the new address on legal documents. In response to questioning from councillors, Ms. Taylor claimed the coronavirus pandemic had stopped residents from getting together to discuss the issue and warned about the impact of the renaming on elderly people who do not have the internet.

Speaking in support of the change, Gary McFarlane, from campaign group Stand Up to Racism, claimed the street was named Black Boy Lane by slavers. Mr. McFarlane said he was not against "more involvement with people who live on the street" and suggested the Government, the City of London and the Queen could help cover the costs of the renaming.

In response to concerns raised by committee members, the council leader said he had letters from Mr. La Rose's family and the George Padmore Institute, which he founded, confirming they supported the renaming.

Councillors agreed to proceed with the next stage of the consultation, which is to ask residents their views on the proposed new name.

Chairman Cllr Isidoros Diakides (Labour, Tottenham Green) said the committee expected the issues raised around funding and administrative support for residents would be fully dealt with when members are asked to make a final decision on the renaming.

However, the Council has also been accused of erasing history and there are reports that the family of John La Rose have opposed the change, saying it's not what he would have wanted or campaigned for. At least 70 residents have derided the plan as 'tokenistic' and an ill thought out 'vanity project' which could lose the history of the area.

The council cannot confirm the origin of the street name, with some saying it was named after a pub while others claimed it was related to chimney sweeps. Another theory has it named after Charles II, nicknamed 'black boy' over his southern European looks.

On February 2, Councillor Eldridge Culverwell, who is Black, called proposals to change Black Boy Lane in West Green "nonsense" and stated it is pushing equality "further down the drain". He said that people should be proud to be Black and removing this term is making people think that Black is a bad thing. Residents are also up in arms about the plans and have launched a petition to fight the renaming.

Cllr Culverwell, who represents Stroud Green for the Labour party on Haringey Council, said: "There are lots of Black boys running around here- I'm a Black boy myself. It's nonsense calling the road name racist! It's making it racist. We have got to get out of this stupor that all Black things are bad." He stated that he was extremely passionate about equality and added: "Black Lives Matter means I am Black and I am proud. Let's embrace Black."

The councillor said there were also cost considerations to think about and during a pandemic the money could be better spent. This sentiment was echoed by residents living on the road who were worried about the admin, time and financial implications of the change. This is a road of 300 buildings many of which are dual accommodation.

Residents have until February 19 to take part in consultations.

As of March 14, councillors have said they are set to spend £186,000 of taxpayers' cash renaming Black Boy Lane. It will provide a 'voluntary' £300 payment to the 183 homes impacted by the proposal to call it La Rose Lane. The authority will also spend £50,000 on a salary for a support and administration officer to help the residents affected. Alongside other costs, such as replacing signage, the project will cost an estimated £186,000.

Some 72 per cent of the residents who responded to a consultation in February are firmly against the name change. And 55 per cent of those in the St Ann's ward, which Black Boy Lane is a part of, do not want the proposal to go ahead. Councils can change the name of a road without consulting the residents who live on the street and their only method of redress is to appeal to a court.

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/black-boy-lane-haringey-renamed-19028399>

<https://www.enfieldindependent.co.uk/news/18926061.haringey-street-renamed-la-rose-lane/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9031469/London-council-accused-erasing-history-plan-rename-300-year-old-Black-Boy-Lane.html>

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/renaming-racist-black-boy-lane-19754209>

<https://www.nation.lk/online/end-of-the-road-for-black-boy-lane-officials-are-to-spend-186-000-to-rename-london-street-65906.html>

### **Museum of London Docklands, London, England – June 2020 – removed statue**

A statue of Robert Milligan, a slave trader, was removed from outside Museum of London Docklands. Milligan's monument was removed to "recognise the wishes of the community" said the Canal and River Trust. The Canal and River Trust said it had worked with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the museum and partners in Canary Wharf to have it removed.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52977088>

<https://metro.co.uk/2020/07/29/london-museum-decides-keep-statue-slave-ship-owner-13056192/>

### **Newham, London, England – Nov. 2020 – reviewing name**

Transport for London has been urged to rename Maryland railway station over fears of 'offensive' links to a local slave owner who had plantations in North America. Newham councillors have called for TfL to review the name of the east London station over alleged links to slavery during a discussion over electoral ward names in the borough.

But academics have questioned whether the origin of Maryland station's name is even linked to slavery. Instead, they argue that the most likely origin of 'Maryland' is in fact the Old English word 'mære', meaning boundary.

If the move is approved by TfL, it could lead to other rail and underground stations in the capital to have their names changed. Stations such as Elephant and Castle, East India and Canning Town have been highlighted for their past associations with the slave trade.

Maryland, which is on the Great Eastern Main Line, was allegedly given as the station's name through US slave trader Robert Lee, whose family owned tobacco plantations in the Mid-Atlantic state.

The name Maryland has now been proposed as a new ward in Newham borough, but Labour councillors have said it could cause 'deep disappointment' to Afro-Caribbean residents. The alternative name New Town has been put forward instead.

A Newham council report stated that councillors will discuss renaming the station with TfL.

Newham Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said the Maryland name was a 'disservice to the diversity of the borough'.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8997503/TfL-urged-rename-Maryland-station-alleged-links-slave-trade.html>

### **Luton, England – July 2020 – renamed street**

Luton Borough Council decided to change the name of Hibbert Street, named after Robert Hibbert, a wealthy slave owner who "set up 12 cottages in Castle Street as a charity for poor widows" that were later replaced by almshouses on the street that bears his name. Consultation with the street's residents, required by local law, has been planned to start in the coming weeks.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_name\\_changes\\_due\\_to\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_name_changes_due_to_the_George_Floyd_protests)

<https://www.luton.gov.uk/news/Pages/Council-sets-out-intent-to-rename-road-connected-with-slave-trade.aspx>

### **Middlesbrough, England – Feb. 2021 – retained names and monuments**

An anti-racism group has added four locations in Middlesbrough which they want renamed or removed to a list of 'UK statues and monuments that celebrate slavery and racism'.

However, two Teesside MPs have branded it a 'stupid idea' to topple any statues.

On the 'topple the racists' website Captain Cook's Crescent, the Captain Cook statue in Great Ayton, James Cook University Hospital and The Resolution, a pub named after one of Captain Cook's ships, have been added to a map of monuments and statues they want removed.

Simon Clarke MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, said: "To those seeking to denigrate statues of Captain Cook, as the MP for his birthplace let me say this: Middlesbrough is immensely proud of our most famous son. He was a labourer's son whose extraordinary courage and abilities meant he was entrusted with a series of major voyages of science and exploration. He was by all accounts a good and decent man, and he rose to worldwide renown. His statues will stay in place and we will continue to celebrate his achievements. I can promise I will fight this stupid idea to try to erase his memory, and keep fighting with all the energy I possess, and I know our community will be on my side."

Jacob Young MP for Redcar said that rather than tearing down the statues of historical figures, let's instead raise one in honour of Sir Tom Moore in his home county of Yorkshire.

Tory MP Robert Goodwill, whose Whitby and Scarborough constituency is home to some of the targets, said: 'They're trying to erase important aspects of our history, and we all need to study history and learn from any mistakes. There were things done in the name of the Empire that would not be acceptable now, but we don't need to expunge them from history.'

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/19069019.anti-racist-group-campaigns-topple-statues-middlesbrough-however-mp-brands-stupid-idea/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9221611/Now-statues-Captain-Cook-targeted-Black-Lives-Matter-campaigners.html>

### **Newcastle, England – June 2020 – reviewing street names and statues**

Newcastle Council has confirmed that they will follow public requests to review the naming of Blackett Street and Colston Street. They will also be launching a review of all the city's statues.

Blackett Street is named after John Erasmus Blackett – a prominent businessman and four-time Lord Mayor of Newcastle in the 1700s, who had served an apprenticeship under major Liverpool slave trader Foster Cunliffe.

The council is also trying to determine whether the naming of Colston Street, a terraced residential street in Benwell, has any connection to Edward Colston, the slave trader.

A civic centre spokesperson said that renaming streets was a "complex issue" and also confirmed that there had been no requests to review any statues in the city.

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/newcastle-street-names-black-lives-18451262>

### **Plymouth, England – June-Dec. 2020 – renamed square, retained monument with plaque**

Plymouth City Council announced on June 10 that it has begun the process of renaming Sir John Hawkins Square as Hawkins was also a known slave trader - and would be adding a plaque to the Drake statue on Plymouth Hoe, which would detail Sir Francis' involvement in the slave trade. A statement on the Plymouth City Council website, says that the Sir Francis Drake statue will not be removed.

"Rather than remove the statue we feel we have a duty to tell the full story of what he did and use this to help remember those who suffered as a result of the slave trade. And while the council feels it is important to acknowledge the city's dark past, they also see value in understanding Plymouth's eventual contribution to the abolition of the slave trade, and the city's history of "welcoming oppressed communities."

Plymouth City Council is proposing to commemorate the pioneering Plymouth Argyle player Jack Leslie by renaming Sir John Hawkins Square to Jack Leslie Square. Leslie was the only professional black player in England when he played for the club between 1921 and 1934. Local residents were consulted about the name change, although there are no residential properties on the square.

On November 13, a court heard claims that Plymouth City Council failed to follow the correct process to rename a square after Jack Leslie. Plymouth businessman Danny Bamping submitted an appeal against the decision which was heard at Plymouth Magistrates' Court. The council denies the claims from Mr. Bamping, and the court heard evidence setting out its case that it had properly followed its policies, national guidelines and the law governing street naming.

Mr. Bamping argued the decision breached national guidelines as it was "racist" because it was based on the colour of the player's skin in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. He claimed the council had failed to comply with its policy by not consulting about the change with people connected with the square, and he argued it had not properly consulted with Jack Leslie's family. He said the council should have considered other locations to name after the player, and proposed an unnamed road leading to the Home Park stadium of Plymouth Argyle, where a statue of the player will be placed.

Mr. Bamping claimed the renaming decision was wrong and illogical because it did not take into account the full history of Sir John Hawkins, who was a Plymouth MP and played a leading role as a naval commander in the defeat of the Spanish Armada, at a time in history when slave trading was legal.

He argued that many people did not want the name changed, including 54 who had written to the court objecting to the decision, although their letters did not qualify as notices of appeal under the legal process.



Mr. Bamping also argued that the 1925 Act used the word “alter” rather than “change” or “rename”, which he claimed meant councils could only make alterations to an existing name, rather than rename a street.

The council's case is that it has the power to carry out the renaming under the Act and it has fully met with the requirements of the law, national guidance and its own policies on street renaming. It says a notice of the proposal was properly posted on the square, there are no residents of the square to consult, the council obtained permission from Jack Leslie's family, and it explained the decision and carried out the necessary consultation.

On December 4, District judge Jo Matson, who heard the case, dismissed the appeal. She said she accepted evidence from the council that they had complied with the relevant laws and policies. She also accepted the council had considered renaming Sir John Hawkins Square before the death of George Floyd.

Mr. Bamping may have to pay more than £7,000 in legal costs. He says he will appeal against the court's decision.

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/sir-john-hawkins-square-set-4242196>

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/cleaning-sir-francis-drake-statue-4401275>

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/court-hears-legal-challenge-renaming-4700434>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9019271/Plymouth-council-not-racist-planning-rename-square-black-footballer-says-judge.html>

### **Shropshire, England – June-Sept. 2020 – retained monument with plaque**

In mid July, Shropshire Council voted 28-17 in favour of no further action following a petition to remove the Shrewsbury town centre Clive of India statue. Two petitions calling for the statue's removal had 23,000 signatures between them. The council said removing the statue would be hard as it is Grade II listed. Steve Charmley, deputy leader and portfolio holder for assets, economic growth and regeneration, said the monument, which has stood in Shrewsbury's square since 1860, is listed and would require a lot of consultation with Historic England to remove it. He also said an information board giving more history about Clive's life would not be allowed due to its listed status.

Robert Clive is widely credited with engineering British colonial rule in India and has faced scathing reviews from some historians.

Although Shropshire Council did previously vote against removing the statue of Baron Clive of Plassey, campaigners will present their case to a scrutiny committee on September 16 where it will be debated. The person responsible for the petition is allowed to make a five-minute presentation to the committee because more than 200 signatures have been received. A 15-minute debate between councillors will then follow.

An information board to explain the history of Shropshire's Clive of India statue will be installed after petitions called for it to be removed. On September 24, council said it had received a

£7,000 grant to provide a board and would consult groups on its wording. It was not revealed where the money has come from.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-53430627#:~:text=A%20decision%20to%20leave%20a,centre%20Clive%20of%20India%20statue>.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8718125/Councillors-debate-pull-Clive-Indias-statue.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-54283074>

### **Spelthorne, England – June 2020-Jan. 2021 – retained monument with plaque**

Spelthorne's overview and scrutiny committee voted unanimously on Tuesday January 19 to take away the mirrored panels that have kept the controversial Sunbury walled garden centrepiece Lendy the lion hidden for seven months.

Council staff took the decision to board up the statue on police advice, after the Topple the Racists website identified the statue as one "celebrating slavery and racism".

More than 2,100 people signed a petition to keep Lendy, and insisted they did not want any sort of plaque "bringing the brave brothers into disrepute".

The lion commemorates two 19th century Sunbury soldiers, whom the website accuses of "murdering African tribes with machine gun fire", though it says it is "up to local communities to decide what statues they want in their local areas".

Alan Doyle, a resident of the town who has researched their history on behalf of the council, said: "The more I have dug back into the records, the more convinced I have become that Charles Frederick Lendy has been unfairly treated by history."

Cllr Robin Sider, the council's nominated armed forces champion, said there were many allegations based on "hearsay and exaggeration". He said Edward Lendy was awarded a Royal Humane Society medal after saving four men from drowning.

Cllr Ian Harvey, who represents the Sunbury East ward, said it would be "an absolute travesty" to keep it boarded up. He said: "This is not a celebration of war; it is actually a memorial to two young men of a very respected local family who actually gave their lives serving their country.

Committee members all agreed the statue should remain, with a plaque erected outlining the Lendys' history, along with a QR code for more online information.

"Should history be erased, we miss a priceless opportunity to educate, and to learn from the past in order to make the present and the future more pleasant places to live," said Cllr Michele Gibson.

If the council removed the statue, it would likely have to also rename housing development Lendy Place, at a cost of several thousand pounds.

A majority of councillors supported further research being done by academics specialising in African history, who are applying for Arts and Humanities Research Council funding to study four other monuments as well. Cllr Tom Lagden argued their support would ensure they would "not be

a target for Black Lives Matter anymore". "We need to send out a message now to say we as Spelthorne Borough Council want to know 100% what the history is and get all of the facts," he said.

<https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/spelthorne-councillors-back-immediate-unveiling-19662549>

### **Tavistock, England – July-Aug. 2020 – retained monument with plaque**

Tavistock Town Council have formally approved plans to keep the statue of Sir Francis Drake amid calls to remove the monument because he was a slave trader. However, they will be putting in a board or plaque to give context to his deeds in Elizabethan times.

A report from the town clerk Carl Hearn said: "There are no plans to remove the statue of Sir Francis Drake, but in the interests of historic completeness, it is clear that more could, and should, be done to portray the whole history alongside his better-known achievements, recognising the (previously) less well-known links to early English slave trading."

The council has resolved to put an interpretation board or plaque at a safe location, explaining the explorer's links to the slave trade. The monument itself is on a busy roundabout.

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/future-tavistocks-sir-francis-drake-4287420>

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/cleaning-sir-francis-drake-statue-4401275>

## **Scotland**

### **Dundee, Scotland – Sept. 2020 – retained street names and monument, recognizing history of slavery and inequality through new projects**

- For committee report on recognizing the slave trade, see report starting on page 152: <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/reports/agendas/pr280920ag.pdf>

A new spotlight will be shone on Dundee's historic links to slavery and racism in a bid to educate people about the city's past and present inequalities. An exhibition and walking trail are among the measures being considered, as well as the commissioning of new artwork to promote the idea of equality.

City leaders say it is time to accept the role Dundee played in the slave trade and to do more to tackle current issues, including human trafficking and discrimination.

There are no plans to topple statues or renaming streets, but at a Dundee City Council meeting next week, councillors will be asked to explore other options. Councillors will also be asked to consider greater participation in Black History Month, improved Fair Trade work, more education in schools and a review of the city's public safety approach to human trafficking. At the policy and resources committee on September 28, councillors will be asked to set up a working group to consider the options, guided by black and minority ethnic residents of Dundee.

Lynne Short, the council's equalities spokesperson, said: "While we have not seen an overwhelming appetite in Dundee for the removal of statues and the alteration of street names or public buildings which have a direct and/or indirect association with slavery and its impact, this report offers up a number of ways that we as a community can provide honest explanation, education and public information about the involvement of the city."

A statue of radical politician and slave owner George Kinloch in Dundee's Albert Square was placed on an anti-racist protesters' online "topple list". Concerns were also raised about concerns about three city streets named after Dr Walter Tullideph, who owned slaves and ran plantations on the Caribbean island of Antigua in the 18th Century.

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/1599160/call-for-honesty-over-dundeess-slavery-and-racism-links/>

### **Henry Dundas Monument, Edinburgh, Scotland – June 2020-May 2021 – retained monument with plaque**

The City of Edinburgh is dedicating the Henry Dundas monument in St. Andrew Square to enslaved Africans by installing a new plaque. Wording for the plaque was approved on June 11 by Council, after initially being approved by a panel comprising Edinburgh City Council Leader Adam McVey, Deputy Council Leader Cammy Day and the city's first black professor, Sir Geoff Palmer. Input was also received from Edinburgh World Heritage, Edinburgh University, Cllr Donald Wilson and Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan.

Members of the Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee voted to approve a motion confirming the plaque wording 12 to six. The motion also includes affirmation that the council "agrees that Black Lives Matter and supports the Black Lives Matter campaign."

A Green Party addendum requesting the council Chief Executive bring forward a plan to "review any features within the council boundary which commemorate those with close links to slavery and colonialism", was also approved.

On July 13, new signs appeared around Edinburgh's Melville Monument outlining Henry Dundas' involvement in the slave trade. The signs will remain in place for the next six to eight weeks while a permanent plaque is created and goes through planning consent processes.

As of March 17, Edinburgh City Council's development management committee has approved the installation of a plaque on the Melville Monument that will outline his misdeeds. The text reads:

*At the top of this neoclassical column stands a statue of Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville (1742-1811). He was the Scottish Lord Advocate, an MP for Edinburgh and Midlothian, and the First Lord of the Admiralty. Dundas was a contentious figure, provoking controversies that resonate to this day. While Home Secretary in 1792, and first Secretary of State for War in 1796 he was instrumental in deferring the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade. Slave trading by British ships was not abolished until 1807. As a result of this delay, more than half a million enslaved Africans crossed the Atlantic. Dundas also curbed democratic dissent in Scotland, and both defended and expanded the British empire, imposing colonial rule on indigenous peoples. He was impeached in the United Kingdom for misappropriation of public money, and, although*

*acquitted, he never held public office again. Despite this, the monument before you was funded by voluntary contributions from British naval officers, petty officers, seamen, and marines and was erected in 1821, with the statue placed on top in 1827.*

*In 2020 this plaque was dedicated to the memory of the more than half-a-million Africans whose enslavement was a consequence of Henry Dundas's actions.*

The planning application for the plaque attracted over 2,200 comments from members of the public.

Commenting on the approval of the slavery plaque, Sir Geoff Palmer said: "Henry Dundas' statue, with his old plaque, has been there for about 200 years, and the word slavery wasn't on it - it didn't teach us anything about slavery. What is important about this plaque, is that for the first time in 200 years slavery will be mentioned here."

"This is the public's victory, that the governing body of Edinburgh has looked at the evidence, looked at the evidence very carefully, and decided that slavery should be on this plaque, and that some recognition should be given to the suffering of the people, who not only endured slavery as whole, but of the 630,000 people he was responsible for transporting into slavery."

"This is an enormous victory, not just for the people of Edinburgh, but for the people of Scotland, because they've acknowledged that they were involved in slavery and have now decided to do something about."

"I can assure you that some of the people who don't want this plaque, with slavery on it, they would rather the statue would come down, because that's the power of the plaque and the truth of the plaque. Those activists and self-serving people who think they're doing the Scottish people a favour by telling lies, those people would rather the statue down because they think they're moderating Scotland's role in slavery by not telling the truth."

The decision to add a new information plaque to Edinburgh's Melville Monument has been criticised by his descendants as historically inaccurate. Bobby Dundas, the 10th Viscount Melville and a professional Polo player, and Jennifer Dundas, a Canadian broadcast journalist, say Edinburgh City Council has 'blundered' in its decision to allow the installation of a plaque on their distant relatives' monument, which outlines his role in delaying the abolition of slavery.

However, Sir Geoff Palmer, the independent chair of the council's Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group, which is reviewing historic links to slavery in the capital, says the evidence against Dundas is unequivocal.

In a joint letter, Bobby Dundas and Jennifer Dundas said: "The council has approved wording for a new plaque that is false and misleading. The claim that Henry Dundas caused the enslavement of more than half a million Africans is patently false."

"The truth is: 'Dundas was the first MP to advocate in Parliament for the emancipation of slaves in the British territories along with the abolition of the slave trade.' Dundas's efforts resulted in the House of Commons voting in favour of ending the Atlantic slave trade for the first time in its history. Earlier in his career, Dundas led the legal team that helped a slave [Joseph Knight] from Jamaica achieve his freedom in Scotland, achieving a declaration from Scotland's highest civil court that no person could be a slave on Scottish soil."

“The process by which the statement was adopted by Edinburgh City Council, and the statement itself, were soundly denounced by Scotland’s most eminent historian, Professor Sir Thomas Devine. It is surprising, indeed, that Edinburgh City Council would accept the interpretation of the two political activists over an expert in Scotland’s involvement in the slave trade.”

Sir Geoff Palmer, on the other hand, says the evidence against Dundas proves he was pro-slavery. Of particular interest, he says, is a letter Henry Dundas wrote to a member of the House of Lords, on the day a bill from the famous abolitionist William Wilberforce was defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 74-70. Dundas declined to vote on the bill, despite the narrow margin. The letter, which Sir Geoff owns, concludes: “I have not time to write more. The time is near five and I must go to oppose the proposals on for abolition of the slave trade.”

Sir Geoff said: “They’re now trying to work out exactly what Henry Dundas meant by that - it’s obvious what he meant. CLR James, the great black historian, who did a lot of work on Dundas, tried to draw Dundas to our attention and we never took any notice.

“CLR James, in his book ‘The Black Jacobins’, says on 18th February, 1796, Dundas went to Parliament and opposed the abolition of the slave trade. Therefore, we have a respected historian concurring with the letter, which I’ve got a copy of.

“At the beginning of the letter, Dundas was involved in purchasing slaves for the British Army. He ordered Earl Balcarres to purchase slaves. He said in the beginning of the letter he’d just had a two-hour meeting with the Duke of York, who was the main advocate of the purchasing of slaves for the British Army.”

Sir Geoff continued: “Dundas did help Joseph Knight, so there’s a certain amount of balancing to do. But the truth of that is, Dundas, as Lord Advocate in 1776, pleaded for Knight, but the statement comes from the Caledonian Mercury, which says that Dundas, as they all did - said slavery was terrible. But what they’ve left out is that Dundas also said in that statement, every black man in Jamaica is a slave. Therefore, he was confirming the legality of British slavery in the Caribbean.

“When the judgement was made, in 1778, the judges said that Joseph Knight is free in Scotland but if he goes to Jamaica, he’s a slave. So, the Joseph Knight case is about reaffirming slavery in the Caribbean - Joseph Knight is incidental, he was on sixpence pocket money, how could he get to the High Court?

“This about how people have manipulated our history. Joseph Knight wasn’t a slave; he was a servant - so how could we abolish slavery in Scotland when there were no slaves?”

As of May 4, Edinburgh City Council has refused to reveal the names of the officials closely involved in examining the street names, monuments and buildings of the capital, amid fears they would be subject to abuse. The council’s committee includes council members, who are financed by the taxpayer, but in response to a freedom of information request by the Local Democracy Reporting Service, the council refused to name the committee members..

The response to the freedom of information request reads: “Under the terms of the legislation, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the legislation apply. “In this instance, the council is claiming exemptions under sections 38 (Personal Data) and 39 (Health, Safety and the Environment). Due to concerns about both online and offline



abuse raised by the Review Group, the chair has agreed not to release the names or biographical details of any members until appropriate safeguarding supports are approved and operational, and the Review Group consents to their details being publicised.”

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-52997858>

<https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/edinburgh-city-council-confirm-what-18405591>

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/12881/council-leader-calls-meeting-to-consider-wording-of-statue-s-plaque>

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/12898/council-leaders-report-june-2020>

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/politics/new-signs-appear-around-edinburghs-melville-monument-outlining-henry- Dundas-involvement-slave-trade-2912433>

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/slavery-plaque-approved-for-edinburghs-henry- Dundas-monument-3168888>

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/an-enormous-victory-for-edinburgh-and-the-people-of-scotland-reaction-to-melville-monument-slavery-plaque-3169619>

<https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/edinburghs-melville-monument-slavery-links-20214070>

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/dundas-plaque-row-descendants-of-dundas-surprised-and-disappointed-at-false-plaque-wording-3172579>

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/they-are-minnows-in-terms-of-trying-to-abuse-me-human-rights-campaigner-sir-geoff-palmer-defies-racists-3224467>

### **Edinburgh, Scotland – Nov. 2020-Mar. 2021 – reviewing monuments, street and building names, including Dundas Street**

Scotland's first black professor will lead a review of controversial statues and street names in Edinburgh with links to slavery in the wake of Black Lives Matter protests. Sir Geoff Palmer, 80, will lead the Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group, which will meet for the first time before the end of the year. He will now recruit other members to join the group to bring together people from a range of backgrounds and expertise, including community leaders and figures from the cultural and arts world, as well as academic representatives. There is an expected emphasis on having a very strong BAME representation.

The group's remit will cover any features within the council boundary which commemorate those with close links to slavery and colonialism, including, but not limited to, public statues and monuments, street or building names. The group will be asked to make recommendations for a programme of actions and activities to rectify the glorification of slavery and colonialism which these commemorations represent to many people. It will consider all options, including the removal of statues.



City of Edinburgh Council leader Adam McVey said: 'We have a responsibility to face up to our city's past, the good and the bad. 'While this review is about the story of our city, it's not about statues of people long gone. It's about people who live here now and their experience. The Black Lives Matter movement shone a bright light on structural exclusions faced by people in all areas of life. We are committed to investigating, with communities and partners, where any such exclusions might exist in Edinburgh. Through this review group we hope to build an improved shared understanding of our Capital's history by reviewing the origins of our public statues, monuments and street names and their context with events and meanings and making sure we share the true stories with future generations.'

This Group includes a number of citizen volunteers who have offered their time, lived experience and expertise to make sure the Review is impactful.

The Review's remit is broad and takes in figures commemorated in the public realm who were both for and against slavery. An investigation is now underway of, including but not limited to, relevant public statues and monuments, street and building names within City of Edinburgh boundaries which Review Group members agree are of significance. They will go on to consider the options and responses available to redress this legacy, including the possible removal or re-interpretation of features.

The Group will oversee a public consultation on this before formulating recommendations to bring back to the Council.

As of March 6, a leaked draft list of places and monuments that could be subject to review was leaked and some commentators have heavily criticised Sir Geoff and the review group.

The group will investigate the street names, monuments and buildings of the capital, and according to Sir Geoff, will provide educational resources to 'provide people with information about their city', rather than removing statues and changing place names.

The list, which is a draft compilation of possible review subjects submitted by individual members of the group, is not an agreed list of place names and monuments to investigate – that list is set to be agreed when the group meets on March 15.

The leaked document listed Adam Smith's grave, in Canongate Kirkyard, as a possible contender for investigation, due to Smith's apparent acceptance of slavery as 'inevitable' – although he was a fierce critic of the practice and condemned it.

Matt Kilcoyne, the deputy director of neoliberal think tank the Adam Smith Institute, accused Sir Geoff of trying to 'wipe Adam Smith out of history', writing: "I condemn in unequivocal terms the moves by some on Edinburgh Council to try and wipe Adam Smith out of history. His record on slavery is one of condemnation, he wrote the moral case and the economic case against it. Adam Smith's record is readable and redoubtable."

Sir Geoff Palmer has reiterated his belief that some commentators are misrepresenting what he's trying to accomplish, saying: "I was one of the only people saying don't tear our statues down, which is the irony of Twitter accounts like Save Our Statues attacking me. I've said it quite clearly – the next statue down in our country should be racism. If you remove the statue, you remove the deed, and our statues are in the context of our history."

He added: "So where Dundas is, it is in the context of St Andrew Square, it is in the history of St Andrew Square, it is linked to Dundas Road across the street. "It is linked to Henry Brougham, the abolitionist, who lived in St Andrew Square.

"So, if you start removing things from their context, then in 100 years time we will have forgotten this historical context. It's also important because the reasons why Dundas' statue was put there are important, and therefore we cannot remove history from its context."

Sir Geoff also says his work on BAME history will help fight racism in the present: "What I would like to see is the Scottish people, with this remit, will understand their history better. "They will come to understand the truth of the link between Edinburgh and it's relationship with slavery. We're going to do this by giving them the evidence. "Street names for example – we know that Balcarres Street, named after Earl Balcarres, was Henry Dundas' governor of Jamaica, and he owned slaves and enslaved them."

"We're also going to look at the New Town, we're going to look at the streets and roads in the New Town, and many of these streets are on the compensation list – the people who lived there got compensation for their slaves. We're going to look at statues and monuments of people who are linked to slavery and colonialism. We're going to provide people with information about their city. That information will not be prejudicial, it is not going to be there to denigrate, it is there to give the public information about their city and its links with slavery and colonialism. We will then have a document, which is evidence-based, that can be used for educational purposes in order to say to the public that when you look at a BAME person in our society, they have a right to be here. They were part of the British Empire, they worked and they died for it and therefore we are all now one Scotland."

Recent media reports have focussed on those in scope who profited either directly or indirectly from the slave trade, however there are a number of figures included in the Review who were aligned with the abolitionist movement. Chair Sir Geoff Palmer comments below on recent coverage to clarify:

"The purpose of this historical review is to select monuments, buildings and streets in Edinburgh which are associated with slavery and colonialism. Edinburgh's links with slavery and colonialism are well documented. Edinburgh street names are well represented in the Slavery Emancipation, Compensation List of 1833 where slave owners were compensated for their slaves because legally the slaves were property. A recently compiled list of Edinburgh buildings, monuments and streets associated with slavery and colonialism will be discussed by the Review Group on 15th March, 2021. This list is comprehensive and it contains slave owners, abolitionists, buildings and monuments.

"For example, the list contains:

- John Gladstone (Leith), slave owner, the father of William Gladstone, the Prime Minister. He received the largest compensation for 2,508 slaves.
- Henry Brougham, the distinguished abolitionist (St. Andrew Square).
- Gilmore Place, commemorative plaque to Frederick Douglass, the black abolitionist who lived in Edinburgh in 1846.
- Balcarres Street, representing Earl Balcarres' period as governor of Jamaica and slave owner.

- Henry Dundas (Viscount Melville) ...statues (St. Andrew Square) and street names, Scottish politician who delayed the abolition of the slave trade to benefit slavers. As President of the Board of Control, he controlled the East India Company from 1793-1801 (India Street).
- Philosopher and economist Adam Smith and philosopher David Hume (statues) were indirectly involved in slavery. Smith proposed moderating slavery and improving its profitability with wages and Hume suggested that negroes were inferior to whites which had an impact on the practice of the racism in slavery.
- The British Linen Bank building, St. Andrew Square, is included because it was a very profitable company managing the sale of clothes for slaves.
- Gillespie School (building) represents association with James Gillespie the tobacco merchant.
- David Livingstone (statue) missionary in British colonies in Africa.
- Rodney Street which ends at the Royal Navy Club. Admiral Rodney stopped the French from taking Jamaica from Britain in 1782 (Battle of the Saintes).
- Jamaica (Jamaica Street) was Britain's main producer of sugar and coffee.
- The Earl of Hopetoun (statue, St. Andrew Square) had military association with slavery in Grenada and was a relative of Henry Dundas, so was Lawrence Dundas the owner of Dundas House (St Andrew Square).

"The list is historical and was compiled without prejudice or bias. This project will be carried out in association with Edinburgh University. Working together we will achieve the aims set out by the Council to ensure that equality, inclusion and diversity are embedded in the practices of the Council."

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8938909/Scotlands-black-professor-lead-review-statues-Edinburgh-links-slavery.html>

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/politics/edinburgh-appoints-scotlands-first-black-professor-lead-review-statues-and-street-names-linked-slavery-3032341>

<https://www.midlothianadvertiser.co.uk/education/anti-racism-campaigner-from-penicuik-hits-back-at-critics-3158382>

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13127/edinburgh-slavery-and-colonialism-legacy-review-group-an-update>

### **Fife, Scotland – Aug. 2020 – reviewing street names, including Dundas Street**

Fife Council is looking into street names around the Kingdom with potential links to the slave trade. It is leading an audit of addresses to determine which ones should be reviewed.

The audit was prompted by a meeting between Fife Council co-leaders, David Alexander and David Ross, and Mama Africa, a group of African-Scots fighting against racially-stimulated hate.

Street names in Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and Lochgelly have been found to be potentially problematic. According to research carried out by University College London, 19 addresses in Fife are legacies of British slave ownership. They include Balfour Court and Dundas Street in Dunfermline, Plantation Street and Dundas Street in Lochgelly and Balfour Street in Kirkcaldy.

The council may also review museums it runs to see if there are any artefacts countries may want to be handed back to them.

<https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/people/fife-street-names-checked-links-slavery-2938240>

### **Glasgow, Scotland – Nov. 2020 – conducting research into legacy of slavery, including Dundas Street**

Glasgow's global reputation remains tarnished by its legacy of profiteering from the Atlantic slave trade. And the city still memorialises, in street names and statuary, some of the merchants and politicians who enabled or carried out mass people trafficking. Merchant John Glassford, who owned slaves, has a street named after him. So too does Henry Dundas, the political strongman most historians blame for prolonging slaving. And right in the heart of the city there is a monument to James Watt, the long-celebrated engineer who literally sold a boy called Frederick not far from where his statue stands now.

Historian Stephen Mullen of Glasgow University is carrying out what is believed to be the UK's first ever civic investigation into the legacy of slavery. He had already carried out similar work for his employers, the University of Glasgow, which last week was named university of the year because of the way it handled its own legacy of slavery.

Dr Mullen is continuing his work and city leaders are still looking at ways to mark Glasgow's legacy of slavery - and imperialism.

However, what city leaders are now seeking is a different sort of a focal point: a museum of slavery (and perhaps imperialism too). Such an "attraction" may be a long time coming. There is little more than a vague desire to have such a venue in Scotland and little agreement over where it should be. Glasgow in September appointed a specialist curator to deal with slavery and imperialism in the city's existing collections.

<https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/18906945.city-chambers-glasgow-landmarks-not-funded-slavery-new-study-suggests/>

## **Wales**

### **Bridgend, Wales – Aug. 2020 – reviewing street names**

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has agreed to move forward with a review of street names in the area that may refer to a slave trader. Councillors have approved an in-depth review into the use of the name 'Picton' in Bridgend street names to determine if they refer to controversial figure General Thomas Picton or his distant relative Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Picton Turberville. Council Leader Huw David said once BCBC has "established the facts" about its street names it will then "consider the implications" of this, which could mean renaming streets in the county borough.

General Thomas Picton, born in 1758 in Pembrokeshire, was the highest ranking general to die at the battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. He was the governor of Trinidad for five years and became known as 'The Tyrant of Trinidad' for his brutal methods.

At a cabinet meeting held on Monday August 24, BCBC decided that further research into street names containing the name 'Picton' was needed. During the meeting, councillors looked at research carried out by local historians into the names of streets in Bridgend. Up until recently, many Bridgend locals thought that the use of 'Picton' throughout the borough is linked to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Picton Turberville, a former owner of Ewenny Priory, rather than slave trader General Thomas Picton. But the study carried out so far failed to prove exactly which Picton is referred to in Bridgend's street names. According to the council's report, there are eight streets in Bridgend county borough that include the name 'Picton', with 360 properties affected.

It has not yet been decided whether streets will be renamed in Bridgend. The procedure for altering street names is set out under section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925. According to UK law, the council could change the name of any street, or part of a street, or give a name to any street, or part of a street, that doesn't have a name. Residents should be notified about this at least a month before and there is an appeals process that can be made to a magistrate's court. Although it is not a legal requirement, BCBC said it would consult members of the public before changing street names in the county borough.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/bridgend-street-names-thomas-picton-18821963>

### **Cardiff, Wales – July 2020 – removed statue**

- For Notice of Motion from July 23, 2020, see:  
<https://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=20344&LLL=0>

Cardiff council voted to remove a statue of slave owner Thomas Picton from a "Welsh heroes" gallery in Cardiff's City Hall. Sir Thomas Picton's statue had stood for more than a century, remembering him as the highest-ranking officer to die in the Battle of Waterloo. Cardiff council noted Picton's "abhorrent behaviour" as Governor of Trinidad in the 19th Century.

The statue will be covered up until it is removed. Fifty-seven councillors voted for the statue's removal from the Marble Hall of Heroes, five voted against that and there were nine abstentions. Now Cardiff council will seek permission from the Welsh Government and Cadw - which protects historic monuments in Wales - to remove it from the civic centre building.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53512384>

### **Carmarthen, Wales – June-Dec. 2020 – retained monument with plaque, retained street names**

- For Task and Finish Group Report from Dec. 21, 2020, see:  
<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s47237/Summary.pdf>
- For public consultation, see:  
<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s47238/Report.pdf>

A controversial monument in Carmarthen erected in honour of a British officer killed at the battle of Waterloo with links to the slave trade will not be removed or renamed, it has been decided. Picton Monument has stood in Picton Terrace in Carmarthen since 1888.

However, a campaign was launched earlier this year to have the monument removed less than a day after a statue of slave trader Edward Colston was pulled down in Bristol. In response to these events, Carmarthenshire Council set up a Task and Finish Group to review matters relating to racial inequality, including the “interpretation and history of Sir Thomas Picton and the monument in Carmarthen”.

The Task and Finish Group undertook a public consultation in order to gain an understanding of the views and comments of the people, while also consulting with Race Council Cymru and the Llanelli Multicultural Network, and reviewing information gathered from the Carmarthen Civic Society and local councillors.

As part of an online survey, which was also available in paper form and was open between August 19 and September 30, 2,470 responses were received. The survey asked: Do you think Carmarthenshire Council (and key partners) need to take any steps in response to the recent public discussion about the Sir Thomas Picton monument? 744 people stated 'Yes', that steps needed to be taken, and 1,613 people stated 'No', that no steps needed to be taken. 113 people chose not to answer the question but gave feedback through the free text option.

For those who wanted steps to be taken, suggestions included removing the monument and placing it at another location, such as Carmarthen Museum, demolishing the monument, renaming or rededicating it, or erecting an information board.

Reasons given by those who said that no action should be taken included that it was a “military recognition”, the fact that “you cannot change or erase history”, and that the monument is “integral to Carmarthen”.

Thomas Picton himself has been celebrated in Carmarthen for generations. A previous monument was created 60 years before the current one, recognising and honouring the highest-ranking British officer killed at Waterloo in 1815, and still the only Welshman to be buried at St Paul's Cathedral.

During his lifetime, he became notorious during a trial at which he was accused and initially found guilty of authorising the torture of a 14-year-old girl accused of stealing. He also had close links to the slave trade, and was accused of ordering the execution of a dozen slaves during his reign as Governor of Trinidad.

The current monument, which stands at more than 24 metres tall, has been Grade II listed since the early 1980s, and it will now remain in its place after the results of the public consultation were published by Carmarthenshire Council.

They decided that the monument would remain as it is - an approach that will also be taken in relation to place names referring to Sir Thomas Picton. “Having considered all of the evidence relating to the consultation process, the Task and Finish Group were in agreement that the monument should remain, and should not be repurposed, renamed or altered. It was also agreed that the same approach should be taken with regards to place names,” a council report said.

“Given that there are several street names and references to Sir Thomas Picton across Carmarthen, the group recognised that there is little historical information on display to inform the public and agreed that this ought to be addressed. The group also acknowledged the conclusive result of the consultation and agreed that steps needed to be taken as a matter of priority to reflect recent global events and reconsideration in view of the history of Sir Thomas Picton.



"When interpreting the history of Sir Thomas Picton, the group emphatically agreed that consideration should be given to his tenure as the Governor of Trinidad, his links with slavery, as well as his military career.

"In the light of the need to educate and inform in a more comprehensive way, it was decided that information boards should be put in place. The information boards or display should seek to educate and inform the public on local history alongside that of Sir Thomas Picton." It was recommended that information boards should be placed near Picton Monument, and on a prominent site with the grounds of the monument.

It was also recommended that a further board be placed in the vicinity of the former Crown Court in the Guildhall in the centre of Carmarthen, which is home to a portrait of Sir Thomas Picton, and that all boards should "reference the local history of the area and also the history of Sir Thomas Picton, encompassing his military career as well as his known links with slavery".

If the recommendation to place the aforementioned information boards is ratified by the executive board at Carmarthenshire Council, it is expected that they would be erected within 12 months of that decision.

A spokeswoman for Race Council Cymru said: "We are pleased to see that Carmarthenshire Council has consulted broadly in its consideration of what should be done with the statues, memorials and streets named after public figures associated with slavery or the British Empire. We greatly approve of the council's commitment to engaging with people of minority ethnic backgrounds in its consultation process. We support the council's decision to improve the interpretation of the Picton Monument so that it better reflects the history of this controversial man. The council's decision to provide fuller and more accurate information will ensure that the people of Carmarthenshire will know a more honest history of this very complex man.

The Mayor of Carmarthen, councillor Gareth John, said that the recommendations which stemmed from the consultation reflected the views of the majority of the town's residents. "I was particularly keen to learn of experiences from individuals who would be classified as members of the minority BAME community; members of the Picton family to get an insight into the man himself, the views of ex-service personnel, as well as a cross section of the public, especially those I would classify as the silent majority.

Former Mayor and councillor Alun Lenny, who represents Carmarthen Town South and is a local historian, said: "Removing or demolishing the massive Picton Monument would have been out of the question - not to mention hugely expensive. "It was erected by the people of Carmarthen in a past age for a specific purpose. It is a visible historical edifice which speaks eloquently about the values of our ancestors, both good and bad. However, since contemporary values and attitudes naturally differ to theirs, we, the people of Carmarthen today, are entitled - indeed obliged - to tell Sir Thomas Picton's story in the round. This can best be done by placing information boards at the monument and near his portrait in the Guildhall - a portrait which is much too large to move to any museum and is part of the CADW Grade I listed former court room's fixtures and fittings.

The report estimates the plaques will cost £5,250 and notes there are opportunities to fund the work required within the recommendations, from current projects within the Museum Service.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/controversial-statue-welsh-town-not-19483962>



<https://carmarthenshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s47237/Summary.pdf>

### **Swansea, Wales – July 2020-Mar. 2021 – reviewing names and monuments**

- For BLM Response of Place Review from March 18, 2021, see:  
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s71718/14%201%20of%20%20-%20Place%20BLM%20Response.pdf?LLL=0>

Swansea is set to do more to celebrate the contribution made by people from different cultures and backgrounds to the development and history of the city. A major review looked at place names, statues and other ways in which the city has commemorated local and world events and people in the past.

It was presented to Cabinet on March 18 and was commissioned in the wake of a Full Council notice of motion in July which called for the issue to be looked into following the Black Lives Matter protests.

The review said there is no evidence that the very few people who are commemorated in statues in Swansea had any known link to the slave trade but those statues that exist mainly commemorate 'city fathers' rather than the diverse figures who make Swansea what it is today.

It recommends that officers should work with community groups and representative organisations to uncover the hidden histories and characters of Swansea's past and present, to create a new set of records that could be considered when naming new streets, public places, or landmarks.

Some existing place or street names do have links to people or families associated with the slave trade with the most prominent being Sir Thomas Picton who has a recorded history of cruelty and exploitation of slavery.

The council will engage with the leaseholders on considering renaming the Arcade and a new name for the soon to be developed public space behind the Kingsway, historically named as Picton Lane and Picton Yard.

Place names in Swansea with links to the slave trade or exploitation are likely to have new interpretations alongside to provide context. However, according to Swansea councillors, the names would not be changed without further consultation and scrutiny.

The review is also suggesting more be done - including historical study and the use of technology - to improve interpretation of the city's heritage.

Across the city, the recommendation is to provide information and interpretation to places named for individuals and families with links to exploitation, as well as new ideas for telling the story of Swansea. For example, an artist has written a study of the Brangwyn Panels, which tell the story of the British Empire, and QR Codes linked to history sites are already in place at Maesteg House.

It also calls for plans to develop a better understanding of the city's heritage in collaboration with Welsh Government and by working with local schools. Archive services are preparing learning materials for the national curriculum already.

Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration and Tourism, said: "The review has suggested we need to develop a more balanced understanding of our city's heritage which more clearly recognises the modern as well as historical influences women, LGBT+ and people of black, Asian and other minority heritage had on our communities. Street and place names, statues and landmarks have always been a traditional way to commemorate significant people or events in the history of our communities - not just in Swansea but around the entire UK.

Cllr Francis-Davies said the review suggested other actions could also be effective in improving understanding of the city's heritage in a more balanced way - including creating temporary artwork and heritage information so all residents and visitors to the city can learn more about the shaping of Swansea through the generations. He said: "The working group set up to look into the issue has done some important work in setting out where we are now and presenting ideas for next steps, next steps which include engaging with local communities about our city, will help ensure we can continue to be a place which respects all of us who are part of it."

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/61807/City-to-celebrate-diverse-contribution-to-Swansea-history>

<https://nation.cymru/news/context-could-be-added-to-place-names-with-links-to-slavery/>

### **Vale of Glamorgan, Wales – June 2020-Jan. 2021 – reviewing street names and monuments**

The Vale council cabinet has agreed to review statues, buildings and street names in the region that may have links to slavery. In June, following the Black Lives Matter protests, the Vale council signalled its intention for a review. And, following a cabinet meeting on Monday November 2, a review has been agreed to take place, with a deadline for suggested commemorations set for January 31. There were no objections to the proposals.

Among those to be reviewed could be Clive Place and Plassey Street in Penarth, which are both suggested to be linked to colonist Robert Clive. In July, 35 people staged a protest outside the Civic Offices in Barry, demanding the council rename Ffordd Penrhyn, which they say has connotations of slavery.

Following the meeting on November 2, leader Neil Moore said: "All town and community councils, as well as members of the public, will be able to make representations for names to be reviewed. The views of under represented groups, who may wish to make commemoration proposals, will also be sought and a panel established to review representations received. The panel will be made up of councillors, an officer from the council's Strategic Leadership Group and external individuals appointed by the cabinet. The recommendations of the panel will then be reported to the cabinet for decision."

On January 25, Council approved the terms of reference for a review panel to undertake work to further the Vale of Glamorgan Council's review of statues, monuments, street names and building names within the Vale of Glamorgan.

The panel will receive representations from town & community councils, the wider public, community/interest groups and review evidence relating to statues, monuments, street names and building names within the county. The panel will also consider any emerging findings from the Welsh Government's audit of public monuments, street and building names associated with the history of black communities in Wales.

The purpose of the panel's work is to review these assets from an historic perspective (to ascertain any causes for concern) whilst also inviting consideration for future recognition of individuals or events that celebrate diversity. Diversity in the context of the panel's work means ensuring all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan feel recognised no matter their background. For example, this will include race and Welsh language/cultural considerations.

Upon receipt of representations, the panel will review the findings and make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet to determine the action that should be taken. Recommendations, and subsequently actions that could be progressed will include removal or retention with additional information/education. The recommendations put forward by the panel will be informed by the representations made to the panel.

The membership of the panel is as follows and may be supplemented by agreement of the Leader of the Council:

- Leader (Chair)
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Member Equality Champion
- Member LGBT Champion
- An officer from the Council's Strategic Leadership Team
- One representative from the Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism
- One representative from local history societies

Additional attendees at panel meetings will be agreed by the Chair, for example, in inviting representatives of those making representations, or to provide the panel with specialist knowledge or advice.

<https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/18846659.councils-plans-review-road-names-penarth-barry/>

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/\\_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-01-25/Review-of-Street-Names-ToR.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-01-25/Review-of-Street-Names-ToR.pdf)

### **Welsh Government – July-Nov. 2020 – reviewing names and monuments**

- For Audit of Commemoration in Wales report from Nov. 26, 2020, see:  
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/the-slave-trade-and-the-british-empire-an-audit-of-commemoration-in-wales.pdf>

In July, following the death of George Floyd and a month of action by the Black Lives Matter movement, First Minister Mark Drakeford ordered an urgent audit of statues, street and building names to address Wales' connections with slavery and the slave trade.

The audit published on 26 November 2020 shows the slave trade was embedded in the Welsh economy and society and reflected in many statues, street and building names today.

The audit identified 209 monuments, buildings or street names, located in all parts of Wales, which commemorate people who were directly involved with the slavery and the slave trade or opposed its abolition. These include:

- 13 monuments, buildings, or street names commemorating people who took part in the African slave trade
- 56 monuments, buildings, or street names commemorating people who owned or directly benefitted from plantations or mines worked by the enslaved
- 120 monuments, buildings, or street names commemorating people who opposed abolition of the slave trade or slavery
- 20 monuments, buildings, or street names commemorating people accused of crimes against Black people, notably in colonial Africa

The audit, led by Gaynor Legall, found that commemorations of people connected with the slave trade are often shown without any accompanying interpretation to address matters of contention. Without this, the figures are presented solely as role models rather than representatives of challenging aspects of the past.

The research also found there are alarmingly few Welsh people of Black or Asian heritage commemorated across Wales, showing there is a need to consider how we should celebrate the contributions that all parts of our community have made to our country.

The audit also unearthed a positive strand to Welsh history, highlighting the existence of commemorations to anti-slavery activists across Wales; from the statue of Henry Richard in Tregaron, to streets names for Samuel Romilly and the Pantycelyn halls of residence at Aberystwyth University.

First Minister Mark Drakeford said: "This is the first stage of a much bigger piece of work which will consider how we move forward with this information as we seek to honour and celebrate our diverse communities."

<https://gov.wales/over-200-welsh-statues-streets-and-buildings-connected-slave-trade-listed-nationwide-audit>

<https://gov.wales/slave-trade-and-british-empire-audit-commemoration-wales>

## UK Central Government

### **UK Parliament – Sept. 2020-Jan. 2021 – statues should be retained with interpretation**

- For January 18 statement issued by Robert Jenrick, see: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-01-18/hcws713>

Public statues of controversial historical figures should be "retained and explained" instead of being taken down, the government has said. Culture Minister Matt Warman told MPs the UK's heritage should not be removed from view "however contentious". Mr. Warman said statues played a role in "teaching us about the past".

In the government's first official policy statement about the issue, he told the Commons ministers believed in the "right to retain statues however contentious".

Speaking in the House of Commons in an adjournment debate about statues, Mr. Warman said he wanted organisations to "retain and explain not remove our heritage". Whilst individuals such as Colston or Rhodes may have "said or done things we may find deeply offensive", he said they

played an important role in teaching us about a past "with all its faults". "We should seek to contextualise or reinterpret them in a way that enables to public to learn about them in their entirety," he added.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden has warned institutions that remove statues and objects that are linked to colonialism risk being defunded. In a letter addressed to cultural institutions, Mr. Dowden said the Government "does not support the removal of statues or other similar objects". He added that it was "imperative" that Government-funded organisations "act impartially".

Mr. Dowden added: "As set out in your management agreements, I would expect Arm's Length Bodies' approach to issues of contested heritage to be consistent with the Government's position. "Further, as publicly funded bodies, you should not be taking actions motivated by activism or politics.

On October 11, it was revealed that Boris Johnson is planning to give ministers the powers to stop the controversial removal of historical monuments and statues. Under this proposal, ministers would be able to veto the removal of landmarks, plaques, and memorials in order to help guard against pressure from politicians and campaigners on local officials. The powers would give Housing Secretary, Robert Jenrick, the ability to handle the formal applications for removing monuments or statues. This would remove the final decision from local councils and marks the Government's first step in trying to deal with the fallout from some of the protests held in relation to the UK's colonial past.

On January 18, the government announced plans to change the law to protect statues from what Robert Jenrick called "baying mobs". The communities' secretary said Britain should not try to edit or censor its past amid proposed amendments to laws to protect statues, monuments and other memorials.

Jenrick said any decision to remove heritage assets in England would require planning permission and a consultation with local communities, adding that he wanted to see a "considered approach" Jenrick wrote: "Our view will be set out in law, that such monuments are almost always best explained and contextualised, not taken and hidden away."

The head of the race equality thinktank said it was a disgrace that the biggest current preoccupation for housing minister was conservation of statues.

Excerpts from a January 18 statement issued by Robert Jenrick:

*I am concerned that, over the last few months, some such heritage assets may have been removed without proper debate, consultation with the public and due process.*

*This Government is committed to ensuring our nation's heritage is appropriately protected. It is important that all decisions on removing historic statues, plaques (which are part of a building and whose alteration or removal materially affects the external appearance of the building), memorials and monuments - even for a temporary period - are taken in accordance with the law and following the correct process. Decisions to remove any such heritage assets owned by a local authority should be taken in accordance with its constitution, following consultation with the local community and interested parties, and the rationale for a decision to remove should be transparent.*

*The planning system plays a crucial role conserving and enhancing our heritage. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, listed building consent from the local planning authority is required for the removal or alteration of a statue, plaque, memorial or monument which is designated as a listed building, or which forms part of a listed building, where it affects the special historic or architectural character of the listed building.*

*Paragraph 193 of the National Planning Policy Framework already states that great weight should be given to the conservation of a designated heritage asset. Paragraph 195 also requires that where development will lead to substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.*

*I am today therefore setting out my intention to make the removal of any historic unlisted statue, plaque, memorial or monument subject to an explicit requirement to obtain planning permission. I also intend to require local planning authorities to adhere to similar notification requirements as for listed building consent applications involving listed statues, plaques, memorials and monuments. This will require Directions and changes to secondary legislation including the permitted development right for the demolition of buildings.*

*In considering any applications to remove a historic statue, plaque, memorial or monument (whether a listed building or not), local planning authorities should have regard to the government's clear policy on heritage (summarised as 'retain and explain'). Historic statues, plaques, memorials and monuments should not be removed before a decision on the application is made.*

*I would also draw local planning authorities' attention to the advice Historic England has published to support decision making involving heritage whose story or meaning has become challenged (Checklist to help local authorities to deal with contested heritage listed building decisions). As they note, "Our stance on historic statues and sites which have become contested is to retain and explain them; to provide thoughtful, long lasting and powerful reinterpretation that responds to their contested history and tells the full story.*

The new legislation and Directions referred to in this Statement will come into effect in the spring.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54299049>

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1340475/black-lives-matter-news-government-museum-defunding-slave-trade-statue-edward-colston>

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1346407/Boris-Johnson-news-edward-colston-statue-bristol-black-lives-matter-robert-jenrick>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jan/17/robert-jenrick-statues-must-be-protected-from-baying-mob>



### **UK Parliament – Sept. 2020 – reviewing artwork**

Portraits of former prime ministers including William Gladstone, Robert Peel and Lord Liverpool could soon be accompanied by plaques detailing their links to slavery after Parliament launched a review of its artwork yesterday prompted by the Black Lives Matter movement.

More than 230 works of art in the Parliamentary art collection have been found to have links to the transatlantic slave trade, while 189 of the pieces listed in the study by the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art depict 24 people who had ties to the slave trade. Forty pieces depict 14 people who were abolitionists.

Among those listed as having 'financial or family interests in the slave trade' are prime ministers Robert Peel, who served two terms between 1834-35 and 1841-1846, Lord Liverpool, who served from 1812-1827, and William Gladstone, who served as prime minister for 12 years over four terms between 1868 and 1894. The inclusion of all three is likely to stir debate, though, as Peel, the son of a cotton trader, campaigned for the abolition of slavery, while both Lord Liverpool and Gladstone's views evolved over time.

The art linked to slavery makes up 2.4 per cent of the Parliamentary collection which features more than 9,500 works in total. It comes as a package of measures is being introduced by the committee in Westminster, supported by Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle, to look at issues around slavery and representation.

Plaid Cymru MP Hywel Williams, who is chairman of the committee, said: 'We will look for ways to explain the lives of the people depicted in our artworks - including controversial aspects - honestly and more fully. 'The interpretation of our artworks is reviewed constantly but this is the first time we are systematically reviewing the entire collection looking at issues around slavery and representation.'

The committee said its list relates to the transatlantic slave trade, including works depicting both people who had financial or family interests in the transatlantic slave trade and slavery, as well as artwork featuring abolitionists.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8789305/Slaver-art-2-Parliamentary-collection-review-finds-Black-Lives-Matter-protests.html>

## **5 US Case Studies**

### **Alabama**

#### **Birmingham, Alabama – June 2020 – removed monument**

In June 2020, the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument was removed by the City. The municipality paid a \$25,000 fine for violating the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act, which they felt would be less expensive than the continued public unrest.



### **Birmingham, Alabama – Aug. 2020 – renamed park**

The Birmingham Park and Recreation Board on Friday Aug. 7 voted unanimously in favor of renaming Linn Park for U.S. Rep. John Lewis and the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth. Linn Park currently holds the name of Charles Linn, a Confederate naval officer, and former Birmingham businessman.

Next, the city council and the city legal department will review the decision to determine next steps in renaming the park. It is possible that there could be some legal hurdles to renaming the park.

<https://www.al.com/news/2020/08/birmingham-park-could-honor-civil-rights-leaders-after-board-vote.html>

### **Camp Hill, Alabama – Mar. 2021 – reviewing street name**

Former Camp Hill mayor Frank Holley addressed the town council on March 1 to suggest the town rename Wilson Street, which he says was named for the police chief that incited a lynch mob in 1931.

Holley indicated it was not the first time he's addressed the council on renaming the street, a proposal made complicated by the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act requiring local governments to obtain permission from the state before moving or renaming historically significant monuments.

"That street's named after a white man, the chief of police of Camp Hill back in the '30s, and he took part in the lynching of Ralph Gray, a Black man," Holley said.

Town attorney Charles Gillenwaters said there was no way of knowing whether Wilson Street was named for J.M. Wilson. "(Wilson) is a common name, as we've talked about before when you came before the council," Gillenwaters said. "There's no one that can honestly say that that street is named for the Wilson that you said. It could be a multitude of Wilsons that lived in Camp Hill."

Holley said he thought renaming Wilson Street would "bypass" the law because it was unaffiliated with the Confederacy.

[https://www.alexcityoutlook.com/news/former-camp-hill-mayor-wants-to-rename-street-purportedly-named-for-police-chief-who-incited/article\\_c8764d20-7b90-11eb-8b51-0767f78d9a6a.html](https://www.alexcityoutlook.com/news/former-camp-hill-mayor-wants-to-rename-street-purportedly-named-for-police-chief-who-incited/article_c8764d20-7b90-11eb-8b51-0767f78d9a6a.html)

### **Demopolis, Alabama – removed monument**

City Council voted 3-2 to remove a damaged Confederate monument. It was moved to a local museum and was replaced with a new obelisk honouring Union and Confederate soldiers.

### **Huntsville, Alabama – removed monument**

Council voted unanimously to remove the Confederate Soldier memorial. However, the State review committee challenged the municipality's actions. As a result, the matter was sent to the

State Attorney General. Activists raised the funds to cover the \$25,000 fine for violating the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act.

### **Lowndes County, Alabama – removed monument**

The county has ordered the removal of the Confederate Monument. They expect to be fined \$25,000 for violating the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act.

### **Mobile, Alabama – removed monument**

Statue of Raphael Semmes removed. Municipality paid a \$25,000 fine for violating the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act.

### **Montgomery, Alabama – Dec. 2020-Apr. 2021 – reviewing street name**

Two pivotal figures in Alabama's fight for equal rights could intersect with a third, literally, if Montgomery's mayor has his way. On December 1, Mayor Steven Reed formally started the process to rename a city street that currently honors the first president of the Confederacy. Reed, the first Black mayor in the city's 200-year history, said it was time to rename West Jefferson Davis Avenue for someone else, and he has a particular person in mind for the honor.

Ahead the December 1 City Council meeting, Reed said the street signs should be switched to honor Fred Gray, a man who grew up on West Jeff Davis and whose name is familiar in the civil rights movement. Reed said the street would be renamed Fred D. Gray Avenue. He said that's the road where Gray grew up. Gray served as an attorney for Rosa Parks, as well as other notable civil rights area figures, including Martin Luther King Jr. and E.D. Nixon.

Reed says he will seek property owner, planning commission and City Council approval for the name change.

However, Reed's proposal could be blocked by a 2017 state law enacted amid a fear that cities would move or destroy Confederate monuments. The Alabama Memorial Preservation Act has been at the center of well-publicized legal fights over Confederate statues and memorials across the state over the past three years, and it has triggered discussion over schools that are named for Confederate figures. Fewer people know that it also protects streets over 40 years old that "have been constructed for, or named or dedicated in honor of, an event, a person, a group, a movement, or military service."

Violating the law to rename Jeff Davis Avenue for Fred Gray could put the city on the hook for a \$25,000 fine.

Reed said Monday that he didn't know it could be in conflict with the act when he asked the City Council last week to begin the renaming process, while commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Still, Reed said he will move forward with the plan to rename the street. "We'll deal with that," he said. "I don't think that will impact our decision."

A spokesman for Attorney General Steve Marshall declined to comment about the plan, saying the office usually steers clear of “possible violations of the monuments law before they occur.” Marshall said in a video posted Nov. 23 that local leaders who violate the act are lawbreakers who could choose to break future laws, and warned that “... any elected official who disregards the duties of his office in this manner has done so not out of courage, but has done so out of fear. This should not be celebrated, for disregarding the law subverts our democratic system.”

Over the past two decades, seven former Confederate states have passed laws limiting or preventing local governments from removing monuments. Four of those states, including Alabama, have enacted or strengthened those laws in the past five years. Alabama’s law was unanimously upheld by the state’s Supreme Court in 2019. The court overruled a Jefferson County Circuit Court decision that said the law was too ambiguous and violated municipalities’ free speech.

As of April 19, Reed is asking the Montgomery City Council to go on record with their support for the plan, in the face of a potential fine for violating state law, and despite a municipal law that has slowed the renaming process to a crawl.

Reed said people from across the nation have reached out during the past few months and volunteered to pay that fine for the city.

Montgomery City Council President Charles Jinright noted that while he supports the idea of the name change, the state law is just one of the potential roadblocks. The process has come to a near standstill because municipal law requires at least 60% of property owners to agree to the name change, and many of those who own property along Jefferson Davis Avenue live elsewhere and are slow to reply. “We’re going to have to come up with some compromise,” Jinright said. He suggested a different local honor for Gray that doesn’t involve renaming the street.

There are 136 property owners along Jefferson Davis Avenue, and many of them are out-of-state owners who are slow to respond, if they respond at all. Since December, the city has gotten 61 replies, and 39 of those replies support the name change.

The city could also consider changing the 60% property owner consent threshold in order to move the process forward, Reed said. “If they’re out of town, we can’t allow that to hold up the process,” he said.

On April 20, council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution expressing its support for naming “an undetermined site or street” in honor of Fred Gray, but not necessarily his childhood street of Jefferson Davis Avenue. That amendment was proposed by Councilman CC Calhoun after a long debate and a huddle between meetings, and after they initially decided not to vote on the resolution at all. They were worried about everything from influencing a neighborhood decision to potentially opening themselves up to legal action.

Still, Reed said the unanimous vote in favor of the amended resolution helps by showing support for the overall process. “The next step for us is to continue to work to contact the property owners and get the official feedback that we need so that we can move forward with the procedural matter before the planning commission, and then to bring it back before the city council (for a final vote),” he said.

<https://www.wsfa.com/2020/12/01/montgomery-mayor-moves-rename-street-civil-rights-attorney-fred-gray/>

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/politics/2020/12/08/alabama-confederate-statue-law-block-fred-gray-street-renaming/3816697001/>

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2021/04/19/montgomery-may-change-law-defy-state-name-street-fred-gray/7283260002/>

<https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2021/04/20/montgomery-council-supports-fred-gray-street-renaming-caveat/7290388002/>

### **State of Alabama – removed monument**

The statue of Jabez Curry in National Statuary Hall, Washington D.C., will be replaced with one of Helen Keller.

### **State of Alabama – 2019-Mar. 2021 – law impeding removal of statues**

On January 14, 2019, a circuit judge ruled that the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act is an unconstitutional infringement on the City of Birmingham's right to free speech, and cannot be enforced. On November 27, 2019, the Alabama Supreme Court reversed that ruling by a vote of 9 to 0. In their decision, the court stated that "a municipality has no individual, substantive constitutional rights and that the trial court erred by holding that the City has constitutional rights to free speech."

On March 3, 2021, a House committee rejected a bill that would have given local cities a way to legally remove monuments 50 years old or older. The House Judiciary Committee voted 6 to 4 to reject the legislation sponsored by Rep. Juandalynn Givan, D-Birmingham, following a year of reckoning with Confederate monuments, most of which were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to celebrate white supremacy.

Givan offered a substitute to the bill that would have allowed local governments to remove or relocate monuments 50 years old or younger. It would also have allowed local governments to rename "architecturally significant buildings, memorial buildings, memorial schools, and memorial streets."

A local government that wanted to remove a monument more than 50 years old would have to apply for a waiver to the Committee on Alabama Monument Protection. The application would have to include a resolution to remove the monument; documentation of the origins and purpose of the monument; commentary from the public and any historical or preservation groups, and an agreement on the transfer of the monument to an area that included details on transportation and payment.

Mike Holmes, R-Wetumpka, has a bill to increase penalties for violations of the monument act and voted against Givan's bill. Holmes' bill would fine cities that remove monuments \$10,000 a day. It would also ban local governments from contextualizing controversial monuments.

<https://www.gadsdentimes.com/story/news/2021/03/03/alabama-house-committee-rejects-changes-monument-preservation-law/6897539002/>

## Alaska

### **Anchorage, Alaska – removed monument**

The Mayor announced that the fate of a statue of James Cook will be decided by local Dena'ina tribes.

### **Kusilvak Census Area, Alaska – July 2015 – renamed census area**

Alaska Gov. Bill Walker had the state rename what had been the Wade Hampton Census Area to the Kusilvak Census Area. It had previously been named after a slave owner who never set foot in area. The area stretches along the coast of the Bering Sea and up the lower Yukon River and includes the village of Hooper Bay -- the region's biggest -- as well as 19 other villages and seasonal communities. It also includes the Kusilvak Mountains. The tribe and city government in Hooper Bay passed a resolution supporting a name change to Kusilvak.

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/article/governor-announces-new-name-alaska-census-area-named-confederate-officer/2015/07/02/>

### **Sitka, Alaska – July 2020 – removed statue**

- For Council Resolution from July 14, 2020, see:  
<https://sitka.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4590312&GUID=BA0B64C7-D3AB-43C3-8DBB-A7EDCED89493>

On July 14, 2020, the Sitka Assembly voted to relocate the statue of Russian colonialist Alexander Baranov, who founded the city in 1804 — on a site already inhabited by Alaska Natives — while serving as chief manager of the fur trading Russian-American Co.

The life-sized sculpture will move 40 yards from its outdoor, seated perch to the museum inside the Harrigan Centennial Hall, according Sitka Historical Society Museum Executive Director Hal Spackman. He said the relocation “promotes a respectful compromise in a difficult, somewhat divisive discussion.”

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska Tribal Council passed a July 1 resolution backing the relocation while stressing public spaces should exemplify the city’s diversity.

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/07/26/efforts-underway-in-alaska-to-remove-statues-of-colonialists/>

## Arizona

### **Flagstaff, Arizona – June-Nov. 2020 – renamed street**

- For presentation to Council from June 16, 2020 see:  
[https://cityweb.flagstaffaz.gov/agendaquick/docs/2020/CCWS/20200609\\_1048/4690\\_Final\\_Agassiz\\_Presentation.pdf](https://cityweb.flagstaffaz.gov/agendaquick/docs/2020/CCWS/20200609_1048/4690_Final_Agassiz_Presentation.pdf)

The city of Flagstaff is looking for potential new street names to replace Agassiz Street in downtown Flagstaff and the Southside. The city council told staff it would like to see the name of Agassiz Street changed in June, citing the racist history of the street's namesake, Louis Agassiz.

The city has held several virtual town hall meetings to inform residents of the name change and gather potential names. The city's public affairs director said the city has received just over a dozen names, many honoring northern Arizona's indigenous history, while other names have referenced persons from other minority groups. Once the names are vetted, they will be posted on the city's town hall website where residents will be able to weigh in before city council makes the final decision.

There are 116 addresses on the street – 82 are residential and 28 are commercial. There are also 4 vacant and 2 federally owned properties.

On November 17, Flagstaff City Council approved the measure to change the name of Agassiz Street to W C Riles Drive. They pulled the name from a list of community suggestions to replace the Agassiz name. Naming the street in honor of Wilson Riles was proposed by Deb Harris, president of the Southside Neighborhood Association.

The name was vetted by both public safety agencies and included in an online community forum where residents could weigh in on the name Riles and other potential name changes. And although renaming the street "W C Riles Drive" did not receive as much support as some of the other suggestions, Harris emphasized to Council on the importance of Riles to the City of Flagstaff.

"[Riles] along with Sturgeon Cromer desegregated Flagstaff's schools before the Brown versus Board of Education [decision]. Mr. Riles lived and worked in the Southside community and was a unifying force in Flagstaff," Harris told the city council. "Flagstaff currently has no public spaces that recognize the contributions or the existence of African Americans in this community."

City staff received more than 50 suggestions to replace Agassiz, said Sarah Langley, city management analyst. That number was narrowed to 18 as the names were vetted for clarity by public safety agencies and staff made sure there were no other streets in the city or county with the same name, Langley said. Several suggestions were also eliminated simply because they were too long. Among the names suggested that received the most support were Code Talker Way, Avery Way, Annie Wauneka Way, Annie Watkins Lane, Corn Pollen Way and Pluto Place.

But at the urging of Harris and Mayor Coral Evans, Council opted to go for W C Riles Drive. The cost of changing the street name is expected to be about \$9,800, mainly for new street signs.

[https://azdailysun.com/news/local/city-accepting-submissions-in-agassiz-street-renaming/article\\_560e9823-e9d0-5fc1-9f4f-ee541a23b3ba.html](https://azdailysun.com/news/local/city-accepting-submissions-in-agassiz-street-renaming/article_560e9823-e9d0-5fc1-9f4f-ee541a23b3ba.html)

[https://azdailysun.com/news/local/flagstaff-city-council-renames-agassiz-street-in-honor-of-wilson-riles/article\\_390de7b9-7af3-5d68-a928-7ffb66741d2a.html](https://azdailysun.com/news/local/flagstaff-city-council-renames-agassiz-street-in-honor-of-wilson-riles/article_390de7b9-7af3-5d68-a928-7ffb66741d2a.html)

### **Glendale, Arizona – Oct. 2020-Jan. 2021 – reviewing street names**

- For Council Agenda Item and associated staff presentation from Jan. 2021, see:  
[https://destinyhosted.com/agenda\\_publish.cfm?id=45363&mt=all&get\\_month=1&get\\_year=2021&dsp=agm&seq=5313&rev=0&ag=2716&ln=29421&nseq=5314&nrev=0&pseq=&prev=#](https://destinyhosted.com/agenda_publish.cfm?id=45363&mt=all&get_month=1&get_year=2021&dsp=agm&seq=5313&rev=0&ag=2716&ln=29421&nseq=5314&nrev=0&pseq=&prev=#)

Glendale leaders are discussing whether the city should create a "street-renaming process" after some residents said the city should follow Phoenix's example and rename Robert E. Lee Street.

Vice Mayor Ray Malnar said he informally surveyed residents who live on Glendale's stretch of Robert E. Lee Street, which is in his district that spans central Glendale, and asked if they'd like to see the street name changed. The results were split, he said.

"Last fall, I had several residents approach me and request a name-change policy. When I looked into it, I asked staff, 'What is our policy? How do we do that?'" Malnar said. "They basically came back and said, 'We have no policy to do that.'"

In a presentation to the City Council on January 12, city staff said any policy on renaming streets could include roles for residents, city staff and elected leaders. A policy could also take into account the level of support behind renaming a given street.

Council members didn't mention Robert E. Lee Street by name, though many echoed Councilmember Jamie Aldama when he said "there's one (street) sign out there that may have triggered this request."

City Councilmember Joyce Clark was more pointed, calling it a "solution in search of a problem." Mayor Jerry Weiers said it "might be looking for a problem we don't really have," but said he wouldn't oppose discussions of a policy.

Malnar said that he is advocating only for a street-renaming process to be in place and that he is not advocating to change the name of Robert E. Lee Street. "All I'm talking about is a process," he said, adding that he thinks a policy would get a majority of the council's support, despite the mixed reactions on January 12.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/glendale/2021/01/12/glendale-home-robert-e-lee-street-weighs-street-renaming-policy/6629671002/>

### **Phoenix, Arizona – June 2017 and June-Nov. 2020 – renamed streets and created new policy**

- For Council minutes about street renaming policy from June 27, 217 see PDF pages 6-13:  
<https://apps-secure.phoenix.gov/PublicRecordsSearch/Home/RenderPDF/?id=KWeiqQl7CUSloVkc7ynskx+K0uQHZGuD/yjFjHkPV+4=>



- For policy report to Council from June 27, 2017, see: <https://apps-secure.phoenix.gov/PublicRecordsSearch/Home/RenderPDF/?id=OlbhF4HaYBuuiqeJ8m4j5dT4Ys5bpwWFi8l3oMcGpW4=>
- For Council Agenda from Sept. 16, 2020 see: <https://www.phoenix.gov/cityclerksite/City%20Council%20Meeting%20Files/9-16-20%20Formal%20Agenda-FINAL.pdf>

In June 2017, Phoenix City Council voted to amend its renaming policy so they can remove controversial street names without the support of 75 percent or more of property owners, as the city's policy generally requires. The initial streets in question are Robert E. Lee Street and Squaw Peak Drive.

Under the amended policy, the council can pursue street name changes in situations where a name might be deemed "offensive or derogatory based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability."

It was unclear in 2017 how many residents along Robert E Lee Street opposed a name change.

City officials pushed back against the notion that a street renaming could cost residents money. According to a city report, the potential costs to residents "are estimated to be minimal."

The report states replacing an Arizona driver's license costs \$12 (though the city said residents wouldn't necessarily be required to get a new license) while the cost of reordering checks is typically \$9 to \$19 (though some banks let customers use checks with old street names).

City officials said street-name changes would happen gradually to minimize the impact to homeowners and businesses.

Planning and Development Director Alan Stephenson said the city's law department determined that legal documents such as wills would remain valid after any street-name change.

After council approved the policy, the city Planning and Development Department was going to conduct a review of the street names, including considering comments from the U.S. Postal Service and the fire, police, water and street transportation departments.

Within 21 days of City Council's approval, the Planning and Development Department would mail the first notice to affected residents, businesses and property owners to inform them of the proposal to change the name of their street, according to the city policy.

Phoenix would be required to hold two community meetings for residents to have their say, but ultimately council members would decide. Within 90 days of the request, an item on the proposed street name change will be placed on a council meeting agenda, the policy says. Two weeks before that meeting, affected residents would receive a second mail notice informing them of the date, time and location of the council meeting.

If the name change is approved, City of Phoenix fees related to changing a street name would be waived for all affected property owners.

The Planning and Development Department would notify all needed services of the change, including the Postal Service and the city's police, fire, city clerk, finance, law, water services, street transportation and neighborhood services departments, the policy says.

Nothing was done about changing the names of Robert E. Lee Street and Squaw Peak Drive until further complaints in June 2020. As of June, the Phoenix City Council is initiating a process to change the names of these streets. They will be working with the community and city staff to start the process on July 1.

Council voted unanimously on July 4 to rename both streets. There will be at least four virtual public comment meetings, two related to each street. The official move to change could get on the council's agenda as early as October.

On September 16, Phoenix City Council approved a plan to rename the two offensive streets. Affected residents and business owners are then able to rank the top five replacement proposals that were submitted during public input. Phoenix City Council will approve an official replacement for both streets at a future meeting.

A plan to reimburse residents and businesses affected by the name change has also been approved. City staff has estimated it will cost about \$3,800 for the city to replace the street signs, and up to about \$28,000 to reimburse residents, at about \$150 per household.

Squaw Peak Drive is a short residential street with 20 houses. The street was first called Flynn Lane in 1962. In July 1964, the Phoenix City Council changed the name to Squaw Peak Drive.

Robert E. Lee Street is a mile-long residential street in north Phoenix with 88 single-family houses, 29 town homes, two four-unit apartment buildings, and one charter school. Stretches of the road were first named "Lee Street" between 1954 and 1960, when the neighborhood started to develop. The county named the street "Robert E. Lee Street" in 1960 or 1961, which was at the height of the civil rights movement.

Of the more than 200 comments the council got on the topic, most supported the changes. Those residents said the names are offensive and the changes are long overdue. But others — including many living on the two streets — said the name changes are a waste of time and taxpayer dollars, and amount to political pandering.

Once the council votes on the new names, the city will handle notifications to official parties, such as the city's police and fire departments and the U.S. Postal Service, which will automatically reroute mail sent to the original street name to the new address, according to a city document. City staff, including library employees, are available to help residents make changes to their personal documents, according to a city document. The address change will happen no earlier than Jan. 11, 2021, according to the document.

On November 18, City Council unanimously approved renaming two controversial streets.

Robert E. Lee Street will become Desert Cactus Street. The residential street near Union Hills Drive and Tatum Boulevard was first renamed in 1961 during the Civil Rights movement to honor the Confederate general. Desert Cactus Street was the most popular choice among people who live there.

Homeowners on Squaw Peak Drive did not get their top choice, which was Mountain Trail Drive. Instead, the council voted to rename it Piastewa Peak Drive after Lori Piastewa, a member of the Hopi tribe who lived near Tuba City, Arizona. The U.S. Army says Piastewa was the first American Indian woman to die in combat on foreign soil. The one-mile-long street leads to Piastewa Peak, the second-highest peak in the Phoenix Mountains.

The name changes take effect March 1. In September, city staff compiled a list of suggested names and separated them into names suggested by residents who live on the streets and the community at large. Residents were asked to rank their choices. The results were given to the City Council, which then made the final decision.

Phoenix is setting aside money approximately \$28,000 to reimburse residents and property owners for direct expenses related to changing their address.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2017/06/28/phoenix-offensive-street-names-change/430001001/>

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2018/11/28/squaw-peak-drive-robert-e-lee-street-phoenix-hasnt-renamed-offensive-streets-lori-piestewa/2028533002/>

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2020/06/19/rename-offensive-street-names-phoenix/3222298001/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8521515/Squaw-Valley-Ski-Resort-change-claims-racist-misogynistic.html>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/us/2020/07/04/phoenix-to-change-robert-e-lee-squaw-peak-street-names.html>

<https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/valley/public-input-sought-as-plan-to-rename-offensive-phoenix-street-names-approved/75-d66bdf3f-d548-48e2-b0b2-d5d573c06838>

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2020/09/16/phoenix-council-rename-squaw-peak-drive-and-robert-e-lee-street/5797537002/>

<https://kizz.org/content/1636908/phoenix-renames-street-after-lori-piestewa-changes-robert-e-lee-street>

## Arkansas

### **Fort Smith, Arkansas – Sept.-Oct. 2020 – reviewing street name**

Following a motion by Ward 1 Director Andre Good during the August 25 Board of Directors Study Session, the Fort Smith Board of Directors will consider a new renaming policy, specifically as it applies to Albert Pike Avenue, starting on September 8.

The last time these procedures were changed was in 2002. The board will discuss establishing and adopting a new procedure to renaming “Buildings and Facilities” that includes an entirely new section on renaming streets.

The proposed document states that “Facilities named after individuals shouldn’t be changed unless it is found that the individual’s personal character is or was such that the continued use of their name for a facility would not be in the best interest of the community.” While renaming streets is “strongly discouraged” in this new document, a Times Record article published in June shone a light on the racist words and actions of Albert Pike and showed his character to be “such that the continued use of their name for a facility would not be in the best interest of the community.”

“Efforts to change the name of a street should be subject to the most critical examination due to factors related to commerce, public safety response, cost to the public for implementing the name change, and other economic implications or hardships to property owners along the street that might be associated with changing address designations,” according to the revised language.

Factors to be revised by the city administrator, according to the proposed revisions, include:

- The number of properties, parcels, structures and/or addresses that would be affected by changing the name of the street;
- The number of intersections along the street that would require replacement of street signage and the estimated cost of materials and labor to make and install new signs to reflect the name change; and
- Any issues regarding changing the street name in the 9-1-1 address database should be identified.

Following a review, the city administrator would then recommend to the board if the street name should change or remain the same. “If the Board determines the name change should move forward, such decision shall be publicized in a local newspaper for at least a two-week period and citizen comments shall be requested. The Board shall consider all public comments received. At any time following the two-week public notice period and after considering all public comments received, the Board may finalize the decision regarding renaming the street,” notes the revised policy.

No decision was made on September 8 during the Fort Smith Board of Directors on changing the name of Albert Pike Avenue. A policy vote about changing street names and buildings took place on Oct. 6. The Fort Smith Board of Directors voted 5-2 to update the municipal policy for renaming city property and include a section that will allow it to rename streets. It is the prerequisite for a possible name change of Albert Pike Avenue.

The new section of the policy states renaming streets is “strongly discouraged” but that city directors may vote to change a name if “it is found that the individual’s personal character is or was such that the continued use of their name for a facility would not be in the best interest of the community.” City officials prior to changing a street name will be required to assess its effect on factors including public safety response, commerce, public costs and address changes.

<https://www.swtimes.com/news/20200906/board-considers-renaming-albert-pike-avenue>

<https://www.5newsonline.com/article/news/local/albert-pike-avenue-name-change-fort-smith/527-b6536e33-094b-4b0a-aee1-152b7ce4d822>

<https://talkbusiness.net/2020/08/fort-smith-board-begins-process-that-could-result-in-renaming-albert-pike-avenue/>

<https://www.5newsonline.com/article/news/local/albert-pike-avenue-name-change-fort-smith/527-c1796926-bd2d-4e09-9a7a-4f4861d32420>

<https://www.swtimes.com/news/20201006/board-passes-street-renaming-policy>

### **Harrison, Arkansas – removed monument**

The statue of General Jubilation T. Cornpone was removed.

### **Little Rock, Arkansas – Oct. 2018 – renamed street**

After a lengthy period of public discussion, the Little Rock City Board voted 8-2 to change the remaining four or five blocks of Confederate Boulevard to Springer Boulevard, the name the majority of the thoroughfare has carried since the early 1970s. There was no board discussion before the vote. The Planning Commission had earlier endorsed the name change. A majority of the small number of property owners along the short stretch of street supported the name change.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-arkansas-confederate/arkansas-capital-renames-street-long-known-as-confederate-boulevard-idUSKCN0SF02920151021>

<https://arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2015/10/21/little-rock-city-board-renames-confederate-boulevard>

### **Little Rock, Arkansas – June-July 2020 – removed monuments**

The Company A. Capitol Guards memorial and the David Dodd memorial bench and marker have been removed. The statue has been temporarily placed in storage until a new location can be found.

### **State of Arkansas – removed monument**

The State Legislature voted to remove the statues of Uriah Milton Rose and James Paul Clarke in the National Statuary Hall, Washington D.C. They will be replaced with statues of Johnny Cash and Daisy L. Gaston Bates.

## **California**

### **Bakersfield, California – removed monument**

Jefferson Davis Highway marker was removed to the storage area of Kern County Museum.

### **Chula Vista, California – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed and temporarily placed in storage. Its fate is to be decided in a public forum.

### **Confederate Corners, California – Dec. 2017-May 2018 – renamed town**

The name of an intersection just south of Salinas was renamed from Confederate Corners to Springtown. The change was approved by a U.S. Board on Geographic Names committee, voting 10-2.

In December 2017, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors unanimously recommended to change the name. Confederate veterans who settled in Springtown changed the name after settling there. It has now reverted back to the original name.

<https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2018/05/18/salinas-confederate-corners-renamed-springtown/623155002/>

### **Fresno, California – Oct. 2020 – reviewing building names**

The names of historical figures who might now be considered racist could soon be removed from facilities in the city of Fresno. The Fresno City Council agreed on October 15 to give a list of all city facilities to the Historic Preservation Commission so it can make recommendations about any that might be named as concerning figures.

<https://abc30.com/fresno-city-council-buildings-confederate-soliders-historic-preservation-commission/7079670/>

### **Kings Beach, California – Oct. 2020 – renamed street**

The Placer County Board of Supervisors voted on October 27 to rename “Coon Street” in Kings Beach to “Raccoon Street.” It was named in 1926. According to county records, the streets running north to south in the subdivision were given animal names such as Fox, Bear and Deer. More than 500 people signed petitions in support of changing the street name.

Officials say it will cost the county just over \$4,000 to replace more than two dozen street signs.

<https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2020/10/28/placer-supervisors-rename-street-raccoon/>

### **Los Angeles, California – July 2020 – renamed street**

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council in Los Angeles unanimously voted in favor of a resolution to rename Le Conte Avenue in Westwood at a July 1 meeting. They endorsed a resolution to recommend notable UCLA alumni of color as possible namesake replacements for Le Conte at its monthly meeting.

Although the NWWNC adopted the resolution, the Los Angeles City Council must approve the measure before the street name can be changed. NWWNC resolutions sent to the city council are generally dependent on the support of city councilman Paul Koretz, who represents the 5th district, which contains Westwood.

The street is named after Joseph LeConte, who was a professor of geology, natural history and botany at UC Berkeley in the 19th century. He worked for the Confederacy during the Civil War and opposed voting rights and education for Black people during Reconstruction.

<https://dailybruin.com/2020/07/06/nwwnc-votes-to-rename-le-conte-avenue-citing-namesakes-racist-past>

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/neighborhood-council-pushing-street-name-change-in-westwood-due-to-racist-past/2393079/>

### **Los Angeles, California – Nov. 2019-Apr. 2021 – reviewing “civic memory” including monuments**

- For information about the working group, see: <http://civicmemory.la/>
- For a summary of the report’s recommendations, see: <http://civicmemory.la/key-recommendations/>
- For the full report, see: [http://civicmemory.la/wp-content/uploads/2021/Report%20PDFs/CivicMemory\\_PDF\\_for\\_Media.pdf](http://civicmemory.la/wp-content/uploads/2021/Report%20PDFs/CivicMemory_PDF_for_Media.pdf)

On April 16, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the findings of the Mayor’s Office Civic Memory Working Group’s final report, featuring 18 key recommendations for ways that Los Angeles can more accurately and appropriately commemorate triumphant and tragic moments in the City’s history. “Today’s report is a call to action — a guide for how our city can commemorate and memorialize formative moments that have gone unrecognized, reshape our civic identity, and view our past as a window into the future,” said Garcetti.

Among the report’s recommendations is a commitment to build a memorial to the victims of the 1871 Anti-Chinese Massacre. Other steps include an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Policy for the Mayor’s Office and the City; creating a City Historian position; and bringing together a task force to study the establishment of a Museum of the City of Los Angeles.

The Working Group, first welcomed by Mayor Garcetti to City Hall in November of 2019, comprises more than 40 leading historians, architects, artists, indigenous leaders, city officials, scholars and cultural leaders. Its report, titled *Past Due: Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Civic Memory Working Group*, was produced as a 166-page print volume and an accompanying website.

“Proposals to create, remove, or rename monuments or buildings, of the kind we are now seeing across the country, have a greater chance of community support if they are preceded by broad-based discussions about memorialization and commemoration,” said Christopher Hawthorne, who coordinated the Working Group’s efforts as the Chief Design Officer for the City of Los Angeles. “Our Working Group has been guided by the idea that L.A. has not yet engaged in that conversation to the degree it needs to, especially when it comes to initiatives launched from City Hall.”

The report focuses on equitable strategies for developing new policies, monuments, and other markers of civic memory in lieu of completed designs and blueprints.

Two of the findings of the report are as follows:



- *Complete and publish an audit of the monuments and memorials in Los Angeles on public and publicly accessible land.*
- *Develop strategies to recontextualize outdated or fraught memorials as an alternative to removal—although removal will, in certain cases, remain the best option.*

<https://www.lamayor.org/mayor-garcetti-announces-findings-civic-memory-working-group>

**Marin County, California – June 2020-Mar. 2021 – retained street name, renamed street, removed statue**

Residents from Marin and elsewhere gathered online on June 26 to debate a proposal to rename Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The session was held in response to a petition calling for the road and other landmarks to be renamed because of the explorer's participation in slave trading. Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, who organized the session with Supervisor Katie Rice, described the hearing as "a first step and opening of the discussion."

Another session will be scheduled within the next few weeks, Rodoni said. It will include input from local historians and representatives of Indigenous peoples. Renaming the entire length of the boulevard would require approval from the Marin County Board of Supervisors and the municipal councils of Fairfax, San Anselmo, Larkspur and Ross. Representatives from each jurisdiction were present during the meeting.

The majority of speakers advocated renaming the boulevard, with many also calling for the Coast Miwok tribe to be given priority in choosing the name. Others urged caution and called on local officials to do a complete vetting of Drake's history before making a decision. Yet others called for the time spent on discussing a name change be better spent on working to improve lives of the people of color who work and reside in the county.

The county named the boulevard after Drake in August 1931, according to county records. Should the county pursue the renaming, the Board of Supervisors would not be the only jurisdiction involved. "The (board) would of course pursue this in conjunction with the cities/towns, as they would need to do something similar via their own process," county Public Works Department spokesman Julian Kaelon wrote in an email. "Logistically this would mean that all jurisdictions would need to do it at the same time using the same new name."

Ahead of planned protests at the end of July, the city manager ordered the removal of a controversial statue of Sir Francis Drake from an area near the ferry terminal. A public hearing on the statue had been held at the Larkspur City Council on June 29, after which the council directed the city manager to research the removal process.

"The removal is in response to planned demonstrations to tear down or demolish the statue this Thursday in a way that is potentially unsafe," the Central Marin Police Department said in a release. "Removing the statue is intended to promote public safety while preserving the statue so that dialogue about its future can continue."

On November 18, Larkspur announced it is game to consider a new name for Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The city is the first in Marin to indicate its interest in learning more, although city leaders cautioned such agreement did not signal an endorsement. "I don't want people to be confused that if we say yes, that we are automatically agreeing to a name change," Mayor

Catherine Way said at a City Council meeting Nov. 18. "It would be to agree to continue the dialogue process."

A county working group with representatives from five jurisdictions in which the east-west thoroughfare runs have been asked to gather feedback from their councils on whether to move forward. "We agreed as a committee that our work was done for now, and it was time for the local jurisdictions to take up the issue at the local level and make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with a road renaming," said Katie Rice, president of the Board of Supervisors, after the county working group's final meeting, held in closed session Friday.

To rename the boulevard, the Board of Supervisors along with councils in Fairfax, Larkspur, Ross and San Anselmo must approve the change. "The process will conclude with a public hearing to decide whether to rename the road within that jurisdiction," said Larkspur City Manager Dan Schwarz, who attended the county's closed session meeting on Friday. "The five agencies agreed to complete this process by March 2021."

Schwarz said the cost to the city would be minimal. Replacing street signs is estimated at around \$1,000 to \$1,500, but costs could rise if the city is expected to pick up the tab for freeway signs along Highway 101. "We're in talks to understand how that process works," Schwarz said. "And so that process may cost us up to \$3,000 separately."

Schwarz said most of the challenge would fall on the 17 households in the city located along the boulevard, whose residents would have to work with the Department of Motor Vehicles to update address and passport information.

As of January 2, 2021, Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, which runs for more than 40 miles through Marin County, could end up with a patchwork of different names. Much of the boulevard snakes through land that falls under the jurisdiction of five local governments: Marin County, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Ross and Larkspur.

After a series of meetings between the governments, officials have concluded that each must decide separately whether to change the name of the winding road. "We all agreed that we should go back to our respective communities and discuss this and decide whether we want to go forward with a renaming of our portion of Sir Francis Drake," said Fairfax Mayor Bruce Ackerman.

The jurisdictions are each aiming to come to a decision by the end of March, officials said. By that time, they won't have decided on what to change the name to, only whether to change it. Then in April, the newly formed Sir Francis Drake Boulevard working group — which includes officials from each of the five jurisdictions — will reconvene to continue the discussion.

If any of the municipalities decide to move forward with a name change, the working group "will have to decide what that naming process looks like," said Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice, who represents the county at the group meetings along with Supervisor Dennis Rodoni. According to Rice, members of the group hope that the five jurisdictions can all come to a consensus. But if that's not the case, the road could take on different names.

According to a Fairfax report, almost 650 parcels are situated along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, including 69 in Fairfax, and some of them contain multiple residences or businesses.

The Ross Town Council is planning to discuss the proposal during its meeting in January or February, according to Mayor Julie McMillan. "Depending on how the discussion goes, I would hope that we could make a decision at the first meeting," McMillan said. "But if an additional meeting is needed, then we would have one."

The Larkspur City Council is set to take up the topic in February. Officials said the discussion will likely span two meetings.

The San Anselmo council is scheduled to have an initial discussion at its Jan. 12 meeting. According to Town Manager Dave Donery, the council will likely make a decision during one of its meetings in March.

Marin County officials are planning to hold an online forum on the proposal this month, with the aim of providing an update on the process for residents in unincorporated Marin County communities. Rice said she and Rodoni will continue to discuss the topic with constituents throughout February before the county Board of Supervisors takes it up at a meeting in March.

If any of the five jurisdictions decide to change the boulevard's name, they will aim to decide on a new name by the fall, according to Rice.

On January 19, Ross officials decided to stick with the name Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, despite calls from activists to rename the road because of the eponymous explorer's ties to slave trading. The Town Council voted 4-1 not to change the name of the road where it runs through Ross.

Officials have said that if some of the municipalities want to change the name and others don't, the boulevard could have different names as it passes through different jurisdictions.

A name change would cost Ross less than \$1,000 for new street signs, said Town Manager Joe Chinn. He said there would also be a cost and inconvenience to residents and business owners who would need new identifications, signs, letterheads and other documents.

According to Chinn, 27 people wrote to town officials about the name change proposal, including eight who live on the boulevard, and all of them said they favored keeping the name. Roughly 50 Ross residents live on the boulevard.

Mayor Julie McMillan said that changing the name "would not be a meaningful gesture and would not accomplish any real change." "When people think of Sir Francis Drake, they think of an English explorer who was the first to circumnavigate the globe," McMillan said. "His name does not bring up an association with oppression or injustice in the way a Confederate general such as Robert E. Lee or Jefferson Davis would."

According to a study by county officials, there are 641 parcels on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, some of which include multiple residences or businesses. If the name were changed, people who live on the road would need new identifications and businesses would likely need new signs, letterheads and other documents, according to Rice.

Changing all of the street signs that say Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Marin would cost about \$134,000, the study found. That includes \$48,000 for the 84 signs in unincorporated Marin County. The rest of the cost would be the responsibility of the cities and towns.

On February 3, at a council meeting, an unusual solution was proposed for Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Larkspur: Use two names. The idea for the dual name — the existing one plus another to be determined — came from Councilman Gabe Paulson after months of listening to public discourse.

Critics have demanded a new name for the boulevard because of the explorer's links to the slave trade and colonialism. But changing signage and addresses along the road would impose costs on governments, property owners and businesses.

City Manager Dan Schwarz said a dual name would allow businesses and residents on affected parcels to retain their addresses.

Renaming the entire boulevard would cost about \$150,000 countywide, he said. Of the 641 parcels on the boulevard, Larkspur has the least, 17. All the properties are commercial, according to a city staff report.

Schwarz said the city has only three signs with Drake's name, which would cost about \$1,500 to replace. He said the cost to change the freeway sign is estimated between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Councilwoman Catherine Way said she is not in support of a name change because of the burden it would put on businesses to change their addresses amid a pandemic.

Councilman Scot Candell said the main issue was whether the city wants to spend \$50,000 on a name change or on programs that foster equity. "We have a limited number of resources," Candell said. "Do we want to put those resources towards something like a name change that will have a long-term effect, or an immediate impact on the problems that our community is facing?"

Mayor Kevin Haroff said the county's Drake committee is trying to avoid a patchwork of names on the boulevard.

The topic is back for discussion and a possible vote on February 17. The council will also discuss the fate of a 30-foot sculpture depicting the controversial explorer that once stood at Larkspur Landing. The sculpture is being stored for free on private property in an undisclosed location, but the owner wants it removed soon.

On March 3, Fairfax Town Council voted unanimously to change the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, breaking with Larkspur and Ross, which have opted to keep it. That means the road, which runs for more than 40 miles through Marin between the ocean and the bay, will have multiple names. Fairfax has not yet chosen a new name for its 2-mile section of the boulevard.

Frank Egger, a former Fairfax mayor, told the council he was opposed to a name change because of the hassle and financial burden it would pose for people who live and own businesses on the boulevard. People will need new identifications, letterheads and other documents, he said. "At a time when small businesses are struggling during the pandemic because of lost business, we should not be placing this additional burden on them," Egger said.

69 parcels are situated along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Fairfax and some of them contain multiple residences or businesses, according to a town report. Fairfax officials estimated that a name change will cost the town about \$2,000 for new street signs.

Several residents urged the council to consult with Coast Miwoks in choosing a new name for the street. Some said they favored a dual-naming approach, in which the boulevard would retain the Drake moniker but also have street signs representing the Coast Miwok. Each of the council members agreed that a new name should honor Native Americans. A process for selecting the name has not been established.

On March 9, County supervisors voted 4-1 to reject a proposal to rename Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Instead, the supervisors approved a plan to give two names to the road where it runs through unincorporated Marin County. The second name, which has not been decided, could either be adopted as a ceremonial name or a legal co-name, supervisors said.

Also on March 9, the San Anselmo Town Council struck down a proposal to rename the road in 2022 with a 3-2 vote. The council also voted 3-2 to reject a proposal to designate the boulevard a historic Coast Miwok route.

“Supervisor Rodoni and I would like to argue for the legal co-naming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and hope that we could get everybody on board with that,” Supervisor Rice said. Larkspur’s City Council indicated it might consider a dual-name option after the county made its recommendation.

Following the recommendation of Rodoni and Rice, a majority of the Marin supervisors also expressed their support for a third alternative: adopting a new historical designation or ceremonial name for the road.

None of the supervisors showed any interest in putting the matter before voters. Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters said, “I think putting this to a vote would be divisive.”

<https://www.marinij.com/2020/06/26/marin-forum-tackles-sir-francis-drake-boulevard-renaming/>

<https://kcbsradio.radio.com/articles/plan-to-rename-sir-francis-drake-high-school-stirs-emotion>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/06/16/activists-call-for-sir-francis-drake-statue-removal-street-renaming/>

<https://sfist.com/2020/07/29/sir-francis-drake-statue-removed-from-larkspur-ferry-landing-in-marin/>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/11/25/larkspur-examines-steps/>

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/01/02/drake-boulevard-renaming-effort-faces-winding-procedural-road/>

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/01/19/ross-opts-to-keep-the-name-sir-francis-drake-boulevard/>

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/01/26/marin-supervisors-lead-forum-on-drake-boulevard-renaming/>

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/02/11/larkspur-considers-2-name-option-for-drake-boulevard/>

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/03/04/fairfax-approves-sir-francis-drake-boulevard-name-change-breaking-with-other-marin-towns/>

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/03/10/marin-county-and-san-anselmo-reject-sir-francis-drake-boulevard-name-change/>

### **Sacramento, California – removed monument**

The State Legislature ordered the removal of a statue of Christopher Columbus.

### **San Diego, California – Oct.-Dec. 2020 – retained monument**

After calls by activists, the statue of former Gov. Pete Wilson near Horton Plaza Park in downtown has been removed. Wilson was mayor of San Diego from 1971 to 1983. He represented California in the U.S. Senate from 1983 to 1991 and served as governor from 1991 to 1999.

Officials, concerned that the activists would destroy the statue similar to other then-recent incidents, removed the statue to protect it. "We have decided to secure and protect this statue in a place of safe keeping," explained Horton Walk president Stephen Williams. He further stated that they were not giving in to the activists demands and that it was simply to protect the statue.

The 13-year-old statue, which had been at Broadway Circle, was removed by Horton Walk, the non-profit that owns the statue. Williams wrote in an email that no decision has been made about whether the statue will be returned.

Recently, local racial justice and gay rights groups have called for the statue's removal, saying Wilson "used his influence and power to demonize and dehumanize" Latino and gay communities for political gain.

The property where the statue was is owned and maintained by a private company; the city was not involved in removing the statue, a city spokesman said. "The mayor was disappointed to hear of the removal of the Pete Wilson statue and believes it should still be there today," city spokesman Gustavo Portela said.

On December 2, the statue was placed back in Horton Plaza. In Horton Walk

With protests and activists cooling in recent weeks, and some statue vandals now facing fines and jail time for their actions, the statue was returned. In a statement, Horton Walk praised former Governor Wilson's record as Mayor, Governor, and Senator and said that the statue was in honor of his service and his commitment to the state and San Diego, especially Wilson's efforts in revitalizing the city's downtown area. "The statue of Pete Wilson is a symbol of all that is great about San Diego and its unlimited future," noted Williams on December 2.

However, activists still in favor of the statue removal reacted negatively to the statue being replaced and urged Horton Walk to take it down permanently. "Hate is not welcome here," said Enrique Morones, founder of Gente Unida, the main group that protested the statue in October, in a statement.

Horton Walk has not given any indication since the statue's placement that it would be removed again anytime in the future.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-15/gov-pete-wilson-statue-san-diego>



<https://californiaglobe.com/section-2/statue-of-former-gov-pete-wilson-placed-back-in-san-diego-park/>

### **San Diego, California – removed monument**

Robert E. Lee highway marker has been removed.

### **San Francisco, California – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed by the City Arts Commission.

### **San Francisco, California – 1996 – retained monument with plaque, 2017-2018 – removed monument**

Early Days, one of five sculpture groups that comprised the 1894 Pioneer Monument in the centre of San Francisco, has been considered offensive by many due to its depiction of the Spanish conquest of California, which resulted in the near extinction of Native Americans. Tension surrounding the Monument began in the early 1970s and resurfaced in 1990s when it was moved from its original location near the centre of local government during the building of the city's new main library. Following a number of public meetings, it was reinstalled in 1996 with a plaque contextualising its history. As the years went by, the plaque became inaccessible to the public due to new fences and landscaping and the Native American community in the Bay Area continued to advocate for its removal. In 2017, after many more public hearings where over a hundred members of the community came out to speak, the City's Arts Commission and Historic Preservation Commission voted to remove the statue.

The process surrounding the removal of Early Days exemplifies the complicated role of art in the public space. Throughout the process, some argued that the Monument served as an important reminder of one of the worst episodes in US history, while for many in the Native American community it served as a glorification of the violence against Indigenous people. As a City Agency, the Arts Commission had to navigate both sides of public opinion, mindful of its role in stewarding and preserving San Francisco's Civic Art Collection, while equally responding to a marginalised community's concerns about racism and a historical lack of positive representation. The Arts Commission acknowledged that the sculpture used dated visual stereotypes of Native Americans which are now universally viewed as disrespectful, misleading, and racist. On September 14, 2018, the Arts Commission removed the sculpture with around 50 members of the Native American community from throughout North America who bore witness and participated in a healing ceremony.

<http://www.worldcitiescultureforum.com/cities/san-francisco/Innovative%20programmes>



### **Santa Barbara, California – June-Dec. 2020 – renamed street**

- For report to Council from September 29, 2020, see report starting on page 145:  
[https://records.santabarbaraca.gov/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Documents/ViewDocument/City\\_Council\\_-\\_Regular\\_Meeting\\_608\\_Agenda\\_Packet\\_9\\_29\\_2020\\_2\\_00\\_00\\_PM.pdf?meetingId=608&documentType=AgendaPacket&itemId=0&publishId=0&isSection=false](https://records.santabarbaraca.gov/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Documents/ViewDocument/City_Council_-_Regular_Meeting_608_Agenda_Packet_9_29_2020_2_00_00_PM.pdf?meetingId=608&documentType=AgendaPacket&itemId=0&publishId=0&isSection=false)

The Santa Barbara City Council voted unanimously on September 29 to rename Indio Muerto Street. The council received a request in June from the Barbareño Chumash Tribal Council to change the name of the street, which translates “dead Indian,” to Hutash Street, which translates to “Earth Mother.” Indio Muerto “owes its name to the discovery of a deceased Indian found in the area during the time of the Haley Survey.” The tribal council argues the current name is “insulting, oppressive, and demeaning”.

City staff estimates that as many as 200 residents, or 40 houses and five businesses, would be affected by the street name change. Staff recommend changing the street name on Dec. 14, 2020, to allow all parties to prepare.

The city’s Neighborhood Advisory Council also voted unanimously in approving the renaming of the street. The cost to replace street signs along the corridor is estimated to be approximately \$1,500.

The Barbareno Chumash Tribal Council, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the Coastal Band of Chumash Indians all supported the name change.

Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo said there were some questions about the impact the name change could have on businesses along the street. She plans to meet with them to address any concerns.

<https://newspress.com/sb-council-to-discuss-renaming-street/>

<https://keyt.com/news/santa-barbara-s-county/2020/09/29/santa-barbara-city-council-votes-to-change-name-of-local-street/>

<https://newspress.com/indio-muerto-street-to-be-renamed-to-hutash-street/>

### **Ventura, California – removed monument**

City Council unanimously voted to remove a statue of Father Serra. This had previously been agreed to by the Mayor.

### **Watsonville, California – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – removed statue**

The Watsonville Parks and Recreation Commission at its November 2 virtual meeting recommended the City Council remove the George Washington bust from the City Plaza.

The recommendation, put forth by Commissioner Jessica Carrasco, deviates from that of Parks and Community Services staff, which proposed that the bust stay put, and that a “bilingual plaque

that outlines a broad historical perspective” about the nation’s first president be added. Staff reached that recommendation from the feedback it received during a month-long community survey in which 60% of more than 1,200 respondents said they wanted it to remain in the historic park.

But a little less than two dozen community members who spoke during the meeting questioned whether the survey was a complete count of the community. The majority of the commission also did not believe the survey represented the community’s views on the bust, and instead sided with those in attendance.

It is unclear when the City Council will decide the statue’s fate. Parks and Community Services Director Nick Calubaquib said city staff would work with the incoming Mayor to schedule the item in early 2021.

Those in favor of its removal said the bust has turned into a symbol of white supremacy and racism since a cry of “white power” reportedly rang out during a rally organized by supporters of the statue in July. Commissioner Ana Hurtado-Aldaña said the city has not yet condemned the actions from the July rally, and called on local leaders to do so soon.

Part of a \$100,000 gift from the Alaga Family Estate as a dying wish of Lloyd F. Alaga, the bust has called the City Plaza home since 2001. The council unanimously approved the gift from Alaga in 1999, using \$70,000 to create the bust and the rest to help restore the fountain in the park.

At least three online petitions—both in favor of and against the bust—were circulated prompting city officials to bring the item to the commission for a “study session” in early August. The majority of the commission voiced its support for removing the bust, and called for the issue to be agendaized by the City Council. But the city instead circulated the online survey to gather more community input and held a town hall late last month to release the survey’s results.

People on both sides of the issue felt equally as strong about their stance, according to the survey results. The majority of respondents who want the bust removed said it is a symbol of white supremacy and racism. They also said that it does not reflect the values of the community and that President Washington’s support of the genocide of indigenous people and ownership of slaves were also reasons for it to be removed.

Those who want to leave the statue in its place said in the survey that it honors President Washington’s actions that created and improved the country and that it is a reminder of the country’s history that should not be removed.

But others picked apart the survey because it failed to gather key demographics of respondents such as age and race—two telltale signs of the changing times and beliefs, say those in favor of removal of the bust. Several in attendance also said some community members did not feel comfortable filling out the survey because it required too much personal information such as a cell phone number and home address. The “digital divide” also tainted the results of the survey, those in favor of removal said.

On February 9, after six months of debate over the George Washington bust, council members voted 5-2 that the statue be moved to Watsonville Public Library. In addition, a bilingual plaque will be added to the statue, that outlines Washington’s history.

Calubaquib spoke about the public survey. The questionnaire was distributed via email, social media and by community organizers to 1,231 people, and asked for feedback on if the bust should remain, and if so, if it should stay in the City Plaza or move to another location.

According to Calubaquib, 500 residents responded to that survey, and 733 non-residents responded — 59% felt the bust should remain in-place and 36% felt it should be removed. But during the February 9 council meeting, many community members voiced their support to have the statue moved to a different location, or removed completely.

The plaque, according to Calubaquib with Parks and Community Services, will cost around \$2,000. To write that plaque, other funds may be used to hire a historian and potentially a UC Santa Cruz professor with expertise in equity and social issues.

<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/parks-commission-recommends-removal-of-washington-bust/>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/02/10/george-washington-bust-will-be-moved-to-watsonville-public-library/>

## Colorado

### **Boulder, Colorado – 2016-May 2021 – renamed park**

Boulder has for years been considering new names for Settler's Park. It now intends to announce the chosen name in early May when it formally submits for a name change. Additionally, it will continue working to revise the current city-tribal agreements.

On April 7, Boulder had a government-to-government consultation with representatives from Tribal Nations in which the city set a timeline for some of the actions it's been planning since approving the Indigenous Peoples Day resolution in 2016.

There are 48 tribes with a legacy of occupation in Colorado, though 46 of those have been forcibly removed during the past 150 years, according to Ernest House Jr., senior policy director with Denver's Keystone Policy Center and a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe from southwestern Colorado.

He talked about how important it is for local governments to participate in tribal consultations and to ensure that it's consensus-based decision-making, which is an inclusive, participatory process where all contribute to decisions and proposals. House said it's about creating relationships and recognizing that Tribes are not "stakeholders." The next Tribal consultation is scheduled for March 2022.

As of May 27, the city of Boulder plans to rename "Settler's Park" to "The Peoples' Crossing" – a name developed by representatives of nationally recognized Indian tribes. The name honors the area as a crossroads for indigenous peoples who have lived in the mountains and plains of the Boulder area since time immemorial.

The City of Boulder thanks the tribal officials for drafting a consensus recommendation to rename the Park to Settler's Park. The new name also represents two other important issues that tribal representatives discussed during consultations with the city. "The People" or "Our People" are English translations for how many Native American tribal nations refer to themselves in their

native language. The use of the term “The People” is intended to include anyone who has traveled and lived in the Boulder area.

The city-sponsored application to rename “Settler’s Park” to “The Peoples’ Crossing,” approved by the city administrator, is being considered by the city council on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Community members can comment on the city’s plan to rename it “Settlers Park” during the public comment section of the council meeting.

Urban research shows that the area was historically known primarily as “Red Rocks” and that the name “Settler’s Park” did not appear to be widely formal or widely known prior to the early 1990s.

Renaming this area and installing educational and interpretive signage in this historically significant and popular area will help the city. Offer tens of thousands of community members and open space visitors the opportunity to reflect and acknowledge the indigenous presence on the land of the Boulder region. Current interpretive materials in the region do not contain indigenous perspectives and present an incomplete version of Boulder’s story. It will also help the city to develop unique teaching and interpretation materials in collaboration with Native American tribes who consult with the city. The city is asking the tribal representatives for advice, as it is developing permanent signage and education that point to the connection of the indigenous peoples to the bouldering area and the location “The Peoples’ Crossing” remind.

The city plans to officially implement the name change – with new signposts and website changes – before Indigenous Peoples Day in October. The city also expects to post temporary signs on the updated information boards in the area to let visitors know about the name change, what it means, and how tribal nations helped rename the area.

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2021/04/08/after-tribal-consultation-boulder-sets-tentative-timeline-for-renaming-settlers-park-approving-land-acknowledgments/>

<https://dailycoloradonews.com/urban-planning-to-rename-settlers-park-in-west-boulder-to-the-peoples-crossing/>

### **Denver, Colorado – Aug. 2019 and July 2020 – renamed community**

Property owners in the Denver neighborhood of Stapleton were asked to vote on whether to change the name of their community named for a onetime mayor and member of the KKK.

Activists argued it wrongly immortalized a racist mayor in office almost century ago. Others said the name was simply a throwback to the airport that once stood in its place. Overwhelmingly, the property owners chose the status quo for the community, in northeast Denver. They voted 65% to keep its current name and 35% to change it.

However, in mid-June 2020, after receiving further petitions, the Master Community Organization (MCA) decided to proceed with the name change. They tasked the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) neighborhood association, a representative group of community delegates, to organize discussions and votes for the name change. The final name options came from a list of more than 300 suggestions.

There were two voting rounds for neighborhood residents July 20 to July 24 on the final four names and July 27 to 31. Eligible voters are adults owning or renting in Stapleton. Votes were

validated electronically and manually. Central Park was announced as the winning name on August 1.

The city and developers, Forest City and Brookfield Properties Development, will pay for the costs incurred and execute the name change, including branding, marketing and new signage. Rename Stapleton for All is also producing a legal explainer through a Business Advisory Committee to support small businesses as they change names.

There will still be work to do before the name change is finalized. The neighborhood organization that hosted the vote, SUN, must get 100 petition signatures in support of the new name on Saturday. After that, SUN will host a community vote to adopt the new name on Aug. 31, which would be 30 days after receiving the petition.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/20/us/colorado-neighborhood-name/index.html>

<https://303magazine.com/2020/07/stapleton-neighborhood-name-change/>

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/neighbors-to-choose-between-two-finalists-in-renaming-of-denvers-stapleton-neighborhood>

<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/local-politics/stapleton-neighborhood-name-vote-final-results/73-d32421d9-6699-4025-9892-0c7cff0c6de8>

### **Denver, Colorado – June-Nov. 2020 – removed monument**

In Denver, the century-old statue of a Civil War cavalryman was toppled by protesters in June. It was designed by Captain Jack Howland, a member of the First Colorado Cavalry. Soldiers from that cavalry killed more than 200 Native Americans in the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864. More than half the victims were women and children.

The Capitol Building Advisory Committee voted Nov. 20 to replace the toppled monument with the statue of a Native American woman. Harvey Pratt, a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes and a Sand Creek Massacre descendant, is sculpting the bronze piece.

<https://www.kunr.org/post/remember-us-sculpture-grieving-native-american-woman-coming-colorado-capitol#stream/0>

### **Denver, Colorado – June 2020 – removed statue**

In June 2020, the City removed a statue of Kit Carson to prevent it being toppled by protesters.

### **Denver, Colorado – July-Dec. 2020 – renamed park**

On December 21, Denver City Council unanimously agreed to rename Columbus Park to La Raza Park, the name generations of Denverites have been calling the Northside green space and community center.

Signature-gathering for a petition to bring the name change before the parks and recreation's advisory board started this summer. City parks and recreation executive director Happy Haynes

said her department got 45 letters and emails supporting the change and 16 opposing it. Haynes spoke on Monday in support of the name change.

Naomi Grunditz, a city planner, said during a presentation on Monday that the parks department own naming rules supported removing Columbus' name. The rules say the department reserves the right to change a park's name if the person for whom the park is named turns out to be "disreputable". Columbus' actions led to the genocide of Indigenous people. Grunditz added that the park's rules suggest avoiding naming parks after international figures.

<https://denverite.com/2020/12/21/its-la-raza-park-for-real-now-city-council-approves-changing-columbus-parks-name/>

### **State of Colorado – Feb. 2021 – retained portrait**

A painting of a Colorado governor who was part of the Ku Klux Klan will stay on the walls of the state Capitol, the advisory board that makes cosmetic choices for the building has decided.

The reason? "Acknowledging all different kinds of people who led Colorado is something we can all learn from," Denver Democratic Rep. Susan Lontine said. "When people come to this building, they should look at everything with that lens.

The governor in question, Clarence Morley, was a Klansmen — and an elected official — at a time when the KKK was dominant in Colorado.

His gubernatorial portrait is among a batch of 20 that were rediscovered a few years ago in the basement of the State Archives. Late last year, following a long restoration process, the portraits went on display on the first floor of the Capitol.

The members of the Capitol Building Advisory Committee, which considers changes to the building and its grounds, had some heartache over Morley's portrait in particular, Lontine said, because of his KKK ties.

But on February 19, the committee approved a plan to accompany his and other portraits with signs displaying QR codes that direct users to brief state-authored biographies about the men who've led Colorado. Morley's biography explicitly mentions his bigotry.

"Not everybody's going to do the QR code, and I get that," said Lontine, who chairs the committee. "But if you're interested in finding out about Colorado history, you'll be able to find out about that guy."

Colorado Springs Rep. Tony Exum Sr., a Black Caucus member said he would've voted against hanging the portrait in the Capitol. But now that it's there, he said he's glad it will be paired with the QR code.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2021/02/22/kkk-governor-colorado-capitol-clarence-morley/>

## Connecticut

### **Bridgeport, Connecticut – Aug. 2020 – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed and placed in storage.

### **Hartford, Connecticut – June-Aug. 2020 – removed monument, renamed street**

A month and a half after the city of Hartford removed a statue of Christopher Columbus near the Capitol, city councillors are looking to rename Columbus Boulevard downtown and take stock of other local monuments dedicated to the disgraced explorer.

Residents had a chance to speak at public hearing on August 17 on a resolution to rename Columbus Boulevard for Frank T. Simpson, a local civil rights champion who led one of the first state civil rights commissions in the country. However, city council also voted unanimously the week before to create an ad hoc task force to develop an inventory of all other local memorials to Columbus that are now deemed “unfit,” and to recommend a process to recognize other local heroes.

The street named for Columbus runs the route of the original Front Street, which was renamed as part of the construction of the I-84/I-91 interchange and Constitution Plaza, which began in 1958.

The removal of the statue cost the city \$15,000.

<https://www.courant.com/community/hartford/hc-news-hartford-columbus-name-20200818-dwiwrjmngvb6bn4idrkb2zwqa-story.html>

### **Middletown, Connecticut – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed and placed in storage. The move had already been scheduled as the park where the statue was located was due for maintenance.

### **New Britain, Connecticut – Sept. 2020-Jan. 2021 – retained monument**

New Britain’s city leaders will soon be negotiating with a private Italian-American association to relocate the statue of Christopher Columbus. New Britain kept its metal statue in place this summer so the city plan commission could decide what to do with it. Commissioners recently recommended transferring it to the grounds of the Generale Ameglio Italian Civic Association, about a quarter-mile away.

It remains unclear whether the Generale Ameglio Civic Association will accept the statue; its leaders haven’t publicly announced their plans. However, several city officials who did not want to be named said they believe negotiations to give the statue to the club will succeed.

City leaders said if they reach a deal to remove the Columbus statue, it would be replaced with a monument of some type acknowledging the role of Italian-Americans in the nation’s history.



After months of debate, New Britain city government may ask residents to say whether the controversial Columbus statue at McCabe Park stays or goes. As of November 24, Mayor Erin Stewart is floating the idea of a nonbinding referendum on what to do with the 14-foot-high bronze monument. Stewart said opinion seems mixed and suggested a citywide vote might be the best solution.

The New Britain Racial Justice Coalition has been calling for faster action all along, and is pressing its supporters to call in on Dec. 2 when a council subcommittee takes up the matter.

The Generale Ameglio Italian Civic Association Society led the “Save the Christopher Columbus Statue” campaign all summer and fall, and has been working to persuade the council to leave the monument in place.

It’s unclear if Stewart will formally recommend the referendum before the Dec. 2 meeting. She said her staff is researching how New Britain, which never puts issues to direct public votes, could hold a referendum.

On December 9, New Britain decided to take down its controversial Christopher Columbus statue. The decision was an apparent win for the New Britain Racial Justice Coalition, Puerto Rican activists and Democrats on the council, who’ve all been campaigning to remove what they call a racist memorial.

However, Columbus’s supporters complained that taking it away is discrimination against Italian-Americans, and warned they’re ready to sue.

The council ultimately voted 10-4 to take down the statue, with Republican Alderwoman Sharon Beloin-Saavedra emphasizing that the city will work with local Italian-American groups to replace it with something else honoring their heritage. The decision was a hard about-face for several Republican aldermen, who voted with Democrats despite showing no enthusiasm over the summer or fall for taking down the statue.

Democratic Alderman Chris Anderson summed up his caucus’s opinion by calling the statue “a divisive symbol in the public square.” If local Italian-American organizations don’t want to display the statue on their property, the city will put it in storage, Democrats said.

On January 13, city council members voted for the second time on removing the city’s controversial Christopher Columbus Statue. This time their voices went unheard as city council members did not have enough votes to overturn Mayor Erin Stewart’s veto.

Despite the council’s vote in December, Mayor Erin Stewart’s vetoed their resolution that would have resulted in the immediate removal of the statue from the city’s McCabe Park. Members were forced to vote to overturn her veto on January 13, but were unsuccessful as they needed ten votes and only received eight.

In the mayor’s veto memo, she states while she generally disagrees with the removal of the statue, she would “respect the will of the people as expressed through their elected representatives on the Common Council, provided some critical questions were answered first.”

The first question Stewart raised in her memo was the cost of removing the statue and from where in the city budget will the funds come from. “At a time when we are pinching every penny to pay for essential items like employee healthcare, education expenses, snow removal and public safety

without increasing our already high tax burden, if this council truly wants the statue removed then it is their duty to allocate the funds to pay for it," Stewart said.

Another issue Stewart raised in the memo is what will go in the statue's place. "While this certainly has been a contentious issue, there has been one point of universal agreement: the purpose of both the existing Columbus statue and the park itself is to honor the heritage of the Italian American community and their contributions to New Britain," Stewart said. "If the council is going to retire Columbus, they ought to have a concurrent and concrete plan for what will go in its place. Anything less is a complete affront to New Britain's Italian American community."

Anderson said deciding what should ultimately replace the Columbus statue shouldn't rely solely on the council to decide. "I think that is an unreasonable burden to place on the council in this moment particularly because I don't think that it's a council only decision; it's a community decision and it needs to include and engage in large part the Italian American community because that is who is going to be most wounded by removing the statue," Anderson said. "And I don't think there is going to be a conversation about an alternative so long as Columbus stands because they have been pretty firm in their beliefs that it should stay and so I don't think they're going to put together a task force with us or any other members of the community to find a replacement. I don't want to decide for the Italian American community what the replacement is. That needs to be a much larger conversation than just the 14 people that sit on the council."

Stewart said in the memo she is deeply concerned about the precedent the Common Council is setting with removing the statue. Stewart also said the time spent on the Columbus statue debate should have been better spent on solutions that will make life better for residents, like lower taxes, improving services, better preparing children for tomorrow's jobs and getting closer to the goal of social justice and racial equality.

<https://www.courant.com/breaking-news/hc-news-new-britain-columbus-statue-20200924-z4witvxn55dw7h7iz4jjw6u7ca-story.html>

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-connecticut-new-britain-statute-20201124-mmnc6rub2jhhvfypz6tbuthwmm-story.html>

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-connecticut-new-britain-columbus-statue-20201210-ykyn7o7knrghvlcwa6oe7iulgq-story.html>

<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/local/new-britain-christopher-columbus-statue-will-not-be-removed-city-council-fails-to-overturn-mayor-stewarts-veto/520-499e77c5-0b90-4cce-8f4e-9340847de304>

<http://www.newbritainherald.com/NBH-New+Britain+News/383159/new-britain-mayor-erin-stewart-vetoes-resolution-that-would-have-resulted-in-removal-of-citys-christopher-columbus-statue>

### **New Haven, Connecticut – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed.

**Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut – Aug.-Dec. 2016– created Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming, Feb. 2017 – renamed building**

- For Committee Report from Nov. 21, 2016, see:  
[https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/CEPR\\_FINAL\\_12-2-16.pdf](https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/CEPR_FINAL_12-2-16.pdf)

The charge of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming was to articulate a set of principles that can guide Yale in decisions about whether to remove a historical name from a building or other prominent structure or space on campus —principles that are enduring rather than specific to particular controversies. The committee reviewed the experience both at Yale and in other institutions and communities that have addressed the question of renaming. In doing so, it consulted with experts, communicated and coordinated with other universities that are addressing similar issues, and collaborated with other groups at Yale that have been charged with related work, such as the Committee on Art in Public Spaces.

On February 11, 2017, Yale President Peter Salovey announced that the university would rename Calhoun College, one of 12 undergraduate residential colleges, to honor one of Yale's most distinguished graduates, Grace Murray Hopper '30 M.A., '34 Ph.D., by renaming the college for her.

Salovey made the decision with the university's board of trustees — the Yale Corporation — at its most recent meeting. "The decision to change a college's name is not one we take lightly, but John C. Calhoun's legacy as a white supremacist and a national leader who passionately promoted slavery as a 'positive good' fundamentally conflicts with Yale's mission and values," Salovey said.

<https://president.yale.edu/advisory-groups/presidents-committees/committee-establish-principles-renaming-0>

<https://news.yale.edu/2017/02/11/yale-change-calhoun-college-s-name-honor-grace-murray-hopper-0>

**New London, Connecticut – removed monument**

The Mayor ordered the removal of a statue of Christopher Columbus, pending a review.

**Norwalk, Connecticut – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed.

**Southington, Connecticut – July-Aug. 2020 – retained monument**

The Christopher Columbus bust in front of the North Main Street municipal center will remain following party-line Town Council votes on August 10.

The six council Republicans defeated motions supported by the three Democrats to take down the statue, as well as a proposal to form a committee to determine its future.

About 50 people took part in an online public forum in July about the issue. Both sides have also gathered signatures for petitions.

Local Italian-American groups donated the statue. The council unanimously approved the placement of the bust in front of the Municipal Center on North Main Street in 2015. It was erected in 2017. Bill Dziedzic, a Republican councillor, said that the John Weichsel Municipal Center was leased and not town-owned at the time of the council vote.

<https://www.myrecordjournal.com/News/Southington/Southington-News/Southington-council-could-take-up-Columbus-statue-issue.html>

### **Waterbury, Connecticut – Nov. 2020 – retained monument**

The controversial Christopher Columbus statue outside Waterbury's city hall won public support at the election on November 3: Voters decided to keep it in place. In an unusual referendum, a strong majority of Waterbury residents said they want the statue to stay on public land.

The statue currently faces Grand Avenue with no head, the victim of a late-night vandal over the Fourth of July holiday. The local UNICO club has offered to repair it. Waterbury decided to let the public decide how to proceed after the vandalism.

Mayor Neil O'Leary arranged a referendum question for the November ballot asking if the statue should remain in front of city hall. According to unofficial results, about 17,234 people voted yes and roughly 11,747 voted no.

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-waterbury-columbus-statue-20201104-ktl2vl4f5rg4lijelfm3ttlnm4-story.html>

### **Windsor, Connecticut – July 2020- Jan. 2021 – removed monument**

The City voted to remove the statue of John Mason and move it to the Windsor Historical Society. However, it requires approval from the State, which owns the statue.

Calls to remove the Mason statue stem from his lead role in what is known as the Pequot Massacre in 1637, when Mason and his colonial militia, along with Narragansett and Mohegan tribal allies, attacked the Pequot tribe near the Mystic River.

The town council's decision on January 18 to provide \$15,000 in taxpayer money to help fund the removal of the John Mason statue from the Palisado Green and reinstall it a short distance away at the Windsor Historical Society rekindled some disagreement between residents and elected officials.

On January 18, council voted 5-4 to help the historical society cover some of the costs related to the monument's installation, which historical society officials estimate to be \$35,000 to \$40,000. The money from the town will be used toward site preparation work, including resetting a brick plaza and landscape modifications.

The historical society expects to spend \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the installation of security cameras and the design, fabrication and installation of interpretive signs and panels for educational purposes.

The town is expecting the state, which owns the statue, to cover the cost of the statue's move.

<https://www.courant.com/community/windsor/hc-news-windsor-john-mason-statue-update-20210120-ylwwscrq7ra43nag7c2pynyufi-story.html>

## **Delaware**

### **Georgetown, Delaware – removed monument**

Slave whipping post has been removed.

### **Wilmington, Delaware – removed monuments**

The Mayor ordered the removal of the Equestrian Statue of Caesar Rodney and a statue of Christopher Columbus. It was placed in storage while its fate is decided.

## **Washington D.C.**

### **Washington D.C. – removed monument**

Statue of Albert Pike was removed by protesters. Council wanted to remove it in 2017 but this required an Act of Congress.

### **Washington, D.C. – July-Sep. 2020 – reviewing all civic assets**

- For DC Faces working group report (which provides an overview of all civic assets to be renamed/removed, including includes costs, existing legislation, and public consultation statistics) from Aug. 31, 2020, see:  
[https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/page\\_content/attachments/DC%20FACES%20Executive%20Summary\\_r10sm.pdf](https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/page_content/attachments/DC%20FACES%20Executive%20Summary_r10sm.pdf)

A working group in Washington, D.C., on September 1, recommended renaming, removing or recontextualizing a variety of monuments in the city, including one gargantuan one destined to grab attention: the Washington Monument.

The report came weeks after Mayor Muriel Bowser asked the working group to study government-owned facilities and determine whether their names reflected the city's modern values.

On July 23, the Mayor announced the creation of the District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions Working Group (DC FACES) to evaluate named public spaces in Washington, DC and provide recommended actions, including removing, renaming, and/or contextualizing the building, public space, or monument. The internal government working group

reviewed the legacy of namesakes of District assets to determine if the individual, in an individual capacity or as part of a group, participated in the oppression of African Americans and/or other communities of color, or contributed to the nation's history of systemic racism and other biases.

"Public buildings, monuments and spaces must reflect D.C.'s current values, not those from centuries ago," said the mayor's adviser, Beverly Perry, when the group was announced in July. "As our values and cultural understandings change over time, our commemorative symbols must change to portray our values."

The working group in Washington held a virtual town hall with 275 participants and received online feedback from more than 2,300 people, during which 63 per cent of respondents expressed a desire for some changes to the names of public monuments.

The places under consideration were divided into three categories: learning, living and leisure environments (schools, residential buildings and libraries); public spaces (parks, government buildings and streets); and commemorative works (statues and memorials).

Its report concluded that of 3,050 properties in the U.S. capital, 153 had problematic names. It recommended that a number of local properties such as schools be renamed — including those named after presidents Thomas Jefferson, Woodrow Wilson, Alexander Graham Bell, Francis Scott Key, and Benjamin Franklin.

The paper urged the mayor to use her seat on the U.S. National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, a mostly federal body, to convince the federal government to rename, relocate or add new context to several federal assets. Those assets include a Christopher Columbus fountain, a famous statue of ex-president Andrew Jackson near the White House and monuments to Jefferson and Washington. The mayor said she would study the document.

The Washington working group paper noted that more than 70 per cent of assets named in the District of Columbia are named after white men, many of whom were not local residents. The current demographics of the U.S. capital are far more diverse — with an even split of 46 per cent white and 46 per cent Black. In its report, the group recommended that future memorials include more women, people of colour, LGBTQ people and Washingtonians.

Renaming or removing the assets comes with bureaucratic red tape, and in some cases, would cost the city thousands of dollars. The report states that it typically costs between \$5,000-\$15,000 to rename a recreation center, and between \$500,000 to \$1 million to rename middle or high schools. Renaming federal property would require a bill in Congress, and hearings from House and Senate committees.

To move the initiatives along, the committee wants to appoint a D.C. state historian, work with the city's commemorative works committee, and "streamline" approval processes through a mayoral order.

Following harsh criticism from various conservative figures and the White House, on Tuesday evening the Bowser administration removed recommendations related to eight federal sites from the end of the report linked on the city's website, shrinking it from 24 pages to 23.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/macdonald-washington-founder-statues-1.5708469>

<https://thedcline.org/2020/07/23/press-release-mayor-bowser-announces-dc-faces-working-group-to-evaluate-legacy-of-named-public-spaces-and-statues-in-dc/>

<https://wamu.org/story/20/09/01/dc-renaming-public-spaces-racism-jefferson-washington/>

<https://mayor.dc.gov/dcfaces>

[https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/page\\_content/attachments/DC-FACES-Executive-Summary.pdf](https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayormb/page_content/attachments/DC-FACES-Executive-Summary.pdf)

## Florida

### **Daytona Beach, Florida – removed monument**

The City Manager decided to have Confederate Veteran plaques removed.

### **Hollywood, Florida – Nov. 2017 – renamed streets**

- For renaming resolutions from Nov. 15, 2017, see:  
<https://hollywoodfl.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3209958&GUID=DA4208D4-53FF-406B-B471-56C147F36115&Options=&Search=>

City commissioners put an end to a long-running debate voting 6-0 to rechristen three Hollywood streets named for Confederate commanders. The streets named for John Bell Hood, Robert E. Lee and Nathan Bedford Forrest will be known as Hope, Liberty and Freedom streets. Commissioner Peter Hernandez, who thinks residents on all three streets should have been given a say in the decision, did not vote. The commissioners voted 5-2 to waive the city's policy requiring that property owners on all three streets receive mailed ballots and vote on the matter.

All three streets extend through the entire city, but only two — Forrest and Hood — run through the predominantly black Liberia neighborhood. The Hollywood City Commission voted to get rid of Forrest, Hood and Lee Streets last August and later came up with the new names.

All of the signs have been changed for Freedom and Hope Streets. The city is currently working on Lee Street and plans for that to be completed in the next week or so.

Renaming the streets has cost more than \$15,000 already, a cost not covered by the city. "Pursuant to the City of Hollywood Naming Policy and Procedures, Section II, D.2 states the applicant shall bear all costs associated with the street renaming, including but not limited to, the cost of City mailings, recordings, administration and the costs of all road signs. Initially, one person from the group advocating for the change is paying the bill. They started a GoFundMe page to help with expenses.

<https://miami.cbslocal.com/2018/04/03/freedom-hope-liberty-hollywood-streets/>

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/hollywood/fl-sb-confederate-streets-hollywood-outcome-20171114-story.html>

<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/activists-asked-to-pay-for-renaming-hollywood-streets/36709/>



<https://www.jacksonville.com/florida/news/2017-07-04/hollywood-fla-rename-streets-currently-honor-confederate-generals>

### **Jacksonville, Florida – June-Sept. 2020 – removed statue, renamed park, attempt to delay further changes**

Hemming Park, located in front of Jacksonville City Hall, will be renamed. It was named after Civil War veteran Charles C. Hemming in 1899 after he donated a Confederate monument to the city. Mayor Lenny Curry ordered the removal on June 9 of the Confederate soldier statue that stood atop the tall spire. The mayor has also announced the removal of all other Confederate monuments, memorials and markers in the city, including in the cemetery.

However, City Council is split on move to rename Hemming Park after James Weldon Johnson. Legislation was filed in June to rename the park after Johnson, who was born in Jacksonville in 1871. Johnson went on to become a principal at Stanton School and a leader in the NAACP.

The city council's neighborhood committee deferred a vote on August 4 on legislation that would put Johnson's name on the downtown park after City Council member Danny Becton proposed a substitute to call it Veterans Memorial Park.

Becton had joined the rest of the Rules Committee in voting earlier on a 7-0 vote for a bill changing the name of Confederate Park to Springfield Park. Becton said he likewise would support changing the name of Hemming Park but not to another person's name.

Council member Rory Diamond, who had joined Dennis in co-introducing the legislation for James Weldon Johnson Park, suggested a compromise that would rename the park after Johnson and also have a "Veterans Memorial Plaza" in the center of square-block site.

Neighborhoods Committee Chairman Randy White, who said he agrees with Becton that the city should not use people's names in renaming places, deferred the bill for another two weeks in the committee.

On Aug. 11, the Jacksonville City Council voted 16-2 in favor of changing the name of Hemming Park to James Weldon Johnson Park. After the motion to rename Hemming Park passed, Dennis moved to withdraw the motions aimed at renaming those parks.

The decision to rename Hemming Park came hours after City Council voted unanimously in favor of changing the name of Confederate Park to Springfield Park.

Less than a week after the Jacksonville City Council voted to rename Hemming Park to James Weldon Johnson Park, Councilman Rory Diamond is filing a bill to institute a two-year moratorium on the future renaming of public parks, buildings, recreational facilities and public streets. Right now, legislation to rename buildings is treated like any other proposed ordinance, going through a six-week process where it is heard by specific committees, has a public hearing, and then is voted on before the full City Council. Diamond said the current process isn't effective.

"There's a couple of other [name changes] that made sense in the very short term, but it seemed to have opened the floodgate of renaming as many things as possible," Diamond said. "And that doesn't make sense to me."

The bill would put a hold on all renamings until August of 2022, or until a new system for renaming legislation has been put in place. It would prevent council members from filing any new renaming legislation.

Councilman Ron Salem said he's working on a bill to create a more robust and detailed 10-week process for renamings. He said he's uncomfortable with the current process that includes just one public hearing. "I think to change the name of a park or a building is much more significant than that, and should require a lot more public input," Salem said. He said the current process also doesn't push the council members to learn more about both the name currently in place, or the one it will be replaced with. Salem also said he would like to work on repealing an ordinance that states that a person has to be dead to have a public location named after them.

Both Salem and Diamond said these bills in no way show a lack of support from the recent park name change of Hemming Park to James Weldon Johnson Park. For Councilman Garrett Dennis - who introduced the James Weldon Johnson Park renaming legislation - he's curious as to why this is happening now. Dennis also said if most bills go through the same six-week process, treating renamings differently is odd.

The Jacksonville City Council advanced legislation on September 14 that would stop the city from renaming public property until a formal process is instituted. The bill unanimously cleared the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health, and Safety panel, the first of three committees of reference for the proposal.

Ordinance 2020-518, carried by Republican first-termor Rory Diamond, would block renamings of parks and buildings for six months (shortened from two years in committee), or until the City Council reaches accord on a process for renaming.

Streets already have a process for renaming. A proposed amendment to the legislation allowed that to continue unless the street was being named after a human being, meaning the moratorium would only apply to buildings and parks.

A committee of the whole, encompassing the entire 19-person body, would be used for future renaming proposals. Rules and the Social Justice and Community Investment Committee will be the next two stops for the bill.

After renaming Hemming Park, the Jacksonville City Council decided on October 27 that future proposals for naming parks and city-owned buildings will go through more review with extra rounds of public hearings. The measure passed 17-2.

The new process will have an eight-week legislative cycle for such legislation, rather than the standard six weeks, with three public hearings. The historic preservation division of the planning department will give a report to council detailing the history of the site slated for renaming, other facilities with the same or similar names, and the historical significance of person whose name is attached to the site, and a similar assessment of the person whose name is proposed as the replacement. The city's Historic Preservation Commission will have a chance to chime in as well.

<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/council-split-on-move-to-rename-hemming-park-after-james-weldon-johnson/77-c13b7bc6-aa97-40ab-97cd-990a0ec65844>

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2020/08/11/city-council-to-discuss-renaming-hemming-park-5-others-in-jacksonville/>

<https://news.wjct.org/post/councilmen-propose-slowing-down-process-renaming-jacksonville-parks-buildings>

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/366684-jax-rename>

<https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/local/2020/10/28/renaming-jacksonville-parks-get-longer-reviews-and-public-comment/6051348002/>

### **Key West, Florida – Oct. 2020-Apr. 2021 – renamed public housing**

The board of the Key West Housing Authority on April 19 voted unanimously to change the name of JY Porter Place public housing apartments in light of concerns about Porter's connections to the Ku Klux Klan.

The JY Porter Place housing complex at the end of White Street will be renamed, as proposed by City Commissioner Clayton Lopez, for Lang B. Milian, the second black man ever elected to the Key West city commission in 1971. Key West elected its first black city commissioner, Robert Gabriel, in the first decade of the 1900s. A public housing complex in Bahama Village is named for him.

City Commissioner Sam Kaufman had brought Porter's KKK connection to the housing board's attention in October and initially met with resistance from three of the five board members, who dismissed Kaufman's suggestion and questioned whether JY Porter or his son was a local Klan leader.

Lopez followed up with a letter on April 16 to the Housing Authority board that recognized the commissioners' decades of honorable service, but also expressed regret over the potentially divisive name. Lopez wrote that despite the contributions of Dr. Porter as the state's first health officer, "the darker side of that history" must also be recognized. "I would like to offer a possible solution in the hope of avoiding further division in our community over this issue," Lopez wrote, suggesting the complex be named for Milian. "Doing this would keep the historic perspective we all love, while casting no further aspersion on the name of Dr. Porter," Lopez wrote.

The name change will not be finalized until the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) approves it. But the Key West Housing Authority's executive director, Randy Sterling, said he will bring the matter to HUD's attention in the coming weeks.

<https://keysweekly.com/42/kkk-connection-prompts-key-west-housing-board-to-rename-public-housing-complex/>

### **Lakeland, Florida – removed monument**

The City Commission voted unanimously to remove the Confederate monument. The City wanted private funds to be used for its removal since the monument was mostly owned by a private group. Only \$26,209 was raised. Commissioners voted to use \$225,000 in red light camera money to pay for the move.

### **Madison, Florida – removed monument**

City Council voted 3-2 for the removal of the Madison Confederate monument. Black members of Council voted for its removal while white members voted for it to remain.

### **Manatee County, Florida – removed monument**

The County Commission voted 4-3 to remove the Confederate monument. It was placed in storage since no decision was made as to its final deposition.

### **Miami-Dade County, Florida – Nov. 2019-May 2021 – renamed highway**

On February 19, 2020, Miami-Dade County commissioners unanimously approved plans to rename portions of The Dixie Highway, which runs 5,786 miles through 10 states from Michigan to Miami. Miami-Dade District 9 Commissioner Dennis Moss led the effort to rename the highway after Harriet Tubman, a famous African American abolitionist.

The word Dixie takes on a different meaning for different people. Most commonly, it's associated with the old South and Confederate states. Dixie was considered the land south of the Mason-Dixon line, where slavery was legal.

While the name change was approved by Miami-Dade County commissioners, it was up to each state to act on other parts of the highway. State lawmakers will need to go through their own approval process for the parts each state owns.

The renaming affects portions of the Old Dixie Highway and West Dixie Highway that are under the city jurisdiction. The commissioners also sent a resolution to the Florida Legislature to rename the portions of the West Dixie Highway that are under its jurisdiction.

However, as of April 16, 2021, Dixie Highway looks likely to survive another year in Miami-Dade County as backers of renaming the state road after Harriet Tubman face setbacks in Tallahassee and Coral Gables. The city is the only local government in Miami-Dade to reject adding Tubman's name to 42 miles of U.S. 1, a federal and state road that's also gone by Dixie Highway for a century.

Swapping "Harriet Tubman" for "Dixie" on U.S. 1 itself requires a state process that could take years, allowing businesses along the highway time to update letterhead and promotional materials with the new address. But first, the Florida Legislature needs to approve the change. With just two weeks left to go in the 2021 session, supporters aren't optimistic. "Right now, it's stalled. Dead," said Sen. Shevrin Jones, the West Park Democrat who is a sponsor of the Senate version of the legislation, SB 1216. "We'll have to do it again next year."

Jones said the only outward opposition he's encountered in the effort came not in Tallahassee, but in one of Miami-Dade's most affluent cities. In January, a divided Coral Gables city

commission voted against endorsing adding Tubman's name to the portion of U.S. 1 that runs through that municipality.

"This is just a pure example of playing politics, when what we should be doing here is concentrating on issues that are affecting this community on a day-to-day basis," Commissioner and Vice Mayor Vince Lago said during the Jan. 26 meeting, where he joined the 3-2 majority in voting down the renaming endorsement. "I feel a little bit uncomfortable moving forward."

The failed vote has stalled unveiling Harriet Tubman signs up and down U.S. 1. Florida put up the brown designation markers, but they remain "covered pending supportive resolutions from all local municipalities," said Tish Burgher, a spokesperson for the state Transportation Department.

Lago warned that the pressure to remove the Dixie Highway name could help fuel an effort to remove a statue of city founder George Merrick, who advocated for moving Miami's Black residents out of Miami in the 1930s. The mayor-elect said he wasn't "opposed to renaming any street" but wanted more time for nearby neighborhoods to be part of the decision.

Coral Gables remains the lone holdout in Miami-Dade to the Tubman designation, a midway step in the state process that stops short of renaming Dixie Highway. Nine other municipalities, from Florida City to North Miami Beach, voted to approve the Tubman designation.

Part of the 2020 law authorizing the Tubman add-on also triggered a state study on a permanent name change that would eventually strip "Dixie" from the road signs. Published in October, the 31-page report concluded the Dixie Highway switch on U.S. 1 and another four-mile stretch of State Road 909 that's called West Dixie Highway would cost about \$4.5 million.

Of that, only about \$1 million involves changing roughly 200 signs, including the labor and administrative costs for the state and local governments responsible for the roadway signage. The rest of the estimate seeks to account for nearly every cost that would eventually fall on nearby businesses and residents, down to the \$25 fee it costs to change an address on a driver's license.

As of May 19, four months after he joined two other Coral Gables commissioners in voting to reject a proposal to rename Dixie Highway after Harriet Tubman, newly elected mayor Vince Lago has apparently changed his tune. Lago, only weeks into his tenure as mayor, has revived the same resolution he once opposed to rename a portion of the state road in honor of the renowned abolitionist. Should it pass on May 25, the proposal would remove a significant roadblock to a Miami-Dade County initiative to add Tubman's name to 42 miles of U.S. 1.

The physical process of swapping "Harriet Tubman" for "Dixie" on U.S. 1 requires the approval of the Florida Legislature. But the Gables' rejection of the swap in January stalled that step, which would have been taken during the state Legislature's recently ended 2021 session. The next session doesn't begin until January 2022.

On May 25, the City of Coral Gables voted unanimously to designate its portions of South Dixie Highway, or US-1, in the name of Harriet Tubman.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/21/us/harriet-tubman-dixie-highway-trnd/index.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/floridas-dixie-highways-renamed-honor-harriet-tubman/story?id=69099474>

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article250614939.html>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/florida-mayor-rejected-naming-dixie-highway-for-abolitionist-now-hes-leading-the-charge/ar-AAKd8PZ>

<https://www.local10.com/news/local/2021/05/25/coral-gables-changing-us-1-name-to-harriet-tubman-highway/>

### **Orange County, Florida – June 2020-Mar. 2021 – reviewing street names**

- For Street Renaming Process Work Session from March 23, 2021, see:  
<https://occompt.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4856407&GUID=B751895F-1F39-47C1-941F-9221831E2403&Options=ID%7cText%7c&Search=renaming>

On March 23, Orange County commissioners agreed to create a formal policy for the board to rename roads, a discussion which arose after last summer's protests against racial injustice brought renewed attention to local street names with potential ties to the Confederacy.

The issue was first raised during public comment in June by three people who asked the county to find a new name for Kirby Smith Road in the Lake Nona area. They believed the road was named in honor of Edmund Kirby Smith, the last Confederate general to surrender during the Civil War.

While the county had rules for a citizen-initiated name change, there has been no formal process to guide commissioners if they wanted to rename a road. County staff will draft a formal process for commissioners to consider at a future meeting.

State law already allows the board to rename roads which may constitute an ethnic or racial slur.

Some street names are regulated by 911 emergency operations for practical reasons. Names that are difficult to pronounce are not allowed. Street names cannot be longer than 18 letters or include special punctuation characters.

An analysis by county staff showed the road was likely not named for the general, a St. Augustine native whose family owned slaves and who gave up his commission in the U.S. Army in 1861 to fight for the South, but for a member of the Smith family who lived in Orange County and who donated land to the county for Narcoossee Road. "This man may have been named after the Confederate general of the same name, but we aren't certain," zoning division manager Jennifer Moreau said in a memo.

Eight other streets located solely within the county's jurisdiction could have been named after a notable Confederate official or general but none can be verified, according to research provided by Michael Perkins, recently retired manager of the Orange County Regional History Center. The list includes Jackson, Lee and Mosby streets.

Orange County also has a Forest Avenue and a Forest Street, but both are spelled differently than Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Including Orange County's cities, 32 streets may have been named after confederate figures, including Bluford Avenue in Ocoee, History Center researchers found. "When considering the etymology of the street names in question, one significant factor to consider is the year the road was named," they reported. "Streets named during the late 1800s and early to mid-1900s are



more likely to be named for confederate leaders due to the prevalence of Jim Crow [laws] in Florida. This was also the time that many Confederate statues were placed throughout the South.”

Commissioner Emily Bonilla questioned whether a street could be renamed simply with overwhelming support of property-owners and residents. “Let’s say the majority of the home-owners on the road want to name the road after the leader of the KKK or something like that. What happens?” she said. Deputy County Attorney Joel Prinsell said commissioners can reject a re-naming petition the board finds to be derogatory or completely inappropriate.

The citizen process, first adopted in 1995, requires notarized statements from 75% or more of property owners on the road showing no objection to the name change.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orange-county/os-ne-orange-renaming-streets-confederacy-20210323-iox4fkbzr5hwbdngvyr7wabkq4-story.html>

### **Orlando, Florida – Dec. 2020-Apr. 2021 – renamed street**

Stonewall Jackson Road, a mile-long stretch between Semoran Boulevard and Gelwood Avenue, could soon be renamed. Instead of continuing as the namesake of a Confederate general who fought in defense of slavery, it could honor Roberto Clemente, a Puerto Rican baseball player and humanitarian.

The push for change follows a long but successful effort to rename what was until September known as Stonewall Jackson Middle School and is now Roberto Clemente Middle School. That campus and an adjacent elementary school line the majority of the road.

The effort has grown momentum: Orlando city Commissioner Tony Ortiz, whose district includes the road, is taking an active role, as is at least one member of the Orange County School Board.

On Dec. 8, Marcos Vilar, executive director of Alianza for Progress, an advocacy group concerned with issues impacting Hispanic communities, wrote a letter to Mayor Buddy Dyer asking him to begin the process needed to rename the street. A month later, Dyer’s office has not responded.

According to city ordinances, Dyer has the power to initiate the process necessary to change the street name at any time but so far has not taken that action. Cassandra Lafser, spokeswoman for the city, said Dyer “has received the letter... and has staff currently reviewing it.”

“These are typically community-driven efforts because it’s important the property owners along the roadway are in support of the changes as they will be the ones to be financially impacted by the costs they will incur to change necessary marketing materials like business signs, letterheads, advertising, businesses cards and other materials,” Lafser added. “At this time, we do not have any applications from any of the property owners in this area.”

According to county records, most of the property along Stonewall Jackson Road is owned by Orange County Public Schools. The rest of the street is occupied by an apartment complex, a six-unit condo building and a 1.4-acre vacant lot. The street is only about a mile long.

Ortiz, the District 2 commissioner, said he is reaching out to every property owner on the street.

On March 16, the Orlando Municipal Planning Board voted unanimously to change the name of Stonewall Jackson Road to “Roberto Clemente Road.”



On April 12, City Commissioners unanimously approved meeting minutes from its Municipal Planning Board meeting from March, which OK'd the name change, setting up the drafting of an ordinance to change the name. Ordinances need to be approved at two city commission meetings, meaning it will be at least a month until the change is final, though an exact date of those votes wasn't immediately known.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-ne-rename-stonewall-jackson-road-roberto-clemente-20210108-ou2guhdkyvbyjnuuda25dsbg6e-story.html>

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2021/03/16/orlando-city-leaders-approve-renaming-of-stonewall-jackson-road/#//>

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orange-county/os-ne-orange-stonewall-jackson-road-20210412-vlmco5b5bndolmrlrcit4clme-story.html>

### **Orlando, Florida – removed monument**

The Confederate monument was removed from a park to a public cemetery.

### **Pensacola, Florida – July-Oct. 2020 – renamed square, removed monument**

The Pensacola City Commission voted 6-1 to remove the Confederate monument located in Lee Square, which will be renamed to Florida Square. The contractor, which will be paid \$130,000, has 30 days to remove the monument once work begins in October.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/florida/os-ne-pensacola-to-remove-confederate-monument-rename-lee-square-20200715-byebtb7geraotbv7codt7uch4y-story.html>

<https://www.wkrq.com/video/crews-begin-to-remove-pensacola-confederate-monument/>

### **Plant City, Florida – removed monument**

The Confederate Cow Calvary monument was removed and placed in storage. It is owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and is to be collected by them.

### **Quincy, Florida – removed monument**

The Gadsen Confederate monument was removed by a unanimous vote by Council. It is to be relocated within six months.

### **Sanford, Florida – Aug. 2020 – renamed park**

The City Commission restored the name of Elliott Avenue Park to Roy G. Williams Park. Williams was a former police chief who once removed Jackie Robinson from a baseball game to

enforce segregation laws. The park is located on Elliott Avenue and stretches about two city blocks.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_name\\_changes\\_due\\_to\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_name_changes_due_to_the_George_Floyd_protests)

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/seminole-county/os-ne-sanford-jackie-robinson-police-chief-park-20200811-equykdfgjh2bmdgun6kl5l7vq-story.html>

### **Sarasota, Florida – removed monument**

Judah P. Benjamin monument was removed.

### **St. Augustine, Florida – removed monument**

Council voted 3-2 to move the city's Confederate obelisk.

### **St. Petersburg, Florida – removed monument**

The Stonewall Jackson Memorial Highway marker was removed.

### **Tampa, Florida – removed monument**

The County Commission voted to remove the Eternal Memory Confederate statue. It was moved to the Brandon Family cemetery. The Commission said that they would only move the statue using private funds, but only \$140,000 was raised. In the end, the county paid half of the \$285,000 cost.

### **Tallahassee, Florida – July 2020 – renamed pond**

City Commission unanimously voted to change the name of Chapman Pond to Evans Pond. Florida Chief Justice Roy H. Chapman upheld segregationist policies. Dr. Charles Evans was president of the city's NAACP. City Commissioner Curtis Richardson said local historians brought up past rulings by Justice Roy Chapman, including his decision in the Groveland Four case and segregating Miami golf courses.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_name\\_changes\\_due\\_to\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_name_changes_due_to_the_George_Floyd_protests)

<https://www.wctv.tv/2020/07/08/city-commission-votes-to-rename-chapman-pond-after-dr-charles-evans/#:~:text=TALLAHASSEE%2C%20Fla.,to%20name%20it%20after%20Dr.>

### **West Palm Beach, Florida – removed monument**

The Mayor ordered the removal of the Confederate monument from a cemetery. It was placed in storage awaiting removal by its private owners.

### **State of Florida – removed monument**

The Statue of Edmund Kirby Smith in National Statuary Hall, Washington D.C., will be replaced with one of Mary McLeod Bethune.

## **Georgia**

### **Athens, Georgia – removed monument**

The Mayor and City Commissioners have announced plans to remove the Athens Confederate monument.

### **Atlanta, Georgia – 2017-2018 – renamed streets, formed advisory committee**

- For report produced by the Advisory Committee on City of Atlanta Street Names and Monuments Associated with the Confederacy from Nov. 20, 2017, see: <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/app/uploads/2021/02/ADVISO1.pdf>
- For street renaming process (section 138-8 of the City of Atlanta code), see: <https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=30741>

In the fall of 2017, the City of Atlanta formed an 11-member advisory committee to investigate the renaming of streets and the removal of monuments associated with the Confederacy.

The immediate renaming of Confederate Avenue was a recommendation of the committee created by Mayor Kasim Reed and the City Council. Before it dissolved in November 2017, the Advisory Committee on City of Atlanta Street Names and Monuments Associated with the Confederacy suggested several actions the city should take to remove or address Confederate iconography. Councillors Carla Smith, Michael Julian Bond and Natalyn Archibong were charged with coming up with a plan to implement the advisory committee's recommendations.

The advisory committee also recommended changing the names of other streets in Atlanta named for significant Confederate military leaders who were actively involved in white supremacist activities after the war. They are undeserving of the honor of a street name in Atlanta. The advisory group also said Atlanta should address other street names and monuments that represent "Lost Cause mythology." The timetable for addressing those symbols is undetermined, but the renaming of Confederate Avenue in October 2018 could provide a blueprint on how that might happen.

The City of Atlanta street renaming process is found in section 138-8 of the City of Atlanta code. This process begins with an application submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works that must include several components: a detailed cost estimate of city expenses to change signs, etc.; \$2,500 application fee; agreement of 75% of property owners who would be affected by the renaming; and information about the individual/organization that would be the new name.

There are also guidelines for potential new street names. If the name proposed is of a living individual, that person must be at least 75 years old. If the proposed name is of a deceased individual, then that individual must have been deceased for at least 30 days prior to the application being submitted. Finally, if the proposed name is of an individual or organization, the namesake must be of local, national, or international significance. The proposed renaming also must be for the entire length of the street.

After the initial application is submitted, the process requires review by the Urban Design Commission, Department of Public Works, City Utilities Committee, and the Atlanta City Council.

While an Atlanta city ordinance requires 75 percent of households on a thoroughfare to agree to a name change, the law does not regulate how a new name should be chosen.

As part of a months-long neighborhood effort to come up with a new name, residents along Confederate Avenue and East Confederate Avenue submitted possible choices to the informal Grant Park neighborhood group leading the charge. They mailed in ballots. "United" garnered the most votes and was submitted to add to the legislation in August.

Confederate Court was renamed Trestletree Court, after apartment buildings that are on the street. The owners of the property chose the name.

#### Details:

#### Establishment of Advisory Committee

- The Confederate Monuments Advisory Committee was created in September 2017.
- It consisted of 11 members: six members proposed by the mayor, five members proposed Atlanta City Council President. City Council confirmation of the members was not required.
- The committee operated under the purview of the Mayor's Office and was staffed by the Executive Director of the Urban Design Commission.
- A meeting schedule was established at first committee meeting. The committee was allowed to hold public hearings as necessary.
- The committee was to deliver a report to the Mayor and Council within 70 days of the creation of the committee, at which point, the committee would be disbanded.

#### Responsibility of Advisory Committee

The committee was responsible for:

- Reviewing all Atlanta city street names and monuments associated with the Confederacy.
- Developing a process to lead and engage residents in meaningful conversations.
- Recommending a process to determine the future of these streets and monuments.

#### Process

- The committee held four meetings (Oct. 18, Nov. 1, 8 and 13).
- Two co-chairs were elected at the first meeting.
- All meetings were open to the public and announced in advance via City of Atlanta press releases.

- Public comment was heard at the last three meetings and was accepted through the committee's email address. The committee also had a website. Approximately 100 comments were received.
- All four meetings were filmed by the city for public broadcast.

### Recommendations

- The committee's recommendations encompassed a wide range of ideas including:
  - o Specific actions with respect to particular streets or monuments.
  - o Opportunities for expanding the historical conversation by adding new monuments to communities or populations that had not previously been commemorated.
  - o General principles for evaluating and addressing related street names or monuments in the future.
- In some instances, street names required further research to confirm:
  - o that the streets were named for Confederate soldiers and
  - o if so, whether the street was named in order to honour their affiliation with the Confederacy.
- Recommended changing the current street renaming policy
  - o Old policy required
    - a detailed cost estimate of city expenses to change signs, etc.
    - \$2,500 application fee
    - Agreement of 75% of property owners who would be affected by the renaming
    - Information about the individual/organization that would be the new name
    - The proposed renaming must be for the length of the entire street
    - Requires review by Urban Design Commission, Dept. of Public Works, City Utilities Committee, City Council
  - o Recommended new policy would:
    - Lower or waive fees charged
    - Lower threshold required for the approval of name changes from 75% to 50% of property owners on Confederate-related streets.
    - Voting rights should also be extended to rental residents, not just property owners.

### Committee Members

- Sheffield Hale, President and CEO, Atlanta History Center – co-chair
- Derreck Kayongo, CEO, Center for Civil and Human Rights – co-chair
- Douglas Blackmon, Senior Fellow and Director of Public Programs, University of Virginia's Miller Center; Pulitzer Prize-winning author
- Regina Brewer, preservation consultant
- Larry Gellerstedt, CEO, Cousins Properties, Inc.
- Nina Gentry, Owner, Gentry Planning Services
- Martha Porter Hall, community advocate
- Sonji Jacobs, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs, Cox Enterprises, Inc.
- Dan Moore, Founder, APEX Museum

- Brenda Muhammad, Executive Director, Atlanta Victim Assistance
- Shelley Rose, Senior Associate Director, Southeast Region, Anti-Defamation League

<https://www.ajc.com/news/just-atlanta-city-council-votes-rename-confederate-avenue/uifkCrby00AMMzEBR2yXCP/>

<https://www.ajc.com/news/local/just-atlanta-confederate-streets-get-new-names/uStM5kDReX0Y5CmemAygrM/>

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/mayor-s-office/executive-offices/advisory-committee-on-city-of-atlanta-street-names-and-monuments-associated-with-the-confederacy>

### **Augusta, Georgia – Aug. 2020-Jan. 2021 – reviewing street names and monuments**

An Augusta task force has recommended relocating two Confederate monuments and removing the names of Confederate leaders from two area roads and Fort Gordon.

Mayor Hardie Davis created the task force in August, citing the May death of George Floyd and other acts of racism and police brutality, along with the need to re-examine how the city honors those who advocated for slavery and dividing the United States.

The 11-member task force is led by Historic Augusta Executive Director Erick Montgomery and Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History historian Corey Rogers. It dated its recommendations Oct. 19, but they first surfaced on an Augusta Commission agenda on December 1.

A majority of task force members voted to recommend five changes:

- Move the 76-foot Confederate monument in the 700 block of Broad Street to either Magnolia Cemetery, which has a large section of Confederate graves, or Westview Cemetery.
- Move the smaller Confederate monument in the 400 block of Greene Street to the property of the adjacent St. James United Methodist Church, which erected it, if the church agrees.
- Rename the signs and monuments denoting Jefferson Davis Highway, named for the president of the Confederacy, on U.S. 1 as it passes through Richmond County. The markers include a plaque on the Fifth Street bridge, two large carved boulders and green highway signs.
- Rename John C. Calhoun Expressway, which was named in the 1960s for the renowned slavery and secession advocate and former vice president from South Carolina after an earlier Calhoun Street had been closed.
- Rename Gordon Highway and Fort Gordon, named for Confederate general and former Georgia Gov. John Brown Gordon, a key figure in overturning Reconstruction.

The task force's vote to rename Calhoun Expressway was unanimous. Renaming Gordon Highway, Fort Gordon and Jefferson Davis Highway passed 7-1, while moving the Confederate monuments passed 5-3. The co-chairs did not vote.

Monuments and naming for the "Lost Cause" began during Reconstruction as a way to honor the ideals of the Confederacy, the task force report said. It was a "public, symbolic way of saying that

though it didn't exist anymore, as much as possible should be the model of society going forward," the report said.

The task force included suggestions for replacement names: bestselling Black novelist Frank Yerby; Paine College founder George Williams Walker; Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University president John Hope; first Paine graduate, Black faculty member and linguist John Wesley Gilbert; and Paine professor and secretary of the International YMCA for 12 years Channing H. Tobias.

The report includes detailed biographical information about the proposed honorees, each of whom was known for his efforts advancing race relations, it said. It also points to about \$250 million offered by the Mellon Foundation as a possible funding source to make the changes.

Paine historian Mallory Millender said the group met seven or so times on Zoom and had a good rapport. Other members included Augusta Museum of History Executive Director Nancy Glaser, Augusta University history professor John Hayes and Confederate descendant Katie Delaigle. Several did not return requests for comment.

Georgia law prohibits moving or altering any publicly owned monument honoring any who served in the Georgia military, including for the Confederacy, and ownership of the two Confederate monuments and the Davis markers, though located on the public right of way, isn't entirely clear, the report notes. Elsewhere in the state, local governments have taken measures such as deeming the monuments as a nuisance to take them down.

What is clear is the local government's authority to rename John C. Calhoun Expressway and Gordon Highway, though not Fort Gordon, the task force said.

The mayor's office has asked for the group to return in January.

As of January 14, Commissioners say they support the work of the task force but say more work is needed. "I think discussions need to be deeper I'm for what ever comes out of it," said Mayor Pro-Tem Williams. Commissioners are saying there are bigger issues facing the city right now.

<https://www.augustachronicle.com/story/news/local/2020/12/03/augusta-task-force-oks-removing-confederate-monuments/3809401001/>

<https://www.wjbf.com/csra-news/future-of-confederte-mouments-in-commissions-court/>

### **Conyers, Georgia – removed monument**

The Rockdale County Confederate monument was removed.

### **Decatur, Georgia – removed monument**

A statue of Thomas Jefferson was removed to protect it from damage.



### **Decatur, Georgia – removed monument**

The Georgia Superior Court of Justice ordered the removal of the DeKalb County Confederate monument. They claimed it was a public nuisance.

### **Macon, Georgia – removed monument**

The Confederate Soldier monument is to be moved to Whittle Park. The City is unsure how to pay for the substantial cost of removal.

### **McDonough, Georgia – removed monument**

The Henry County Confederate monument was removed.

### **Valdosta, Georgia – 2018-Mar. 2021 – reviewing street name**

In March 2021, D.J. Davis and the Action Sociology Anthropology Club of Valdosta State University are going door-to-door on Forrest Street to change its name. The goal is to gather at least 187 signatures of parcel owners on Forrest Street and Forrest Street Extension, a city mandate of 60% of owners, by May 2 to change the street name.

Davis said the group wants to change Forrest Street to Barack Obama Boulevard.

Forrest Street and its extension are named after Nathan Bedford Forrest, a general in the Confederate Army, slave trader, slave owner and leader in the Klu Klux Klan. Some local historians have claimed Forrest is named for a Black businessman.

In 2018, the Rev. Floyd Rose led the effort to change the name of Forrest Street, but to no avail, saying the city changed the rules after a petition was signed and submitted. “They said that we didn’t have enough names,” he said. “Let me be clear about something: We had all of the signatures, all of the names of the people we were asked to bring (to Valdosta City Council) based on the (new ordinance).”

The new ordinance, Code of Ordinance Chapter 86, Article III, Sec. 86-81, adopted Feb. 21, 2019, states “The mayor and council shall consider the changing of the name of a municipally owned public street or alley within the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta only upon receipt of an applicant’s petition signed by 60% of the owners or verifiable residents of all parcels of land abutting the public street or alley for which a name change is being requested.” Only one applicable signature from a “verifiable resident” can be applied per parcel.

Past reporting on the matter stated Rose’s petition carried multiple signatures from a single apartment complex rather than one from each parcel on the street. This marked it void.

Davis said the current effort is making sure to follow the ordinance, making sure the “verifiable resident” is one who has a written lease agreement from the parcel owner, as per the ordinance.

Still, the ordinance forces another issue on the group: a reimbursement fee. This fee, as required by the ordinance, must be paid upon submission. It includes the actual costs of renaming the

street which can contain but isn't limited to costs for advertising, new signs and/or installation of new signs.

Davis said the group is raising money, \$4,000-\$5,000, through fundraisers in the coming weeks. Davis said there's no evidence anyone has paid for a Valdosta street name change in the past. "This is part of the new (ordinance) that was changed," he said. "It was never that a private citizen had to pay for the engineering of a street. That's in our laws to be taken care of by city government."

The City of Valdosta's population is 53% Black/African American and 41% white, according to Tom Hochschild, VSU professor of sociology and African American studies. With that demographic, he asked why does the city still have a Confederate soldier's statue in the town square and 12 streets named after slave owners and KKK members.

[https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/new-forrest-street-name-change-effort-launched/article\\_6cecd592-832d-11eb-9bb9-3776a4542afa.html](https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/new-forrest-street-name-change-effort-launched/article_6cecd592-832d-11eb-9bb9-3776a4542afa.html)

### **State of Georgia – 2017-Feb. 2021 – reviewing bridge name**

After years of discussion and debate, one of Savannah's most recognizable landmarks, the Talmadge Memorial Bridge, could finally be getting a new name. A resolution introduced in the Georgia General Assembly on the week of February 15 proposes dedicating the bridge in the memory of late U.S. Rep. John Lewis as the John Lewis Freedom Bridge.

State Sen. Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), who is sponsoring the resolution, said it's time for the renaming. Under state law, only the Georgia Department of Transportation can institute a name change for the bridge. However, a resolution would make the DOT aware of the Legislature's opinion and desire to have the change taken into consideration.

Jackson is currently seeking a committee hearing for the resolution. From there it would move to the Rules Committee before going to the Senate floor for discussion. With 22 legislative days remaining in the 40-day session, there is enough time to get the measure through, Jackson said.

Renaming the bridge would also address a long-standing desire by local officials to disassociate Savannah from former Georgia Gov. Eugene Talmadge. Talmadge was a segregationist with white supremacist views. He served three terms as governor from 1933 to 1937 and 1941 to 1943. Elected to another term in 1946, he died before his inauguration.

The Savannah City Council passed a resolution in 2017 to rename the span the Savannah Bridge. The resolution states that, "residents of Savannah and historians from across the region have made compelling cases that the bridge's namesake, former Gov. Eugene Talmadge, is not a reflection of modern Georgia, and has no strong connection with the City of Savannah."

Savannah Mayor Van Johnson, who was an alderman at the time, is encouraged by Jackson's push for a new name but would prefer the Georgia Senate consider additional new namesakes.

The city doesn't have the authority to overrule the Legislature and rename the bridge and the discussion surrounding the renaming has been ongoing for decades.

Before the second Talmadge Bridge was completed in 1991, there was a push to rename the bridge in honor of late banker and philanthropist Mills B. Lane Jr. The effort failed due to opposition in the Georgia House. The Lane family later asked their name be withdrawn from consideration.

State lawmakers made the push again in 2018, claiming that the bridge had never been officially named when it replaced the original Talmadge bridge in 1991. A bill was introduced to rename the bridge for Girl Scouts founder and Savannah native Juliette Gordon Low, but the efforts failed again.

The renaming efforts haven't been limited to lawmakers. In 2016, artist Lisa Watson established the Span the Gap project, which aimed to bring awareness to the bridge being named for a segregationist.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/2021/02/19/senator-lester-jackson-proposes-renaming-talmadge-bridge-late-congressman-john-lewis/4505532001/>

## Idaho

### **State of Idaho – Jan.-Feb. 2021- reviewing law to restrict renamings and monument removals**

No Idaho city, school district or other governmental entity could rename a school or street now named for a historical figure or event, or move a statue or memorial, without both houses of the Idaho Legislature passing a concurrent resolution authorizing the move, under new legislation introduced on January 29. Freshman Rep. Doug Okuniewicz, R-Hayden, proposed the bill, which he said he modeled after a 20-year-old South Carolina law protecting “monuments and memorials.”

Okuniewicz told the House State Affairs Committee that the bill “intends to preserve existing monuments and memorials that have been dedicated to important events in U.S. history,” and said he’s concerned about reports in other states that cities have removed statues of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. “If there’s a decent reason for it, it can be done,” he said. “This is a relatively simple bill designed to protect historical artifacts that are in place today. ... It does put in place the ability for the Legislature to make sure ... it’s not a rash move.”

He added, “The basic concept behind this is that erasing history doesn’t seem to be the right thing. There are wars associated with many historical figures and events, but we should learn about them ... not hide them.”

The motion carried on a voice vote; that allows the proposal to get a bill number and clears the way for a committee hearing on it, if the committee chair chooses to schedule one.

On February 3, on a party-line vote, an Idaho House committee approved legislation to require the state Legislature to sign off before any Idaho city, school district or other governmental entity could rename a school, street or park now named for a historical figure or event, sending the measure to the full House.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho policy strategist Lauren Bramwell told the committee, "This legislation strips power from local governments and communities who are directly affected by the monument or marker."

On February 9, House members in a 51-19 vote approved a measure that would require individuals or local jurisdictions to seek approval from the Legislature before removing a monument or renaming anything that uses the name of a historical figure.

"I've been asked why the Legislature should insert itself into the decision-making process that would otherwise be handled by local officials," Okuniewicz told the House, "and my answer to that is simple: The decision whether or not to permanently remove a historically important monument or memorial is important to everyone in our state, not just the people who happen to live next to it."

Rep. James Ruchti, D-Pocatello, said. "It's a community decision to change these names. It's a community that wrestles with these concepts, these ideas. It's a community that has these discussions."

Rep. Julianne Young, R-Blackfoot, criticized racial justice protesters seek "to erase anything that is less than perfect." "Nobody wants to see derogatory terms used or see inappropriate behavior condoned," Young said. "That is not the problem this bill seeks to address."

The bill will now need approval from the Senate.

Hours after the bill was approved in the House, an Idaho attorney general's opinion found the bill "unenforceable" and likely unconstitutional. Legal opinion from the Idaho Attorney General's office found the bill likely violates the Idaho Constitution's prohibition on local or special laws. "Under existing precedent, a court could conclude that each concurrent resolution issued under HB 90 is an unconstitutional, prohibited local law," wrote Deputy Attorney General Brian Kane. He also found the law "likely overstates the legal authority of concurrent resolutions" and raises 1st Amendment concerns.

[https://www.idahopress.com/eyeonboise/new-monument-protection-bill-would-require-legislative-action-to-change-school-or-street-name-or/article\\_20ad08e9-294f-5eb8-a2aa-6d97295c4702.html](https://www.idahopress.com/eyeonboise/new-monument-protection-bill-would-require-legislative-action-to-change-school-or-street-name-or/article_20ad08e9-294f-5eb8-a2aa-6d97295c4702.html)

[https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/monument-protection-bill-clears-house-panel-on-party-line-vote/article\\_681e8d56-b676-578d-91d3-2b202a360497.html](https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/monument-protection-bill-clears-house-panel-on-party-line-vote/article_681e8d56-b676-578d-91d3-2b202a360497.html)

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article249123890.html>

[https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/idaho-house-backs-monument-protection-bill/article\\_a8d2f168-a286-58e7-a47c-91894555e901.html](https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/idaho-house-backs-monument-protection-bill/article_a8d2f168-a286-58e7-a47c-91894555e901.html)

## Illinois

### **Chicago, Illinois – 2017, July 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed park, removed statue, reviewing monuments**

- For legislation text from July 22, 2020 Park District Board meeting, see: <https://chicagoparkdistrict.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=798296&GUID=E1DD79FB-F0D5-4E65-9B23-AD979075058E&Options=&Search=>
- See Chicago Monuments Project website established on February 17, 2021: <https://chicagomonuments.org/>
- For information about public engagement, see <https://chicagomonuments.org/participate>

Citing Stephen Douglas' racist past, the Chicago Park District Board voted unanimously to move forward on renaming Douglas Park for Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The long-awaited renaming could signal a tide of change as officials assess other statues, parks and street names honoring racists and controversial figures in the city.

Just days after protesters tried to pull down the Christopher Columbus statue in Grant Park, the Park District called an emergency meeting to consider renaming Douglas Park. Mayor Lori Lightfoot said the park's renaming is part of a "larger initiative" her office will be announcing soon "to address our racial history and past, to take account and inventory of what exists in the city and sister agencies to memorialize our past but also account for what's missing."

The vote is historic because no park in the city named for a historical figure has ever had its current name stripped by the board. The district's current process was instead designed for communities to name an unnamed park. The board will move to rename Douglas Park in a two-step process that will first establish a precedent for stripping the name of a historical figure from a park based on community input. Simultaneously, the district will initiate a second 45-day process to evaluate the new proposed name.

On July 24, two statues of Christopher Columbus were temporarily removed. The office of Mayor Lightfoot said in a statement that the Columbus statues - in Grant Park and Arrigo Park - had been "temporarily removed... until further notice" on her orders. This action "comes in response to demonstrations that became unsafe for both protesters and police as well as efforts by individuals to independently pull the Grant Park statue down in an extremely dangerous manner," the mayor's office said.

The third statue of Columbus was removed at the end of July. Lightfoot reiterated that the city would soon announce "a formal process to assess the monuments, memorials, and murals across Chicago's communities, and develop a framework for a public dialogue to determine how we elevate our city's history and diversity."

In mid August, the Chicago Park District voted to begin the process of updating its park naming procedures. Under the new rules, renaming would be split into two parts, with a name removal period and then a separate period to choose a new name. The public will be able to weigh in on the proposed amendment over a 45-day period, and then the board will give final approval.

The Park District Board voted on September 9 to officially remove the name "Douglas Park". Commissioners opened a public comment period to solicit ideas for renaming the park. A

campaign to rename the park after Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna Murray-Douglass has been in the works for years.

On November 18, the Chicago Park District voted to officially change the name of the West Side park to honor the renowned abolitionists Anna and Frederick Douglass. The effort, started in 2017, expanded this year to name the park not only after Frederick Douglass but also his wife, Anna Murray Douglass, who organizers said “was an abolitionist in her own right.”

On February 17, Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s administration released a list of 41 public statues and other commemorative markers identified for further review as part of “a racial healing and historical reckoning project” started last summer. These include statues of Presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and William McKinley, as well as the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus.

The city launched a website on February 17 detailing the controversial monuments flagged by the mayor’s commission on monuments. Other statues on the list included a monument to President Ulysses S. Grant, a Benjamin Franklin statue, a police memorial tied to the Haymarket Riot and a statue of Leif Ericson at Humboldt Park.

Not all 41 monuments will be taken down, city officials said, but they merit further discussion. It remains unclear whether the city will bring back the Columbus statues, as Lightfoot suggested.

City officials said the Chicago Monuments Project seeks ideas from individual artists and community groups “for the development of new monuments that rethink the place, purpose and permanence of monuments in our public spaces.” The deadline is April 1.

Residents can submit feedback to the city or attend virtual events through the site. The city is also accepting proposals from community partners for \$1,500 stipends to host public conversations about the city’s monuments.

In Chicago, women and minorities aren’t altogether absent from the city’s public art, but they are underrepresented.

The mission of the Chicago Monuments Project is to grapple with the often unacknowledged – or forgotten – history associated with the City’s various municipal art collections and provides a vehicle to address the hard truths of Chicago’s racial history, confront the ways in which that history has and has not been memorialized, and develop a framework for marking public space that elevates new ways to memorialize Chicago’s history.

The project has four main objectives, including:

- Cataloguing monuments and public art on City or Park District property;
- Appointing an advisory committee to determine which pieces warrant attention or action;
- Making recommendations for new monuments or public art that could be commissioned;
- Creating a platform for the public to engage in a civic dialogue about Chicago’s history.

Out of a collection of over 500 monumental sculptures and commemorative plaques and artworks on the public way and in Chicago parks, several have been identified for a public discussion because of the following issues:

- Promoting narratives of white supremacy
- Presenting inaccurate and/or demeaning characterizations of American Indians

- Memorializing individuals with connections to racist acts, slavery, and genocide
- Presenting selective, over-simplified, one-sided views of history
- Not sufficiently including other stories, in particular those of women, people of color, and themes of labor, migration, and community building
- Creating tension between people who see value in these artworks and those who do not

The committee understands that these artworks are not a comprehensive inventory of all of the monuments and other public symbols that need attention, but is the start to a long overdue and necessary conversation.

Almost all the 41 objects selected for public discussion were created between 1893, when Chicago held the World's Columbian Exposition, and the late 1930s, according to the city. "Funded almost entirely by the wealthy, many of Chicago's monuments were based on mythologies of the City's founding that posed white explorers, missionaries, armed forces, and settlers against the indigenous tribes and nations of the region. These patrons were also responsible for idealized representations of American statesmen and military heroes."

On March 23, downtown Ald. Brendan Reilly said the City Council — not Mayor Lori Lightfoot or her hand-picked advisory committee — should have the final say on whether to retain or replace Chicago statues, including those of four U.S. presidents. Concerned about the secretive process that culminated in the decision to place 41 statues under the microscope, he plans to introduce an ordinance at the City Council meeting on March 24 that opens a new front in the ongoing war over aldermanic prerogative.

That proposal states: "Any decommissioning or other removal of a statue, monument, plaque or similar carved or cast artwork shall be subject to approval by the City Council." The new requirement would not apply to temporary public art for special events. Nor would it apply to the temporary removal of artwork "for the purposes of maintenance or restoration for a period not to exceed 60 days."

Reilly said the ordinance "simply codifies" what most of his colleagues expect: That any decision to remove statues or monuments from public spaces in Chicago "should be done in consultation with and approval by" the co-equal, legislative branch of city government.

Noting that Cultural Affairs and Special Events Commissioner Mark Kelly now has "unilateral authority to approve, relocate or remove statues and monuments," Reilly argued that no appointed official "should have such broad authority on a matter that could have a profound impact on communities across Chicago."

The Better Government Association has raised "concerns related to the transparency of the decision-making process by Lightfoot's Chicago Monuments Project Advisory Committee that preceded placing 41 statues under further review.

In a statement issued in response to Reilly's ordinance, the mayor's office said, "This is not simply a binary choice between keeping or removing any particular statue on whoever's authority. The Chicago Monuments Project is an opportunity to brainstorm ways to add context, to add voices and to create new work together."

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2020/07/22/douglas-park-will-almost-certainly-be-renamed-for-frederick-douglass-we-have-heard-you/>



<https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2020/7/22/21334258/douglas-park-rename-frederick-douglass-chicago-park-district-lawndale>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53530752>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/chicago-mayor-orders-dismounting-christopher-columbus-statues/story?id=71962894>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-chicago-lightfoot-columbus-20200731-kxshvbqjv5elfemlgk4tq7eh2m-story.html>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-chicago-park-district-renaming-procedure-20200817-pkgrlwt3ova35lawedpge3vp2u-story.html>

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/metro-state/2020/9/10/21430540/douglas-park-rename-signs-removed-north-lawndale-park-stephen-frederick-anna-murray-douglass>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-douglass-park-chicago-renaming-20201118-lrt2n6h5i5gi7mmc7e4bd42g4a-story.html>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-chicago-monuments-lightfoot-commission-20210217-jkgsfclt6ne5rh6674pfbkb4ua-story.html>

<https://chicagomonuments.org/about>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/02/17/chicago-flags-monuments-review-including-lincoln-washington/6788559002/>

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2021/3/23/22347005/statues-monuments-columbus-lincoln-slavery-black-lives-matter-protests-city-council-ordinance>

### **University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois – July 2020 – removed statues**

The University of Chicago has removed two campus tributes to Stephen Douglas. It has taken down a bronze plaque of Douglas, and a stone from the Old University of Chicago. Both are being moved to the university library's Special Collections Research Center.

The plaque features a bas relief of Douglas and an inscription noting that Douglas "generously contributed to the founding of the first university in Chicago". The stone, a donation from the "Old University of Chicago," had been part of Douglas Hall, erected in memory of Douglas, at the "Old University."

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/metro-state/2020/7/7/21316257/university-chicago-stephen-douglas-plaque-stone-slavery>

### **Edwardsville, Illinois – June-Oct. 2020 – renamed plaza, reviewing statue**

After much public outcry against a statue and plaza honoring Edwardsville's namesake, Ninian Edwards, the city council announced it would rename the Ninian Edwards Plaza, during the Administration and Community Services Committee meeting on October 15.

However, no official plans have been decided regarding the statue's placement. Groups calling for its removal cite many parts of Edwards' history as one of Illinois' first governors as reasons behind these demands. Edwards vetoed a law that would have completely abolished slavery in Illinois, and recommended the eradication of Indigenous people.

The council stated they would try to rename the plaza as quickly as possible and would make preparations to create an educational lithograph for the statue.

City Clerk read a total of 11 letters, which were sent to the council to be read during the meeting. All of the letters asked for the city council to either relocate, remove or at least try to better contextualize the statue of Edwards.

On November 18, City Council voted unanimously to rename a small park in the downtown area as City Plaza. The area at the intersection of St. Louis and Vandalia streets had been designated in 2008 as Ninian Edwards Plaza, after this city's namesake.

[https://www.alestlelive.com/news/metro\\_east/article\\_98f70236-1283-11eb-a074-83ad283e8591.html](https://www.alestlelive.com/news/metro_east/article_98f70236-1283-11eb-a074-83ad283e8591.html)

[https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/illinois/edwardsville-council-renames-ninian-edwards-plaza-now-city-plaza/article\\_c57c7444-8977-5eb9-b912-b7e40e7316d8.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/illinois/edwardsville-council-renames-ninian-edwards-plaza-now-city-plaza/article_c57c7444-8977-5eb9-b912-b7e40e7316d8.html)

### **Peoria, Illinois – Sept. 2020 – removed monument**

The Peoria Park District Board of Trustees voted 4-2 on September 23 to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus from Laura Bradley Park to a park district storage facility. They also voted to convert the area to greenspace. Trustees Joseph Cassidy and Nancy Snowden voted no, primarily citing financial concerns.

At the public's urging, the park's planning committee compiled a list of options for consideration by the board. That list ranged from doing nothing to replacing the statue with an installation by a local artist.

Board president Robert Johnson said the recommendations came after months of conversations. "It's been a long process. We didn't just take this lightly," said Johnson. "We had the community come in, we had several meetings. I wanted to be very transparent about this process. The board felt that it was in the best interest of the park district and our community to take it down peacefully. And if people from the community want to come in and do something with that green space...we can have conversations again," he said.

Trustee Jacqueline Perry said doing nothing would not have reflected the public's demonstrated desire to address the issue.

<https://www.peoriapublicradio.org/post/columbus-statue-will-be-removed-bradley-park#stream/0>

### **Springfield, Illinois – Aug.-Nov. 2020 – renamed park**

As in Chicago, Springfield's Douglas Park, named for the U.S. senator who famously debated Abraham Lincoln, could be renamed for Frederick Douglass, an African-American orator, author and abolitionist.

Springfield Park Board Trustee Lisa Badger said she is proposing the name change to the board after hearing from individuals and groups who back the idea. Badger said she anticipates community members who back the name change will present their views to a park board committee meeting – involving all seven trustees – a presentation favoring the name change of the park. Badger also said she hopes to have the board act on the proposal in September.

On September 16, the Springfield Park Board voted 7-0 to change the name of Douglas Park. The park board did not immediately vote on renaming the park, but some of the names being considered are those of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and Otis B. Duncan, a Black World War I veteran from Springfield. Park board President Leslie Sgro said it would take suggestions of names for the park. Sgro anticipated a vote on the matter in either October or November.

The Springfield Park District board voted 6-1 on November 18 to rename a 26-acre north side park after Otis B. Duncan, the highest-ranking Black officer to serve in the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I. The park district took suggestions for names on its website.

The lone “no” vote came from Lisa Badger, who supported changing the name of the park. Badger said that groundswell came members of the community. “The idea they brought to me was to change it from Douglas Park to Frederick Douglass Park, so that is how I proceeded,” Badger said.

<https://www.sj-r.com/news/20200807/proposal-would-rename-springfield-park-for-frederick-douglass-not-stephen-douglas>

<https://www.sj-r.com/news/20200917/park-board-unanimously-votes-to-change-name-of-douglas-park>

<https://www.sj-r.com/news/20201118/springfield-park-renamed-for-world-war-i-hero-otis-duncan>

### **Urbana, Illinois – July 2020 – renamed street**

The Urbana City Council voted 6-0 on July 27, 2020 to rename a street with a controversial name. The street, "Plantation Point," will change to "River Birch Lane" after several residents wrote to the city to change it. Angie Dimit, who lives on the street, said the word "plantation" has a negative connotation. Dimit sent out a survey to all 13 residents on the street, and of the 11 that go back to her, 6 said they agree with changing it.

<https://foxillinois.com/news/local/urbana-city-council-passes-ordinance-to-rename-street>

### **State of Illinois – Sep. 2020-Apr. 2021 – removed monuments, reviewing monuments**

On April 14, State House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch announced he’s putting together the Statue and Monument Review Task Force to “ensure Illinois’ public art is historically accurate and reflects the diversity of the state.”

The bipartisan panel will hold public hearings and hear from historians, advocates, organizations and members of the public before recommending which statues should be removed and what potential new statues should be added.

All monuments and statues on state property will be under review, a Welch spokeswoman said. She said they are compiling a list of the sculptures.

State Rep. Mary Flowers who will lead the task force, said its purpose is “really about education,” namely learning from the past and moving forward, something the South Side Democrat hoped would help the state and its residents “be better because of it.”

The 11-person committee will include seven Democrats and four Republicans. It will be chaired by Rep. Mary Flowers, D-Chicago, who said in a press release that the committee's intent will not be to erase or eliminate history, but to ensure that any art on state grounds is reflective of the state's diverse nature.

"The goal of this task force is to ensure that our artwork reflects an accurate retelling of our history and the contributions made by all people," Flowers said. "Our work in this task force will be the start of a long overdue discussion about the values reflected in our public art and the message of diversity and inclusivity that we are sending to communities of color. "Public hearings are being planned where members of the public can listen to points of view from historians, advocates and other organizations, in order to aid the task force in their recommendations. Those recommendations could include removal of certain statues and building new statues that showcase a more complex view of history.

Stephen Douglas and another 19th Century slave owner have already been given the boot from their perches overlooking the Illinois State Capitol. Following the removal of the Douglas statue, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol — which has control over statues on Capitol grounds — began a study of artwork through an update to its historic structures report.

The study differs from what the newly formed task force is being asked to do in that it only reviews items inside and on the grounds of the Capitol. Additionally, the study is meant to serve as a guide for the office board in the event that it reviews artwork in the future. Capitol architect Andrea Aggert said the study isn't expected to be done for several months.

Last July, Democratic state Representatives Kam Buckner, Curtis J. Tarver II and Lamont J. Robinson Jr. sent a letter to Gov. J.B. Pritzker, calling on him to remove a nine-foot-tall bronze statue of Stephen Douglas from atop his tomb on Chicago's South Side.

The statue at his tomb just east of South 35th Street and Cottage Grove still stands, but another statue of Douglas was removed from the lawn of the Illinois Capitol in September. Also put into storage at the time was one of Pierre Menard — a 19th Century state official who also owned enslaved people.

"The way we present our history matters, and when our public art doesn't represent positive history that we can all celebrate, it sends a particularly harmful message to people of color that these beliefs are shared by their own government," Welch said. "By reimagining our publicly displayed art, Illinois has the opportunity to be on the right side of history and show, through action that our state is inclusive to all."

On April 21, a University of Illinois professor told lawmakers considering whether to remove or change statues and other ceremonial landmarks on state property that it's perfectly appropriate for elected officials to alter the way the past is interpreted. "History is not the same as the past," David Hays, university professor of landscape architecture, said Wednesday. "How we understand the past changes over time. History is not the same as the past. History is a matter of interpretation."

He and other speakers at the first meeting of the Illinois House's Statue and Monument Review Task Force urged lawmakers to do in-depth studies, and consider soliciting opinions from the general public, before eliminating, altering or moving statues and other historical representations that may be viewed as racist or otherwise upsetting by today's standards.

The task force eventually will submit a report to the House but hasn't decided yet on a timeline or future meetings.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/4/14/22384271/task-force-statues-illinois-welch-flowers-diversity-accuracy-history-douglas-menard>

<https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/state/2021/04/14/illinois-state-property-statue-review-racism/7224856002/>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-illinois-public-monument-scrutiny-20210416-go6lqnwc6bcvhcwv5fmol2s4ou-story.html>

<https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/2021/04/22/illinois-house-task-force-begins-work-review-controversial-statues/7315936002/>

## Indiana

### **Bloomington, Indiana – Apr. 2021 – renamed street**

In coordination with Indiana University, the City of Bloomington has begun the process of renaming Jordan Avenue. It invites residents to propose alternative street names using an online form.

Mayor John Hamilton has convened a task force to review proposals and select new name options for the road south of 17th Street and other options for the extension north of 17th.

The Renaming Task Force comprises the following city residents and IU faculty and administrators:

- Cedric Harris, Director of Bias Response, Division of Student Affairs, IU
- Tim Mayer, former City Council member and current South Jordan Avenue resident
- Elizabeth Mitchell, journalist, filmmaker, and historian of Bloomington's African-American community, 42-year city resident, and community volunteer (co-chair)
- Tom Morrison, Vice President, Capital Planning and Facilities, IU
- Glenda Murray, Monroe County Historian, community volunteer, and retired IU staff
- Alex Tanford, Professor Emeritus of Law, Maurer School of Law, IU (co-chair)
- James Wimbush, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Multicultural Affairs, IU

The university has the authority to rename the Jordan Avenue Extension north of 17th Street, and the City has the authority to rename the segment south of 17th. The two entities are coordinating through the City's task force to rename both segments.

IU president from 1885 to 1891 and professor of zoology from 1875 to 1885, David Starr Jordan was at the forefront of the American eugenics movement and used its theories to promote forced sterilization legislation, enacted in more than 30 states including Indiana during the twentieth century.

"Together with IU, the City is committed to promoting inclusion and equity in our community, and can not continue to honor a historical figure who so clearly opposed those values," said Mayor Hamilton. "We recognize that this change may be a temporary inconvenience, but the action is necessary to stand clearly together in denouncing racial discrimination and its legacies, and ensuring everyone feels welcome on our streets."

The Bloomington Municipal Code (20.06.020(c)(1)(R)) provides for the City to rename streets through the Bloomington Plan Commission, which will hear names proposed by the renaming committee at a public hearing. Notice of the proposed names will be sent at least 30 days before the hearing to all affected property owners and other residents. For the change to be adopted, the Plan Commission will adopt a resolution establishing the new names, which will go into effect no sooner than 90 days after the vote.

Upon approval of new names, the City will work to mitigate the impacts of the transition on property owners and others by coordinating with public entities, including the U.S. Postal Service, emergency service providers, and others.

<http://www.wbiw.com/2021/04/22/bloomington-mayor-convenes-task-force-to-rename-jordan-avenue-invites-street-name-proposals/>

### **Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana – June 2020 – renamed building, reviewing other names**

In the wake of its decision to rename an on-campus recreational facility that once honored a segregationist for Bill Garrett, its first Black basketball player, IU plans an in-depth review of all named buildings and structures across its nine campuses.

The university's naming committee review all buildings on the nine IU campuses and remove names of anyone whose statements and writings are judged unworthy of the recognition. There are hundreds of names on structures at IU's campuses and evaluating them will be a slow and deliberate process.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/sports/college/indiana/2020/06/18/iu-review-all-named-buildings-its-campuses-starting-jordan-hall/3209628001/>

<https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/indiana/iu-to-review-names-of-buildings-structures-at-all-campuses/417-f8d46819-eb13-4b4e-9068-1c3eebb1b164>

<https://fox59.com/news/iu-to-review-names-of-buildings-structures-at-all-campuses/>

### **Indianapolis, Indiana – removed monument**

The Confederate Soldier and Sailors monument was removed. The resolution to move the monument was passed by the Parks Board in 2017, but was not funded at the time.

### **State of Indiana – Feb. 2021 – law prohibiting renamings**

A proposal to ban Indianapolis and more than 100 other Indiana cities from ever changing their names has been approved by the state Senate.

Republican Sen. Jack Sandlin of Indianapolis said he sponsored the bill to prevent any movement toward renaming Indianapolis because it includes the word Indian following Native American protests that have led to the renaming of professional sports teams.

Senators voted 36-11 largely along party lines on February 2 to advance the proposal to the House for consideration. The bill would prohibit the four cities named in the state Constitution — Indianapolis, Clarksville, Vincennes and Evansville — and some 140 cities referenced in state laws from name changes.

The bill comes even though no efforts have emerged seeking to change the name of Indiana or Indianapolis.

Democratic Sen. Greg Taylor of Indianapolis opposed the bill, saying he thought it was a waste of the Legislature's time by prohibiting something that "never, ever would have happened."

<https://fox59.com/news/indiana-senate-backs-bill-to-ban-renaming-of-indianapolis/>

## **Iowa**

### **Linn County, Iowa – Oct. 2020 – renamed streets and park**

The Linn County Board of Supervisors has set the date and time for a public hearing discussing road-name changes in the county. During their formal session on October 28, the supervisors approved the public hearing to rename roads that use the word "squaw" in the name. The proposed name changes come after the Linn County Conservation Board retired the name of Squaw Creek Park, renaming it Wanatee Park.

The roads and names being considered to replace them are: Squaw Creek Road to Wanatee Creek Road; Squaw Creek Circle to Wanatee Creek Circle; Squaw Lane to Wanatee Lane; Squaw Ridge Road between South 31st Street and Lakeside Road to South 22nd Street; Squaw Ridge Road between Lakeside Road and Cottage Grove Parkway to Lakeside Road; and Cottage Grove Parkway between Squaw Ridge Road and Highway 13 to Lakeside Road.

The park, roads and the creek will be named after Jean Adeline Morgan Wanatee, a lifelong women's rights activist who was born in the Meskwaki settlement near Tama in 1910.

The decisions come from the input of many groups, including the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi of Iowa (Meskwaki Nation), the state archaeologist, Iowa State Historical Society, Tallgrass Archaeology and local governments in Linn County.



## Kansas

### **Atchison, Kansas – July-Oct. 2020 – renamed street**

A symbol of division and segregation officially has been removed from Atchison when, on October 1, Division Street was renamed Unity Street. The change that was unanimously approved by the Atchison City Commission in late July.

The street was named to separate the city and the county, but that hasn't been the lasting legacy of the area. Over time, the street also became known as a racial dividing line of sorts.

The group Atchison United raised the \$1,250 needed for the city to rename the street.

[https://www.newspressnow.com/news/local\\_news/atchison-welcomes-unity-street/article\\_4b210984-041f-11eb-a98b-6f1cb1f4eea4.html](https://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/atchison-welcomes-unity-street/article_4b210984-041f-11eb-a98b-6f1cb1f4eea4.html)

## Kentucky

### **Frankfort, Kentucky – removed monument**

The State Commission voted to remove the statue of Jefferson Davis from the Capitol rotunda to Jefferson Davis State Historic Site.

### **Lexington, Kentucky – removed monument**

The Urban Arts Review Board recommended the removal of the John C. Breckinridge and the John Hunt Morgan memorials. This was approved by City Council and the statues were moved to storage and relocated to a cemetery.

### **Louisville, Kentucky – removed monument**

The John B. Castleman monument was removed and is to be placed in the cemetery where he is buried. The Confederate monument was relocated to a riverfront park in Brandenburg, Kentucky at a cost of \$600,000.

### **Murray, Kentucky – removed monument**

City Council voted unanimously to remove the monument of Robert E. Lee. The County attorney isn't sure if the County has the authority to move the statue which is on the National Register of Historic Places. They are conducting further research and asking for public feedback.

## Louisiana

### **Alexandria, Louisiana – removed monument**

The city voted to remove the Confederate monument. However, there is an ongoing court case to determine who owns the statue – the city, the parish or a private group.

### **East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana – June 2020-May 2021 – retained monuments, reviewing street names, created advisory committee**

- For Commission on Racial Equity and Inclusion report, see section on historic recognition on pages 58-65: <https://www.brla.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10788/2020-COREI-Report>

The commission Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome assembled in June 2020 to study racial inequities in East Baton Rouge Parish believes it's more important to educate the public on racism and racial disparities than it is to tear down monuments or change the names on streets and buildings honoring the Confederacy.

Many local Black leaders say that stance, included towards the end of the more than 60-page report Broome's administration released recently and updated on January 21, weakens what is otherwise a comprehensive and potent document chronicling the parish's issues around race and racial disparities.

Broome says she understands those criticisms. But she says her conversations with the city-parish's young Black entrepreneurs reveal that removing systemic economic barriers — which have prevented them from the upward mobility many white-owned businesses have benefited from for years — is higher on their list than tearing down symbolic expressions tied to racism.

Still, Broome said she supports the commission's recommendation to develop a blueprint for a better legislative process for changing street names, building names, monuments, and race-related holidays. The commission said the current process is too cumbersome — for example, it requires a petition from a majority of homeowners on a street to change its name. "I personally don't see it as a watering down of the issue," Broome said about the document and initial criticisms. "I see it as an introduction to next steps."

Nearly 200 people applied for a spot on the commission. Broome's appointments were a mix of people from different racial, gender, age and socioeconomic backgrounds. A subcommittee within the 24-member commission said in the report that, while there is wide recognition for the need for new names on some streets and buildings, the belief is not universal and would be difficult to carry out. They also noted how difficult the bureaucracy is to legislatively change the names of streets in the city-parish named after Confederate generals, like Lee Drive and Gen. Forrest Avenue.

"Through our research, we discovered the process is lengthy, complicated, and would most likely amass pushback," the report states. "As a group, we decided our goal is to change minds and hearts through education and empathy." "Although it is important to tear down physical expressions that create divisiveness, it is arguably more important to educate the masses about the 'how' and 'why' a physical expression is offensive," the report reads.

Council Pro-Tem LaMont Cole called it "counterproductive" to take such a softball approach to the issue. "Those that say keeping monuments and certain street names say it's part of history to use as a reminder," he said. "But it's a part of history that shouldn't have happened and we shouldn't have to think about it again." Councilwoman Chauna Banks noted that city leaders can't legislate hearts and feelings, but they can legislatively deal with street names.

The Metro Council can easily change the name of a city-parish-owned building through resolution. But street names are a different story. According to the city-parish's Unified Development Code, a person or group must first submit an application to the Planning Commission requesting the name of their street be changed. And that application must include a petition signed by a majority of the property owners along the entire length of the street saying they agree with the change. Then public notices to local agencies and advertising in the newspaper must occur detailing the request — followed by public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Metro Council. Also, the applicant is responsible for paying for the cost of replacing existing street signs if the request is approved.

Broome defended the commission's stance on monuments and racist symbols by saying the body isn't trying to side-step the issue. She said next steps involve developing an educational toolkit which tells the story on racial injustice in the city-parish and includes a guideline on how to address the issues around symbols and monuments on the legislative front. Also, she intends to broaden participation and the role of the commission going forward to work on the other crucial aspects of racial inequality which are included in the report.

As of February 4, new criticisms are emerging over the effort to consider changing Baton Rouge street names honoring Confederate generals, with the head of the local NAACP chapter calling the city-parish's take a "softball approach" to a significant problem.

Panel member Sarah Cortell Vandersypen, who wasn't part of the subcommittee that studied renaming streets and taking down monuments tied to the Confederacy, questions the report's final language. She served on the subcommittee for arts, culture and community non-profits in Broome's Commission on Racial Equity and Inclusion. Vandersypen also criticized the subcommittee tackling historic recognition and physical expressions for not seeking sufficient input from groups like Preserve Louisiana, and said it appears that addressing monuments and street names wasn't a priority for the mayor's office.

Leaders from other local organizations, like the NAACP, are expressing similar gripes, saying the commission should have gone further to address the issue if the goal is to, in fact, rid the community of such divisive symbols.

The commission's recommendation to address street names and monuments through education on racism and racial disparities, according to the report, was rooted in the pushback members said would arise to outright changes, given the governmental red tape associated with the process.

Vandersypen, who works in the non-profit arena, said appointments to the commission's various subcommittees appear to have been based on applicants' professional backgrounds and expertise. But when it came to the group that handled street names and monuments "No one had any particular expertise in this content area. That to me is what the problem is," she said.

With her subcommittee, Vandersypen said representatives from the Mayor's Office often chimed in on their discussions, like telling members they had to be "more specific" with certain recommendations and herding various outside community stakeholders to them for discussions around their specific topics. "The Mayor's Office had a hand in all of this," she said. "Those reports aren't necessarily independent of what the Mayor's Office wanted to push. To me, it seems odd because there was also not a lot of cross work between work groups. Everything was siloed."

According to the report, three of Broome's assistant chief administrative officers served as advisers to the commission, as well as the mayor's special assistant.

On April 28, the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council may create its own commission to change street names that honor Confederate soldiers and anyone else with historical ties to racism or other discriminatory actions. Like the one it's modeled after in New Orleans, the Baton Rouge commission would spend a year taking inventory of public streets to determine which should be changed and developing recommendations for renaming them.

The resolution Councilwoman Erika Green will ask the Metro Council to support comes two months after a report on racial inequities in the parish was released by the committee appointed last year by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

Green's resolution, set for public hearing and council consideration on April 28, would create an eight-member committee comprised of two members from the Metro Council, two from Broome's Commission on Racial Equity and Inclusion, the director of the city-parish Planning Commission and representatives from the local faith-based community and businesses and non-profit sectors.

No more than five public streets will be recommended. Green called that a "starting point." The advisory committee would be strictly volunteer, meet monthly and report to the Metro Council at least once every 90 days. Included on the list of streets that should be rechristened will be recommended replacement names and explanations for why those new titles would be a better fit.

The resolution also presents honorary designations as an option instead of actual name changes, given the associated costs and complex process involved in coming up with a new title. "Honorary designations won't change the street name itself," Green explained. "It's something we can do easily and it's modeled after what other cities have done." Honorary designation would essentially entail the city-parish installing special signage, though the actual addresses would remain the same.

According to city-parish officials, no honorary designations currently exist. New Orleans has some, but none are tied to removing names tied to the Confederacy. The honorary names in New Orleans were simply a means by which the City Council could honor people without having to jump through all the hoops it takes to formally change a street name.

On May 12, the East Baton Rouge Metro Council voted unanimously to create a new advisory committee, despite expressing some concerns. The committee will spend a year identifying streets tied to the Confederacy or other divisive figures and evaluating whether they should be renamed.

In the two weeks since it was first discussed, Green amended her resolution adding two additional members — one from a local neighborhood association and another with academic historical expertise.

The committee would also present quarterly reports to the council over the course of the year but ultimately, the council is not required to do anything with whatever recommendations the committee comes up with if they choose not to. Also, any changes the committee would suggest would still have to go through the red tape that currently exist to rename streets — which includes a round of public hearings before the Metro Council and Planning Commission, but only after buy-in has been solidified in a petition from a little more than half of the residents along a street.

[https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/article\\_bf759120-5ced-11eb-a515-bbedd6e58d9e.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_bf759120-5ced-11eb-a515-bbedd6e58d9e.html)

[https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/article\\_a9f07e6e-6643-11eb-8c12-c744ce7852b4.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_a9f07e6e-6643-11eb-8c12-c744ce7852b4.html)

[https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/article\\_10284a62-a1f5-11eb-8c43-4f515cbb2790.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_10284a62-a1f5-11eb-8c43-4f515cbb2790.html)

[https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/article\\_569ebdd6-b344-11eb-973f-db27f278508e.html](https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_569ebdd6-b344-11eb-973f-db27f278508e.html)

### **East Feliciana, Louisiana – retained monument**

Members of the East Feliciana Parish Police Jury voted 5-3 to keep the Confederate statue outside of the parish courthouse at a meeting Monday, July 6, 2020.

### **Lafayette, Louisiana – removed monument**

The mayor has asked for the lifting of a 1980 injunction that prohibits the removal of the Alfred Mouton statue.

### **New Orleans, Louisiana – June 2020-May 2021 – renamed streets, created advisory committee**

- Street Renaming Commission website: <https://www.nolaccsrc.org/>
- For public engagement, see: <https://nolaccsrc.org/publicengagement/>
- For Criteria for Renaming Policy, see: [https://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=42&clip\\_id=3677&meta\\_id=498531](https://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=42&clip_id=3677&meta_id=498531)
- For Criteria for Landmark Renaming Policy, see: [https://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=42&clip\\_id=3671&meta\\_id=496604](https://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=42&clip_id=3671&meta_id=496604)
- For Street Renaming Commission Final Report, see: <https://nolaccsrc.org/NOCCSRC-FinalReport.pdf>
- For final list of Commission-recommended name changes from Feb. 24, see: <https://council.nola.gov/getattachment/fdeb4890-d31b-4004-aa2d-898cf94c296c/file>

At the regular New Orleans City Council meeting on June 18, Council Vice President Helena Moreno introduced an ordinance co-authored by all seven Council members that would legally rename Jefferson Davis Parkway to Doctor Norman Francis Parkway. The instrument, entered for "first read", then became ready for passage within the next 60 days when the City Planning

Commission (CPC) returns its report on the street name change request sent by Council members Moreno and Williams the previous week.

Excerpt from Council meeting minutes:

*25k. CAL. NO. 33,004 - BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, WILLIAMS, GIARRUSSO, BANKS, GISLESON PALMER, BROSSETT AND NGUYEN*

*Brief: An Ordinance to change the name of the entirety of South Jefferson Davis Parkway to South Doctor Norman Francis Parkway; to change the name of the divided, four-lane section of North Jefferson Davis Parkway, extending from Canal Street to Lafitte Avenue, to North Doctor Norman Francis Parkway; to change the name of the undivided, two-lane portion of North Jefferson Davis Parkway, extending from Lafitte Avenue to Orleans Avenue, to Moss Street; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.*

The Council also passed Motion M-20-170, establishing the City Council Street Renaming Commission. The newly-formed advisory committee will initiate a public engagement process to consider renaming certain streets, parks and public places in New Orleans that honor white supremacists.

The Commission will consist of nine members with each Council member appointing one member who must have a formal or informal background of the history and geography of New Orleans. Mayor LaToya Cantrell and the City Planning Commission will appoint the remaining two members.

The Commission will serve for a full calendar year with the responsibility for making the following recommendations:

- A list of streets, parks, and places that should be renamed, accompanied by a detailed explanation.
- A proposed list of replacement names for each recommended street, park, or place, accompanied by a detailed explanation.
- A process to facilitate both educating residents and receiving public feedback on the proposed changes.

Once members are appointed, the Commission has no more than three months from its first meeting to provide an initial report with its recommendations and hold a public meeting on that report a month later. The final report incorporating public feedback will be submitted to the Council within six months, and serve as the basis for district Council members to begin the renaming process.

As of July 11, City officials identified more than 20 streets and city parks that could have their names changed as part of a broader effort to shed memorials to Confederates, white nationalists and other racist historical figures across New Orleans.

A city official familiar with the list said it is not meant to be exhaustive, but will instead be the jumping-off point for the city's nine-member renaming commission, set to meet for the first time July 16. The list uses information compiled by the Louisiana Division of City Archives & Special Collections at the New Orleans Public Library.

On August 11, the New Orleans City Planning Commission voted unanimously to support renaming Jefferson Davis Parkway for Dr. Norman Francis, the long-time former president of Xavier University. The CPC will deliver their recommendation to the City Council, which voted unanimously to pass the ordinance on August 20. However, it would likely not go into effect until next year. City planners recommended waiting until January 2021 due to the November 2020 election.

Researchers at the New Orleans Public Library have put together a list of 25 streets and three parks that could be renamed by a commission set to remove monikers honoring Confederate leaders and White supremacists. The report was presented to the council's Street Renaming Commission on August 19, and builds on prior, preliminary reports from researchers recommending names that should be changed. The commission is now charged with coming up with alternative names for those streets that fit the city's current values and are also acceptable to the residents who live near them. They could also make edits or additions to the list.

Commissioners will make those decisions based not only on an individual's support or association with the Confederacy or White supremacy but on whether other factors — including the positive contributions they made, late-life renunciations of their prior beliefs and what the honor is supposed to commemorate — should be considered. Those criteria also are designed to take into account what actions the names were commemorating and whether there would be more harm in leaving the names in place or removing them.

Notably, the list does not include Lee Circle, one of the most widely known roadways in the city honoring a Confederate and the former site of a statue of General Robert E. Lee, which topped the pedestal at its center until it was taken down in 2017. It turns out there's good reason for that omission: library staffers were unable to find any evidence that city officials ever formally approved a change from Tivoli Circle, its original name.

#### Details:

##### Establishment of Advisory Committee

- Established an advisory committee (City Council Street Renaming Commission)
- Consists of 9 members: one appointed by the Mayor; one appointed by the Executive Directory of the City Planning Commission Office; seven appointed by City Council with each Councillor appointing one.
- Each member will have a demonstratable record of scholarship (formal or informal) of the history and geography of New Orleans, especially in relation to traditionally underrepresented communities.
- All appointments shall be confirmed by Council motion.
- The Commission is established for one year.
- The Commission will elect a chair from among its members
- It will hold a meeting at least once a month
- It is authorized to establish subcommittees
- Special meetings may be held on call of the chair upon 24 hours notice to the members of the Commission and the public
- A copy of all meetings will be sent to Council



### Responsibility of Advisory Committee

The committee will be responsible for making recommendations regarding:

- The initial list of streets, parks, and places that should be renamed. The recommendations should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of why each street, park, or place was chosen.
- A proposed list of replacement names for each recommended street, park, or place. This should also be accompanied by a detailed explanation of why each proposed name represents a preferable replacement.
- A process to facilitate both educating residents on the above processes as well as receiving public feedback on the proposed changes.
- Any recommended changes to the current street renaming process.

### Reporting Structure

- An initial report with recommendations will be issued within three months of the committee's first meeting.
- The committee will hold a public hearing within a month of issuing the initial report
- It will provide a final report incorporating any necessary changes to Council within six months of the first meeting. Each councillor should use this report as the basis for beginning the street renaming process, as established by the City Planning Commission, as well as renaming parks and other places.

### Process

- City officials identified more than 20 streets and city parks that could have their names changed. The list was not meant to be exhaustive, but will instead be the starting point for the renaming commission.
- The commission will develop a website to gather feedback and to update the public on their research and progress along the way

### Committee Members

The following people were chosen as members of the committee at the end of June:

- Mark Raymond Jr., a Regional Transit Authority board member and president of the A.P. Tureaud Legacy Committee who started petition drives to rename Jefferson Davis Parkway for former Xavier President Norman Francis and Robert E. Lee Boulevard for Leah Chase. Separately from the commission process, the council has moved forward with plans to rename Jefferson Davis for Xavier.
- Richard Westmoreland, a senior vice president of Iberia Bank and a retired U.S. Marine who was a vocal proponent of removing statues of Davis, Lee, P.G.T. Beauregard and a monument to a white supremacist militia during the fight over those statues in 2015.
- Paul Sterbcow, an attorney managing partner at Lewis, Kullman, Sterbcow and Abramson.
- Karl Connor, an attorney and commissioner of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board.
- Gia Hamilton, executive director of the New Orleans African American Museum of Art, History and Culture.
- Kevin Jackson, an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Galethea Baham, who works at the Center for Educational Excellence in an Alternative Setting and is involved with the advocacy groups Justice and Beyond, A Community Voice, Voters Coalition and Voice of the Experienced.
- Kimberly Jones-Williams, an event planner who is a member of the Black Chamber of Commerce.
- The City Planning Commission will be represented by Bobbie Hill, a partner in charge of planning and engagement for Concordia LLC.

On November 24, a City Council commission made preliminary recommendations that offered up new names for almost three dozen streets and other locations associated with White supremacy. Lee Circle would become Leah Chase Circle, giving the late chef and civil rights activist the place of public honor where the Confederate general's statue once presided over New Orleans.

The recommendations, which also include changing the name of Robert E. Lee Boulevard to honor musician Allen Toussaint and renaming Tulane Avenue for Mardi Gras Indian chief Allison "Tootie" Montana, mark the end of the first phase of a lengthy official review of street and place names throughout the city.

The recommendations are the Street Renaming Commission's initial thoughts on the matter and can be changed before it issues its final report to the City Council. Council members then may make their own adjustments before formally changing any names.

Commissioners initially considered naming Lee Circle for Dorothy Mae Taylor, the City Council member who was instrumental in desegregating Mardi Gras parades. But that plan failed to get enough votes from the commission. A proposal for Jazz Circle or Music Circle also was rejected. The final vote for Leah Chase Circle was 7-1. Commissioner Kevin Jackson, who had supported honoring Taylor, cast the lone dissenting vote.

Robert E. Lee Boulevard was a more straightforward vote, with commissioners quickly rallying around Toussaint, the songwriter, musician, arranger and producer who commission Chairman Karl Connor said lived and worked on the street. The vote was 7-0, with Paul Sterbcow, the commissioner from the Robert E. Lee Boulevard area, abstaining. Sterbcow said he abstained because he had not yet had a chance to talk with neighborhood groups in the area about the change.

The recommended changes also include swapping the names of Confederate generals on a cluster of four streets in Lakeview – Walker, Mouton, Lane and Bragg – for the names of four enslaved people who escaped their captors: Jasper, Margaret Elizabeth, Georges and Celestine. Advisers on the project had recommended the names of those streets follow a theme because of their proximity to one another and the existing connections between their names. Other options put forward would have been to use the names of Black officers in the Union Army or musicians.

All told, the recommendations would change the names of 34 streets, Lee Circle and Palmer Park, which would become Judge John Minor Wisdom Park. The new names were selected from lists of suggestions put together by a panel of historical specialists from New Orleans' colleges and universities and from recommendations from the public. Others who would be honored under the recommendations include musicians Buddy Bolden and Professor Longhair

and a series of civil rights activists ranging from major figures to more obscure but important figures.

The initial report based on the November 24 recommendations is due to the City Council by the end of November, which will be followed by a public meeting in the next month. A final report will follow. Those recommendations will then go to the council. Council members will have the final say on whether and how various streets are renamed. But the actual renaming process will require multiple meetings of the City Council and the City Planning Commission.

The streets the commission put forward for renaming were narrowly focused on those honoring people with a connection to the Confederacy, so places that some activists have also called to be renamed were not formally addressed. That includes Jackson Square – a frequent target of the Take ‘Em Down NOLA movement – as well as Poydras Street and Milne Boulevard. Washington Artillery Park, which is dedicated to a military unit that fought for the Confederacy, was also left off the list because of questions about its ownership. Commissioners asked that the final report make note of those locations to give council members a chance to make changes.

As of January 27, the council’s Street Renaming Commission expects to finalize its report after a mid-March meeting at which it will take more public input on the almost 40 roadways and parks for which it has decided on alternative names.

Among the possible changes are the consideration of numerous alternatives to some of the names now being put forward for the streets. The current list largely focuses on figures in the civil rights movement or major figures in New Orleans culture.

The commission has also received recommendations to divide some of the more prominent streets, picking different names depending on the neighborhood - an idea with significant racial overtones. For example, the commission’s current recommendation is to rename Robert E. Lee Boulevard for musician Allen Toussaint, but an alternative would call it Toussaint in the Black neighborhoods of Gentilly and Hibernia or Lake Boulevard in the majority-white areas of Lakeview.

Similarly, multiple alternatives were put forward for Gov. Nicholls Street. The commission now recommends it be named for civil rights lawyer Lolis Elie Sr., but an alternative would revert the stretch of the street in the French Quarter to its original name: Hospital Street.

Guidelines set out by the city Planning Commission frown on splitting a street in such a fashion, although those could be overridden by the City Council.

About 90 comments were submitted to the commission, almost all opposing any renaming. Two of those comments, both opposed, were from people who listed addresses on streets that could be renamed during the current process. Many of the other comments decried the effort and sought to defend the Confederate officials who are currently honored.

On February 10, members of the Street Renaming Commission took more than 200 comments from the public on the streets they are wanting to change the names of. They said it is a challenge they are up for in making sure New Orleans’ history is properly told.

The Commission met to discuss the possible renaming's of about 17 streets. In total the Commission wants to change the names of about 36 streets and four parks and open spaces in New Orleans.

The Commission also brought up renaming Orleans Avenue after culinary icon Leah Chase, who many proposed should be honored at the current Lee Circle. However, the Committee now proposing the name Harmony Circle for that space. Leah Chase was dropped after it was decided to rename Orleans Avenue, where her restaurant Dooky Chase's is located, and will serve as a closer connection to the community she inhabited.

Washington Artillery Park, named for a Confederate artillery battalion will recast as Oscar Dunn Park. Dunn was the first Black lieutenant governor.

Throughout the process, a lot of back and forth from the public regarding the changes. But Connor said, "There will be people on the far left who will think we are not doing enough. And people on the far right who think we are destroying the world because we are doing too much. We are not erasing history. We are just making sure history is fully told."

On February 24, the Commission presented their final list of name changes. No name changes will happen immediately. The recommendations from the Commission will have to go before the city council. The council will have to have public input before anything would change. One of the biggest changes could come to Lee Circle. The commission voted to suggest the name Égalité Circle.

Council Member Jay Banks said the name suggestions are very intentional and the SRC worked hard to get public input.

On March 12, members of the New Orleans City Council said that they plan to take up the issue when they are once-again able to hold in person meetings, which will allow for more public participation than the virtual hearings now in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. The renaming issue expected to be brought to the floor in May or June.

Commission members were intentional about replacing controversial historical figures with unsung change makers and culture bearers who had tangible links to the neighborhoods the streets dissected.

However, they also faced the challenge of defining white supremacy and deciding who to replace. Using a set of criteria provided by the city council, the commission defined white supremacists as historical figures who either supported Confederate insurrection, participated in the 1874 white supremacist coup attempt, actively worked to deny citizens their 14th and 15th amendment rights, or participated in the 1924 effort to segregate New Orleans housing. "It was crafted in a very smart way," said Thomas Adams, one of the experts in New Orleans history brought in by the commission. "A term like 'white supremacy' is often a moving target. ... The ordinance was very clear about the kinds of people the city no longer wishes to honor."

As much as the commission considered the harm in keeping a person's name, it also weighed the harm in removing it.

Local activists last year renewed calls to remove the city's statue of Andrew Jackson and rename Jackson Square due to the former president owning slaves and enacting policies that pushed Native Americans off their lands. But for tourists, the square and statue sitting in the

shadow of St. Louis Cathedral is one of the French Quarter's premiere attractions. "There is a practical and brand value to Jackson Square being Jackson Square. It may be more harmful to the city than not to take him down," said Karl Connor, chairman of the commission.

Still, Connor believes the square must tell the full story of Jackson. And in its report, the commission recommended naming the side streets next to the square "Bulbancha Way." Bulbancha means "place of many tongues" in Choctaw and some say it was what local tribes called New Orleans when it was a pre-colonial trading port. "If we can create an environment that helps people think beyond the lore of some of these folks and creates a more harmonious community after that, then that's what we should be doing," Connor said.

Sue Mobley, a member of the New Orleans Planning Commission and co-chair of the commission's panel of experts, said she hopes the renaming process will help people learn more about the history of those who worked to lift up New Orleanians instead of those who tried to oppress them. "The part that is most interesting to me is the extent to which a discussion that begins with symbols can become a broader conversation around systems and ways how we might understand how we got here differently, and so might approach the future differently," Mobley said.

On May 27, virtual forums were hosted by City Councilwoman Kristin Gisleson Palmer on changing the names of Washington Artillery Park in the French Quarter and Behrman Park in Algiers. Her district includes both sites, and the forums served as a prelude for the first round of renamings that the council will consider. Palmer held the forums to gather public input on the proposals, separate from the formal City Council re-naming process that is now underway.

Under the commission's recommendations, Washington Artillery Park would be renamed for Oscar Dunn, who served as the country's first Black elected executive when he became Louisiana's lieutenant governor in 1868. He was active in efforts to promote equal rights during Reconstruction.

Washington Artillery Park honors an artillery regiment that was named after George Washington and that was formed before the Civil War and fought for the Confederacy. The unit was disbanded after Union forces captured New Orleans, but it reformed after the war. That history, rather than any controversy over the first president's ownership of slaves, earned the park a place on the New Orleans renaming list.

Behrman Park, which honors former Mayor Martin Behrman, would be renamed for Morris F.X. Jeff Sr., who fought to provide recreational opportunities for Black youth during segregation as head what was then known as the Colored Division of the New Orleans Recreation Department. Behrman, the city's longest-serving mayor, had been a strong proponent of state and local laws that disenfranchised Black residents.

The council's renaming process will start with four parks, a move requested by City Hall's short-staffed Planning Department. While there is a formal process for renaming streets, requiring reports from planners and hearings before the Planning Commission, council members may change the name of a park on their own.

Palmer said the hope is to have the park renaming ordinances drafted by the June 17 council meeting. Council members would not be allowed to vote on the measures until a subsequent meeting, though the exact process that they will follow at that point has not yet been laid out.

In general, the council is expected to defer to the district council members who represent each area of the city as they determine what to rename various streets and parks in their districts.

<https://council.nola.gov/news/june-2020/councilmember-moreno-to-introduce-ordinance-offici/>

[http://cityofno.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?clip\\_id=4cfa97b3-e5a3-45d6-9cac-01d5dbb5414e](http://cityofno.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?clip_id=4cfa97b3-e5a3-45d6-9cac-01d5dbb5414e)

<https://council.nola.gov/meetings/2020/20200618-regular-meeting/>

<https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/local/orleans/new-orleans-to-create-street-renaming-commission-change-names-honoring-white-supremacy/289-294209cd-2e9c-417a-92db-e7c80dd710e9>

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article\\_9083d934-bb31-11ea-bf10-9b7f4ab92f99.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_9083d934-bb31-11ea-bf10-9b7f4ab92f99.html)

[https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the\\_latest/article\\_866be9f4-c3ac-11ea-8c17-5700b8f03cda.html](https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the_latest/article_866be9f4-c3ac-11ea-8c17-5700b8f03cda.html)

[https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the\\_latest/article\\_d83c2756-dc22-11ea-baf0-b704155dbab3.html](https://www.nola.com/gambit/news/the_latest/article_d83c2756-dc22-11ea-baf0-b704155dbab3.html)

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article\\_2bf1ac4c-e26b-11ea-b9b7-47d7092466e4.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_2bf1ac4c-e26b-11ea-b9b7-47d7092466e4.html)

<https://www.katc.com/news/covering-louisiana/new-orleans-council-renames-jefferson-davis-parkway-for-former-xavier-university-president>

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article\\_8fe30ed4-2eca-11eb-8c2c-ff8cf4ca0498.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_8fe30ed4-2eca-11eb-8c2c-ff8cf4ca0498.html)

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article\\_fe92304c-6103-11eb-aca7-bfab986f2921.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_fe92304c-6103-11eb-aca7-bfab986f2921.html)

<https://www.wdsu.com/article/street-renaming-commission-meets-on-new-orleans-streets-and-parks/35475989#>

<https://www.radio.com/wwl/news/local/new-street-park-names-recommended-to-city-council>

<https://wgno.com/news/street-renaming-commission-presenting-its-final-report/>

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article\\_6529c90e-8392-11eb-a5b9-b34690c4873b.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_6529c90e-8392-11eb-a5b9-b34690c4873b.html)

<https://www.theadvertiser.com/story/news/american-south/2021/03/22/new-orleans-rename-streets-ties-confederate-leaders/4700717001/>

[https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article\\_12d2312a-bf54-11eb-bcd8-eff10fc7f300.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_12d2312a-bf54-11eb-bcd8-eff10fc7f300.html)

### **New Orleans, Louisiana – 2017 – removed monuments**

In 2017, the Mayor directed that the statues of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, the P.G.T. Beauregard Equestrian Statue and the Battle of Liberty Place monument be removed and never be put on public display again. The Mayor created a Monumental Task Committee to examine the removal of Confederate monuments. The Committee recommended that the Davis statue be moved to the Biloxi, Mississippi museum/presidential library, the Lee and Beauregard statues to a cemetery and the Liberty Place monument to remain in storage.



### **Plaquemine, Louisiana – removed monument**

The Parish Council unanimously voted to remove the Iberville Parish Confederate monument.

### **Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana – Aug. 2020 – renamed bridge**

The Plaquemines Parish Council unanimously passed a resolution to renamed the Judge Perez Bridge to the Belle Chase Bridge. The resolution, introduced by Council Chairman Carlton LaFrance, authorized Parish President Kirk Lepine to formally request that the Louisiana Legislature change the bridge's name.

In a letter sent to legislators, Lepine said that "Perez's actions are not in keeping with the parish's values or the appreciation for the diverse and multi-cultural communities throughout Plaquemines Parish." The Judge Perez Bridge is named for Leander Perez, a former Plaquemines Parish President, who was a prominent segregationist who fought against major legal decisions such as Brown v. Board of Education.

<https://www.wtlv.com/article/news/local/plaquemines/judge-perez-bridge-could-be-renamed-after-unanimous-resolution-by-plaquemines-parish-council/289-dfc0416b-13e5-4d85-a1da-35a1a648c855#:~:text=The%20decision%20to%20rename%20the,hands%20of%20the%20Louisiana%20Legislature.&text=PLAQUEMINES%20PARISH%2C%20La.,to%20the%20Belle%20Chase%20Bridge>

### **Port Allen, Louisiana – removed monument**

City Council requested that West Baton Rouge Parish remove the statue of Henry Watkins Allen.

### **State of Louisiana – Aug.-Dec. 2020 – removed monument**

The bronze statue of Edward Douglass White Jr., until recently the only Louisianan ever to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court but one who fought for the Confederacy and upheld racial segregation laws, disappeared December 23 from its pedestal on the steps of the state Supreme Court building in New Orleans.

Workers are moving the larger-than-life statue inside the French Quarter building, to a new location near the state Supreme Court's museum, a court spokesperson said. The move caps years of growing calls from activists, protesters and some politicians to scrap or move the monument.

In August, most of the City Council asked the Louisiana Supreme Court to remove the statue, calling its prominent placement in front of the state's highest court an affront to the idea of equality before the law. The statue is state property but is under the control of the clerk of the state Supreme Court.

The exact reason for its removal — whether the justice's ties to White supremacy, official concern that the statue would be vandalized or something else — was not stated by the court. "After consultation with the [Louisiana] commissioner of administration and discussions among the Louisiana Supreme Court justices, it was unanimously decided that the statue should be relocated



to the interior of the courthouse near the court museum," said Robert Gunn, a spokesman for the court. Gunn added that "a brief factual statement about Chief Justice White's accomplishments and his legacy to contextualize his judicial service will be displayed near the statue."

"We're happy to see that it's no longer in public view but also disappointed they would have the temerity to put it inside to try to satisfy those who want to celebrate its White supremacist history," said Malcolm Suber, one of the leaders of the activist group Take 'Em Down NOLA. "We don't think he should be honored in any kind of way, so we will continue our fight."

[https://www.nola.com/news/courts/article\\_486698fc-456b-11eb-b7c8-57bde572d9f2.html](https://www.nola.com/news/courts/article_486698fc-456b-11eb-b7c8-57bde572d9f2.html)

## Maine

### **Bangor, Maine – Oct. 2020 – removed monument**

The Estevan Gomez monument in Bangor may soon be getting a new home. The statue honors Gomez, a Portuguese explorer believed to have kidnapped Native Americans 500 years ago.

Bangor city officials started exploring the idea of removing the monument this past summer, at the request of Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Dana. A subcommittee was tasked with taking public comment and researching the history of Gomez. That committee voted unanimously to recommend the monument be removed. It's also being recommended the monument be placed in the Bangor Historical Society and replaced with a display honoring the contribution of the Indigenous peoples of the area.

The recommendation is first expected to go to Bangor's Business & Economic Development Committee later this month. It will then go to the City Council.

On October 26, City Councillors voted unanimously to remove the Estevan Gomez monument from the Bangor waterfront. The upper cross of the monument will now go to the Bangor Historical Society, while the pedestal and patio type area around the cross will be destroyed.

<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/committee-recommends-controversial-monument-in-bangor-be-removed/97-17665e73-081b-4204-a131-2b24c9aba477>

<https://www.wabi.tv/2020/10/27/estevan-gomez-monument-to-be-removed-from-bangor-waterfront/>

<https://bangormaine.gov/content/1538/1415/1425/25489.aspx>

### **Kennebec County, Maine – Aug. 2020-Apr. 2021 – removed statue**

The statue of a Maine-born chief justice who voted to uphold a landmark Supreme Court decision that institutionalized racial segregation will be removed from the Kennebec Courthouse lawn.

After months of public pressure, Kennebec County commissioners voted unanimously on February 15 to move the statue of Melville Fuller to a different location.

Commissioner Chair Patsy G. Crockett saw the commissioners' vote as a necessary step toward addressing systemic racism in Maine.

The decision caps a movement to remove the statue that began last summer and originated from the Maine Supreme Court. Because Fuller presided over the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision in 1896, which institutionalized racial segregation and led to Jim Crow laws, his statue should not stand outside the courthouse, said Maine's Supreme Judicial Court Acting Chief Justice Andrew Mead in an August letter on behalf of the court to the Kennebec County commissioners.

Crockett supported moving the statue to a more appropriate location where Fuller's life could serve educational purposes and be presented in context.

The statue's next home is undecided. It was originally installed in 2013 as a private donation from a descendant of Fuller's. There is no date set for the statue's removal, county administrator Bob Devlin said.

On April 8, Stephen Smith, a lawyer representing Robert Fuller Jr., the descendant of Melville Fuller who donated the statue, suggested his client is willing to take back his gift. Smith made the proposal at the second meeting of the committee appointed by the county commissioners to find a new location for the statue. County commissioners are expected to consider the suggestion when they meet later in April.

In late March, the committee appointed to find a new location for the statue mulled a suggestion the Fuller statue could go to the Maine State Museum, but that was not a clear-cut solution. The museum is now closed and plans are underway to shift its collection to storage, but it was not clear the statue could be accommodated.

Bernard Fishman, director of the Maine State Museum, said the statue, which without the base weighs about 200 pounds, could probably be stored with the state's collection, but that could not happen until fall, when storage space that has been identified is expected to be ready.

While storing the statue might be a possibility, it remains unclear if the state can acquire it, according to Fishman. He said several practical issues would have to be resolved before that could happen. The museum has committees that review acquisitions and would have to weigh in on that, but the museum has no space and no funds to make that happen.

On April 20, Kennebec County commissioners agreed to a proposal by Robert Fuller Jr. to take back the statue of Melville W. Fuller. For \$1, the statue of Melville W. Fuller will be returned to its donor and will be removed from in front of the Kennebec County courthouse within a year.

Smith said Fuller agreed to take the statue back and agreed to pay for the removal. He also said Fuller had asked the statue be allowed to stay in its current location until a new location can be found for it. Fuller said he needed some time to shop the statue around.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2021/02/16/news/central-maine/statue-of-maine-judge-who-upheld-segregation-laws-will-be-removed-in-augusta/>

<https://www.centralmaine.com/2021/04/08/donor-of-controversial-augusta-statue-may-take-his-gift-back/>

<https://www.centralmaine.com/2021/04/20/kennebec-county-commissioners-vote-to-return-controversial-statue/>

## Maryland

### **Baltimore, Maryland – Oct. 2020-Apr. 2021 – removed statue, reviewing names**

An online petition signed by hundreds is calling on Baltimore officials to remove a 40-year-old statue dedicated to Capt. John O'Donnell, an Irish-born merchant who enslaved people on his plantation in Canton. The O'Donnell statue was erected in 1980.

City Council President Brandon Scott said that he remains resolute in the belief that "Baltimore needs a truth and reconciliation committee to look at statues, monuments and street names across our city — not just for this statue, but all of them." Scott, the city's Democratic nominee for mayor, said the committee should include residents, historians and artists who would conduct a comprehensive review. The members also would work with the city school system to review school names.

Mark Edelson, president of the Canton Community Association, said several months ago that the group began to evaluate how the neighborhood can be more welcoming, including considering whether the statue should be removed and O'Donnell's name stripped from the street and the square. The association's subcommittees will discuss their recommendations at a virtual meeting on October 27. Members include Canton residents, as well as historians and people who have training in anti-racism. The online meeting is open to the public.

On the night of April 5, the statue of Capt. John O'Donnell was removed by Baltimore City.

Mayor Brandon Scott said in a statement, "This is a historical moment, however, countless publicly named monuments, statues, streets, and schools across Baltimore remain that must be reassessed. I am committed to dismantling structural oppression in Baltimore by working with the City Administrator to commission a team to establish procedures for reviewing the impact of these cruel monuments while continuing to promote equitable policies to right yesterday's wrongs."

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-petition-odonnell-statue-canton-20201025-zrfifygsiffv7mnjpccmjms7my-story.html>

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-statue-removed-20210406-yhvb6t2jdarvt4y2zalwin4-story.html>

### **Baltimore, Maryland – Aug.-Nov. 2020 – retained statue**

The Baltimore City Housing and Urban Affairs committee held a virtual hearing on August 25 to discuss renaming a Christopher Columbus monument in Herring Run Park. The bill to rename the monument the "Victims of Police Violence Monument" was voted favorable and will move on to a second reader. The bill was introduced by Councilman Ryan Dorsey in June. He says the goal is to re-purpose a monument that has stood to the lie of Columbus as a hero.

The bill will now go up for a vote before the full City Council.

On September 21, the Baltimore City Council considered two bills that would remove the name of Christopher Columbus from an annual holiday and a city monument. The debate comes two-and-a-half months after protesters tore down a statue of Columbus in Little Italy, throwing it into the Inner Harbor. That statue was recovered.

One of the bills would change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Another bill would rename the Columbus Monument to the Police Violence Victims' Monument. Police Commissioner Michael Harrison voiced concern about the bill, saying in a statement that "having the proposed monument be in such close proximity to a police memorial honoring officers who have died in the line of duty diminishes the sacrifices made by those officers and does a disservice to them and their families."

Councilman Leon Pinkett asked whether the city should build a new monument rather than renaming the existing one. "To the victims of police violence, give them a monument that's truly theirs," he said. That bill passed a second reading 10-4 and was to have a third and final reading in October.

On October 5, Baltimore City Council approved two measures related to the legacy of Christopher Columbus. One of the bills the council passed would change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Mayor Bernard "Jack" Young will also be asked to approve an ordinance that would rename the Christopher Columbus obelisk monument to the Police Violence Victims Monument. Members of the Baltimore City Council approved the ordinance despite several council members voting against it.

On November 16, Baltimore Mayor Jack Young vetoed the bill that would rename the Columbus Monument in Herring Run Park. The mayor said he agreed with the concerns of Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison who had previously said that the location of a monument memorializing the victims of police violence may diminish the sacrifices made by officers.

<https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/council-committee-votes-to-move-forward-renaming-columbus-monument>

<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/bill-rename-baltimore-christopher-columbus-obelisk-advances-to-full-city-council/33811174>

<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/09/21/baltimore-city-council-considers-bill-to-rename-holiday-monument-named-after-christopher-columbus/>

<https://patch.com/maryland/baltimore/baltimore-council-approves-renaming-columbus-day-columbus-statue>

<https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/mayor-rejects-renaming-of-columbus-monument-in-northeast-baltimore>

### **Baltimore, Maryland – July-Sept. 2018 – renamed park**

Baltimore City Council changed the name of Robert E. Lee Park to Lake Roland Park. It was renamed after a geographical feature at the centre of the park.

A Baltimore County Executive officially requested that Robert E. Lee Park be renamed "Lake Roland" on June 22, but said due to a licensing agreement, such a change required Baltimore City approval. Since Baltimore City owns the park and the county runs it, the city had final approval on the name.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/ph-tt-ms-lake-roland-0930-20150928-story.html>

<https://patch.com/maryland/towson/city-takes-step-toward-robert-e-lee-park-name-change-0>

### **Baltimore, Maryland – 2017 – removed statues**

In 2017, the Mayor ordered the removal of the following statues to preserve public safety during protests: the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Confederate Women's Monument, the Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee monument.

### **Ellicott City, Maryland – removed monument**

The County Courthouse Confederate monument was removed.

### **Howard County, Maryland – Feb. 2021 – commission reviewing names of municipal assets**

On February 4, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball announced the inception of the Public Facilities and Spaces Commission. The 12-person commission is set to examine the names of buildings, streets and statues in the county and decide whether or not to rename them.

From multiple Howard County public schools with names connected to slave owners or plantations, to the name of the county itself — named after John Eager Howard, a Continental Army colonel and former governor of Maryland who owned enslaved people — Howard has many namesakes for the commission to explore.

The commission — which will be comprised of academic experts, educators, community leaders and professional historians — will review the history surrounding the namesakes and decide if that public facility “participated in or encouraged the oppression of African Americans, Indigenous Americans and other individuals of color and contributing to the history of systemic racism,” according to Ball.

“The current landscape of our country demands that we address and confront the ugly truths of our past and present and that includes ensuring the namesakes of our facilities and spaces reflect today's values,” Ball said during his remarks on February 4.

The facilities and spaces the county will look at include county-owned streets, buildings (including schools and libraries) and parks; county neighborhoods; and statues in county-owned parks.

“We recognize that we choose to name our public facilities and what we choose to name those facilities and spaces reflects on who we are today,” Ball said. “For too many years we haven't asked the hard questions about these namesakes, but the time is now to face our history, learn from it and move forward with an honest understanding of who we've chosen to honor by naming our public spaces after them.”

Shawn Gladden, executive director of the Howard County Historical Society, is leading the commission for the county. Gladden said the commission will have access to the Howard County archives, as well as archives through other historical partners to conduct their research.

"For us, this is an academic exercise, one that has occurred in many communities throughout the history of our nation as our values as a society has changed," Gladden said. "Many of the street names that we Howard countians know by heart were once named something else 100 years ago. Trust me, we have the records."

Ani Begay Auld, a Navajo Nation representative, also spoke at Thursday's news conference, urging the commission to honor the Susquehannock people who signed a peace treaty with Maryland to give up their provenance over the territory that is now Howard County.

Members of the commission include: Auld; Denise Boston, the newly hired equity and restorative practices manager for the county; Bessie Bordenave, president of the Harriet Tubman Foundation; Towanda Brown, vice chair of the Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County; Everlene Cunningham, Howard County Center of African American Culture board of directors chair; Robert L. Harris; Allison Jessing, events and seminars manager for the Howard County Library System; Kori Jones, first vice president of the Howard County NAACP; Kelly Palich, Heritage Program coordinator for the county Department of Recreation and Parks; Moyah Panda; Nicole Paterson; and Tara Simpson.

The commission is set to complete its work by Nov. 5, 2021.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/cng-ho-public-facilities-commission-20210204-ygfbm3sjzvbqvg6qopmeuheydi-story.html>

### **Hyattsville, Maryland – Mar. 2019-May 2021 – renamed park**

In March 2019, the Hyattsville City Council took a step towards renaming a popular park. City leaders say the change is needed because Magruder Park has racist roots.

The 32-acre park is named after former mayor and wealthy landowner William Pinkney Magruder. A plaque bearing Magruder's name is on display at the entrance to the park. What people might not know is that Magruder donated the land for the park in 1927 on one condition: that it be used "for Caucasian inhabitants only."

Nearly a century later, Hyattsville Council member Joseph Solomon feels it's time to put that name and what it stands for in the past. He introduced a motion that would initiate the name change process. That motion was unanimously approved by city council.

"We are willing to step forward and show that this city is a city for everyone," he said. "And I hope that people understand that we're not choosing to erase history or rewrite history, but we are choosing to define our own future. And I hope generations moving forward will take that message as well."

Solomon said council has heard from people on both sides of the issue. Some people argued that Magruder was a philanthropist and said the change would erase history. Others felt the name change was long overdue. Still others suggested a historical plaque should be on display at the park, to explain its origin.

Solomon said the motion approved instructs city staff to spend a few months researching the legal aspects of the name change. Then, they would seek public input on what the park's new name should be. City council will have to approve the new name, but Solomon said it's important that the people of Hyattsville are part of the process.

In August 2020, Hyattsville City Council directed city staff to move forward with a process to gather new name suggestions. In Sept., Hyattsville City Council announced they had removed the racist clauses from the deed through a unique legal motion.

Between October 1 and November 15, 2020, the city of Hyattsville is asked residents to submit their ideas to rename Magruder Park.

There are four ways residents could submit their ideas:

- Fill out an online suggestion form and survey
- Mail in a form included in the October edition of the Hyattsville Reporter, the official city newsletter
- Pick up a form from the suggestion box by the Magruder Park Recreation Center
- Call the city and leave a message

The city received over 830 suggestions. Submissions were reviewed by the city's Race and Equity Task Force and Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee and were presented to City Council early in 2021.

After culling through more than 800 community-submitted suggestions. Hyattsville city officials released a short list of possible suggestions to rename Magruder Park.

Three of the names are based on concepts or ideals: Gateway, Inspiration and Unity. Another option, Nacotchtank Community Park, would recognize the native people of the area. The last option would honor David C. Driskell, a renowned Black artist, former University of Maryland professor and Hyattsville resident who died last year from complications from the coronavirus.

Additionally, the Race and Equity Task force requested the city plan a "land acknowledgment" as part of the renaming process for Magruder Park. Such an acknowledgment would include a physical declaration, perhaps carved on a prominent monument or stone, that Nacotchtank indigenous people lived on the land when European colonists arrived in the area and displaced them.

City Council held a virtual public hearing on April 5 to receive community member input on the suggested park names.

On May 3, Hyattsville City Council voted 9-1 to renamed Magruder Park David C. Driskell Park. Voting against the measure was Ward One City Councillor Bart Lawrence, who said he was opposed to naming the park after any person. His concerns were shared by at least one other City Councillor, Ward 4 representative Edouard Haba, who nonetheless voted in favor of the Driskell renaming. Ward Five City Councillor and mayoral hopeful Joseph Solomon also said his preferred choice was not Driskell, but also voted to rename the park after him.

Ward Four City Councillor Daniel Peabody said he was pleased with the outcome, and praised the community engagement effort undertaken by city officials to gather feedback about what to rename the park. That effort generated more than 800 suggestions from city residents, the vast majority of which supported naming the park after Driskell. He went on to call for the new park to



include an acknowledgment of the Nacotchtank indigenous people who lived in the Anacostia river basin during the earliest days of European colonization of North America.

<https://wjla.com/news/local/hyattsville-city-leaders-take-first-step-toward-renaming-magruder-park>

<https://www.hyattsvillewire.com/2020/10/01/magruder-park-renaming-2/>

<https://route1reporter.com/2021/03/16/hyattsville-reveals-short-list-for-magruder-park-renaming/>

<http://www.hyattsville.org/namethepark>

<https://dbknews.com/2021/04/07/hyattsville-rename-racist-park-choices/>

<https://route1reporter.com/2021/05/03/hyattsville-renames-magruder-park-after-david-driskell/>

### **Montgomery County, Maryland – June 2020-Jan. 2021 – reviewing street and public facility names, renamed streets and park trail**

- For street renaming policy, see:  
[http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/development/about/documents/Address\\_Manual\\_Final.pdf](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/development/about/documents/Address_Manual_Final.pdf)
- For report on renaming Confederate streets and parks from Jan. 12, 2021, see:  
[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2021/20210112/20210112\\_12.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2021/20210112/20210112_12.pdf)
- For project website, see: <https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/m-ncppc-montgomery-county-street-and-parks-facilities-naming-review/>

On June 15, the Montgomery County Council sent a letter to local leaders asking the county to identify all county-owned streets and public facilities that are currently named after Confederate soldiers “or those who otherwise do not reflect Montgomery County values.”

The letter calls for a public process to rename the streets and public facilities following the review. It was spearheaded by Councilmember Andrew Friedson and addressed to County Executive Marc Elrich and County Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson.

There is some complexity in figuring out the significance of names, Anderson said during an update to the council on November 17. Many former Confederates had common names that non-Confederates also had. For example, he said, there are a couple of streets or facilities named after prominent Confederates who share a last name with prominent African American families living in the same neighborhood.

Value judgments about what warrants renaming also need to be made. Anderson offered another example: Dickerson, an unincorporated community near Poolesville, and the name of two parks (Dickerson Conservation Park and Dickerson Park). Anderson said the Dickerson family included at least one slave owner. “It raises some questions about: do you rename the park but not the unincorporated area, or both, or neither?” Anderson said. He said the planning board will need to work through these questions with the council. In Jan. 2021, the council will receive a briefing on the renaming project from the planning board.

The board will propose what “obviously should be changed,” Anderson said. It will provide additional categories of people and places that do not have an obvious answer and that warrant further research. The board may need more funding if more research is needed, as well as funding for logistics like signage.

At least four streets in Potomac are named after Confederates or Confederate landmarks. The streets are Jubal Early Court, Jeb Stuart Road, Jeb Stuart Court and White’s Ford Road. In June, most feedback about the initiative was from residents of the Montgomery Square neighborhood, where these streets are. Residents strongly support a name change; however, some are concerned about having to change their address and other logistical issues.

According to the Guidelines and Procedures Manual for Addressing and Street Naming in Montgomery County, a request for a street name-change must include the following:

1. A statement indicating how the public interest will be served by the proposed change.
2. A statement indicating the specific problem or confusion caused by the existing street name.
3. A petition including a list of all residences and businesses that would be required to change their address if the street name is changed, as well as signatures affirming their consent to have the street name changed. Corner properties are to be included in the petition request regardless of address, and any property address not accompanied with a signature will be considered opposed to the proposal.
4. Information indicating any historical significance connected to the existing street name.
5. Proof of notification of any citizen/civic or homeowner associations within a 1-mile radius.

A new name can be suggested in the application. The council wants the Planning Department and county to be more proactive and engaged in the process.

On December 7, officials shared that a park trail is the first to be renamed. Jeb Stuart Trail at Woodstock Equestrian Park in Dickerson has been renamed Northern Edge Trail, said Joey Lampl, with parks planning and stewardship, at a council Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) committee meeting. The trail name came from the park’s 2004 master plan, she said. The name was previously marked on a signpost and on park maps; the signpost has been removed and the maps have been updated. New signposts will be installed this week, Lampl said. Stuart was a Confederate Army general.

Renaming the park trail to something “neutral” like Northern Edge is not good enough, said County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission Member Okianer Christian Dark. “Very negative names were deliberately placed on these signs for wrong-headed purposes, racist purposes,” Dark said. “I think you put a name there that says ‘we’re not this way. This is not what we value.’” The role of the Reconciliation Commission is to support local efforts to recognize lynching victims in the county and help the county address its racist history.

PHED Committee Chair Hans Riemer agreed with Dark’s perspective and said the trail renaming was more than a missed opportunity. “It’s so important to express through this process, who’s in charge now,” Riemer said. “And I think that’s what those symbols did, was they expressed who’s in charge of government. And who decides who has power in the community. And by doing something that is neutral in the face of what was really sort of an aggressive posture by voices of

racism, I think it's like trying to turn the other cheek when that's not really what's called for in this moment."

During the committee meeting, the parks and planning departments identified three streets and one trail that had a full-name match to a nationally-known Confederate: Jeb Stuart Court, Jeb Stuart Road, Jubal Early Court and (formerly) Jeb Stuart Trail. The three streets were named in the 1960s, said Rebecca Ballo, Supervisor of Historic Preservation.

Riemer said the committee plans to draft a letter requesting name changes for the three streets soon. He also asked the parks and planning departments to find out if there are other "burning examples" that can be grouped in with the streets, like Whites Ford Way and Lee Avenue. He asked the department to come back to the council committee with updates and further details about what is needed to continue the project.

As of January 12, Montgomery County is moving to rename Jeb Stuart Court, Jeb Stuart Road and Jubal Early Court in Potomac and then continue to research and rename other streets and places with the goal of eliminating all street and place names connected to a Confederate or slaveowner.

The Montgomery County Planning Commission has been researching these street names and, so far, has found 325 streets that have a preliminary match with the last names of Confederates and two parks that have a confirmed match with Confederate last names. They developed a database to conduct this research, which contains the names of a total of 709 known Confederates, including 269 that were residents of Montgomery County and 440 senior officers of the Confederate Army. It also contains the names of 5,826 local slaveholders and the names of over 3,300 enslaved individuals who were held in bondage in the County.

The planners briefed the county council on their findings during the Jan. 12 council meeting. On Jan. 14, the planning commission unanimously approved the resolution to rename the three Potomac Streets named after nationally-known Confederates.

Councilmember Will Jawando urged the council to "not just remove the harm of the name" but also to choose new names that would honor county residents who are not well known. Councilmembers backed the planning commission's efforts to change the street and place names, saying the sooner the better.

However, planning commission staff stressed that some of those roads may bear the name of a local Confederate but actually be named for someone totally different. For instance, there is a Walter Johnson Road, which is the name of a Confederate, but it actually was named for the Hall of Fame baseball pitcher – with the same name – who played for the Washington Senators from 1907-1927. Therefore, the research will take time, they said.

J.E.B. Stuart Court and J.E.B. Stuart Road are part of the Montgomery Square subdivision. Jubal Early Court is part of the Regent Parks subdivision. There are 65 houses in total on the three streets.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) can rename streets without the approval of residents who live on the streets, but the county expects to include county residents in the process. The final decision of the new names will be up to the M-NCPPC.

Part of the process of renaming would require homeowners of the 65 houses to change the address on their utility records, mortgages, deeds and land records — a cost of a couple hundred dollars per property, officials have estimated. Some council members said the county should look into the specific costs to each homeowner and the ability to set up an opt-in reimbursement program for those costs.

<https://www.mymcmedia.org/council-receives-update-on-streets-and-facilities-named-after-confederates/>

<https://www.mymcmedia.org/park-trail-named-after-confederate-general-jeb-stuart-renamed/>

<https://www.mymcmedia.org/county-moves-to-eliminate-street-names-honoring-confederates-slaveowners/>

<https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/government/plan-underway-to-rename-three-roads-with-confederate-ties/>

<https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/m-ncppc-montgomery-county-street-and-parks-facilities-naming-review/#:~:text=Stuart%20Road%2C%20and%20J.E.B%20Stuart,rename%20the%20three%20county%20streets.>

### **Prince George's County, Maryland – Oct. 2019-Mar. 2021 – reviewing streets and monuments, formed advisory committee**

- For Task Force website and Resolution from Oct. 2019, see: <https://pgccouncil.us/806/Responsible-Legacy-Task-Force#:~:text=The%20Prince%20George's%20County%20Responsible,linked%20to%20a%20prejudiced%20past.>
- For Legacy Task Force Interim Report from Dec. 2020, see: <https://pgccouncil.us/DocumentCenter/View/6155/Responsible-Legacy-Task-Force-Interim-Report>)
- For public consultation survey, see: <https://pgccouncil.us/FormCenter/Feedback-Form-6/Prince-Georges-County-Responsible-Legacy-594>

Prince George's County leaders are trying to better contextualize monuments, street names, schools and other “places of honor” with names rooted in racism, misogyny and other forms of discrimination. Now, the county's Responsible Legacy Task Force, established in October 2019, is soliciting the input of the public: Residents are being invited to fill out a survey with their suggestions on what should be renamed, and how the renaming process should work. The deadline for completing the survey is March 31.

According to the County's website, the Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force, established by Council Resolution-81-2019, is charged with reviewing all County monuments, parks, street names, County buildings and other places of honor, and creating a process to determine the future of names linked to a prejudiced past. The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force is working to ensure that the County's legacy is one of equality, diversity and inclusion.

Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force is composed of the following members:

- One member appointed by the County Council to serve as Chair
- One member appointed by the County Executive to serve as Vice Chair
- A representative from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- A representative from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System
- A representative from the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- A representative from the Maryland Municipal League
- A representative from the History Department of the University of Maryland College Park or Bowie State University, with expertise in Prince George's County history; and
- A representative from the general public.

The group will rename and recontextualize sites in the county with an eye towards “parity and inclusivity in celebrating all groups represented within the county.” In renaming, the group says it will strive to honor trailblazers, activists, and people who “fought against dishonorable conduct.”

The Responsible Legacy Task Force preliminarily identified the following criteria to evaluate the conduct of names:

- Conduct Unbecoming or Offensive: Views and statements below are most compelling when they are morally repugnant and create an environment that harms individuals of a particular race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or class.
  - o Confederates
  - o Confederate Sympathizers
  - o Slave Ownership
  - o Harmful Views and Statements
  - o Racist Views and White Supremacy
  - o Misogyny
  - o Economic Disenfranchisement
  - o Discriminatory Practices Against Indigenous People
  - o Discriminatory Practices Against the LGBTQ Community
- Honorable or Good Conduct: Honorable conduct should strive for parity and inclusivity in celebrating all groups represented within the County.
  - o Trailblazers: First to accomplish a major achievement
  - o Impactful to the County: Includes but is not limited to sports and entertainment figures, community officials, and community members
  - o Commitment to Public Service
  - o Activists, Heroes, Resisters, Martyrs, and Protagonists: Individuals who fought against dishonorable conduct
  - o Educators, Self-Sacrificing Individuals, Aspirational Figures, Service Members and Law Enforcement

The Piscataway Conoy Tribe has been pushing for Maryland politicians to formally rename Maryland Route 210, which stretches from D.C. through Prince George's County and into Charles County, from Indian Head Highway to Piscataway or Pascattoway Highway.

The public survey asks for demographic information and also states the following:

*Introduction: The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force (RTLTF), established by Council Resolution-81-2019, is charged with reviewing all County monuments, parks, street names, County buildings and other places of honor, and creating a process to determine the*

*future of names linked to a prejudiced past. The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force is working to ensure that the County's legacy is one of equality, diversity and inclusion, and invites your participation in this process by responding the questions below, by March 31, 2021. The RLTF preliminarily identified the following criteria to evaluate the conduct of names:*

*Conduct Unbecoming or Offensive: Criteria - Views and statements below are most compelling when they are morally repugnant and create an environment that harms individuals of a particular race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, and/or class.*

*Honorable or Good Conduct: Criteria - Honorable conduct should strive for parity and inclusivity in celebrating all groups represented within the County.*

*1. Beyond the items listed above, what additional factors should be considered when evaluating the names of County monuments, parks, street names, county buildings and other places of honor?*

*2. Once a County monument, park, street, building or other place of honor has been identified as needing to be named or renamed, what factors are important to include in the name selection process before reaching a final decision?*

*3. The Task Force is considering process of naming or renaming of places of honor, including requiring: (1) an application/petition showing public support and explaining how it serves the public interest and the historic significance; (2) payment of fee for costs associated with the application/petition review; (3) public participation/comment in the process; and (4) review and recommendations by a governmental agency(ies) responsible for the place of honor, including timeframe for review and decision. In addition to comments on the process outlined above, what other considerations should be included in a naming or renaming process?*

*4. Are there County monuments, parks, streets, County buildings or other places of honor that you believe have names linked to a prejudiced past that should be considered for change?*

*5. The County is in the process of considering possible names. Please provide a name or names you would like to be considered.*

The final Responsible Legacy Task Force report will be prepared on or before June 30, 2021.

<https://dcist.com/story/21/03/18/prince-georges-county-survey-landmark-renaming/>

<https://pgccouncil.us/806/Responsible-Legacy-Task-Force>

### **Rockville, Maryland – removed monument**

The Confederate monument was moved from outside the Old Court House to private land.



### **Washington County, Maryland – Apr. 2021 – reviewing street name**

In mid-April, Stan Brown Jr., a Black man and local resident, asked the Washington County Commissioners to change the name of Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive. Douglas was an officer in the Confederate Army during the Civil War who served on Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's staff.

There are other streets within the county with Confederate-related names, but Brown said he was concerned about this one because, to his knowledge, it is the most visible and highly traveled. Brown said he has communicated via email in recent months with county and Maryland Department of Transportation officials in his quest to get the road name changed.

The older section of the road is maintained by the state. The county had the newest section built in recent years. While the Maryland State Highway Administration maintains part of the road, naming and addressing are left to the local jurisdiction — Washington County — because of emergency service, state highway spokesperson Sherry Christian said.

Commissioners Vice President Terry Baker asked county staff to look into how and why the road came to be named for Douglas. Commissioners President Jeff Cline told Brown they would take his comments "under consideration" and appreciated and respected his thoughts.

Commissioner Charlie Burkett, who joined the board in early April, said he first heard of Brown's request at the April 20 meeting and the matter is under consideration.

Baker said on April 29 he was waiting on staff to bring information about how the road was named back to the commissioners. "If it's appropriate, if it needs to be changed, I'll support changing it," Baker said.

[https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/washington-county-commissioners-asked-to-change-name-of-confederate-named-road/article\\_664ccf7c-d6c3-5a89-9522-959b9d115725.html](https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/local/washington-county-commissioners-asked-to-change-name-of-confederate-named-road/article_664ccf7c-d6c3-5a89-9522-959b9d115725.html)

### **State of Maryland – Jan.-Feb. 2021 – reviewing highway and town name**

- For Senate Resolution from Jan. 13, 2021, see:  
[https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021rs/bills\\_noln/sj/fsj0002.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021rs/bills_noln/sj/fsj0002.pdf)

Two Maryland state senators have filed a bill that would require the State Highway Administration to designate MD-210, also known as Indian Head Highway, "President Barack Obama Highway."

A fiscal and policy note filed on the legislation after the bill's first reading last month says it would cost about \$12,500 in fiscal year 2022 to design, construct and install new signs for the road if it were to be designated as the "President Barack Obama Highway," but that an official renaming would cost much more.

The bill has been referred to the finance committee and has not yet had a second reading.

The highway is named for the town at its southernmost point. Ellis has also filed a Senate Joint Resolution urging the town of Indian Head to change its name "to better reflect the State of Maryland's respect of indigenous history, culture, and persons." According to that legislation, the town got its name "due to the strong presence of indigenous persons in the late 17th century, specifically of the Algonquin tribe." That resolution is scheduled to be heard by the education, health, and environmental affairs committee on February 23.



There is a Change.org petition calling for the renaming of both the town and the road as well.

<https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/maryland-lawmakers-want-indian-head-highway-renamed-to-president-barack-obama-highway>

## **Massachusetts**

### **Boston, Massachusetts – April 2018 – renamed street**

Boston city officials decided to rename a street named for the late owner of the Red Sox baseball team because of his perceived racism. Yawkey Way runs just outside Fenway Park and will revert to its original name of Jersey Street.

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/racism-concerns-spur-street-name-change-boston>

### **Boston, Massachusetts – June-Oct. 2020 – removed statue**

In June 2020, a statue of Christopher Columbus was removed by the city following vandalism and a review.

In October, the city announced that the Christopher Columbus statue won't be returned to its original location in a waterfront park in the city's largely Italian North End neighborhood. The repaired statue will instead be placed at the North End chapter of the Knights of Columbus where it will be publicly displayed, the North End/Waterfront Council and Mayor Marty Walsh announced at a virtual meeting Monday. Meanwhile, the Boston Arts Commission will create a new statue honoring Italian immigrants that will be placed at the spot where the Columbus statue stood.

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/bostons-vandalized-columbus-statue-to-get-a-new-home/2207583/>

### **Boston, Massachusetts – June-Dec. 2020 – removed statue**

In June 2020, the Boston Art Commission, with support from the mayor, voted to remove the replica Emancipation Memorial.

On December 29, nearly six months after the Boston Art Commission voted unanimously to take down the statue, workers removed the "The Emancipation Group" sculpture. The statue, also known as the "Freedman's Memorial," depicts a freed slave kneeling at President Abraham Lincoln's feet. It had stood in Park Square since 1879 and is a copy of another sculpture in Washington, D.C. The sculpture of the slave is based on Archer Alexander, a Black man who assisted the Union Army, escaped slavery and was the last man recaptured under the Fugitive Slave Act. The original work, which came to be known as the Emancipation Group, was purchased through donations by freed enslaved people and Black veterans of the Union Army. A copy was then erected in Boston, Ball's hometown.

The unanimous vote to remove the bronze sculpture depicting Lincoln standing over a freed slave came with the following conditions:

- Engagement of an art conservator to document, recommend how the bronze statue is removed, and supervise its removal and placement into temporary storage;
- Commissioning of detailed documentation of the artwork into Boston Art Commission archives, which may include photography of the statue in situ, drawings, and a 3D scan, as well as the history of the piece and the process that the Boston Art Commission took in order to make this decision;
- Creation of a public event that will acknowledge the statue's history and inform the public;
- Initiation of a process to determine how to recontextualize the existing statue in a new publicly accessible setting; and
- Addition of temporary signage to the site to interpret the statue prior to its removal and permanent signage after the removal.

"The decision for removal acknowledged the statue's role in perpetuating harmful prejudices and obscuring the role of Black Americans in shaping the nation's freedoms," according to the mayor's office.

Even Frederick Douglass – who spoke at the Washington, D.C., monument's dedication in 1876 – had his reservations about the statue. Douglass noted that the monument omits mention of the role President Ulysses S. Grant played in enfranchising former enslaved people. He also said memorials should aspire to portray Black people in a new light.

Boston's plans for its statue are still in flux; the mayor's office says the work will be moved to a "publicly accessible location where its history and context can be better explained." For now, the statue will sit in a storage facility in South Boston. The city is asking the public to submit ideas about how the monument should be displayed.

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/bostons-vandalized-columbus-statue-to-get-a-new-home/2207583/>

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/controversial-emancipation-group-statue-lincoln-removed-boston-park-square-december-29-2020/35089305>

<https://www.wamc.org/post/statue-lincoln-freed-slave-his-feet-removed-boston>

### **Fort Warren, Boston Harbour, Massachusetts – removed monument**

The Confederate memorial was removed from the Fort.

### **Falmouth, Massachusetts – Nov. 2020 – renamed street**

Falmouth Select Board voted unanimously to rename Agassiz Road in Woods Hole in honor of Jewel Cobb on Monday, November 23.

Describing Dr. Louis Agassiz as a polygenist who believed in the superiority of the white race, petitioners Ruth Gainer of High Street and Paula Pace of Agassiz Road, both of Woods Hole, collected more than 600 signatures requesting the road's name be changed to honor Dr. Cobb.

Dr. Cobb, who joined the Marine Biological Laboratory as an independent investigator in 1949 while working on her doctorate, was a member of the National Academy of Medicine who received the lifetime achievement award from the National Academy of Sciences in 1993.

The name change will go into effect in June 2021.

[https://www.capenews.net/falmouth/news/select-board-notes-agassiz-road-renamed/article\\_8d0ac760-ed1d-502c-b553-0c54d9fba633.html](https://www.capenews.net/falmouth/news/select-board-notes-agassiz-road-renamed/article_8d0ac760-ed1d-502c-b553-0c54d9fba633.html)

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2020/11/29/agassiz-road-renamed-honor-african-american-biologist/6408345002/>

### **Falmouth, Massachusetts – Jan.-Mar. 2021 – renamed street**

On March 11, a street going through Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's campus has been renamed to honor an oceanographic cartologist who introduced the first scientific map of the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.

Marie Tharp Lane will replace Maury Lane, which had been named after oceanographer Matthew Maury. It's been recently brought to light that Maury had supported slavery and served in the Confederate Navy. WHOI's senior administration decided to pursue a name change in light of the growing support to rename locations that had been named after Confederate officers and leaders.

The Falmouth Planning Board approved the name change at a Jan. 26 meeting. A temporary sign is currently installed, and the permanent signage will soon be erected.

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2021/03/12/woods-hole-street-renamed-honor-woman-who-mapped-ocean-floor/4646380001/>

### **Haverhill, Massachusetts – July 2020-Apr. 2021 – retained monument with modifications**

Haverhill is debating the future of its statue of Hannah Duston, who was implicated in the deaths, and scalping, of 10 Native Americans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. She was captured by the Abenaki nation during a military engagement in 1697 with her nurse-maid and newborn and was forced to trek a great distance to an encampment in present-day Boscawen, where she claimed the Abenaki killed her baby. Duston, probably with the help of other captive colonists, killed the Native Americans – six of whom were children – before escaping and being generously rewarded for the scalps.

The statue was erected in the mid-19th century to vilify Native Americans following the civil war and to promote the idea of westward expansion. Several other markers and memorials that do not bear Duston's image were put up in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

In July, a resident asked the City Council to relocate the statue, though ultimately no action was taken. The statue was vandalized in mid-July with the words “Haverhill’s own monument to genocide” in chalk.

Shortly after the vandalism, Haverhill’s mayor, James Fiorentini, appointed two Native Americans to the Haverhill Historical Commission (HHC), which protects the town’s historic structures, to make recommendations for the future of the monument.

During an October 7 community meeting to let the public have its say, some people argued the statue should remain in its prominent location in GAR Park near City Hall. Other people insisted the statue be moved because it glorifies violence — in this case against Native Americans whom Duston killed with an ax after they kidnapped her from this area in 1697. The statue shows her holding the ax. One person said a plaque at the base of the statue should be removed because it refers to Native Americans as “savages.” Another person even proposed the metal statue be melted down.

Those suggestions and others emerged in mid-October at a meeting of city councillors and the Haverhill Historical Commission, as the council and Mayor James Fiorentini prepare to decide the future of the statue. The community will have to wait a bit longer to find out the monument’s fate, as the council’s Natural Resources and Public Property Committee plans to discuss the issue before making a recommendation to the mayor and council. That recommendation will weigh community opinion from meetings.

On December 1, Haverhill city councillors heard a recommendation that the statue of Hannah Duston be relocated from Grand Army of the Republic Park, downtown, to one of three alternative locations. The Haverhill Historic District Commission, which held joint public hearings with the City Council’s Natural Resources Public Properties Committee, recently voted unanimously to recommend the controversial monument be moved, in their words, “appropriate language be added with the statue that includes a Native American perspective to the narrative.”

Commissioners said more suitable locations might be Buttonwoods Museum, Water Street; Hannah Duston Garrison, Hilldale Avenue; or Hannah Dustin Park, Monument Street. The first two sites would require permission from the landowners. Previously, Buttonwoods Museum and the Dustin-Duston Garrison House Association refused to take the statue, fearing that it could lead to vandalism of their properties.

While the recommendation comes from the Haverhill Historic District Commission, the Council’s own Natural Resources and Public Property Committee has yet to release its own findings.

Council’s response to the recommendation was to place the matter on file until early 2021.

During the week of April 26, the Haverhill City Council voted to keep the city’s memorial but remove Duston’s hatchet and update the statue’s inscription, which tells her tale and calls Native Americans “savages.”

Mayor James Fiorentini said on April 29 he supports the council’s recommendations, including adding a new memorial to Native Americans near the site. He’s formed a commission headed up by members of the Native American community to pursue the idea.

But Peter Carbone, who chairs the city's historical commission, maintains the Duston monument should be moved to a museum or other place where more context could be provided, an idea some of her descendants supported during recent hearings.

<https://www.vnews.com/Members-of-abenaki-people-propose-additions-to-Hannah-Duston-historic-site-35243130>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/03/hannah-duston-statue-new-hampshire-native-americans>

[https://www.eagletribune.com/news/haverhill/move-it-leave-it-in-park-even-melt-it-debate-over-haverhills-hannah-duston-statue/article\\_c6fd1a46-4456-5b5e-982b-d70e897a3a90.html](https://www.eagletribune.com/news/haverhill/move-it-leave-it-in-park-even-melt-it-debate-over-haverhills-hannah-duston-statue/article_c6fd1a46-4456-5b5e-982b-d70e897a3a90.html)

<https://whav.net/2020/11/27/commission-recommends-relocating-hannah-duston-statue-haverhill-council-listens-tuesday/>

<https://www.cityofhaverhill.com/12.1.2020.pdf>

<https://www.timescolonist.com/statues-to-hatchet-wielding-colonist-reconsidered-1.24313293>

### **Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts – removed monument**

The Confederate soldier plaques on a statue of a Union soldier were removed and remounted in a contextual display in Martha's Vineyard Museum.

### **Nantucket, Massachusetts – Oct. 2020 – renamed street**

Coon Street, the 200-foot public way between Orange and Union streets, originally believed to have been named for two whaling captains with the last name Coon, has a new name. The Select Board voted unanimously on October 7 to rename the street Independent Way.

The street was originally been called Independent Court before it was renamed in the 1840s. The change comes one week after further research revealed no member of the Coon family ever lived on the street, according to Nantucket Historical Association research fellow Betsy Tyler.

Nantucket Historical Commission chair Hillary Rayport added she believes the street might have been named for the Whig political party, which was popular with island voters at the time, and used a raccoon as its mascot.

The idea to change the name of the street came after the Select Board received a petition from seven of the eight homeowners on the street, who said the word "Coon" is today considered by many a derogatory racial slur.

Select Board chair Dawn Holdgate said last month she felt uncomfortable changing the name if some residents on the street do not support a change. But now she said neighbors are in support. Although the street has no street signs, the current name alone often makes people of color feel uncomfortable or unwelcome, he said. Board member Matt Fee said the town could continue to honor the Coon family with a plaque.

<https://www.ack.net/news/20201008/this-week-in-town-government-select-board-renames-coon-street>

## Michigan

### **Dearborn, Michigan – Summer 2020-Jan. 2021 – renamed city asset**

The City Council unanimously voted on January 26 to remove the name of Dearborn's longest-serving mayor from its performing center ballroom, inching closer to erasing the name of the mayor, known for his segregationist policies, from the city's public spaces.

In addition to the Hubbard Ballroom at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center on Michigan Avenue, the mayor's name is located around the city including Hubbard Drive near Fairlane Town Center.

After more than an hour of public discussion, the council voted to rename the ballroom in honor of President Abraham Lincoln for overseeing the end of the Civil War.

The initiative was begun by councilmembers Erin Byrnes and Robert Abraham. The council adopted a renaming policy a year ago and Byrnes proposed renaming options in the summer. She said Lincoln gained the most support because, in 2011, Dearborn was selected as one of a handful of cities to showcase the Emancipation Proclamation.

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2021/01/27/dearborn-city-council-vote-remove-hubbard-name-center-ballroom/4269323001/>

### **Dearborn, Michigan – June 2020 – removed monument**

Removed monument to segregationist Mayor Orville L. Hubbard.

### **Detroit, Michigan – Oct. 2020 - reviewing neighbourhood names**

Detroit residents may soon get a chance to rename their neighborhood under a proposal sponsored by City Council President Pro Tem Mary Sheffield. If passed, the proposed Neighborhood Renaming Ordinance would allow Detroiters to submit an application to give their neighborhood an official moniker or rename an existing one.

A draft ordinance is under consideration by the City Council's Neighborhood and Community Services Standing Committee. Next, a public hearing will take place during which residents can suggest changes to the ordinance. After that, it will be up to City Council to approve. Sheffield said the goal is to have it pass before the council recesses in November.

One contender for renaming is Indian Village. Resident Jared TenBrink, of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, wrote a letter in July calling for a name change of his neighborhood. In his letter, he said the name is historically inaccurate because there is no record of an American Indian settlement on that site.

Under Detroit city code, parks can be renamed. Sheffield said her ordinance is another formal process to now change the name of neighborhoods.

If approved, Detroiters can start submitting applications between June 1 and July 1. The person who submits the paperwork must be 18 or older. The proposed name — either an individual or an entity — should come with an application package including signatures of 20% of the residents who live in the neighborhood; the historical, cultural or social significance of the new name; a map or photographs of the area; a summary of public outreach with neighborhood, business and commercial property owners' associations. The Department of Neighborhoods would receive and review the application — like checking for duplicates or inappropriate suggestions — which would then be forwarded to City council for approval. There would also be a public hearing prior to the potential name change.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2020/10/17/detroit-neighborhoods-new-names-ordinance/3662427001/>

### **Detroit, Michigan – removed monument**

The Mayor ordered the removal and storage of a statue of Christopher Columbus.

### **Lansing, Michigan – June 2020 – renamed building, retained street name**

On June 30, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive order renaming downtown Lansing's Lewis Cass Building the Elliott-Larsen Building. The building houses state government offices. Cass was a Detroit politician and governor of Michigan from 1813 to 1831 who supported slavery. The Elliott-Larsen Building is named after Republican State Rep. Melvin Larsen and Democratic State Rep. Daisy Elliott, who introduced Michigan's landmark civil rights act in 1976.

While Michigan's governor has renamed a building in the state's capital, there are currently no plans to change the name of Cass Avenue in Detroit.

<https://www.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2020/06/30/why-gov-whitmer-renamed-lansings-lewis-cass-building-the-elliott-larsen-building>

## **Minnesota**

### **Roseville, Minnesota – Mar. 2021 – renamed park**

The city of Roseville is looking to change the name of one of its parks after it was deemed racially insensitive. City officials say they are determined to change the name of Pocahontas Park after hearing complaints from Native Americans. Members of the Dakota people say they felt as though naming the park after Pocahontas was offensive as Disney's interpretation of her was inaccurate and "harmful." Roseville Mayor Dan Roe says he is supportive of the name change. City officials say the renaming will take place following further discussions with neighbors and indigenous people.



<http://ktoe.com/2021/03/23/roseville-looking-to-rename-pocahontas-park/>

## **Mississippi**

### **Columbus, Mississippi – removed monument**

The County Commission voted unanimously to relocate the Lowndes County Confederate monument.

### **Forrest County, Mississippi – June-Nov. 2020– retained monument**

Voters have narrowly decided in favor of keeping a Confederate monument outside the Forrest County courthouse in southern Mississippi in place.

A referendum on the monument was placed on the Nov. 3 ballot after the Forrest County Board of Supervisors couldn't agree on what to do with the monument in June. The Forrest County Circuit Clerk's Office's unofficial tally indicated 51% of voters elected to leave the monument where it is.

<https://apnews.com/article/mississippi-referendums-elections-courts-hattiesburg-135408d2e57cce11a45f74eb9f61426f>

### **Greenville, Mississippi – removed monument**

The County Commission voted 4-1 to remove the Washington County Confederate monument.

### **Greenwood, Mississippi – removed monument**

The County Commission voted unanimously to remove the Leflore County Confederate monument.

### **Jackson, Mississippi – removed monument**

City Council voted to remove the Andrew Jackson monument.

### **Oxford University, Oxford, Mississippi – removed monument**

The University of Mississippi moved the Oxford Confederate monument from in front of a main university building to a Confederate cemetery on campus.

### **Steamboat Springs, Mississippi – Sept. 2020 – renamed street**

A street in Steamboat Springs, named after Civil War General Robert E. Lee and also associated with a Mississippi riverboat of the same name, has been changed to Storm Peak Lane. Steamboat Springs City Council passed the resolution renaming the street at its meeting on September 15.

City Council members have received numerous requests to change the name of the street, which is located in the Fairway Meadows subdivision. Residents who lived on the street worked with the city to come up with a new name for their street.

According to the city's addressing and street naming policy, 51% of property owners must agree to a suggested name change. City officials said that metric was met after two Zoom meetings, an online survey and other correspondence with Robert E. Lee Lane's 15 home owners.

The new name takes effect Jan. 1, 2021, to accommodate the upcoming election give property owners and residents enough time to modify legal documents. The street will now be known for the peak that is located to the east of the subdivision.

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/robert-e-lee-lane-residents-work-with-city-to-rename-street-storm-peak-lane/>

## **Missouri**

### **Cape Girardeau, Missouri – removed monument**

City Council approved the removal of the Confederate monument.

### **Kansas City, Missouri – June-Nov. 2020 – renamed streets, retained monuments**

- For City Council asset review resolution from July 9, 2020, see:  
<http://cityclerk.kcmo.org/LiveWeb/Documents/Document.aspx?q=NiDpUriy9WoyJbJt8Mx91g2UnYy0qBX8Uc96HWWBwApkbeLHQqssU5C%2bdGXfOfPlm>

A Kansas City councilwoman is calling for a plan to remove monuments and rename streets that honor figures who were slaveholders or racists.

Councilwoman Melissa Robinson of the 3rd District introduced a legislation that would establish a 12-member commission to research and make recommendations to the City Council for removal of monuments of those "that held slaves, promoted racism or participated in the oppression and dehumanization of others".

The commission must have one member from each of the six City Council districts, a historian, three members representing local civil rights groups, a religious scholar and a representative of an Indigenous group, according to the legislation.

In June, the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners in Kansas City voted unanimously to remove J.C. Nichols' name from the fountain and roadway on the Country Club Plaza that honored him. The road is now Mill Creek Parkway, and the fountain awaits a new name.

Statues of President Andrew Jackson were also ordered to be removed from the county's two courthouses in Kansas City and Independence. However, in August, the Jackson County Legislature ducked making a decision on the removal of the Andrew Jackson statues and sent the proposal to the voters.

Robinson said she did not have specific streets or monuments she wanted to see changed but many of Kansas City's major streets, like Wornall Road, McGee Street and Troost Avenue, were named after slaveholders. The legislation was referred to committee and is expected to be heard next week.

On September 17, City Council unanimously approved the resolution to examine street names and monuments to see if they should be removed because of ties to racism and slavery. Officials say they don't have a list in mind yet.

The parks board is also taking public testimony on naming roads in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The new resolution applies to memorials, including street names, that fall under the jurisdiction of the parks board and are on city-owned property. This resolution is a change from the original legislation, which would have created a 12-member commission to do the research. The board will also take input from civil rights and indigenous peoples' organizations.

The board has the next six months to report back to the council.

On November 3, Jackson County, Missouri, voters overwhelmingly rejected a plan to move statues of Andrew Jackson, despite the many protestors and public officials who wanted the monuments to a white supremacist taken down. In Jackson County, 59% of voters said no to Question 2, even as two of the leaders who wanted the statues removed said they would continue to fight against the racism they reflect. "I remain committed in my belief that the statues of a man who owned slaves, caused thousands of Native Americans to die and never stepped foot in our county should be removed from our public facilities," Jackson County Executive Frank White said in a statement sent.

County Legislator Jalen Anderson was part of the effort to move the statues away from the public square this summer. Anderson said he will try again to get the statues removed, but in the meantime, plaques should be posted giving a brief but unflinching history of the county's namesake.

Language for the signs was approved late last year, but they were never installed. It reads as follows:

*"In 1826, the Missouri State Legislature named this County after the hero of the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812 – Andrew Jackson – nearly three years before he became the nation's seventh President. Almost two centuries later, we hold a broader, more inclusive view of our nation. Jackson's ownership of slaves and his support for the Indian Removal Act are part of his history. The Act forced Native Americans from their home territories so that white settlers could live there and triggered the Trail of Tears, a 1,000-mile march resulting in the death of thousands, including an estimated one-quarter of the Cherokee Nation.*

*This statue of Jackson reminds us we are on a path that, in the immortal words of Martin Luther King, Jr., bends towards justice. In turn, we must acknowledge past injustices to help us create*

*a greater nation built upon humane policies to light our way and the way of humanity everywhere.*

*You may be entering this revered building today in a pursuit of truth or justice. Welcome. Your own history is still being written.”*

[https://www.kctv5.com/kansas-city-official-calls-to-remove-more-racist-monuments/article\\_32b698e1-3bc4-5161-94e1-894873f9f0d2.html](https://www.kctv5.com/kansas-city-official-calls-to-remove-more-racist-monuments/article_32b698e1-3bc4-5161-94e1-894873f9f0d2.html)

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article245820375.html>

<https://www.kcur.org/politics-elections-and-government/2020-11-04/jackson-county-voters-reject-initiative-to-remove-statues-of-racist-namesake>

<https://abc17news.com/news/national-world/2020/11/04/andrew-jackson-statues-in-jackson-co-to-get-plaques-after-voters-reject-their-removal/>

### **Kansas City, Missouri – removed monument**

The United Daughters of the Confederacy monument was removed.

### **Lee’s Summit, Missouri – Sept.-Dec. 2020 – reviewing street name**

Lee's Summit is moving ahead with plans to change the name of a major street. Todd George Parkway is named after a former mayor but the city council voted unanimously to start the process of renaming it. George was heavily influential in developing Lee's Summit. He actually named one of the streets after himself. However, he was also a known segregationist.

The discussion of what name will replace the street has already begun. The city is collecting public comments on this now and the public works department is looking into possible alternative names for the street.

The decision on whether to change the name of Todd George Parkway and Todd George Road will continue into the next year. During the week of December 5, the city council reviewed 79 comments received by email and heard a brief presentation from city staff in consideration of a proposal to change the street names.

After an online petition calling for a change garnered approximately 140,000 signatures from Lee's Summit residents and outsiders alike, the HRC began researching George's writing and history. Since then, the question of whether to rename the streets has sparked heated debate on social media and beyond.

Those who support changing the name point to George's outdated and now-offensive rhetoric related to race and equality, arguing that the name does not represent the values that the city holds and is a “blemish” on the reputation of Lee's Summit.

Those who are opposed to a name change argue that the city has bigger issues to deal with, not to mention the financial burden to the city that the change would require. Others say this could lead to a “slippery slope” of making other changes.

The cost to the city is an estimated \$50,000 to change both city-owned and MODoT-owned signage.

Mayor Bill Baird said he didn't subscribe to the idea of a slippery slope, saying that the council should be able to discern based on the circumstances when a discussion like this one would be appropriate. "I hope that we are not afraid to have conversations about diversity and inclusion," Baird said.

The council agreed at both their Dec. 1 meeting and their Sept. 22 meetings that getting public input would be essential in determining whether and how to proceed. But that is harder than it might seem, since the city's existing process for assessing street name change requests is designed with a developer in mind – not with the city itself as an applicant.

Councilmember Bob Johnson asked whether it was possible to move forward with getting public comments without putting the city in the position of being the applicant – and the possible appearance that taking such a step meant the council was in support of the change. Brian Head, city attorney, said that they could absolutely move forward without suggesting they were supportive of a specific outcome. "In reality," Head said, "the city council is just saying 'We want to initiate the process so that we can make a determination whether we want to go forward with a name change – and if we do, what is the name.'"

To that end, the council was supportive of having city staff draft an ordinance to amend the city's unified development ordinance to create a new process. That process will preserve the notification requirement to alert area residents of a public hearing, but without the need for separate hearings in front of both the planning commission and the city council. The council will consider and vote on the UDO process amendment at a future meeting. Once that is in place, they will work to begin the public hearing process to get input on whether or not to change the street names. Johnson suggested that, if possible, that hearing should take place in person to allow better citizen engagement.

[https://www.kctv5.com/news/local\\_news/lee-s-summit-to-rename-todd-george-parkway/article\\_3087aab2-0431-11eb-ba5e-e313398d9e44.html](https://www.kctv5.com/news/local_news/lee-s-summit-to-rename-todd-george-parkway/article_3087aab2-0431-11eb-ba5e-e313398d9e44.html)

<https://ltribune.net/index.php/2020/12/09/council-continues-todd-george-conversation/>

### **St. Louis, Missouri – removed monument**

The Park Board ordered the removal of a statue of Christopher Columbus.

### **St. Louis, Missouri – removed monument**

The Memorial to Confederate Dead was moved to the Missouri Civil War Museum in Jefferson Barracks.

## **University City, Missouri – Sept. 2020-Apr. 2021 – reviewing street names**

- For Task Force report from April 26, 2021, see:  
<https://www.ucitymo.org/DocumentCenter/View/15854/2021-04-26-Joint-Study-Session---Renaming-Streets-and-Parks-Task-Force--RPA-2-Steering-Committee-Discussion>

The University City task force on renaming streets and parks has researched more than 200 names and delivered recommendations to city leaders.

"We created three tiers for offensive names," task force member Holly Ingraham told the City Council on April 26. "Tier 1 was offensive by criteria in our Task Force resolution, Tier 2 was names of slave owners, and Tier 3 was possibly offensive names, though further research is needed."

The task force has been meeting since September. Among its recommendations was for the City Council to first consider renaming four Tier 1 streets:

- Amherst Avenue — named for Amherst College, which was named for Amherst, Massachusetts, which, in turn, was named for Lord Jeffrey Amherst, a British officer in America in the 1700s whom Task Force member Don Fitz called the "grandfather of biological warfare" because he advocated smallpox laced blankets for Native Americans to slaughter them.
- Jackson Avenue — named for Gen. Stonewall Jackson, a Confederate general in the Civil War. Also named for him are Jackson Park and Jackson Park School.
- Wilson Avenue — named for U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, who Task Force members said authorized Jim Crow laws, oversaw segregation of many federal agencies, and "saw slavery as relatively benign and Moot the KKK as harmless."
- Pershing Avenue — named for General John Pershing, who supported Black troops as "separate but equal," but those troops were not allowed to participate with American expeditionary forces during World War I. Also named for him is Pershing Elementary School.

Ingraham suggested streets could be renamed after University City residents, universities or colleges, slave revolt leaders, police victims and Black civilians killed by police, or Native Americans.

Task force recommendations call for considering renaming streets in the second tier as time and resources permit. Those were named for slave holders, such as Robert Forsyth, John H. Gay, Martin Hanley, Peter Lindell, John McKnight, William Price, Virginia Cabanne, James Clemens, George Kingsland and William Woodson.

Names in the third tier need more research, the task force said. They include Princeton, Yale, Chamberlain and Washington avenues and Camden Court.

The task force encouraged the City Council to continue the research on names, as well as look for ways to increase the awareness of the history of names used in University City.

Mayor Terry Crow said the city "needs to work through details" of renaming, such as investigating other communities that "have been down this path" and how they've implemented such changes. "For example, we need to consider that Pershing goes through the city of St. Louis, and I'm not

sure that St. Louis will jump at renaming streets with all they have going on, but they may,” he said.

City Manager Gregory Rose said the city's next steps will be identifying a process for changing names of streets. “It will be a complicated process. A number of people likely will be inconvenienced if the mayor and council decide to change some street names, but we're interested in doing things right, not doing them fast,” he said.

Ingraham added that “where street renaming is considered, it's important to gather the thoughts of residents and educate them on where the street name came from, even if streets eventually are not renamed.”

The task force consisted of 7 volunteer members of the public appointed by councillors. The task force divided the work by ward with members reviewing and researching the names of streets within their own ward. The task force was to be in existence for 120 days with meetings held every other Monday from October 5, 2020 through January 31, 2021. At each meeting citizen comments and work completed were reviewed, discussed and subsequent tasks assigned. Major streets were reviewed first, using local experts, books, and online resources, to discover the history behind the name of the street. The task force was not able to find information on all streets within University City. Some of the street names appear to be variations of British locales, some for unknown persons and even some that could be made-up names. Some of the streets were named for the owner of the land through which the street runs - some of whom are listed, on-record, as slave owners. The task force kept in mind that some streets might run through more than our municipality and that cooperation with adjacent municipalities would be necessary before any action could be taken.

The task force's report includes the following:

Explanation of principles that could be used in selecting new names.

- New street and park names should be names of University City residents.
- Streets and parks should be named after universities or colleges.
- Streets and parks should be named after Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- New names should establish equity by using names of slave revolt leaders since an enormous number of streets are named after US Revolutionary War heroes who rebelled against unjust taxes while there is a taboo against naming streets after black heroes who led revolts against the injustices of slavery.
- New names should establish equity by using names of police victims since streets can be named after police killed by civilians but a taboo exists against using names of black civilians killed by police.
- New names should be names of persons who have been dead for at least 50 years.
- New names should be the names of cities or states.
- New names should reference our existence on Native American land, specifically, Osage land.
- Instead of renaming, streets could be rededicated or by adding secondary signs to a current street sign.



#### Future Actions Recommended.

- Hold a well-publicized Zoom webinar which provides all University City residents (especially those living on streets that could be affected and high school students) an opportunity to verbalize their views on renaming streets and parks.
- Reconvene the Task Force to continue research on streets named after slaveholders and other street names found to be offensive.
- Establish educational programs explaining the history of University City racism in the context of national and global racism.
- Make this report available to the University City School District and other educational institutions within University City in order to increase student and staff awareness of the destructive effects of racism.
- Upon receiving this report make it available to the press to increase awareness via television, radio, print publications, online publications and social media of steps taken by University City which can serve as a model for others.
- Send copies of this report to libraries and municipalities in order to assist them in taking similar actions.
- Encourage artistic/cultural groups to organize a festival such as the re-enactment of the 1811 slave rebellion in Louisiana led by Charles Deslondes.

[https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/university-city-task-force-targets-four-streets-for-renaming-in-first-wave/article\\_f340b0ea-edb6-5fd3-846c-3fd4e9ee3db1.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/university-city-task-force-targets-four-streets-for-renaming-in-first-wave/article_f340b0ea-edb6-5fd3-846c-3fd4e9ee3db1.html)

<https://www.ucitymo.org/DocumentCenter/View/15854/2021-04-26-Joint-Study-Session---Renaming-Streets-and-Parks-Task-Force--RPA-2-Steering-Committee-Discussion>

## Montana

### **Helena, Montana – removed monument**

City Council voted for the removal of the Confederate memorial fountain. They temporarily replaced it with a sign explaining the monument and later permanently replaced it with a newly designed Equity Fountain.

## Nevada

### **Clark County, Nevada – Feb.-Mar. 2021 – renamed airport**

Clark County Commissioner Tick Segerblom is moving forward with a formal request for an ordinance to be drafted to change the name of McCarran International Airport to honor another Nevada political figure, former Sen. Harry Reid. "If there is support, we [will] come back in two weeks with an ordinance," said Commissioner Segerblom.

The idea has been floated before but failed in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Sen. Patrick McCarran was a Nevada political powerhouse and represented the Silver State from 1933 until his death in 1954. McCarran is credited for helping shape the air industry we know at

present. Sen. McCarran was a hardliner anti-communist and some say he left a legacy of racism, xenophobia and antisemitism.

"I would like to propose that we remove his name and replace it with Sen. Harry Reid," said Segerblom.

Reid is the former Senate majority leader and was one of the most powerful Democratic senators in the United States for many years. Reid does have critics and have expressed they feel he is too partisan to replace the McCarran name.

Segerblom introduced the McCarran name change before the Nevada legislature in 2017 but the measure failed. Now on the county commission, Segerblom says the name change would require only a four-person majority vote.

If the name is changed in the near future, estimates put the cost around \$2 million to replace signs, logos, letterheads, graphics, and other items with the McCarran name.

Popular Twitter account Las Vegas Locally asked whether the McCarran name should be changed to honor Sen. Harry Reid and as of Tuesday evening, nearly 6,000 votes have been recorded with 71 percent saying "no."

On February 16, Clark County Commission approved a measure directing the county's airport staff to file a change with the Federal Aviation Administration renaming the facility Harry Reid International Airport. The county commission oversees the airport and is the final authority on a name change.

As of the morning of March 4, an online petition has more than 21,000 signatures from those who would rather not see the former Nevada senator's name on the famed airport. Instead, Rocco Sant, who started the petition, says to take politics out and to rename the airport the Las Vegas International Airport - the least controversial name of the city in which the airport is located.

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/leaders-to-consider-las-vegas-airport-name-change-citing-diversity>

<https://www.wspa.com/news/national/vegas-airport-name-change-to-honor-former-sen-harry-reid/>

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/online-petition-gaining-further-support-to-halt-harry-reids-name-on-las-vegas-airport>

## New Hampshire

### **Boscawen, New Hampshire – May-Aug. 2020 – retained monument with modifications**

The Hannah Duston Memorial in Boscawen will remain standing — albeit with a few changes.

State officials are in discussion with Abenaki leaders and academics about a number of additions to the site to make it more historically accurate. The initiative comes not long after the statue was vandalized in May with splatters of red paint, but it follows decades of indecision by the state on what to do with the monument to Duston, a white settler who is shown holding a hatchet and the scalps of Native Americans she killed.

Denise Pouliot, of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People, is helping to lead the project. Pouliot said she hopes the proposed additions, including a new statue honoring fallen Abenaki and other historical markers, will help tell a more complete story about Duston, New England's Indigenous peoples and their relationship with colonial America.

The historical accuracy of Duston's capture and escape has been questioned over the years, especially as subsequent accounts were embellished for dramatic effect. In her 2015 piece for the New Hampshire Historical Society's journal, Laconia author Denise Ortakales recounts how Duston evolved into an instrument of American propaganda. "After the Civil War, she became the poster child for Indian removal, justifying western expansion," Ortakales wrote in the piece.

In 1874, New Hampshire erected a statue of Duston on an island at the confluence of the Contoocook and Merrimack rivers, thought to be the site where she was held prisoner. Duston stands holding a hatchet in one hand and a tangle of scalps in the other. The statue is the first built to honor an American woman, as well as the first publicly funded statue in the state.

For decades, opponents of the statue have criticized it as a gratuitous, one-sided depiction of the otherwise complicated history between Native Americans and the colonies. New Hampshire considered making changes to the site as recently as 2013, though the project ultimately fell through.

Not long after the incident in May, University of New Hampshire anthropological archeologist Megan Howie and assistant professor of history at Williams College Christine DeLuci reached out to Pouliot about the project. The three then took their proposal to the state.

In June, they held a conference call to discuss what to do with Duston, which included Cushing; Pouliot; Director of New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Ben Wilson; and Pouliot's husband, Paul, who goes by the tribal title of Sag8mo, which means "lead male speaker."

The group intends to keep the statue of Duston on site but to incorporate other historical elements about the Abenaki people and New Hampshire into the area.

<https://www.vnews.com/Members-of-abenaki-people-propose-additions-to-Hannah-Duston-historic-site-35243130>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/03/hannah-duston-statue-new-hampshire-native-americans>

## New Jersey

### **Atlantic City, New Jersey – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus is to be removed to "avert potential vandalism".

### **Camden, New Jersey – removed monument**

The Mayor ordered the removal of a statue of Christopher Columbus.

### **Newark, New Jersey – June-Oct. 2020 – removed monument, renamed park**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed to prevent injury to protesters. It was taken to storage until a final decision is made about its deposition. In October 2020, the mayor announced it would be replaced with a statue of Harriet Tubman. Washington Park, where the statue is located, will also be renamed to honor Tubman.

<https://www.nj.com/essex/2020/10/newark-to-rename-washington-park-to-honor-harriet-tubman-replace-columbus-statue-with-hers.html>

### **Trenton, New Jersey July-Sept. 2020– removed monument, renamed park**

In July, a statue of Christopher Columbus was removed from Columbus Park. The Mayor said that the park will also be renamed.

In September, Trenton City Council approved a measure to rename the location "Unity Square Park."

<https://6abc.com/unity-square-park-trenton-city-council-approves-on-new-name-for-trentons-columbus/6441007/>

### **West Orange, New Jersey – removed monument**

The Mayor ordered the removal of a statue of Christopher Columbus.

## **New Mexico**

### **Albuquerque, New Mexico – June 2020 – removed monument**

The City removed the statue of Juan de Onate after protester violence. A decision on next steps is pending.

### **Albuquerque, New Mexico – Nov. 2020 – reviewing park names**

The City of Albuquerque has a handful of parks named after some controversial historical figures, so they sent out a survey to the public to see if those parks should be renamed. Some of those parks are named after conquistadors, pioneers, and European explorers. The city says the overwhelming response was in favor of changing the names.

A Citizen Advisory Panel recently suggested changing Kit Carson Park near Tingley, to Cottonwood Park. They also recommended changing Juan De Oñate Park near Menaul and Tramway, to Brentwood Hills Park.

"We want to listen closely to the community at this very important time in our history. I think it's a really good sign that out of almost 300 parks in our city, only a handful have really come up right

now as being over-sensitive,” said David Simon, the Director of Albuquerque’s Parks and Rec Department.

The City was asked what is the likelihood of those suggested changes being confirmed by the Mayor, an announcement will be made once a decision happens, but was not given a timeline for that. The City took down the sign at Juan De Onate Park in the summer during protests over a statue in the park.

<https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/citizen-advisory-board-recommends-new-names-for-2-city-parks/>

### **Alcalde, New Mexico – removed monument**

The County temporarily removed the Equestrian statue of Juan de Onate.

### **San Jose, New Mexico – Oct. 2020-May 2021 – reviewing statue**

- For statement issued by Mayor Sam Liccardo in Feb. 2021, see:  
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=68936>

A protest in September has sparked a debate about whether to remove the statue of Capt. Thomas Fallon in San Jose. Mayor Sam Liccardo posted on his government Facebook page Oct. 12 he wants to start a conversation about the statue and have residents come up with a plan. Liccardo said he wants to hear more from the community and historians before deciding what to do with the statue. He is planning a discussion that will be moderated by Al Camarillo, the founding director of Stanford University’s Center for Chicano Research.

Since its commission in 1988 by former Mayor Tom McEnery, a close friend of Liccardo’s, the statue of Fallon on horseback— raising the American flag in San Jose after Congress declared war on Mexico in 1846 — has been steeped in controversy. In the 1990s, Latino activists said the statue was a symbol of oppression and a racial insult to people of Mexican descent as it commemorated the abuse of indigenous and Mexican people following the Mexican American War. The statue was shuttered at a warehouse in Oakland from 1994 to 2002. It currently stands at the intersection of West Julian and West St. James streets.

On Jan. 29, the city will hold an online public forum aimed at helping the city decide the statue’s future. Also on the agenda is the early removal of the “Holding the Moment” exhibition at San Jose International Airport, which caused a public outcry.

At the airport, the work of Eric Bui and other artists was displayed in a collection late last year. Bui told San José Spotlight his painting — “Americana” — aimed to condemn police brutality during the Black Lives Matter protests. It depicts a person holding an upside-down American flag, a signal of dire distress, squatting on top of a police car. The background is vivid red. There are also two red splatters on each side window of the car. However, some airport employees, the San Jose Police Officers’ Association and members of the public demanded its removal, saying it could be seen as encouraging violence against the police. The entire exhibit was removed three days early.

Former San Jose Arts Commission chair Peter Allen said because both works were city-sanctioned public art, funded by public dollars and approved by public officials, there is an expectation they would reflect the culture and community they represent. Allen said he objects to the collection being removed ahead of schedule by the City Manager's Office without community input. He said he'd prefer the city hold public dialogues before putting statues in storage or taking down exhibits.

Almost 150 people attended the virtual meeting called "When art provokes: Sharing and Learning from Community Views about Public Art." Most speakers said the statue represents racism, oppression and genocide and needs to go. Only one person openly disagreed.

The mayor acknowledged community members' anger and resentment towards this statue — but also the costs of removing Fallon from his downtown home. "That is certainly sufficient enough basis for us to say we've got to find a way to take it down," he said. "On the other hand, ...the cost is \$400,000 to do so and move it ... and we've got a lot of needs in this city."

Barbara Goldstein, a former city public art director, said two criteria for removing artwork from the city's collection apply to the Fallon statue: public engagement and sustained public objection.

Kerry Adams, the director of the Office of Cultural Affairs, said the city has a process and policy for removing art. Ultimately, the public art committee would forward a recommendation to the Arts Commission, which would then forward a recommendation to the City Council, she said.

Public comments from the forum will be shared with the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, San Jose Arts Commission, the mayor and City Council. Adams said information from the forum will guide future conversations and the city's next steps.

On February 1, Mayor Sam Liccardo issued a recommendation for the city to begin the process of removing the statue. "For a significant portion of our community, the Fallon Statue has become a deeply painful symbol of racial oppression," Liccardo said in an essay in which he discusses his rationale to have the statue removed.

On February 10, the Rules and Open Government Committee of the San Jose City Council, which sets future City Council agendas, voted unanimously to remove the statue.

The committee deciding the issue includes Vice Mayor Chappie Jones and Councilmembers Sylvia Arenas, Raul Peralez, David Cohen and Dev Davis. Peralez, who researched the statue and Fallon's history, said he appreciated the mayor's direction but would have come at it a little differently. "I think it's more than it's time to move on," Peralez said. "... A discussion should be had around what is it we honor and recognize on the level of a statue, monument or mural in our city. It's time to have a much deeper conversation."

Kerry Adams Hapner, director of the Office of Cultural Affairs, said city officials have approved the statue's removal but it is considered a complex undertaking. According to city documents, it could take nine to 18 months to remove the statue, involve three or more city departments and five or more workers.

The city has a deaccession policy to relocate or remove works of public art, Adams Hapner said. It's unclear where the estimated \$400,000 will come from to fund the statue's removal.

On May 4, the city's five-member Public Art Committee, which advises the Arts Commission on the acquisition, placement and conservation of public art, voted to remove the statue as recommended by Mayor Sam Liccardo and a council committee last year.

But it took it one step further by recommending the artwork never see the light of day again. "The fact that the statue causes such deep pain, overrides any other reason to keep it," said committee member Audrey Rumsby. "Especially as it won't cost the city to store it. Now that that is no longer going to be an issue, the deaccession of it seems the only choice."

Committee member Elizabeth Alvarez said the artwork is an open wound for a large segment of the community. "I understand that it's somebody's work," Alvarez said. "I also understand the pain that it has caused for 30+ years. It should be removed. It should be melted, and it should be recreated into something more beautiful that honors the human dignity of the community."

While Alvarez suggested melting the monument, the city's Public Art Director Michael Ogilvie said the artist asked it not be melted and he has rights that should be honored. "The artist does have rights in regards to his work," Ogilvie said, "and when an artist makes a specific request, we try to honor that for the life of the artist. That's the right thing to do and the legal thing to do."

An evaluation found the statue is worth \$6,000 and twice that if melted for the bronze. It will cost \$150,000 to remove and transport to storage, plus \$25,000 in staff time. It's unclear where the funding will come from. Storage is free.

Ogilvie said the statue meets three of the city's criteria to remove public art: significant adverse public reaction over an extended period of time, the inability to guarantee its security and its needing excessive maintenance to remove paint, signage, tagging and burn marks.

To de-install the piece, the city has to shut down a lane of traffic, jackhammer the concrete, get a crane, build a freight that can hold 12,000 pounds, transport it, clean up and rebuild the site.

Next, the Arts Commission will vote on June 21 on the recommendation to remove the statue. The City Council in August or September will make the final decision.

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-mayor-wants-to-know-what-to-do-about-controversial-fallon-statue/>

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/fate-of-thomas-fallon-statue-launches-public-forum-on-san-jose-art/>

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/residents-demand-removing-thomas-fallon-statue-in-san-jose/>

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/01/san-jose-mayor-liccardo-calls-for-removal-of-controversial-fallon-statue/>

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-leaders-agree-thomas-fallon-statue-must-be-removed/>

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/thomas-fallon-statue-headed-for-san-joses-broom-closet/>



### **Santa Fe, New Mexico – June-Oct. 2020 – removed monuments and created commission to review monuments**

Mayor Alan Webber called for the removal of three controversial monuments in Santa Fe, including the statue of Diego De Vargas and a Kit Carson obelisk.

The mayor also announced plans to form a commission that will evaluate every statue and monument in the city and help determine their fate — a move former Mayor Javier Gonzales started but that hadn't gained traction until now. In addition, Webber signed an emergency proclamation "addressing institutional racism," which "recognizes that we are taking action both to address the moral truth of the moment and also the legal truth of the moment."

When the 1973 City Council unanimously voted to remove the obelisk from the Plaza, it learned they had no say in the matter without serious penalty of losing federal money if the Plaza monument was removed. The historic downtown square is a National Historic Landmark and on the State Register of Cultural Properties. No changes are possible without federal and state legislation.

While a statue of Spanish conquistador Don Diego de Vargas was taken down from Cathedral Park on the eve of a planned protest over fears it would spark violence or damage, as of September 12, Mayor Webber hasn't made much tangible progress on his other plans. The two other monuments — an obelisk in the middle of the Plaza dedicated in part to the "heroes" who died in battle with "savage Indians," and an obelisk in honor of famed frontiersman Kit Carson in front of the U.S. District Courthouse — remain, though both are surrounded by plywood.

The mayor's proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which Webber said in June would be composed of a broad cross section of people from Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico who would "create the future we want our children and our grandchildren to live in," has yet to be formed. He said in a statement the City Attorney's Office is reviewing unspecified "legal issues" involved with the statues and monuments.

On the afternoon of October 12, protesters gathered on the downtown Plaza for what had been a peaceful three-day rally in observation of Indigenous Peoples Day used a rope and chains to bring down the obelisk.

At a public meeting on October 14, Santa Fe city councillors expressed sadness and frustration over the protesters, and they resolved to move forward with plans for a commission to examine long-standing inequities in the community and the history of colonization in Northern New Mexico. Mayor Alan Webber discussed a proposed resolution to create a new commission dedicated to looking into that history, offering practical guidelines on steps to remove controversial statues and monuments, and recommending other actions to address a complicated past of colonization and violence toward Indigenous people. Some have called the commission, an idea the mayor announced in June, long overdue.

The mayor acknowledged the pain that led to the toppling of the obelisk. But he said its removal was a decision that should have been made by the government. Santa Fe police are seeking the identity of a man suspected of initiating the damage to the Plaza obelisk.

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/santa-fe-mayor-calls-for-removal-of-controversial-monuments-statue-of-spanish-conquistador/article\\_3b75859a-b0c4-11ea-b55f-8787d18649d0.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/santa-fe-mayor-calls-for-removal-of-controversial-monuments-statue-of-spanish-conquistador/article_3b75859a-b0c4-11ea-b55f-8787d18649d0.html)

[https://www.santafenm.gov/news/detail/a\\_message\\_from\\_mayor\\_alan\\_webber\\_santa\\_fe](https://www.santafenm.gov/news/detail/a_message_from_mayor_alan_webber_santa_fe)

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/push-to-remove-controversial-monuments-in-santa-fe-stalls/article\\_159c97ae-f1ed-11ea-aef5-f321512c8ca7.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/push-to-remove-controversial-monuments-in-santa-fe-stalls/article_159c97ae-f1ed-11ea-aef5-f321512c8ca7.html)

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/city-to-move-forward-with-cultural-commission-after-obelisk-s-destruction/article\\_be090fd8-0e87-11eb-84ef-ab0cf0a72e28.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/city-to-move-forward-with-cultural-commission-after-obelisk-s-destruction/article_be090fd8-0e87-11eb-84ef-ab0cf0a72e28.html)

## New York

### **Albany, New York – June 2020 – renamed park, removed statue**

City Council unanimously voted to change the name of Livingston Park to Black Lives Matter Park on June 16. The Livingston family had imported and owned slaves.

The week before, the Mayor ordered city employees to prepare a plan to remove the statue of Phillip Schuyler from in front of City Hall. Schuyler, a Revolutionary War hero and the father-in-law of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, owned 13 enslaved people at his Albany South End mansion and four more at his farm in Saratoga County.

The Mayor said she ordered the statues removal after scores of people asked her why someone who owned other people would be featured with a monument in such a prevalent place. The statue will be moved to a place in the city where it can be put into historical context.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Common-Council-renames-park-Black-Lives-Matter-15342363.php#:~:text=ALBANY%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Common%20Council%20unanimously,Park%2C%20in%20honor%20of%20Juneteenth.>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_name\\_changes\\_due\\_to\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_name_changes_due_to_the_George_Floyd_protests)

### **Black Brook, New York – Sept. 2020 – retained name**

A small town in Clinton County has voted against considering a name change for the tiny hamlet of Swastika, New York.

The town of Black Brook has jurisdiction over Swastika. On September 14, the town's four councillors voted on whether to consider a name change. And after five minutes of discussion, they unanimously voted against it. "Swastika was named by the founders of the area who settled there," said Black Brook's town supervisor Jon Douglass. Douglass says this is not the first time the hamlet's name has been scrutinized.

[https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local\\_news/town-board-rejects-renaming-swastika-hamlet/article\\_455c7b7e-d863-536f-9172-da1c9f874072.html](https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/town-board-rejects-renaming-swastika-hamlet/article_455c7b7e-d863-536f-9172-da1c9f874072.html)

### **Buffalo, New York – July-Nov. 2020 – removed monument, renamed park**

On July 10, 2020, a statue of Columbus was removed from Columbus Park by the city. The park is also to be renamed.

In August, Mayor Byron Brown issued the following statement:

*"I have requested that the Buffalo Arts Commission review all statues and monuments with an eye toward evaluating the legacy of the honorees and making recommendations to re-purpose any that are undesirable historical figures.*

*I have asked that this review be done in the context of the time the person lived in and weighing their entire record. I have also asked the Buffalo History Museum to provide technical assistance to the Arts Commission and advise the city of Buffalo on the historical significance of these individuals and how to place their lives in proper perspective.*

*Through this process, I also want to bring the stories of other worthy individuals who are Black, Native American, minority and women to light, so that their stories will be told and they receive proper recognition."*

The Buffalo Common Council voted unanimously on November 10 to rename Columbus Park to Prospect Park. According to the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, when the Columbus statue was installed in the 50's, there was a request to rename the park after the statue. The common council credited the Italian-American community for the name change to Prospect Park, which is the original name of the park.

The Federation of Italian-American Societies announced in October a new bronze statue will replace the Columbus statue that was taken down in July. Entitled "La Terra Promessa" or "The Promised Land," it will depict an Italian immigrant family coming to Buffalo to begin a new life.

<https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/should-millard-fillmores-name-be-removed-from-wny>

<https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/buffalo-common-council-votes-unanimously-to-rename-columbus-park-to-prospect-park>

### **New York, New York – Sept. 2017-May 2021 – commission to review monuments, retained monuments with and without modifications, removed monument**

- For Advisory Commission Report from Jan. 2018, see:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/monuments/downloads/pdf/mac-monuments-report.pdf>
- For public consultation, see:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/monuments/downloads/pdf/monuments-survery-data.pdf>

Announced in September 2017, the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments and Markers convened to advise the Mayor on issues surrounding public art and historic monuments and markers on City-owned property. The Commission was co-chaired by the President of the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker, and the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, Tom Finkelpearl.

The Commission recommended that the City:

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of its current collection of public art, monuments, and markers in order to gain an understanding of what and who are represented and left out; and consider making such an assessment publicly accessible;
2. Commission new permanent monuments and works about history to begin a proactive, additive process that rebalances and/or creates a more representative public collection;
3. Commission new temporary artworks about historical moments to add more perspectives and to foster public dialogue in public space;
4. Establish a mechanism for community-generated monuments and markers to give agency to neighborhoods to decide what and whom to celebrate in their public spaces;
5. Invest in educational initiatives through partnerships between the Department of Education, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Public Design Commission, and relevant cultural organizations to integrate complex and nuanced histories into curricula using monuments and markers;
6. Host or co-host City-sponsored historical discussions or public programs to address issues raised by controversial art, monuments, or markers; e.g., a symposium on women's health at the New York Academy of Medicine, stemming from objections to the Dr. J. Marion Sims monument;
7. Use digital content and new technologies to make the City's collection of art, monuments, and markers more accessible to the public, potentially through VR/AR and interactive works;
8. Create equity funds for historically underrepresented communities, offering tangible community investments to address historical exclusions represented by many controversial monuments and artworks over the long term;
9. Establish an interagency task force on monuments to deal with this issue moving forward, including representatives of relevant City agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Parks Department, Landmarks Preservation Commission, Public Design Commission, and Department of Transportation, and one representative from each borough. The Commissioner of Cultural Affairs may serve as a permanent member in an advisory capacity to fulfill the recommendations of this Commission, ensuring expeditious treatment and appropriate resolution.

In addition to creating guidelines that can be applied to future scenarios, the commission's report made recommendations on specific actions for four monuments and markers on City property. The Mayor's decisions for City action on these specific sites are below:

1. J. Marion Sims statue (5th Ave/103rd Street, Manhattan)

The City will relocate the statue to Green-Wood Cemetery and take several additional steps to inform the public of the origin of the statue and historical context, including the legacy of non-consensual medical experimentation on women of color broadly and Black women specifically that Sims has come to symbolize. These additional steps include: add informational plaques both to the relocated statue and existing pedestal to explain the origin of the statue, commission new artwork with public input that reflects issues raised by Sims' legacy, and partner with a community organization to promote in-depth public dialogues on the history of non-consensual medical experimentation of people of color, particularly women.

## 2. Canyon of Heroes/Henri Philippe Pétain plaque (Broadway, Lower Manhattan)

The City will keep all markers memorializing ticker-tape parades in place and explore opportunities to add context such as wayfinding, on-site signage, and historical information about the people for whom parades were held. The Downtown Alliance has also partnered with the Museum of the City of New York to research more detailed biographical information on the individuals with markers along Broadway, and will make this information accessible through an app and web page.

## 3. Columbus Circle

The City will keep the monument in place and take additive measures to continue the public discourse, including placing new historical markers in or around Columbus Circle explaining the history of Columbus and of the monument itself, and commissioning a new monument, at a location in the city not yet determined, recognizing Indigenous peoples.

## 4. Theodore Roosevelt statue (American Museum of Natural History)

The City will keep the monument in place and partner with the museum to provide additional context on-site through signage and educational programming, which can offer multiple interpretations of the sculpture, the artist's intentions, and the nature of the piece as part of the history of AMNH. The Department of Cultural Affairs will explore commissioning a new artwork in the vicinity to further those dialogues. (However, in June 2020, due to further protests, it was decided that the Equestrian Statue of Theodore Roosevelt should be removed from in front of the American Museum of Natural History.)

Any permanent changes to City property – including relocation or addition of plaques and new work – must undergo a formal approval process by the Public Design Commission.

The commission's report makes a powerful argument for expanding the histories that are represented on City property through historical research and education, and by adding to the communities, individuals, and histories that are represented in statues, monuments, and markers. To support this effort, the Department of Cultural Affairs planned to commit up to \$10 million in capital funds over the next four years to create new permanent artwork honoring various communities that are underrepresented on City property.

Throughout the review period, the commission also conducted extensive engagement with the public: more than 500 individuals attended public hearings, with nearly 200 offering verbal testimony, and an online survey received more than 3,000 responses.

As of February 11, 2021, monuments to Christopher Columbus on city parkland remain under constant NYPD protection and behind barricades — 10 months after nationwide protests against police brutality ignited a renewed reckoning over historic symbols of oppression.

The five monuments in Columbus Circle and in Central Park in Manhattan, along with ones in Downtown Brooklyn, The Bronx and Queens, are shielded by the constant presence of police vehicles or barricades.

The City Council, the city comptroller's office and the Independent Budget Office were also unable to provide specifics on the costs of turning the mariner monuments into permanent NYPD outposts.

Republican City Councilmember Joe Borelli of Staten Island believes the monuments need to remain under police watch.

The controversial Theodore Roosevelt statue in front of the Museum of Natural History will be removed — but it's not yet clear where it will be taken.

On May 13, the Community Board 7 Preservation Committee met to discuss the future of the Roosevelt statue, which has stood sentinel on the Central Park West Side of the museum since 1940. The Roosevelt family has agreed with the decision to remove the statue, stating that the equestrian statue does not reflect "Theodore Roosevelt's legacy" or "the values of equality and justice."

Representatives of the New York City Parks Department and the Museum of Natural History discussed the park's proposal for removal and relocation of the statue at the May 14 meeting. The city has had trouble identifying a legal document showing that ownership was transferred from the state to the city but is working under the assumption that it is owned by the city. The city and the museum both believe that it is important that people focus on the Roosevelt memorial and not the controversial statue that has become its focal point.

New York City proposes with the support of the Roosevelt family that the statue be moved to a cultural institution dedicated to the life of Theodore Roosevelt, though no officials offered a specific disclosable location. The memorial to Teddy Roosevelt, which was funded by New York State, consists not only of the statue but also the entrance wing itself. In the statue's place, the city advocates for the placement of a new set of stairs similar to those that already exist on each side of the statue. A subtle outline of the statue will be engraved on the plaza where the statue now stands. There will also be a plaque explaining why the statue was removed so that the entrance's history is reflected upon rather than forgotten.

Construction is expected to start after approval from the Community Board, Landmark Preservation Committee, and Public Design Commission, and it will likely take several months. The museum's hope is that the entrance will still be in use for the majority of that time. The museum estimates that the project will cost approximately \$2.1 million.

Several committee members expressed concern that the statue would never actually be featured elsewhere and raised the question as to whether the Black and Indigenous men could be featured somewhere else. Others thought that the museum's plan was appropriate and that the statue does a disservice to the memorial.

The resolution to support the removal of the statue under the terms and conditions proposed by the museum passed. The resolution to support the modification of the existing plaza as presented by the museum additionally passed but more narrowly. It's expected to be presented to the full Community Board in June.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/monuments/index.page>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/030-18/mayor-de-blasio-releases-monuments-commission-s-report-decisions-controversial>

<https://www.thecity.nyc/2021/2/11/22279375/christopher-columbus-statues-nypd>



<https://www.westsiderag.com/2021/05/15/board-takes-first-steps-to-remove-theodore-roosevelt-statue-from-museum-entrance>

### **New York, New York – July 2020-Mar. 2021 – reviewing park name**

Community members and advocates have been demanding a name change to John Mullaly Park in the Bronx since July 2020, saying the racist history of the park's namesake is not representative of the borough. Advocates of a name change point to Mullaly's history as a copperhead - an agitator and instigator of the draft riots during the Civil War.

The Parks Department describes him as a "tireless proponent of green space and the father of Bronx parks." In a statement, the department says, "We are in communication with the various stakeholders advocating for Mullaly Park's renaming and announced our commitment to do so on November 2, 2020 - we are currently reviewing naming options and plan to announce in June."

This is part of the department's plan to rename parks for Black Americans with local, national or historical relevance. Community members say they want the park to be named after the Rev. Wendell Foster. Foster was the first Black city councilmember in the Bronx. They say Foster was a long-time champion of parks and invested millions of dollars into John Mullaly Park and the Highbridge community.

<https://bronx.news12.com/community-members-rally-demand-name-change-of-john-mullaly-park>

### **Syracuse, New York – June-Oct. 2020 – removed monument, renamed street**

Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh says this may be the year the city decides on concrete action to take with the controversial Christopher Columbus statue downtown. "I've indicated the status quo at Columbus Circle is not acceptable so change is going to come," said Walsh.

In June, the city announced the formation of a Columbus Circle Action Group charged with making recommendations on how to create a "comprehensive education and learning site" at Columbus Circle. Walsh is expecting those recommendations before Columbus Day.

Adding an educational component to contextualize the history of Christopher Columbus and indigenous people in the Americas was a major part of community discussions that took place in 2018 and 2019. The mayor established these conversations between community stakeholders to create a dialogue; The Action Group's purpose is different; according to the Mayor's office, their recommendations will likely lead to action from the city. Mayor Walsh has not committed to taking down the Columbus Statue.

A petition demanding that the city remove the Columbus statue has 18,674 signatures. A petition to keep the statue standing has around 1,887 signatures.

Columbus Circle Action Group consists of 23-members representing a wide range of views on the issue of Columbus commemoration and the presence of the monument in Columbus Circle: the Onondaga Nation, the Italian American community, New Americans, multiple communities of color, faith-based organizations, local government, and the Interfaith Works Dialogue Circles on Columbus convened by Mayor Walsh in 2018-19. The group will make recommendations to



Mayor Walsh regarding the creation of an all-season, education and learning site at the downtown park space that has been home to a statue of Christopher Columbus since 1934. The group's charge will include recommendations on the presence of the monument in the Circle.

Mayor Ben Walsh announced on October 9 that he plans to remove and relocate the statue of Christopher Columbus in downtown Syracuse and rename Columbus Circle. The statue at the site on Jefferson Street will be moved to a private location. The fountain and monument at its center will remain as a permanent memorial to Italian Americans.

Walsh also announced plans to add an educational component to the downtown site outlining the impacts of colonialism. The site will highlight the contributions of groups that have been oppressed, including Black and Brown Americans, Native Americans, Italians, immigrants and New Americans, Walsh said.

Walsh will appoint a commission to design the changes to the circle and propose a new name. Plans must be reviewed and approved by the Syracuse Public Art Commission and the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board. Walsh said the redesign will be paid for using public and private money.

<https://cnycentral.com/station/what-a-summer-of-debate-means-for-columbus-circle-in-syracuse>

<https://ourcity.syr.gov.net/2020/07/mayor-walsh-appoints-participants-in-columbus-circle-action-group/>

<https://www.interfaithworkscny.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Columbus-Day-Report-to-Mayor-2019.pdf>

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2020/10/walsh-to-remove-columbus-statue-rename-downtown-circle.html>

## North Carolina

### **Asheville, North Carolina – June 2020-Mar. 2021 – removed statues, reviewing place names**

- For Resolution to remove monument from June 9, 2020, see:  
[https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/Commissioners/20200616/Monument%20Removal%20Joint%20resolution\(final\).pdf](https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/Commissioners/20200616/Monument%20Removal%20Joint%20resolution(final).pdf)

On June 9, 2020, at the Asheville city council meeting, council members unanimously approved a joint resolution for the removal of Confederate monuments. Before voting, council heard almost an hour of public comments. The resolution would include the Vance Memorial, the Robert E Lee Dixie Highway Col. John Connally marker and a memorial honoring the 60th Regiment of the North Carolina Confederate soldiers. The John Connally marker was removed and placed in storage. The base was left on site for future use.

On June 16, Buncombe commissioners in a split vote passed a joint resolution that was unanimously approved by City Council.

The resolution, in part, formally requests that "the United Daughters of the Confederacy to immediately remove the two Confederate monuments located at the Buncombe County Courthouse and Pack Square Park.

"The City further requests that it receive from the United Daughters of the Confederacy its intent to remove the monument within 30 days, and that said removal is completed within 90 days."

If the UDC did not provide an intent to remove within that timeframe, Asheville and Buncombe resolved to remove the monuments themselves.

The joint resolution also called for the creation of a task force to come up with a plan to legally repurpose or remove Vance Monument, a 75-foot granite obelisk that also stands in Pack Square. That process is expected to unfold over the next several months. It was shrouded from view with scaffolding, plywood and a gray opaque material. The resolution called for the monument to be covered "in order to reduce its impact on the community and to reduce the risk of harm it presents in its current state."

Buncombe County staff removed a Confederate monument honoring the 60th Regiment and Battle of Chickamauga from courthouse property on July 14. It follows the city of Asheville's removal of a monument to Robert E. Lee from Pack Square, in the heart of downtown.

As of August 4, the city of Asheville is looking at recommendations to remove the names of slave owners and others associated with discrimination from some major streets and at least one park. Names flagged for potential renaming by city staff are: Woodfin Street, Woodfin Place, McDowell Street, Patton Avenue, Baird Street, Merrimon Avenue and Davidson Drive. Staff also raised the possibility of renaming Charlotte Street.

City Manager Debra Campbell asked the Asheville and Buncombe County African American Heritage Commission to recommend the removal and replacement of names, she told the City Council July 14. "Another one of our 30-day efforts is to work with the community on the renaming of streets. Again, these are all underway," said Campbell, Asheville's first Black city manager.

At the same July meeting Councilwoman Julie Mayfield asked about the potential renaming of parks, including the popular triangular Pritchard Park at the convergence of Patton, College Street and Haywood Street. Campbell responded that staff members are looking into it and "would definitely be addressing it."

The city is now waiting for a report on the commission's progress on potential name changes. "Next steps include developing a public engagement strategy that educates and empowers the community to participate in the process of renaming streets. We anticipate more information on the engagement process will be available later this month."

One pitfall could be the difficulty for businesses that would have to change signs and other materials. Woodfin Place, named after Nicholas Washington Woodfin who owned 122 slaves, is one of the smallest streets on the list. But it has 104 businesses, according to the presentation by Development Services Director Ben Woody.

At the Oct. 13 City Council meeting, City Manager Debra Campbell told the elected officials, "We're continuing to develop the next steps in terms of a community engagement opportunity."

As of November 12, researchers are continuing to look into street name origins. Lee North is one of more than 100 city roads researchers have determined could be named after slave owners — but also might not be. Researchers cross-referenced all street names with the names of people involved with buying and selling slaves. “There are streets like Merrimon Avenue that are pretty obvious,” said Asheville Development Services Director Ben Woody. That is because at least three members of the Merrimon family were documented slave owners. “But I really don’t know with some of the others,” he said. They bear common names, such as King, Roberts or Miller.

The history on some street names is spotty, and with multiple other city efforts happening around race and equity and his office busy with a construction boom, Woody said he and other staff members just don’t “have the capacity” right now to do in-depth research on each road.

Asheville historian Sasha Mitchell said one answer might be to rename streets after prominent Black residents with the same name. Miller street, for example could be renamed after James Vester Miller, who was born into slavery, but became a prominent brick mason and contractor whose projects included Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Asheville Municipal Building where police and fire departments are headquartered. “That’s an easy way, and it doesn’t cost any money.”

But if the street occupies a neighborhood away from where the historic person lived and worked, it might not make sense, she said. Mitchell also said there might be cases where researching some of the smaller streets is not worth the city’s time.

On March 23, city council members voted 6-1 to remove the Vance obelisk by the summer. The city council’s decision paves a way for destroying the obelisk — a marked change from plans for other Confederate monuments across the state that are being stored or moved rather than demolished. Mayor Esther Manheimer said the monument no longer represented the values of the community. Council’s next step is to figure out what to do with the space.

For a year, the monument has been tarped, covered and boarded. And the plaque that memorialized former Confederate North Carolina Gov. Zebulon Vance, who owned slaves and was known to espouse deeply racist beliefs, was also covered.

The city must approve the way the demolished monument is discarded. Parts of the statue can’t be used again in “similar likeness,” and intact pieces from the project can’t be sold or given away. The city council took a step toward demolishing the monument after a task force called for its removal, citing concerns about safety, a potential blow to tourism and impacts on people who view it as a symbol of white supremacy.

Asheville is known to be a liberal city ensconced in a largely Republican rural population across Buncombe and surrounding counties.

Demolition of the Vance Monument will cost about \$114,000. MS Lean Landscaping, a Black-owned business, would temporarily restore the site for another \$23,000. The city has earmarked \$70,000 for a community re-envisioning effort for the space.

<https://wlos.com/news/local/city-of-asheville-votes-to-remove-confederate-monuments>

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2020/07/14/confederate-monument-removed-buncombe-property/5433660002/>

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/2020/06/17/buncombe-county-board-commissioners-votes-remove-confederate-monuments/3201563001/>

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2020/08/09/asheville-slave-owner-names-patton-merrimon-could-stripped-streets/3324389001/>

[https://greensboro.com/community/rockingham\\_now/news/slave-owner-or-not-asheville-struggles-to-rename-streets/article\\_4542d46a-2117-11eb-bc6a-8fa0f48cee3d.html](https://greensboro.com/community/rockingham_now/news/slave-owner-or-not-asheville-struggles-to-rename-streets/article_4542d46a-2117-11eb-bc6a-8fa0f48cee3d.html)

<https://wlos.com/news/local/opinions-differ-on-plans-to-remove-controversial-confederate-vance-monument-from-downtown-asheville>

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article250165860.html>

### **Charlotte, North Carolina – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – renamed streets, retained monuments with plaques**

- For Legacy Commission Report, see: <https://citycharlottencgov.azureedge.net/Legacy-Commission-Recommendations.pdf>

Nine streets in the City of Charlotte that were named after people with ties to the Confederacy, slavery, and white supremacy could soon be renamed. The Legacy Commission, formed by Mayor Vi Lyles in June of 2020, will update Charlotte City Council with their report that recommends the streets be renamed, among other changes.

The Commission consists of the following members:

- Emily Zimmern (Chair), Retired Levine Museum of the New South President and CEO
- Donnie Simmons, Retired Mecklenburg County Employee Relations Manager
- Frank Coley, Retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officer
- Levester Flowers, Retired Bank of America Loan Officer
- Debra Smith, UNC Charlotte African Studies Professor
- Michael Sullivan, The Nichols Company Real Estate Broker & CPCC History Professor
- Fannie Flono, Charlotte Observer Associate Editor
- Alan Kronovet, Wells Fargo Commercial Executive VP & Head of Mortgage Servicing
- Len Norman, Retired Bank of America
- Mary Newsom, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute Director of Urban Policy Initiatives
- Tom Hanchett, Levine of the New South Staff Historian
- Steve Crump, WBTV Reporter
- Mildred McCullough, Bank of America Vice President
- Kristen Wile, Unpretentious Palate Founder & Editor
- Beatrice Thompson, Retired CBS Radio News & Public Affairs Director

Commission consultants are: Willie Griffin, Levine Museum of the New South Historian; and Karen Cox, UNC Charlotte History Professor.

The streets are Jefferson Davis Street, West Hill Street, Stonewall Street, Jackson Avenue, Phifer Avenue, Aycock Lane, Barringer Drive, Morrison Boulevard, and Zebulon Avenue. Those streets

are named after Confederate leaders and soldiers, slave owners, or white supremacists, according to Charlotte historians and the commission's report.

Dozens of homes line Jefferson Davis Street and Barringer Drive. The commission says brothers Paul and Osmand Barringer worked to advance the ideals of white supremacy. Osmand fought against desegregation at Charlotte public facilities. No one lives on Zebulon Avenue it, but there is plenty of land for development and a couple of businesses. It is named after North Carolina's former Confederate Gov. Zebulon Vance. Perhaps the most prominent street slated for change is East Stonewall Street in uptown.

Emily Zimmern, chair of the commission, and the commission she leads published a report on December 2 that will be given to Charlotte City Council as they're updated on the findings at their Dec. 14 business meeting. In the report, the commission recommends renaming the nine streets and offer a blueprint for how the city should choose their replacements.

Some of those criteria include:

- Give priority to those who have had a significant connection to Charlotte and contributed to the city's progress
- Honor individuals whose contributions have been overlooked in the past. (African Americans, Native Americans, Latinx, Asians, women.)
- Honor those who represent the diversity of the city's history

The report also gives examples of historically significant individuals who would fit the criteria, including Stonewall Street to be renamed after Julius Chambers, a Civil Rights activist and attorney who built one of the South's first interracial law firms. His law office was on Stonewall Street on the top floor of East Independence Plaza office tower, which he developed.

The City of Charlotte also has control over the Confederate monuments at Elmwood Cemetery in Uptown. The commission found it is appropriate for the monuments to stay, which tower over roughly 100 headstones marking the graves of confederate veterans.

However, the Legacy Commission recommended the city put signage up next to the monuments, giving context and explaining why they are there.

The commission also recommends the city install a memorial commemorating the deaths of two documented lynching victims in Charlotte, Joe McNeely and Willie McDaniel, and create a wall with names of enslaved people who lived in Charlotte.

The city is asking for the public's feedback on the commission's findings to be submitted by December 13.

On February 8, Charlotte City Council unanimously decided to move forward with plans to rename several city streets previously named for Confederate soldiers, slaveowners, and segregationists.

The Legacy Commission solicited feedback from members of the public with a survey. The survey asked respondents if they agreed with the commission's recommendations, and if they would change anything about the recommendations. 594 people responded to the survey. Roughly 54 percent of respondents agreed with the recommendations. Roughly 43 percent of respondents disagreed with the recommendations. Several people responded to the survey with messages.

Charlotte City Councilman Larken Egleston shared a few comments about the renaming process during the February 8 meeting. "It doesn't mean we are erasing that history. It doesn't mean we aren't teaching that history. It simply means we don't honor those folks in the ways that they have been honored up until now," explained Egleston.

Councilman Tariq Bokhari explained that he thinks city leaders should stop naming things after people. "It's impossible for us to understand with today's lens or a future lens what is happening today nor anticipate that and I would just like to save councils in the future any kind of issues alongside that by just stripping that out of our entire playbook," said Bokhari.

According to city staffers, the next steps in the Legacy Commission's recommendations include developing a pilot program that outlines a process for changing street names and supporting the efforts of neighborhoods and developers that petition name changes.

Staffers said the city is also applying for a \$250,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help fund the renaming as well as commemorative projects. Staffers said the city will also work to install a memorial commemorating the deaths of Joe McNeely and Willie McDaniel, victims of the two documented lynchings in Charlotte.

The Legacy Commission will also work to make sure steps are taken to review possible offensive street names in the future. "We'll collaborate with CDOT on new city-owned streets to help ensure we do not run across this path again," a spokesperson with the commission said. "In addition, we'll be collaborating with Levine Museum of the New South and land commission to review new street names to make sure they're in accordance with new criteria."

<https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/local/charlotte-city-council-street-names-confederacy-white-supremacists/275-fc8e6356-6ca6-4c2d-8d46-0063878104e8>

<https://www.wsocv.com/news/local/city-explores-changing-streets-named-after-advocates-slavery/VQZONITIJBWZFAAKUE6LKW3R4/>

<https://www.wfae.org/local-news/2020-12-03/charlotte-commission-proposes-renaming-streets-with-ties-to-confederacy-white-supremacy>

<https://www.wbtv.com/2021/02/09/charlotte-city-council-moving-forward-with-plan-rename-streets-named-confederate-figures/>

<https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/politics/charlotte-rename-streets-named-after-confederate-soldiers-white-supremacists/275-0efe51e3-fa8c-424e-a94f-271878b4b69d>

<https://charlottenc.gov/Mayor/Pages/Legacy-Commission.aspx>

### **Charlotte, North Carolina – removed monument**

The 1929 Confederate Reunion Marker was removed and placed in storage at the direction of the County Commissioner and the Judah Benjamin Marker was removed.

### **Charlotte, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Mayor announced the removal of the Mecklenburg County Confederate monument. It was moved to the Confederate section of the city-owned cemetery.

### **Clinton, North Carolina – removed monument**

City Council passed a resolution asking for the County to remove the Sampson County Confederate monument.

### **Durham, North Carolina – removed monument**

After the Confederate Soldiers monument was damaged during a protest, a joint City-County committee was formed to recommend its fate. They recommended it be displayed indoors in its damaged state and the pedestal remain with new markers added to honour Union soldiers and enslaved people.

### **Elizabeth City, North Carolina – removed monument**

The County ordered the removal of the Pasquotank County Confederate monument.

### **Greenville, North Carolina – removed monument**

Council voted to immediately remove the Pitt County Confederate monument as it was declared a threat to public safety.

### **Hillsborough, North Carolina – Feb.-Mar. 2021 – renamed street**

Hillsborough's town board voted unanimously on February 8 to hold a public hearing March 8 about renaming a quarter mile neighborhood street that honors Thomas Ruffin, a former North Carolina chief justice and slave owner.

Board member Evelyn Lloyd expressed concern about changing street names before she voted to support the hearing. Hillsborough has many streets named for historic American and British figures, many of whom did good things for the town but also owned slaves, Lloyd said. "There were many slaveholders if you go back and read the history of Hillsborough," she said.

The town board approved a process last year for changing street names after Thomas Ruffin Street neighbors approached them about changing their street. All of the residents who live on the street signed a petition supporting the change to Hope Lane.

Resident Marty Nelson, who has worked with the town to change the name, said it was more of a challenge to find the right name than to make the change.



Board member Mark Bell noted that his hope was the street could have been named “Lydia Street” in honor of the enslaved woman shot in the back who became the subject of the landmark State vs. Mann case that Ruffin decided as a state Supreme Court justice. In that case, Ruffin rejected the idea that a slave owner could be guilty of assault or battery of an enslaved person.

The neighborhood did not consider the enslaved woman’s name, Nelson said, although it did consider naming the street for Jesse Ruffin, the coachman for Thomas Ruffin. “In the long run, everybody thought best to stay away from people’s names for a street,” Nelson said.

On March 8, members of the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to rename Thomas Ruffin Street to Lydia Lane after requests from several residents. The new name will go into effect in 60 days.

Martha Nelson, who brought the petition to the board, said all 12 households on Thomas Ruffin Street have agreed to the name change. Commissioner Mark Bell said he appreciates the residents of the street for coming together unanimously.

Commissioner Evelyn Lloyd said that it was important to recognize that Ruffin had done some good in Hillsborough, citing that Ruffin donated the land for the St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Commissioner Kathleen Ferguson said that while Ruffin was a complicated character, changing the name of the street reflects the residents’ wishes and supports Hillsborough’s greater community goals of inclusivity.

The original proposed name for the street, Hope Lane, was favored by a few board members prior to the final decision. Commissioner Matt Hughes expressed concern over the name Lydia Lane due to the State v. Mann case not being associated with Orange County.

Mayor Jenn Weaver said the Board should be careful when naming streets and other town-owned things after people in the future, but expressed support for the proposed name Lydia Lane.

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/orange-county/article249116975.html>

<https://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2021/03/city-renaming-thomas-ruffin-street>

### **Kinston, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Lenoir County Confederate monument was moved to First Battle of Kinston Civil War Battlefield Park. It is the fifth time that the statue has been moved.

### **Louisburg, North Carolina – removed monument**

Town Council voted to move the To Our Confederate Dead monument to a cemetery.

### **Oxford, North Carolina – removed monument**

County Commissioners voted to remove The Granville Grey monument after threats were made towards it. It was temporarily placed in storage. Commissioners will vote at a later date on where to relocate it.

### **Pittsboro, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Confederate monument was removed after months of County Board meetings and discussions with private owners.

### **Raleigh, North Carolina – May 2021 – renamed street**

Raleigh City Council is considering a petition to rename Aycock Street in the Five Points neighborhood due to its connections to white supremacy.

Stephen Mangano started the petition to change the name of the street that honors former North Carolina Gov. Charles Aycock (1901-05). Mangano has lived on Aycock Street for 20 years.

Aycock supported segregating schools and played a part in the Wilmington massacre of 1898. On Nov. 10, 1898, a white mob overthrew the locally elected government in Wilmington and destroyed the local Black-owned newspaper office, and terrorized the African American community. At least 60 Black residents were killed in the massacre.

Only 15 out of 76 property owners on Aycock Street signed the document proposing the new name, Roanoke Park Drive. But A petition to change the street name was signed by 36 of 76 property owners in the area.

A post on the Nextdoor app shows the community is split with some people writing, “changing names doesn’t change history but perhaps it eases some pain”, “spend the energy and focus fixing roads, giving scholarships, nurturing small business” and instead of changing history “make the future count.”

On May 4, City Council voted unanimously to change Aycock Street to Roanoke Park Drive. The road signs are expected to be changed on July 1.

“More of these requests are coming,” said Council member David Knight, who represents the Five Points area. “I think we need to look at street name changes for historical, racial and social justice reasons in a comprehensive manner through the appropriate racial and social justice lens.”

<https://www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/wake-county-news/raleigh-to-consider-renaming-aycock-street-over-white-supremacy-connection/>

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/wake-county/article251169109.html>

<https://www.wral.com/raleigh-city-council-approves-renaming-of-aycock-street-in-five-points/19661726/>

### **Raleigh, North Carolina – Feb. 2021 – removed historic landmark distinction**

The home of a former North Carolina newspaper publisher who helped orchestrate the Wilmington Massacre of 1898 in which at least 60 Blacks were killed and the city government overthrown has been removed from a list of historic landmarks.

Raleigh City Council voted unanimously on February 2 to strip the home of Josephus Daniels of the local designation.

Daniels was a former publisher of The News & Observer and conspired with others to instill fear and anger among the white residents of Wilmington, a majority Black town in which both elected Black and whites worked together. A state-sanctioned report of the massacre lists Daniels as one of the prominent figures of the only coup d'état in United States history.

<https://www.wect.com/2021/02/03/raleigh-home-well-known-racist-with-ties-wilmington-massacre-removed-landmark-list/>

### **Raleigh, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Governor ordered the removal of three statues after they were partially destroyed by protesters in order to protect public safety. The State Confederate monument, the Statue of Henry Lawson Wyatt, and the North Carolina Women of the Confederacy monument were removed to storage. Two cannons associated with the monument were moved to Fort Fisher. The North Carolina Court of Appeals also removed a statue of Thomas Ruffin.

### **Reidsville, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Confederate monument was moved to a local cemetery.

### **Rocky Mount, North Carolina – removed monument**

City Council voted to remove the Nash County Confederate monument. It was dismantled and placed in storage.

### **Salisbury, North Carolina – removed monument**

City Council voted unanimously twice to remove the Gloria Victis monument. The police chief also declared the statue a public safety risk. It was subsequently moved to a cemetery by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

### **Sylva, North Carolina – retained monument with modifications**

The Town Commission voted 3-2 for removing the Confederate Soldier statue. However, in early August 2020, the County decided to keep the statue with modifications. They plan to add a plaque to the front of the statue base covering up the Confederate flag with a list of Jackson County's involvement in the Civil War. "Our 'Heroes of the Confederacy' will be removed from the base."

<https://wlos.com/news/local/town-wants-jackson-county-to-remove-sylva-sam>

<https://wlos.com/news/local/jackson-leaders-vote-to-keep-confederate-statue-in-sylva-with-changes>

### **Wadesboro, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Anson County Courthouse Confederate monument was removed.

### **Wake County, North Carolina – Mar. 2021 – renamed library**

The Wake County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on March 1 to change the name of a Raleigh library named after one of the largest slave owners in the region. Cameron Village Regional Library will now be known as “Village Regional Library.” The decision came a month after the Cameron Village shopping center was rebranded as “Village District.”

The land the shopping center was built on once held enslaved people. It was named for Duncan Cameron, who was one of the largest slave owners east of the Mississippi.

“Wake County embraces and celebrates diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Wake County Commissioner Shinica Thomas. “We want all residents to feel comfortable and respected when they visit any of our buildings.”

Raleigh Mayor Mary Ann Baldwin says her team is awaiting a report to see if any street names near The Village are tied to Duncan Cameron or other slave-owning families. Her team also looking for ways to highlight the city’s Black history.

Some disagree with the rebranding process and the \$5,000 from the community general fund being spent on it.

However, Sabrina Goode of Friends of Oberlin Village says the changes are needed. The group is gathering money to cover the permit process in hopes of changing the street name Cameron Manor Way, which is located in a new condo development in The Village.

[https://www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/wake-county-news/named-after-slaveowner-wake-county-to-  
rename-its-largest-library/](https://www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/wake-county-news/named-after-slaveowner-wake-county-to-rename-its-largest-library/)

### **Warrenton, North Carolina – removed monument**

The County Commission voted unanimously to remove the Confederate monument and place it in storage.

### **Wilmington, North Carolina – removed monument**

The Wilmington Confederate monument and the George Davis Monument were removed temporarily to protect public safety and the historical artifact.

### **New Hanover County, Wilmington, North Carolina – July-Aug. 2020 – renamed park and street**

The New Hanover County Board of Commissioners voted to rename the entire road network in Long Leaf Park to Freedom Way Drive when it met on Aug. 10. In July, the board voted 3-2 to change the name of Hugh MacRae Park to Long Leaf Park. The park's road network was still named after the racist co-conspirator of the 1898 Wilmington massacre, who specifically requested in his donation to the county that the park should be used by only white residents. Previously, the different sections of the road network within the park were known as Hugh MacRae Park Road, Lake Avenue and Freedom Way.

"In order to correspond with the change in the name of the park and to eliminate confusion, staff recommended...that the entire road network within the park be named Freedom Way Drive," material prepared for county staff states. "The City of Wilmington, which administers addressing matters within their jurisdiction, has indicated that the name Freedom Way Drive is acceptable."

<https://www.wect.com/2020/08/06/county-commissioners-consider-renaming-hugh-macrae-park-road-freedom-way-drive/#:~:text=WILMINGTON%2C%20N.C.,Park%20to%20Long%20Leaf%20Park.>

<https://portcitydaily.com/local-news/2020/08/06/county-to-rename-hugh-macrae-road-to-freedom-way-drive/>

### **State of North Carolina – 2015-2019 – law impeding removal of monuments**

The Cultural History Artifact Management and Patriotism Act of 2015, prevents local governments from removing monuments on public property, and places limits on their relocation within the property. In 2017 Governor Roy Cooper asked the North Carolina Legislature to repeal the law.

In 2019, the law was challenged indirectly. The Confederate Soldiers Monument in Winston-Salem was removed as a public nuisance, and a similar monument in Pittsboro was removed after a court ruled that it had never become county property, so the statute did not apply.

## **North Dakota**

### **Bismarck, North Dakota – Aug. 2020 – retained name**

For more than eight months, local Native Americans have pleaded with Bismarck city officials to rename Custer Park, a two-acre park in the middle of a neighborhood near the city's downtown.

Earlier this year, the Bismarck Park Board unanimously voted not to change the name of Custer Park and enacted a policy that states once the board has considered a petition to rename a park, it will not consider renaming the same park for 15 years.

The board voted to create a panel or educational component that would outline Custer's legacy and include the perspectives of those in the Native American community. The details about the educational component were expected to be discussed at a meeting on August 20, but local advocates once again asked the Park Board to reconsider its decision to keep the Custer name.

Many in the Native American community did not want educational panels at Custer Park, as it would negatively affect the community by pointing out his malfeasance. Instead, the board should create a committee that includes Native Americans, educators and historians to "build bridges" in the community.

Multiple park board members pointed out that many public spaces in the Bismarck-Mandan area, including a school, hold the name "Custer," and changing the park's name would act as a catalyst for renaming the others. They said the community was not ready for that.

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/news/government-and-politics/6626964-Bismarck-again-declines-renaming-Custer-Park>

## Ohio

### **Cincinnati, Ohio – reviewing monument**

In June 2020, a Councillor put forward a motion to remove an equestrian statue of William Henry Harrison from Piatt Park.

### **Columbus, Ohio – July 2020 – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus was removed.

### **Fairfield, Ohio – June-Nov. 2020 – retained street names**

The city of Fairfield is seeing renewed efforts to rename two of its streets that commemorate two generals who led Confederate troops during the Civil War. "I think it misrepresents Ohio and our history and what we stand for as a people," said University of Cincinnati student Ethan Maxwell, who is leading the efforts to compel city officials to rename two streets: Robert E. Lee Drive and Stonewall Lane.

Maxwell's recent push isn't the first effort to change the street names. In June, some residents made the request in the aftermath of George Floyd's death, amid calls for social justice. But some residents -- particularly those already living on those streets -- have pushed back.

At a June 25 hearing on the subject Mayor Steve Miller noted the city doesn't have a policy on how to change street names. He said the city needs to develop that first. "Council can't just wave a magic wand and do this. It's going to have to be more resident-driven," he said.

As of November 25, the standing of that street-name-changing policy remained unclear.

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/fairfield/petition-asks-to-rename-two-fairfield-streets-named-for-confederate-generals>

### **State of Ohio – Feb. 2021 – retained monument**

On February 25, the Capital Square Review and Advisory Board voted on several provisions related to the statues that get to stay or go at the Ohio Statehouse.

A statue of Columbus still remains at the Ohio Statehouse. “Clearly, he was a historical figure, not just for North America but for the entire world, and I think it’s important to recognize he was a flawed and imperfect individual as well,” said Sen. Jay Hottinger, (R) CSRAB Chair.

The CSRAB voted on a new rule that requires a five-year process to removing a permanent statue at the Statehouse. That is the same amount of time it takes for a statue to go up at the Statehouse.

“Everyone doesn’t have a statue, everyone isn’t recognized that way and I think there’s other ways, if they want to preserve that history, there’s other ways to do it,” said Rep. Erica Crawley, (D) Columbus.

<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus-statue-to-remain-on-statehouse-grounds-for-least-5-years/>

## **Oklahoma**

### **Norman, Oklahoma – December 2017 – renamed street**

Norman city council unanimously voted to approve a petition by property owners to rename the controversial street Deans Row Avenue. Local and state activists have spoken out against the name, which was named after and by founding OU professor and KKK leader Edwin DeBarr.

Public Works Director Shawn O’Leary said the city will move to implement the official change within 30 days of approval.

The applicants will be responsible for paying a \$200 fee associated with the name change, but Clark said she will lead a crowdfunding effort to help raise money to cover the costs to DeBarr residents associated with ID changes and other loose ends.

The decision comes after months of wrangling over the city’s street renaming policy, which is in the process of undergoing an overhaul. The city’s former policy called for 75 percent of property owners to sign off on a name change. Some DeBarr Avenue property owners remained reluctant when a petition was circulated in the spring, citing unwanted costs associated with the change and other objections.

In November 2017, the oversight committee produced a new policy proposal that allows two options for a street name change found to be offensive: the familiar 75-percent property owner petition or a new avenue that would allow the mayor, three council members or the city’s Human Rights Commission to initiate the process.

[https://www.normantranscript.com/news/unanimous-approval-debarr-to-be-renamed-deans-row-avenue/article\\_13f99394-e529-11e7-be74-8fdc684c0a85.html](https://www.normantranscript.com/news/unanimous-approval-debarr-to-be-renamed-deans-row-avenue/article_13f99394-e529-11e7-be74-8fdc684c0a85.html)



## Oregon

### **Portland, Oregon – June-Dec. 2020 – renamed parks, others under review**

A newly redeveloped park in Southeast Portland is getting a new name to honor a prominent black female leader, removing a moniker that carried racist connotations. The green space and playground formerly known as Lynchview Park will now be called Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park, honoring the civil rights leader and historian who lived in Oregon from 1913 to 2001.

Renaming the park was a project kickstarted by former city Councillor Nick Fish, who directed a naming committee before his death in January. The committee was made up of nine local community members.

The park was originally named for Patrick and Catherine Lynch, who in 1900 donated a parcel of land for the area's first one-room schoolhouse, Lynch School, which was built nearby. The school adjacent to the park was first called Lynch View when it was built in 1957, but in 2017 it was renamed Patrick Lynch Elementary School, along with two other schools that bore the family's name, Lynch Meadows and Lynch Wood. At the time, Centennial School District Superintendent Paul Coakley said many newer families coming into the district associated the name with America's violent racist history.

Names were being changed in Portland before the BLM protests, but since June more negative names are being re-examined. Kurt Krueger is a part of Portland's Bureau of Transportation, the organization in charge of Portland city street names. As Portland's development review manager, he has received calls and emails about few street changes, but the city has not seen any official applications as of July 17, 2020.

The city code only allows one name change a year, so Krueger said he is working with Portland commissioners on how to approach the anticipated influx of proposed changes. Portland city code section 17 lays out the rules for Portland street names: "The name of the street proposed for renaming shall not be changed if the existing name is of historic significance, or the street is significant in its own right," the code reads.

A board of historians is appointed in each street renaming process to help determine the historical significance on a case-by-case basis.

As of December 2, a park in Southwest Portland formerly called Custer Park is slated to be renamed. At the direction of Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who oversees the city's Parks & Recreation bureau, city staff will begin the engagement process to find a new name for the public recreation area.

Fritz, whose term on the council ends Dec. 31, released a statement Wednesday, Dec. 2, noting the park will be referred to as "A Park" until a suitable name is chosen. "As my time on the City Council comes to an end, I am making the executive decision that effective immediately, Custer Park shall no longer be known by that name," Fritz stated. "Over the next year, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) will work with neighbors, community stakeholders, historians and Indigenous Peoples to choose an appropriate and honorable name for this beautiful park. Until a suitable name is selected, Custer Park will be referred to as 'A Park.'"

The current park is named after General George Armstrong Custer, an American Civil War general who also served as commander in wars against Native Americans. He is known to have

decimated at least one Native American village, and at one point in 1867 was found guilty of misconduct after abandoning a mission, leaving him suspended from military service without duty or pay for a year. Critics of the park's name point out that Custer has no connection to Oregon.

Fritz said renaming the park will allow the public space to better represent Portlanders and their values. In a statement, the commissioner said public spaces should "echo who we are and what we aspire to be."

<https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2020/06/portland-renames-renovated-park-after-prominent-black-leader.html>

<https://www.oregonlive.com/news/2020/07/some-oregon-rivers-mountains-and-streets-are-named-after-racists-that-may-soon-change.html>

<https://pamplinmedia.com/scc/103-news/489918-393956-custer-park-will-get-renamed>

## Pennsylvania

### **Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania – July 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed streets**

Fox Chapel Council on July 20 agreed to form a committee to review the impact of the word and its use in borough street and trail names. It is expected to discuss the renaming of Old Squaw Trail and Squaw Run Road, among others.

On Monday Nov. 16, the council will meet to decide whether the term "squaw" will remain on several places in the borough, including Old Squaw Trail, Squaw Run Road and Squaw Run Road East, and the Squaw Run tributary.

As far as council member Mandy Steele and others are concerned, however, the name change should have never been up for debate. While the decision is ultimately up to the council, the last few months have been spent quibbling over whether or not the term is a slur, and if residents of the streets containing the term should have a say in the matter.

The council formed a task force comprised of volunteers to interview residents on Squaw Run and Squaw Run East, but their assignment was never completed. Council also sent surveys to residents and hosted a private meeting on Nov. 9 where Fox Chapel residents could speak anonymously.

Steele expressed her frustration with the process, adding that Fox Chapel, a largely white and affluent community — a characteristic reflected in the makeup of the council — does not have the authority to determine what language is offensive towards marginalized groups.

On November 16, Fox Chapel council voted 6-0 to eliminate the word Squaw from two borough roads and a trail. Potential names for the roads will be developed by March 1, with the changes being made effective on May 1.

The approval was fueled largely by residents who scolded council for not moving swiftly to erase the word, which some called a disgrace to the municipality.

Council said it will develop a financial reimbursement package to nullify some of residents' costs associated with the name change and agreed to compensate those impacted by the name change with a \$250 stipend. There also will be a help desk where residents can get assistance with paperwork related to changing driver's licenses or utility bills, among other items.

Council's move to rename Squaw Run and Squaw Run East will affect about 10 properties, in addition to those housed on the Heinz Estate. "Much of Squaw Run and Squaw Run East are little side streets with clusters of homes, so in addition to removing the slur, we are also giving the side streets their own road names," Councilperson Mandy Steele said.

Residents who are impacted have received notice from the borough and can suggest new street names to council. Council gets the final approval but members said during the Jan. 18 meeting that they will consider all recommendations. Each property owner can submit three ideas with their most-liked name at the top of the list. Duplicates will be tossed out.

At the same time residents are proposing new street names, council will consider new names for Squaw Run and Squaw Run East. Steele said suggestions from the community will be weighed among those from Native American organizations.

On March 15, Fox Chapel council voted to rename Squaw Run Road to Hemlock Hollow Road, bringing an end to a nine-month conflict on how to remove the slur "Squaw" from place names.

The change to one of the borough's most heavily traveled roads will be effective by May 1. Council noted that Hollow was the original name of the windy wooded road.

In addition, Squaw Run Road East was renamed Riding Meadow Road.

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/ohara-council-squaw-valley-park-is-now-called-ohara-township-community-park/>

<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/fox-chapel-borough-council-to-vote-on-removing-slur-against-native-americans-from-trail-street-and-waterway-names/Content?oid=18359309>

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/fox-chapel-votes-to-remove-squaw-name-from-borough-streets-trail/>

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/some-private-lane-residents-in-fox-chapel-required-to-change-street-name-in-conjunction-with-squaw-removal/>

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/squaw-run-road-in-fox-chapel-will-become-hemlock-hollow-road/>

### **McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania – removed monument**

The Confederate monument is in the process of being removed.

### **O'Hara Township, Pennsylvania – Aug. 2020 – renamed park**

The O'Hara Township Council voted 6-1 on August 5 to change the name of Squaw Valley Park. Moving forward, the park will be named O'Hara Township Community Park.

<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/08/05/squaw-valley-park-name-change/>

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/ohara-council-squaw-valley-park-is-now-called-ohara-township-community-park/>

### **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Aug. 2020-May 2021 – reviewing monuments and street names**

- For Landmark and Monuments Review presentation from May 7, 2021, see:  
<https://2411534077ps5icv8tbcvt13-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Landmarks-Monuments-Review.pdf>

The Philadelphia Landmarks and Monuments Review was initiated in the Summer 2020 by the Managing Directors Office to align with the Kenney Administrations Pathways to Reform, Transformation, and Reconciliation initiative addressing systemic and institutionalized racism in the city. The Landmarks and Monuments Review falls within Community Engagement.

The Landmarks and Monuments Review is a public driven process to allow the review of the names of Philadelphia's landmarks including its streets, parks, and buildings, and the monuments in the City's public spaces to ensure we are acknowledging and celebrating our past while reflecting who we are and what we value. The intention is to allow the public to request the removal, renaming, or recontextualizing any landmarks or monuments that represent a history of racism, bigotry, or colonialism; and participate in any changes.

The city is accepting questions or comments by email through May 30th.

Community members in Philadelphia's Grays Ferry neighborhood have campaigned for over a year to rename a city street with a controversial history. A coalition of community groups are calling for city leaders to change the name of Taney Street. The street's namesake is at the core of their concern. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney wrote the Dred Scott decision in 1857, ruling that Black Americans were not and could never be recognized as US citizens. A petition to rename the street has collected more than 2,700 signatures.

Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson released this statement on the renaming effort:

*The Rename Taney Coalition has worked hard for months in its efforts to rename the five blocks of South Taney Street(s) in South Philadelphia. The Coalition has periodically provided updates to our office and solicited feedback. Our office has stressed to the Coalition that the engagement process must be fair and transparent. The community engagement process continues.*

*Councilmember Johnson is open to renaming the southern portion of Taney Street(s), but one critical thing to the Councilman will be to hear directly from current residents of South Taney Street(s) to see if they support a name change or not. The opinions of the current residents of South Taney Street(s) will be an important factor in any decision about the future name of the street moving forward.*

*Our office in recent weeks has received emails on both sides from South Taney Street(s) residents and neighbors-some in support of the name change and some in strong opposition.*

*The decision to rename any street in Philadelphia is made by Philadelphia City Council. Any bill to change the name of South Taney Street(s) must be introduced by Councilmember Johnson since South Taney Street(s) is located in the Second Council District.*

*Councilmember Johnson is open to introducing legislation after he feels a thorough and inclusive community process has been completed. A bill that includes a new name must be passed by the full City Council to officially change the name.*

The coalition recently published a report summing up months of work to gather feedback from residents, including holding a virtual town hall and surveying neighbors in December 2020.

Organizers advertised the survey by leaving two rounds of door hangers on homes on Taney Street, or within a block of the street. Participants could take the survey online, or call a number to leave a voice message. In total, 165 people responded, and 51 of them lived on or near Taney Street, according to the coalition's report.

Ben Keys, one of the coalition's key organizers, said he did not have the total number of households on the South Taney blocks "to know exactly how effective our outreach has been." Response rates to the survey could have been affected by whether or not someone is active online, he said, and the pandemic brought its own challenges to outreach.

The results among those who did answer: 96% of all respondents favored changing the street's name, and 89% of the residents living on or near Taney approved of changing the name.

Keys acknowledged a spectrum of opposition to a renaming. "We've gotten some really awful, racist hate mail from organizing this," he said.

Others, he said, have indicated they are against it for three main reasons: They don't like changing things in general, the logistics are hard, or that "we have bigger priorities" than this issue.

To questions about logistics, and changing addresses on official documents, "We recognize that will absolutely entail some effort on the part of residents," Keys said. The group has posted information online about how mail forwarding works through the postal service, along with a list of parties residents may need to notify about an address change.

Supporters of the change are hoping to identify some potential new names and get a bill introduced before City Council's summer recess. Organizers are surveying the community on what name they'd rather see on the street signs. The first round of community engagement already yielded a long list of suggestions.

District Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson's office said the quick timeline looks unlikely, especially since organizers haven't yet decided on a replacement name. "No legislation will be introduced before City Council starts its summer recess in late June," said spokesperson Vincent Thompson.

Unlike the ceremonial renamings occurring every few months, an actual name change requires a lot of legislative buy-in. A bill has to be introduced in City Council, with the new proposed name already identified.

The Taney Street renaming would require support from multiple lawmakers, because the road runs through Johnson's 2nd District, Council President Darrell Clarke's 5th District, and Councilmember Curtis Jones' 4th District.

<https://www.creativephl.org/landmarks-monuments-review/>

<https://6abc.com/society/community-campaigns-to-change-street-name-with-controversial-history/10647569/>

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/taney-street-renaming-philadelphia-dred-scott-20210516.html>

<https://billypenn.com/2021/05/17/philadelphia-racist-street-rename-taney-dred-scot-kenyatta-johnson-grays-ferry/>

### **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – June 2020 – removed monument**

A statue of controversial former mayor and police commissioner Frank Rizzo was removed by the City of Philadelphia from its location in front of a government building early in the morning on Wednesday June 3. The city was originally planning to remove the statue in 2021 during a renovation project, but Mayor Jim Kenney called that a "mistake" and said its removal was "the beginning of the healing process of our city."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2020/06/03/philadelphias-frank-rizzo-statue-latest-in-string-of-monuments-removed-in-wake-of-floyd-death/#49d00eca22d3>

### **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – June-Aug. 2020 – removed monument**

The Christopher Columbus statue in South Philadelphia could become history. Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney announced on June 15 that a public process will decide the future of the statue. In the meantime, a boxing apparatus was installed around the statue. Kenney has asked the Philadelphia Art Commission and the public art director to begin the process. No timeline has been set for a decision.

On July 24, the Philadelphia Historical Commission voted 10-2 Friday in favor of moving the now-boarded-up statue of Christopher Columbus. Their approval came with the following conditions: that the statue be moved to an undisclosed, secure location in Philadelphia; that a conservator and firm experienced in relocating important works of art be involved in moving it; that an annual report on the sculpture's condition be sent to the commission; and that there is a visual recording of the sculpture and its condition prior to its moving. The City's Art Commission voted to remove the statue on Aug. 12.

<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/06/15/mayor-kenney-public-process-city-says-it-reserves-right-to-remove-christopher-columbus-statue-in-south-philly-if-it-continues-to-threaten-public-safety/>

<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/philly-historical-commission-votes-to-remove-columbus-statue/2480558/>

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia/philadelphia-christopher-columbus-statue-marconi-plaza-removal-pennsylvania-20200724.html>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/12/us/christopher-columbus-statue-removal/index.html>

### **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – removed monument**

A statue of George Whitefield is to be removed.

### **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – Aug.-Oct. 2020 – removed statue**

The Pittsburgh Art Commission unanimously voted on August 26 to schedule a special hearing for the public to voice their opinions on the potential removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Mayor Bill Peduto asked the commission to begin a public review to determine the future of the statue.

The statue, which was erected in Schenley Park in 1958, was vandalized in 2010, 2017 and most recently again in June and July as part of nationwide protests against monuments honoring Columbus. After the statue was vandalized in June, an online petition was created calling for its removal.

Following a discussion about the procedure of buying, placing and removing city-owned art — which included an argument between some commissioners and Assistant City Solicitor Lorraine Mackler on the autonomy of the commission — the commission approved the special hearing, which will allow members of the public to voice their opinions to the commission directly.

Once the review process is completed, Mr. Peduto has requested a final report, including the public comments and a final recommendation from the commission.

Mr. Peduto also called upon the commission in 2018 to offer a recommendation of what to do with the controversial Stephen Foster statue in Oakland. That statue was ultimately removed after unanimous approval by the commission.

The Christopher Columbus statue will be removed from its location in Schenley Park, Mayor Bill Peduto said on October 9. In making the decision to move it to a “new and private home,” Mr. Peduto is following the recommendation of the Pittsburgh Art Commission, which reached the same conclusion after a public hearing in September. The five-member commission unanimously recommended the removal of the statue Sept. 23.

In a letter to the commission, Mr. Peduto said the statue would be returned to the city’s Italian-American community. The letter asks the Art Commission to take a final vote on the disposition of the statue.

In response to the mayor’s decision, the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, which is headquartered in Pittsburgh, filed a lawsuit seeking a temporary injunction to stop the city from removing the statue. The lawsuit contends that the Art Commission and Mr. Peduto did not comply with city ordinances and laws that pertain to the removal of the statue when they made their decisions, according to the ISDA national president, Cleveland attorney Basil M. Russo.



<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/08/26/Christopher-Columbus-statue-Schenley-Park-Pittsburgh-Art-Commission-hearing/stories/202008260142>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-13/what-it-takes-to-remove-a-columbus-monument>

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/10/09/Peduto-recommends-removal-of-Christopher-Columbus-statue-from-Schenley-Park-pittsburgh-art-commission/stories/202010090161>

## Rhode Island

### **Providence, Rhode Island – removed monument**

A statue of Christopher Columbus is to be removed to storage.

### **State of Rhode Island – Oct.-Nov. 2020 – renamed state**

For more than two decades, Black residents of Rhode Island have argued that the official name of their state, “The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,” connotes slavery and should be changed.

Democratic state Sen. Harold Metts sponsored a bill to amend the state constitution to remove “Providence Plantations” from the official state name. Rhode Island voters will decide in November, but Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo already has issued an executive order removing the phrase from official state documents, websites and paystubs.

Patrick T. Conley, a retired Providence College history and constitutional law professor, author and the state historian laureate, noted that in the 17th century, when the Rhode Island colony received its royal charter, the word plantation meant a settlement, not what it means today.

Rhode Island has tried changing its name before. State legislators proposed dropping “Plantations” in 2000 but the idea didn’t catch on. In 2010, the legislature approved a ballot amendment that voters overwhelmingly defeated — with 78% opposed to a name change and 22% in favor.

On November 5, it was confirmed that Rhode Island voters approved a measure that will strike “and Providence Plantations” from the state’s name. This year’s Question 1 ballot proposition asked voters whether to amend the state Constitution by trimming that name to simply “State of Rhode Island.” The measure passed with approximately 52.9% of the vote.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2020/10/23/push-to-remove-racist-names-draws-support-and-backlash>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/05/politics/rhode-island-name-change-plantations-trnd/index.html>

## South Carolina

### **Charleston, South Carolina – June-Oct. 2020 – removed monument**

The John C. Calhoun Monument was removed. It may be placed back on display at an appropriate site, such as a museum.

On October 13, 2020, the city officially hired a contractor to raze the massive granite-and-concrete base of the monument for \$131,000. City staff also received a cost estimate for dismantling, salvaging the massive blocks and transporting them to a storage facility “approximately 4 miles from the site” for an additional \$159,000, according to the contract agreement. City Council approved the demolition and opted to not salvage the base.

[https://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-hires-firm-to-remove-base-of-former-john-c-calhoun-monument-for-131-000/article\\_2ed6a71c-0e23-11eb-af64-672da5983175.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-hires-firm-to-remove-base-of-former-john-c-calhoun-monument-for-131-000/article_2ed6a71c-0e23-11eb-af64-672da5983175.html)

### **Columbia, South Carolina – removed monument**

The Mayor and City Council ordered a statue of Christopher Columbus to be removed to storage.

### **Hilton Head Island, South Carolina – Oct. 2020 – retained name**

A slim majority of the roughly 2,600 Hilton Head Plantation property owners who participated in a community-wide survey voted against removing the word “plantation” from the sprawling gated community’s name, according to an email sent to residents on October 2.

52.84% of the participating property owners, 1,378 properties, voted to retain “plantation.” It reported 33.55%, or 875 properties, voted to remove the word from the community’s name, with the remaining 13.61% of respondents, or 355 properties, reporting they needed to know more about the costs associated with the change before supporting either side.

About 61% of the approximately 4,278 properties in the gated community — Hilton Head Island’s largest — cast votes while the survey was open during the month of September. Each property received one survey.

The census tract covering the northern tip of Hilton Head, inside Hilton Head Plantation, is 99% white, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures.

In Hilton Head Plantation, a group of community members, HHP Community 4 Change, formed to advocate for a change to the name. The group has pushed for a vote before the 2021 regular survey of residents to expedite the renaming process.

<https://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article246196180.html>

### **Orangeburg, South Carolina – June 2020 – removed monument, renamed street**

City Council voted unanimously to remove the Confederate monument and to rename John C. Calhoun Drive. The state's Heritage Act requires two-thirds approval from South Carolina General Assembly to rename the road and to remove the statue.

<https://www.counton2.com/news/south-carolina-news/orangeburg-city-council-votes-in-favor-of-removing-confederate-statue-renaming-john-c-calhoun-drive/>

### **State of South Carolina – 2000, update Jan. 2021 – law impeding removal of statues, potential new laws**

According to a 2000 law, the removal of any Confederate monument in South Carolina would require a 2/3 vote of both houses of the legislature. The state Supreme Court has been asked to re-evaluate whether that law is even legal.

Under one proposed law a South Carolina Republican plans to introduce in February 2020, any local politician who votes to take down a historic monument would be immediately charged with a misdemeanor and suspended from office. Another bill would fine that same city or county councilman \$25 million.

Meanwhile, S.C. Democrats are preparing their own series of proposals to take down certain controversial statues and begin studying what to do about others.

As the General Assembly prepares to return in February 2021 for a new two-year legislative session, lawmakers from both parties are filing at least nine bills that seek to dictate the future of historic monuments across South Carolina. None of them stand a great chance of passing in the face of intense disagreement over how South Carolina should recognize its history of slavery, Jim Crow laws and racial inequities.

State Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, filed a proposal that would expand already robust protections for monuments. H. 3249 would make it a crime for local politicians to remove public statues and cut off critical state funding for cities and counties that do so.

If that's the case, State Rep. Seth Rose said, more statues need to be affixed with plaques acknowledging the subject's role in owning slaves or perpetrating racial violence.

GOP Rep. Stewart Jones of Laurens has proposed legislation that mirrors Taylor's. But Jones' bill also carries a \$25 million fine for anyone who votes in favor of taking down a monument.

Both proposals carry questions of constitutionality.

[https://www.postandcourier.com/politics/sc-republicans-draft-harsh-penalties-for-local-officials-who-take-down-historic-monuments/article\\_fe243062-43d8-11eb-9209-7fd8102c1c45.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/politics/sc-republicans-draft-harsh-penalties-for-local-officials-who-take-down-historic-monuments/article_fe243062-43d8-11eb-9209-7fd8102c1c45.html)

### **State of South Carolina – Jan. 2021 – reviewing monument**

A South Carolina lawmaker has filed a bill to remove the statue of “pitchfork” Ben Tillman from Statehouse grounds. A small group of protesters who want the statue removed gathered at the monument on January 12.

Ben Tillman was a governor of South Carolina as well as a U.S. Senator with a record of racism. He defended lynching and called a state constitutional convention to deny voting rights to African Americans.

State Representative Seth Rose pre-filed legislation to take down the statue. He’s also filed a bill that would set up a committee to review all the monuments on the Statehouse grounds.

<https://www.counton2.com/news/south-carolina-news/sc-lawmaker-files-bill-to-remove-ben-tillman-statue-from-statehouse-grounds/>

## **Tennessee**

### **Clarksville, Tennessee – removed monument**

The city removed the Confederate monument sign and statue to protect it.

### **Clarksville, Tennessee – Feb.-Mar. 2021 – reviewing street name**

The Clarksville City Council is considering a recommendation from the designations committee to change the name of Mammy Lane after the committee designated the street name offensive and demeaning. The council is currently considering a change from Mammy Lane to Slattery Lane.

Mammy Lane is in northern Clarksville in the Plantation Estates subdivision, which has streets themed from “Gone With The Wind.” Emmy Slattery is a white “Gone With The Wind” character played by Isabel Jewell.

In the city’s designation committee that met Feb. 22 Councilmember Richard Garrett said he wanted to come up with something a little more culturally sensitive while maintaining the theme of the subdivision. Garrett said he submitted the application after he received a complaint from a constituent who does not live in Plantation Estates.

The proposed resolution under consideration by the city said names such as Mammy serve as painful reminders of Black women suppressed and marginalized and have no place as a street name. “...The city council wants to send a message about our values as a city by not having public street names that demean our residents,” the council’s resolution said.

Ward 5 Councilmember Jason Knight said he called the residents who live in the Mammy Lane houses in his ward and was told they were not offended by it and do not want the street name changed.

In the council's formal meeting March 4, Garrett suggested pushing the measure until the May regular council session to review opinions of residents who live on Mammy Lane. Now, Council members are expected to discuss the name change at their executive session on March 25.

[https://www.mainstreetclarksville.com/news/city-considers-renaming-mammy-lane/article\\_c3826640-8532-11eb-92af-f33d74e8a4a3.html](https://www.mainstreetclarksville.com/news/city-considers-renaming-mammy-lane/article_c3826640-8532-11eb-92af-f33d74e8a4a3.html)

<https://clarksvillenow.com/local/mammy-lane-residents-weigh-in-on-proposed-street-name-change/>

### **Memphis, Tennessee – July-Nov. 2020 – reviewing street names, created advisory committee**

- See Council Meeting Minutes for Ordinance Amendment (p. 13-15), Motion to Establish Advisory Committee (p. 16-19), Motion to Rename Poplar Avenue (p. 21-22):  
[https://memphis.hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_11150732/File/Gov/City%20Council/Council%20Meetings%20Documents/July%2021%202020%20Committee%20Schedule.pdf](https://memphis.hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_11150732/File/Gov/City%20Council/Council%20Meetings%20Documents/July%2021%202020%20Committee%20Schedule.pdf)

A stretch of Poplar Avenue in Memphis could be renamed “Black Lives Matter Avenue.” The Memphis City Council was to consider the resolution on July 21, and a majority of council members appeared to be on board with the plan. The resolution called for part of Poplar Avenue between Front Street and Danny Thomas Boulevard to be renamed “Black Lives Matter Avenue.” That stretch of Poplar Avenue includes the election commission, jury commission and the criminal justice center and jail, 201 Poplar.

The resolution, sponsored by seven council members, says, in part:

*“A major thoroughfare should be officially renamed to reflect the significance of the historical events to Memphis; recognizing the importance of the paradigm shift as an opportunity to learn more about the past for the purpose of better understanding the need for an improved future; and securing the observance of a statement that, for too long, has evaded our basic treatment of men, women, and children because of their skin color.”*

However, the Memphis City Council opted to defer if there should be a Black Lives Matter Avenue and where that should be to a citizen renaming committee. The council created that committee at its session on July 21.

Councillor Easter-Thomas also proposed a citizen renaming committee that would study Memphis parks, streets and other places and determine what should be renamed, which the rest of the council approved and heartily endorsed with some modifications.

In committee, where initial votes on issues before the council are often taken, Chairwoman Patrice Robinson proposed that, instead of Poplar Avenue, Manassas Street, between Union and Madison avenues, bear the name Black Lives Matter Avenue instead.

The committee formed by the council could have its members appointed in the coming weeks. It would consist of 15 members. Each committee member:

- shall have a demonstrable record of experience within education, civil rights, law, business, non-profit, or faith-based organizations.

- shall have a demonstrable record of scholarship, formal or informal, regarding the history and geography of the City of Memphis, especially in relation to historically underrepresented, and underserved, communities.
- shall be confirmed by Council motion

When the committee concludes its work, it would give a report to the council on why something should be renamed. In July, the council also approved an ordinance that gives the council, instead of the Land Use Control Board, the final say in street renamings.

As the council voted on the renaming committee, Councilman Worth Morgan noted that the Tennessee Historical Commission may have oversight of renaming efforts in certain cases and those joining the committee should temper their expectations.

#### Details:

##### Establishment of Advisory Committee

- The City Council Renaming Commission was established to provide recommendations and guiding principles to the legislative body regarding the renaming of certain public streets, parks, and places.
- The Commission shall consist of 15 members:
  - o 13 members will serve as voting appointees of the Memphis City Council with each Councilmember selecting 1 voting appointee;
  - o 1 member will serve as a non-voting appointee of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development
  - o 1 member will serve as a nonvoting appointee of the City of Memphis Division of Engineering
- Each appointed voting member of the Commission shall have a demonstrable record of experience within education, civil rights, law, business, non-profit, or faith-based organizations.
- Each appointed voting member of the Commission shall have a demonstrable record of scholarship, formal or informal, regarding the history and geography of the City of Memphis, especially in relation to historically underrepresented, and underserved, communities.
- All appointed members shall be confirmed by Council motion
- The Commission shall operate under the oversight of the Council
- The Commission is authorized for one year, from July 21, 2020 to July 21, 2021
- No action shall be taken by the Commission, except by majority vote.
- The Commission shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members.

##### Process

- Meetings to be held at least once a month; a special meeting may be held on call of the chair upon forty-eight hours' notice to the members of the Commission and the public.
- Allowed to create sub-committees or have the support of university interns
- The Commission will hold a public hearing within one month of sending its reports to Council.

### Responsibility of Advisory Committee

The Committee will be responsible for creating:

- Public Education and Input Report within three months of its first meeting. It will outline:
  - o The process to facilitate educating the City's residents on the renaming process.
  - o The process to facilitate receiving City of Memphis residents' feedback on the proposed changes.
- The Initial Report within six months of its first meeting. It will contain:
  - o A list of public streets, parks, and places that should be renamed with a detailed explanation of why each public street, park, or place was chosen.
  - o A proposed list of replacement names for each recommended public street park, or place with a detailed explanation of why each proposed name represents a preferable replacement.
  - o Any recommended changes to the street renaming process established in the City of Memphis Code of Ordinances.
- A Final Report within nine months of its first meeting. It will contain:
  - o A list of public streets, parks, and places that should be renamed, incorporating any changes deemed necessary with a detailed explanation of why each public street, park, or place was chosen.
  - o A proposed list of replacement names for each recommended public street, park, or place with a detailed explanation of why each proposed name represents a preferable replacement.

On November 5, the city panel considering renaming parks, other public places and streets pared down its mission from what one member said could have been "the universe." The group is to make recommendations to the Memphis City Council.

Its first major decision was to set two priorities, starting with renaming public places, parks and streets named after "Confederate leaders, sympathizers or those that have actively promoted racist ideas and thoughts" publicly. The second priority is for first responders to offer an analysis of street names to eliminate confusion and make it easier to respond as quickly as possible. Both priorities were approved unanimously at the Thursday meeting.

Kenya Adjekum Bradshaw, chairwoman of the panel, said the group will also probably research different city databases for the names of city monuments on public land as well as some kind of compendium of street names.

The group delayed a decision for now on a process for neighborhood and community groups to seek to have streets renamed in their areas but will seek public input and suggestions.

<https://www.wmactionnews5.com/2020/07/18/part-poplar-ave-could-be-renamed-black-lives-matter-avenue/>

<https://www.wmactionnews5.com/2020/07/20/memphis-city-council-member-proposes-changing-stretch-poplar-ave-black-lives-matter-ave/>

<https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/local/the-901/2020/07/22/memphis-has-golden-opportunity-starts-renaming-streets-901/5485078002/>



<https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2020/07/21/black-lives-matter-avenue-hold-memphis-citizens-could-help-rename-city-streets/5483146002/>

<https://dailymemphian.com/article/17937/street-renaming-group-settles-on-specific-focus>

### **Memphis, Tennessee – 2017 – removed statues**

In 2017, City Council voted unanimously to remove the Jefferson Davis and Bedford Forrest monuments. Although they were blocked by both the State and the Tennessee Historical Commission, they were eventually successful in having the statues removed.

### **State of Tennessee – 2016-2019 – law impeding removal of statues**

Tennessee passed its Tennessee Heritage Protection Act in 2016; it requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the Tennessee Historical Commission to rename, remove, or relocate any public statue, monument, or memorial. In response to events in Memphis, a 2018 amendment prohibits municipalities from selling or transferring ownership of memorials without a waiver. (The Tennessee Historical Commission has never issued a waiver since it was established in 1919.) The amendment also "allows any entity, group or individual with an interest in a Confederate memorial to seek an injunction to preserve the memorial in question."

## **Texas**

### **Austin, Texas – Aug. 2017-Dec. 2020 – renamed streets, created advisory committee to review all city assets**

- For advisory committee report from July 26, 2018, see:  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/pio/document.cfm?id=302508>
- For renaming city assets update memo from Dec. 2, 2020, see:  
<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/pio/document.cfm?id=351154>

In August 2017, more than 5,000 people signed a petition supporting the renaming of Robert E. Lee Road in Austin, Texas. In April, 2018, Austin City Council approved changing Robert E. Lee Road to Azie Morton Road and Jeff Davis Avenue to William Holland Avenue.

The process to change a street name is complicated. Local petitions, unless signed by people who own property on the street set to be renamed, have little bearing on whether an Austin street can get a new name. There are eight valid reasons under which someone can apply to have a street name changed, all but two involving an explicit issue with the current name (that is, correcting a misspelling and doing away with duplicate names). These include honoring a person, making sure the street name is consistent with its compass direction and enhancing a neighborhood through the association of a street name with its location, area characteristics and history.

Only someone who owns property abutting or on the street or a person representing a government agency, including Council members, can apply for a new street name. Once

someone brings an application forward, the city mails support forms to all the property owners on that street. If less than 50 percent of the property owners agree with the change, the application goes no further. If 100 percent of the owners agree with the name change, seven city departments and agencies will have to approve it before it goes to Council members for a final vote.

If the city receives less than 100 percent support from local property owners, the renaming goes to a public hearing. Following a public hearing, seven city departments and agencies review the new name. These include the Austin Fire Department, the Austin Police Department, Emergency Medical Services, U.S. Postal Service, and the city's traffic engineer.

If these city departments sign off, the proposed new name heads to Council for a final vote. If approved, the Transportation Department starts calculating the cost of changing the street signs – a sum that, if the application was brought by an individual and not a city department nor Council member, must be paid by that individual. A regular street sign, assuming that the post and screws are already up, costs roughly \$150 (between \$28.78 and \$49.80 for the actual sign, additional costs for installation).

If the street is renamed after another person, according to city staff the city would be required to collect a signature from a family member.

The name change to Azie Morton Road affected 289 property owners along nearly three-quarters-of-a-mile stretch. In a survey sent out to property owners, 45 objected to the name change and 20 supported it. Some property owners objected to the change because of the length of the name, others felt it was entirely unnecessary and would be expensive to change for individual property owners.

The name change to William Holland Avenue affected 370 property owners along half-mile stretch. In a similar survey of property owners, 38 objected to the name change and 20 supported it. In the survey response, some property owners questioned whether Jeff Davis Avenue actually referred to the former president of the Confederacy and also voiced concerns over the name's length and inconvenience involved with switching the street name.

The city estimated it would cost \$2,900 to change the two street names.

As of July 2020, Austin will re-examine – and could ultimately change – the names of its streets, buildings, parks and creeks that venerate historical racism and the Confederacy. The decision on July 29, 2020 from the Austin City Council follows up on a 2018 report from the city's Equity Office, which suggested changing the name of the city itself, as Stephen F. Austin was a staunch defender of slavery.

The resolution directs the city manager to choose between five and 10 "city assets" to present to Council as candidates for renaming within a six-month period starting in September. If a street or park is "latent with Confederate and white supremacist history," then it will move forward in a rebranding process, which will include public input.

The framework for the renaming will be based on the Equity Office report. Released in July 2018, the report identified seven streets as "high priority" for potential renaming: Littlefield Street, Tom Green Street, Sneed Cove, Reagan Hill Drive, Dixie Drive, Plantation Road, and Confederate Avenue.

The Equity Office's report also suggested adding context to a handful of historical landmarks and signs or removing them all together. Those second-tier suggestions honor figures who weren't directly tied to the Confederacy, but were complicit or connected to historical racism, segregation or slavery.

The office also suggested the city reconsider the names of Austin's most recognizable streets, like Lamar Boulevard, as well as parks and landmarks – including Pease Park, Barton Springs, and Bouldin and Waller creeks – but not before input from Council and the public.

It also suggested renaming the city, because Austin fought against Mexico's ban on slavery during the Texas Revolution and he espoused racist views. It wasn't immediately clear if the city's name could be on the table for a potential renaming.

The approval comes as the Council also decided to rename Metz Recreation Center, which honors a Confederate cavalryman, to honor Rudolfo "Rudy" Mendez, a native East Austinite who founded the Ballet East Dance Company.

As of December 2, the Austin City Council is continuing its work in renaming assets with ties to the Confederacy. According to a memo providing an update to Resolution No. 20200729-091, the council is calling for the use of a co-creative community-based renaming process designed for educating the public and restorative justice.

The city manager has been directed to select at least five City assets with latent Confederate history, which will move through a renaming process.

The Equity Office has worked with several local departments, including the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), the Austin Transportation Department (ATD), the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) and the Law Department to identify department and division-level policies, practices and procedures for renaming these assets.

The five that were identified include: Metz Park & Metz Pool; Dixie Drive; Confederate Street; Plantation Road.

The next steps will include convening a virtual working group involving community stakeholders "most directly impacted by the trauma of the institutions of colonialism, slavery, and white supremacy in early 2021, to begin community conversations around history and recommendations for renaming."

According to Brion Oaks, chief equity officer, staff plan to provide the next update in spring 2021 after consulting with members of Huston-Tillotson University.

<https://www.austinmonitor.com/stories/2017/08/council-member-wants-officially-rename-robert-e-lee-road-take/>

<https://www.kxan.com/news/local/austin/robert-e-lee-road-in-austin-renamed-after-first-black-u-s-treasurer/>

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/central-austin/city-county/2018/04/26/austin-city-council-renames-robert-e-lee-road-and-jeff-davis-avenue-in-concert-with-national-trend/>

<https://www.kut.org/post/austin-city-council-votes-rename-two-streets-named-confederate-figures>

<https://www.kut.org/post/austin-will-start-renaming-parks-streets-creeks-and-anything-else-honors-white-supremacy>

<https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/city-council-working-to-rename-assets-with-names-linked-to-the-confederacy/269-94a42db0-ef87-4170-89ac-1cbfe3ea20de>

### **Austin, Texas – 2019 – removed monument**

In 2019, the State Preservation Board voted unanimously to remove the Children of the Confederacy Plaque in Austin.

### **Beaumont, Texas – removed monument**

City Council voted to remove the Beaumont Confederate monument.

### **Belton, Texas – July-Sept. 2020 – renamed street and park, created advisory committee**

- For additional information, see:

[https://www.beltontexas.gov/how\\_do\\_i/learn\\_about/confederate\\_park\\_renaming.php](https://www.beltontexas.gov/how_do_i/learn_about/confederate_park_renaming.php)

On July 28, Belton City Council formalized the decision to change the name of Confederate Park and the name of nearby Confederate Park Drive. Acting on guidance provided by the Belton City Council, the City's Parks Board is forming a 10-person committee to help facilitate changing the name of park.

The Council said it wants a diverse committee to work with the Parks Board to recommend up to five new names for the park and street. The Council said it prefers proposed names that are all-encompassing and nonexclusive. It also requested that proposed new names not be the names of individuals or groups.

Once the Parks Board has reviewed the proposed names, it will narrow the list down to five for consideration by the City Council. It is anticipated that the City Council will finalize the name changes within the next two months.

On September 22, the Belton City Council voted unanimously to rename the Confederate Park as Liberty Park. The council also voted to rename Confederate Park Drive Veterans Way Drive.

The vote came after a diverse community of community members worked over the last few months to narrow down a list of potential new names for the 16 ½-acre park to present to the council. No one spoke against the name change at the council meeting.

<https://www.kxxv.com/hometown/bell-county/belton-city-council-to-rename-confederate-park>

[https://kdhnews.com/news/region/beltons-confederate-park-renaming-committee-to-be-selected/article\\_bfe1287f-25b5-5ff0-91a9-35401505133f.html](https://kdhnews.com/news/region/beltons-confederate-park-renaming-committee-to-be-selected/article_bfe1287f-25b5-5ff0-91a9-35401505133f.html)

<https://www.kwtx.com/2020/09/23/belton-city-council-votes-to-rename-confederate-park/>

### **Brownsville, Texas – removed monument**

The Jefferson Davis Memorial Boulder was removed.

### **Dallas, Texas – Sept. 2017-June 2020 – formed advisory committee, retained names, removed monuments, retained monument with modification**

In August 2017, the Mayor of Dallas appointed a task force to make recommendations on the removal of monuments and the renaming of streets associated with the Confederacy. They issued a report the following month.

The City of Dallas Park and Recreation board unanimously voted to temporarily rename Robert E. Lee Park to Oak Lawn Park until a permanent name could be approved. The Lee statue was removed from the park and placed in storage. They originally considered loaning it to the Texas Civil War Museum in White Settlement (Fort Worth), but the City declined because it wouldn't be displayed in an acceptable context. Eventually, it was sold through an online auction for \$1,435,000.

The task force voted to leave Fair Park artwork with Confederate reference in place and will add context. They also recommended removal of the Confederate War Memorial at Pioneer Park. They said the Confederate Memorial should be treated the same as the Robert E. Lee statue, taken down and put in a place that can display them in their proper context. The Confederate Memorial was removed in June 2020 to prevent protester injuries during potential vandalism attempts. It was placed in storage pending the resolution of a legal dispute over its final deposition.

The task force recommended that several streets in the city named for Confederate generals also be renamed. Those streets, Lee, Gano, Stonewall, Beauregard and Cabell, were to be changed at a future date if Council decided to follow through with the recommendations. None of the streets are major thoroughfares. The city estimates the cost for renaming Lee Parkway, Stonewall Street and Beauregard Drive is about \$6,000.

There is a total of 17 streets in the city with Confederate ties, including notable ones like Lemmon and Gaston. The task force did not recommend changing those major streets.

They also voted to recommend starting a citywide process to rename more than 200 city parks after public figures like civil rights leaders and abolitionists.

However, in April 2018, City council passed a resolution that streets with names linked to the Confederacy should not be renamed. This was due to the significant opposition from residents on Lee Parkway, the contributions to Dallas of the Gano and Cabell families, and the unclear origins and associations (based on inconclusive City of Dallas records and archives) of the Beauregard and Stonewall Street names.

#### **Details:**

##### **Establishment of Advisory Committee**

- Mayor appointed task force, with members recommended by Council
- Intended to be an independent, qualified and diverse panel

### Responsibility of Advisory Committee

The committee was responsible for making recommendations regarding:

- The costs associated with removal and relocation of public Confederate monuments and symbols and with the renaming of public places, including parks, and streets along with available options for private funding
- The process of disposal or relocation of Confederate monuments and symbols if deemed necessary
- Additional standards for the naming of public spaces, including parks and streets, going forward
- Replacements for Confederate monuments and symbols recommended for removal
- Replacement names for public spaces, including parks and streets that promote a more welcoming and inclusive city

### Process

- Five meetings were held between the end of August and the end of September, 2017.
- City staff provided briefings on City processes related to public art, historic preservation and landmarks, and park and street renaming.
- Additional briefings were provided on the historical context of Confederate monuments, symbols and names.
- All briefing materials presented to the committee were published online immediately.
- Public comments were heard at two meetings and written comments were received throughout the process. A total of 160 comments were received, overwhelmingly opposed to the removal of the monuments (21 to 123)

### Recommendations

- Streets renamed after a significant Confederate general should be changed
- The renaming of these streets should be accomplished within 90 days.
- A comment process should be expanded to include the voices of people throughout the city whose ideas and testimony shall be given equal weight with those of adjacent property owners.
- Statues should either be removed or have a contextual plaque added
- Council eventually decided against renaming the streets and was taken to court over its actions. As a result, the state passed a law making it more difficult to remove Confederate or other monuments.

### Committee Members

- Buddy Apple, Attorney and Preservationist
- Sara Mokuria, Associate Director for Leadership Initiatives, University of Texas at Dallas
- Coy Murchison, Health Care Administration Professional
- Jesse Hornbuckle, Photographer and Business owner
- Terrance Perkins, Executive Director, Passage of Youth, Inc. and Pastor
- Dr. Ervin Seamster, Jr., President, Southwestern Christian College and Pastor
- Marilyn Mayse, Attorney
- Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, Senior Pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church
- Norma Minnis, Mortgage Broker

- Coy Poitier, Dallas County Historical Commission
- Dr. Glynn Newman, Professor, Eastfield College
- Jo Trizila, President & CEO, TrizCom Public Relations
- Maggie Murchison, Executive Committee, The University of Texas Chancellor's Council
- Barvo Walker, Sculptor
- Rene Martinez, Education Consultant
- Joli Robinson, Dallas Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation
- Larry Schoenbrun, Attorney, Gardere Wyne Sewell LLP
- Bryce Weigand, Architect, Weigand Art & Architecture
- Arman Rupani, Managing Partner, Rupani & Matthew Group LLC

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/robert-e-lee-park-in-dallas-renamed/39836/>

<https://www.fox4news.com/news/dallas-task-force-recommends-confederate-monument-removal-street-name-changes>

<http://dallasculture.org/confederatemonuments/#:~:text=Mayor's%20Task%20Force%20on%20Confederate%20Monuments,-The%20Mayor's%20Task&text=On%20August%2024%2C%202017%2C%20Mayor,places%2C%20including%20parks%20and%20streets.>

<https://freespeechproject.georgetown.edu/tracker-entries/dallas-mayor-and-city-council-sued-for-prohibiting-removal-of-confederate-leaders-names-from-city-streets/>

[https://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/finalcombined\\_042518.pdf](https://dallascityhall.com/government/Council%20Meeting%20Documents/finalcombined_042518.pdf)

### **Dallas, Texas – June 2020 – removed monument**

The pro-segregation “One Riot, One Ranger” statue was removed by the City on June 4, 2020.

### **Denton, Texas – removed monument**

County Commissioners voted to remove and relocate the Confederate monument.

### **El Paso, Texas – June 2020 – renamed street**

City Council voted unanimously to change the small industrial street Robert E. Lee Road to Buffalo Soldier Road. It must be reviewed by the Development Coordinating Committee and approved by the City Planning Commission before returning to City Council for another approval. Buffalo Soldiers were the first Black professional soldiers to serve during peacetime.

Applications for street name changes first needed the approval of city departments before coming before City Council for final approval, said East-Central city Rep. Cassandra Hernandez, who represents the area where the street is located. Hernandez has offered to use up to \$3,000 of her office's discretionary funds for any of the street sign replacement and application costs not covered by community donations. Council will vote whether to accept a



\$1,500 donation from State Board of Education member Georgina Pérez, who represents El Paso and West Texas, to go toward these costs.

The new street signs ended up costing about \$4,000, which was paid for by community contributions.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_name\\_changes\\_due\\_to\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_name_changes_due_to_the_George_Floyd_protests)

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2020/06/22/robert-e-lee-road-el-paso-name-change-go-before-city-council/3224069001/>

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/el-paso/2020/06/23/el-paso-robert-e-lee-road-renamed-honor-buffalo-soldiers/3242477001/>

<https://kvia.com/news/el-paso/2020/09/12/its-now-official-el-pasos-robert-e-lee-road-renamed-in-honor-of-buffalo-soldiers/>

### **Fort Worth, Texas – removed monument**

The County Commission voted to remove the Confederate monument. The Khleber Miller Van Zandt and H.P. Mabry markers were given to the Texas Civil War Museum.

### **Gainesville, Texas – removed monument**

City Council voted unanimously to remove the Leonard Park Confederate monument. They plan to relocate it to Grayson County Frontier Village Historical Site in Denison, Texas.

### **Houston, Texas – Jan.-June 2017 – renamed street and park**

January 2017, Houston City Council unanimously approved changing the name of Dowling Street, in the historic Third Ward, to Emancipation Avenue. Richard “Dick” Dowling was a businessman and Confederate commander in the Civil War. The street leads to Emancipation Park. The site originally was the only municipal park available to blacks, who pooled their money in 1872 to buy the property to celebrate their freedom. The renaming of the street coincided with marking the redevelopment of Emancipation Park.

The city replaced approximately 80 street signs at an estimated total cost of \$30,400 (almost \$400 each) —donated by former at-large councilmember Peter Brown. Houston Public Information Officer Alanna Reed says the old Dowling Street signs remain “in a secure facility,” supervised by the Department of Public Works and Engineering, until Mayor Turner decides “how to handle the demands for them.” The city also took care of the absolute essentials, rerouting 911 calls to the proper address and forwarding mail. Maps are a bit trickier, as all the city can do is push out the information and wait for third parties to download it.

The manager of Not Jus’ Donuts said they had to personally update various business listings online to make customers aware of the change. But she’s unable to fix several thousand previously printed direct mailers that are now outdated. A new round will cost more than a

thousand dollars, although it is a one-time expense. File-It, a bookkeeping service located a few doors down from the doughnut shop on Emancipation Avenue, finds the change has caused some minor confusion among clients. “The first question they ask is, ‘Oh you moved your office?’”.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/houston/article/Council-changes-Dowling-Street-to-Emancipation-10851447.php>

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/local/2017/01/12/183416/houstons-dowling-street-to-be-renamed-emancipation-avenue/#:~:text=Houston's%20Dowling%20Street%20To%20Be%20Renamed%20Emancipation%20Avenue,-A%20Houston%20street&text=The%20Houston%20City%20Council%20on,street%20leads%20to%20Emancipation%20Park.>

<https://www.houstoniamag.com/news-and-city-life/2017/07/what-happens-when-you-change-a-street-name>

### **Houston, Texas – June 2020 – removed monuments**

The Spirit of the Confederacy monument located in Houston was removed and is to be relocated to the Houston Museum of African American Culture. The Richard W. Dowling monument was also removed and placed in storage. The City initially planned to move it to Battleground Historic Site, but the Mayor of Port Arthur objected. The City is now uncertain as to where the statue will be relocated.

### **Houston, Texas – June 2020 – removed monument**

In June 2020, the city removed a statue of Christopher Columbus after being vandalized.

### **Houston, Texas – July 2020 – renamed street**

Harris County Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of Robert E. Lee Road to Unison Road. Commissioner Rodney Ellis requested the name change, which became official on July 14. The roadway runs from John Ralston to just east of Van Hut Lane in an unincorporated portion of East Harris County. Starting as early as the following week, new road signs will go up at five intersections, and the county will send letters to residents who live along the road. Harris County engineers have sent a letter to USPS informing mail carriers of the name change.

Residents and business owners were invited to discuss the name change prior to the final decision. Harris County Engineering Department also sent letters to residents of the road to explain the re-naming process.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_name\\_changes\\_due\\_to\\_the\\_George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_name_changes_due_to_the_George_Floyd_protests)

[https://abc13.com/robert-e-lee-road-houston-unison-renamed-confederate-monuments/6330502/#:~:text=HOUSTON%2C%20Texas%20\(KTRK\)%20%2D%2D,public%20spaces%20with%20Confederate%20ties.](https://abc13.com/robert-e-lee-road-houston-unison-renamed-confederate-monuments/6330502/#:~:text=HOUSTON%2C%20Texas%20(KTRK)%20%2D%2D,public%20spaces%20with%20Confederate%20ties.)

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/harris-countys-robert-e-lee-road-renamed/285-3025401c-507d-428f-97c8-8a69a0945620>

<https://abc13.com/traffic/robert-e-lee-road-name-change-official-wednesday/6355337/>

### **Kyle, Texas – Aug 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed street**

Kyle is pausing its decision to change the name of Rebel Drive to something the mayor hopes is more emblematic of the city: Fajita Drive. But hundreds of people aren't happy with the name change or the process by which city council members made the move. During the city council meeting, the mayor opened up the agenda item to public comment for a few seconds. The intention was to honor Juan Antonio 'Sonny' Falcón, known as "The Fajita King." Although the ordinance officially passed on August 18, they can reconsider the decision.

Public Works will replace street signs at 14 intersections. There are also 14 commercial properties and 10 homes affected, as well as some P.O. boxes. All those people will receive a letter about next steps, including how to process an address change request with the post office.

However, after a public hearing on August 25, Kyle City Council members rescinded a previous vote approving the renaming. No new name has been chosen yet, so until then the street will be known by its state designation: West Ranch to Market Road 150. City council plans to form a committee to choose a new name and set aside money in next year's budget to help those impacted by the renaming.

At its Sept. 1 meeting, Kyle City Council removed the name Rebel Drive and also passed a resolution to create a renaming committee, which will consist of seven community members and two staff liaisons.

As of December 3, the committee responsible for renaming the portion of West Ranch to Market 150 finalized the eight names that will move forward to the next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

The following names are moving forward: Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd; Silvestre S. Herrera Drive; Dr. James H. White Drive; Driftwood Drive; Freedom Way; Resilience Drive; Albert Taylor Street; Veterans Drive. Albert Taylor was one of several African American businessmen who owned a cleaning and press shop in downtown Kyle in the 1900s.

Chair Vanessa Westbrook said her fellow colleagues need to conduct more research to prepare for the next discussion. "My challenge to you is to go, do a little research on these names to come back and give us a little information about it," Westbrook told the committee. "This is the time when we are going to get deeper in these discussions. We have to narrow that list down to get to this point of being able to really scrutinize a name to make sure it's something that we can all be proud to submit to city council."

On February 2, Kyle City Council directed city staff to draft an ordinance that will allow the renaming of the road. Once the ordinance is created, it will go back to council for a vote.

Veterans Drive is the top name recommended by the road's renaming committee, which was made up of 15 community members. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Albert Taylor Street were also recommended for future street names.

The renaming committee held seven meetings total between the end of October and the beginning of January before bringing its selection of Veterans Drive to city council.

The committee also looked at keeping the state designation of West RM 150, but new construction extending the road will change the designation to Business West RM 150, the city said.

On March 16, City Council voted unanimously to rename the former Rebel Drive to Veterans Drive. The adoption of the name Veterans Drive will go into effect on Memorial Day.

The vote was also accompanied by a direction to city staff to open applications to businesses along the road who want to be reimbursed for the cost of changing their addresses on signs, business cards, official documents and the like. The council previously approved \$5,346 for reimbursements.

The city is working with the U.S. Postal Service to ensure a smooth transition to the new addresses for all properties affected and will automatically deliver mail to both street names for one year. A certified letter from the city will be sent to all affected business owners, property owners and current residents. Post office box holders along this roadway will be notified with a letter distributed by the postmaster, officials said.

Business owners, property owners and current residents assigned a Veterans Drive street address will need to fill out a change of address form at a U.S. Post Office and notify appropriate contacts.

<https://www.kxan.com/news/local/hays/kyle-renames-rebel-drive-to-fajita-drive-honoring-citys-history/>

<https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/kyle-city-council-rescinds-name-change-vote-on-rebel-drive-to-fajita-drive>

<https://www.kxan.com/news/local/hays/kyle-city-council-formally-removes-rebel-drive-name-creates-committee-to-rename-it/>

<https://haysfreepress.com/2020/12/03/west-rm-150-reason-behind-the-name-change-eight-names-move-forward/>

<https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2021/02/03/kyle-city-council-takes-next-steps-renaming-rebel-drive/4371311001/>

<https://www.kxan.com/news/local/hays/rebel-fajita-now-veterans-kyle-council-considers-another-name-for-rm-150/>

<https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2021/03/17/kyle-city-leaders-unanimously-replace-rebel-drives-confederacy-linked-moniker-new-name/4732049001/>

### **McKinney, Texas – July 2020-Feb. 2021 – reviewing statue**

- For Council Resolution from July 21, 2020 forming an advisory committee, see:  
<http://mckinney.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8673228&GUID=88264560-D39E-47DB-80BA-BCABDED3CAC2>

McKinney is forming an advisory board that will present the city council with a recommendation about what to do with the statue of James Throckmorton that currently sits on the city's square. The City Council approved the measure 6-1 in on July 21.

Throckmorton was a prominent character in McKinney's early history who also served as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army.

City staff initially said they expected the advisory board process to take until late November or early December, but the mayor requested a more accelerated timeline. The council now is hoping to hear back from the committee at its Oct. 6 meeting.

The board will be made up of 11 members, according to a presentation made by city staff at a previous meeting: Seven appointed by the mayor and city council, one from the Arts Commission, one from the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, one from the Main Street Board and one from Collin County Historical Commission.

As of October 20, the statue of a former Confederate brigadier general in McKinney's downtown square will remain in place — for now. The city council took no action following presentations from an advisory board that was formed to weigh the statue's future, and whose members were nearly split on whether the statue should remain in place or be relocated to a museum.

The issue of the statue of James Webb Throckmorton will remain up for discussion, with the council potentially passing a resolution at a future meeting. While some draft agendas of the council meeting showed there would be action taken, the agenda was updated prior to the meeting to say the council would only receive and consider research.

City staff members made a presentation to the council that included the results of an online survey showing a majority of respondents supported leaving the statue in place. Public comments made at one of three advisory board meetings were also summarized. Two members of that board gave presentations to the council who said five members favored the relocation of the statue to the Collin County History Museum. A slight majority of the board, six members, favored the statue stay in its place.

As of February 2, the McKinney City Council voted 4-3 vote decided to take no action and to dedicate more time to decide on the future of the controversial statue.

A public survey was held in September 2020 and, according to the council, the majority of people who took part favored keeping the statue in place. Of the 2,094 participants in the survey, 85% were residents of McKinney; both residents and non-residents were in favor of keeping the statue where it was in the city square.

With the Council vote, the future of the statue was tabled until an unspecified date in the future.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2020/07/29/mckinney-city-council-approves-advisory-board-to-discuss-confederate-statue/>

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/2020/10/21/fate-of-confederate-statue-up-in-the-air-after-mckinney-city-council-delays-decision/>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/mckinney-tables-decision-to-move-james-throckmorton-statue-from-city-square/2540935/>

### **Missouri City, Texas – July-Aug. 2020 – modified renaming policy to enable name changes**

Missouri City residents will now be able to more easily apply with the city to change an existing street name, following recent action by City Council. In July and August, Missouri City city council unanimously approved changes to two sections of city code related to the street-naming and renaming process.

Council's actions come after some street and subdivision names have come under scrutiny from council members and the community for containing the word "plantation" or bearing names of Civil War battles and Confederate generals. Throughout Missouri City, eight subdivisions and 20 street names include the word "plantation." The Vicksburg subdivision has also been a focus of council because many streets bear names of Confederate generals who supported and perpetuated slavery.

One change council made to city code reduced the percentage of signatures required to rename a city street. Previously, 90% of property owners with land bordering the street to be renamed needed to sign a petition to apply to rename the street. Council Member Jeffrey Boney, whose district includes the Vicksburg subdivision, proposed the approved change, which lowered the signature amount to 70% of property owners on the street to be renamed.

Missouri City officials said it would cost the applicant about \$600 per sign to update a street name. These proposals have to go before council for a vote.

Under the city's previous standards, there were few regulations related to what builders and developers could name new streets, according to city officials. Now, new street names can only contain a proper noun if the person or entity "has contributed to the community or humanity" and cannot contain a word or phrase deemed "overused." City documents show the intent of prohibiting overused words would limit using "plantation" in future street names, as it is used in at least 20 street names in the city or its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Other retired street names include "green" and "quail," which appear 34 and 44 times, respectively, according to the city. Subdivision names will not be governed by these new standards, as they are considered private property. City officials said the word "plantation" appears in eight different subdivisions in Missouri City, including Sienna Plantation, which recently rebranded to Sienna.

The new regulations adopted by council also include provisions that street names should be appropriate; should not promote illegal activity or violence; and should not demean, intimidate or maliciously portray any particular group.

<https://communityimpact.com/houston/sugar-land-missouri-city/government/2020/09/14/missouri-city-amends-street-naming-policies/>

### **Parker County, Texas – July 2020 – retained statue**

Parker County Commissioners have unanimously voted to keep the statue of Confederate soldiers on its courthouse lawn. The vote was 5-0. The Commissioners first left the decision up to the Daughters of the Confederacy, because they own the statue.

The vote was a turnaround from June, when there was a petition in opposition to the statue, and a local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy expressed interest in moving it to protect it. The county and the group had spent several weeks researching the ownership of the monument and considering alternate locations.

<https://www.wbap.com/2020/07/30/parker-county-commissioners-vote-to-keep-confederate-statue/>

<https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2020/07/30/parker-county-officials-keep-confederate-statue-weatherford/>

### **Richmond, Texas – July-Oct. 2020 – removed monument**

- For County Resolution to remove monument from Oct. 19, 2020, see:  
[https://agendalink.co.fort-bend.tx.us:8085/docs/2020/CCTR/20201027\\_3418/42735\\_Res\\_No.\\_343-2020\\_Interlocal\\_Agreement\\_FBC\\_Relocate\\_Monument\\_.pdf](https://agendalink.co.fort-bend.tx.us:8085/docs/2020/CCTR/20201027_3418/42735_Res_No._343-2020_Interlocal_Agreement_FBC_Relocate_Monument_.pdf)

A statue that represents a racially-sordid past in Fort Bend County's history will be removed from its spot next to Richmond City Hall. On October 27, the county's commissioner court unanimously approved the city of Richmond's resolution that would move the Jaybird Monument nine miles away to Hodge's Bend Cemetery. Under the resolution, the statue, once it's at its new home, will also have a plaque or marker giving historic context. The county is funding the relocation and marker.

The Fort Bend History Association said the statue, otherwise known as the "Our Heroes" statue, was placed on county land by a private organization. That land was taken over by the city of Richmond, but the statue remained. A history association spokesperson said the monument is controversial because it celebrates a group, the Jaybirds, as heroes. The Jaybirds were one of the groups involved in a bloody battle in 1889 over allowing African-Americans to run for county office on the Republican ticket.

The monument was wrapped in July after a committee comprised of county, city, historical and community members made the decision to cover the statue. At that time, they put out bids to see how much it would cost to be relocated. Since that time, surveys, reviews and public comment were taken over the movement.

<https://abc13.com/society/ft-bend-co-approves-moving-controversial-jaybird-statue/7421545/>

### **San Antonio, Texas – July-Aug. 2020 – renamed park, removed statue**

On August 13, 2020, The San Antonio City Council gave the official approval to permanently remove a statue of Christopher Columbus from a downtown city park and return it to the Christopher Columbus Italian Society. It also agreed to rename the park at 500 Columbus Street



from Columbus Park to Piazza Italia Park. The council unanimously approved both changes as part of its consent agenda.

The statue was previously removed for cleaning and restoration on July 1 after it was vandalized. District 1 Councilman Roberto Trevino indicated that another effort to consider renaming Columbus Street is also underway.

A public hearing was held via videoconference on Thursday, July 16, 2020. Public input was read on the proposed park renaming, which 34 individuals commented in favor of renaming the park and 22 were in opposition.

<https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/08/13/council-approves-permanent-removal-of-christopher-columbus-statue-renaming-of-park/>

<https://sanantonio.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4608514&GUID=F5B20763-17D1-46E7-95BF-40D958E197D7>

### **San Antonio, Texas – 2017 – removed statue**

In 2017, the San Antonio Confederate monument was removed.

### **State of Texas – Jan. 2021 – reviewing prison names**

A Republican who has led the Texas Legislature's House Committee on Corrections for years is asking the state to rename prisons that honor slave owners and those tied to convict leasing, a system where Black people were funneled into the prison system and then leased out to private industries for unpaid labor.

State Rep. James White said on January 29 he is asking the Texas Board of Criminal Justice to rename several prisons and specifically named the Darrington, Goree and Eastham prisons. There are 99 state prisons and jails in the state, at least several of which are named after people with racist and sometimes violent histories.

The Darrington Unit, which imprisons about 1,700 men in Brazoria County, was named after John Darrington, from Alabama, who White called a "plantation mega owner." He sold the land the prison sits on to Texas after slavery was abolished, White said. Today's inmates at the unit, mostly Black or Hispanic men, still harvest cotton without pay.

Thomas Goree, the namesake of a Huntsville prison, was a former slave owner and Confederate captain who became one of the first superintendents of a Texas prison. He was closely tied to the convict leasing program that killed thousands in Texas. The Eastham Unit is named after the landowners who bought Goree's family plantation about 20 miles north of Huntsville and then used it for convict leasing.

White said he had already talked with the prison system's leadership. White said he began researching the prison names last year and reached out to the prison system because "words matter."

<https://www.texastribune.org/2021/01/29/texas-prisons-renamed-slave-owners/>

## Utah

### **Cedar City, Utah – Mar. 2021 – reviewing street name**

On March 17, members of the Cedar High School student government asked the City Council to consider renaming the street in front of the high school, 600 South, from Redmen Way to Reds Way.

The presentation included pictures of the proposed signage and discussion of issues that would need to be addressed if the change was made.

City Council member Scott Phillips asked if the students have considered how much the new signs will cost. "We do have funding," senior Abi Myers said. "We weren't sure on how much that is, but yes, we do have some funding set aside, so if we do have to cover that we should be set."

The council thanked the students for their presentation and tabled the discussion.

<https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2021/03/18/ggg-cedar-high-seniors-ask-city-council-to-consider-renaming-redman-way/#.YFTyYa9KhD9>

## Vermont

### **Windsor, Vermont – July-Nov. 2020 – retained street name**

The Windsor Selectboard is creating a committee to study a proposal to rename Jacob Street. The proposal to change the street's name stems from concern that a street named for a man who owned a slave sends a disturbing message about what the town values. A 1783 bill of sale signed by Stephen Jacob confirms his purchase of Dinah Mason, a Black woman, from a Charlestown man named Jotham White. Slave ownership was prohibited in Vermont at that time.

Two board members, Amanda Smith, who brought forward the proposal to remove former Vermont Supreme Court Justice Stephen Jacob's name from the street, and Chairwoman Heather Prebish, who has taken a more cautious line on the proposal, will be members of the committee. Although the board took no formal action at its meeting on July 28, 2020, forming a committee to study the ramifications of the name change was a consensus view of the five-member board.

The committee also will have more mundane, but equally challenging issues to sort out, such as what it might cost to change the name of a public street and what effect the change might have on the street's residents. Board member Paul Belaski has expressed concern that multiple state databases would need to be changed to reflect a new street name and that residents would have to have bank records, deeds, utility bills and other paperwork changed.

An upcoming survey will seek feedback in September from Windsor residents and community stakeholders about renaming a public road named after the slaveholder. "Our plan is to run that survey through September, compile that data, get all the questions and concerns that community members had and try to address them in a public forum, probably in early October," committee member and former selectboard member Michael McNaughton told the selectboard.

August 25. McNaughton said the committee is exploring multiple avenues to distribute the survey digitally, including on the town website and Facebook page. McNaughton also wondered whether the committee should consider making paper surveys available to residents who do not use the internet. Selectperson Amanda Smith, also a member of the committee, said the survey will be open to all community stakeholders, including students and non-residents who work or conduct business in Windsor.

According to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, town selectboards have the authority to change the name of a town-owned street by a simple majority. But Town Manager Tom Marsh strongly advised the board to adopt a more formal, public-involved process for changing the street name, such as a public hearing or placing the question on the town warrant in March.

The ad hoc committee reported their findings to the selectboard at the end of October. A community survey showed a lack of majority support to change the name. Sixty percent of 263 surveyed residents said they are against changing the name of Jacob Street.

A town study committee, formed to gather public feedback and potential impact regarding a street renaming, surveyed a total of 294 people, including non-resident stakeholders, about whether they supported changing the name. Of this total, 263 were Windsor residents, which represents 7% of Windsor's total population, according to committee member Michael McNaughton. Only 32% of the total survey takers and 30% of surveyed residents said they supported changing the name of Jacob Street. Fifty-eight percent of the total survey takers said they were against a name change and 10% remained undecided.

Selector Amanda Smith, who proposed renaming Jacob Street in June, said the selectboard should make the name change regardless of the survey results. Smith, while usually outspoken about the importance of public votes, said that issues pertaining to human rights should not hinge upon a majority opinion. Selector Christopher Goulet agreed. Based on his discussions with community members on the issue, Goulet said he has heard no compelling argument for retaining the Jacob Street name but many valid reasons for changing it.

To change the name of a local public road, the selectboard will need to hold a public hearing before their vote. Town Manager Tom Marsh told the board should have the plan in place prior to scheduling the public hearing. That plan should include any zoning configurations and a proposed new name.

One alternative to giving Jacob Street a new name would be to declare Jacob Street an extension of Pine Street, which connects directly to Jacob without any intersection between them. Creating a continuation of Pine Street would require renumbering house addresses on Jacob Street.

The Windsor board will resume the discussion at their next meeting, scheduled for November, in which they will likely vote whether to continue to pursue renaming Jacob Street by creating a plan and scheduling a public hearing and final vote.

After several months of passionate and sometimes contentious community discussion, Windsor will retain the historically-named Jacob Street despite its connection to illegal slavery. On November 24, the Windsor Selectboard voted 3-2 against proceeding with a public hearing on whether to change the name of Jacob Street on account that the name holder, former Vermont Supreme Court Justice Stephen Jacob, had been a slaveholder.

Selectors who voted against a public hearing indicated a lack of sufficient community support behind removing Jacob's name and a desire to steer the broader conversation in a more constructive and unifying direction.

Reading from a prepared statement, Windsor Selectboard Chair Heather Prebish said that the conversation originated as "an effort to honor and memorialize" Dinah Mason. But five months later, after numerous community discussions, an impact study and town-wide survey, there is still no clear consensus among residents.

Prebish instead recommended the exploration the other proposals to honor Mason, which include: historical signage or statue; developing new school curriculum; a scholarship in Mason's name; or working with the Windsor Historical Society to create a portfolio about slavery in Vermont.

Vice-Chair James Reed said in a discussion on Nov. 14 that he opposed acting with disregard to the survey feedback. "I worry that if we ask for the community's opinion, then we get it but ignore it, are we potentially creating a situation where we get less participation in the future?" Reed said.

Selector Amanda Smith who proposed renaming Jacob Street in June, has long contended that the selectboard should act regardless of public opinion, saying that some issues, such as those pertaining to human rights and societal equity, should not hinge upon a majority view.

Smith also criticized Prebish for not allowing a board discussion or public comments when making the motion for the public hearing. Prebish explained that she only waived the discussion because the motion made on Wednesday was really a continuation of the motion discussion from Nov. 14, in which there was already an extensive conversation by the board and many residents.

The town received a number of letters from community members prior to the November 24 meeting. A number of the letters criticized the board for not having the Jacob Street discussion on the official meeting agenda, while some letters called to end the focus on Jacob Street and consider other ways to honor Mason.

<https://www.vnews.com/Windsor-Selectboard-creates-committee-to-study-renaming-of-Jacob-Street-35480583>

[https://www.eagletimes.com/news/committee-to-launch-survey-on-proposal-to-rename-street/article\\_9ae528ae-7ec4-51e3-9d95-35fb90a384cb.html](https://www.eagletimes.com/news/committee-to-launch-survey-on-proposal-to-rename-street/article_9ae528ae-7ec4-51e3-9d95-35fb90a384cb.html)

[https://www.eagletimes.com/community/majority-of-surveyed-residents-against-jacob-street-renaming/article\\_01fc80bc-ba5c-516f-929d-fc56e703a2fc.html](https://www.eagletimes.com/community/majority-of-surveyed-residents-against-jacob-street-renaming/article_01fc80bc-ba5c-516f-929d-fc56e703a2fc.html)

[https://www.eagletimes.com/news/windsor-selectboard-votes-to-end-jacob-street-renaming-debate/article\\_2c421b10-9a4a-59f9-83f8-27e9a5ea8995.html](https://www.eagletimes.com/news/windsor-selectboard-votes-to-end-jacob-street-renaming-debate/article_2c421b10-9a4a-59f9-83f8-27e9a5ea8995.html)

## Virginia

### **Alexandria, Virginia – 2015-2020 – created advisory committee, renamed street, removed monument**

- For advisory committee report from August 2016, see:  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/manager/info/AdHocConfederateFinalReport-081816.pdf>
- For the 2018 name change ordinance, see:  
<https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3529427&GUID=95FCD56B-00AF-431A-AB90-04AD1F019287&FullText=1>

In 2015, City Council established an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names. Based on five public meetings and hearings and hundreds of in-person and written comments, the group recommended changing the name of Jefferson Davis Highway. After a public hearing in 2016, City Council voted unanimously to direct the City Manager to begin the renaming process.

They also recommended:

- The Appomattox statute on South Washington Street should remain in place, with additional efforts made to add context to its story. However, this was removed in June 2020.
- Rather than a wholesale renaming of streets in the City named after Confederate figures, individual requests for new names should be considered by City Council if brought under existing processes.

In 2017, the City Manager announced an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Renaming Jefferson Davis Highway, to solicit public feedback and consider potential new names. After holding a public hearing and conducting an online survey, this group unanimously recommended Richmond Highway as the new name. City Council adopted the recommendation following initial discussion on May 8, written notice to affected residents and businesses, and a final public hearing on June 23.

On June 23, 2018, the Alexandria City Council voted 6-0 to approve an ordinance renaming Jefferson Davis Highway to Richmond Highway in Alexandria, effective January 1, 2019. Street numbers did not change (e.g., "123 Jefferson Davis Highway" will be "123 Richmond Highway").

#### Details:

#### **Establishment of Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names**

- Seven members total, all appointed by the City Manager
- Two of the members appointed at-large
- One member appointed from each of the following:
  - o Alexandria Human Rights Commission
  - o Historic Alexandria Resources Commission
  - o Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage
  - o Alexandria Planning Commission
  - o Alexandria Transportation Commission

### Responsibilities of Advisory Committee

- Attend meetings which were open to the public
- Bring community values, knowledge, and ideas into its discussions and considerations
- Develop recommendations on actions, if any, that it believes City Council should consider with respect to:
  - o the status of the Appomattox statue on South Washington Street
  - o the name of Jefferson Davis Highway in the City of Alexandria
  - o the names of the many streets within the City that are named after Confederate generals and military leaders
  - o a specific policy on flying of any flags on property owned or under the control of the City
- Hold one or more public hearings to solicit comments from the public on the issues relating to Confederate memorials.

### Process

- The committee held a total of five meetings between January and June 2016 and received public feedback.

### Recommendations of Advisory Committee

- The Appomattox statue on South Washington Street should remain in place, with additional efforts made to add context to its story.
- The name of Jefferson Davis Highway in the City of Alexandria should be changed.
- Rather than a wholesale renaming of streets in the City named after Confederate figures, individual requests for new names should be considered by City Council if brought under existing processes.
- No further action is needed with regard to a specific policy on flying of any flags on property owned or under the control of the City.

Members Ruth Brannigan, Molly Fannon, Mary Lyman, Elizabeth McCall, and James Lewis concurred in the report and its recommendations; Members LaDonna Sanders (Human Rights Commission) and Eugene Thompson (Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage) dissented.

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/JeffersonDavisHighway>

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Confederate>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/confederate-statue-alexandria-trnd/index.html>

### **Arlington, Virginia – April 2019-Feb. 2021 – renamed streets**

- For Board renaming Resolution from April 2019, see:  
[https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=2&event\\_id=1361&meta\\_id=185683](https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=1361&meta_id=185683)

In July 2020, the Lee Highway Alliance — a coalition of civic associations, landowners, and businesses — announced they were moving forward with renaming the portion of the century-old thoroughfare that runs through the county.

Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey says the county is working on an official process on how to go about considering changing names of public spaces in Arlington. The hope is to have that process in place by September, she says. Though no decisions have been made as of yet on the exact scope or how it will look, Garvey says it will be public-facing with community conversations and, potentially, a survey.

Elsewhere in the county, the Lee name will soon be disappearing off the 4.6-mile portion of the road that cuts through Arlington. Lee Highway (also known as Route 29) is actually a more than a thousand-mile interstate road that runs from Mississippi to the District. It was named after the Confederate general a century ago. Ginger Brown is the Executive Director of the Lee Highway Alliance and says they have long discussed changing the name, ever since plans first began to materialize to revitalize the corridor in 2016.

When the alliance announced in July that it would rename the road, the response from the community was positive, says Brown. Still, she says, "There are an occasional one or two [people] that feel like it's not the right time."

The working group the alliance is assembling will include community members, businesses, and county officials. That should be announced in the coming weeks and will deliver a short list of potential names (three to five, says Brown) to the county board sometime in late fall.

From there, it's expected that the county board will follow a similar process to the one in 2019, when they renamed the county's portion of Jefferson Davis Highway to Richmond Highway (it's still named after the Confederate in parts of Virginia and other states). That means appealing to the Virginia General Assembly or the Commonwealth Transportation Board since Arlington County can't rename a road themselves.

On April 25, 2019, the Arlington County Board voted to approve a resolution asking that Jefferson Davis Highway, also known as Route 1, be renamed Richmond Highway within Arlington's borders. In doing so the Board is following the lead of Alexandria, which last year also voted to change the name. The highway was named after Davis in 1922 at the request of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The unanimous vote was framed in a county press release as a move that will make driving on Route 1 through Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County — which also uses the Richmond Highway name — less confusing for motorists.

The costs and disruption, according to the county, would be minimal. "Arlington would pay for the new street signs (estimated to cost about \$17,000)," says the press release. "No street numbers will be changed, and the United States Postal Service will, in perpetuity, continue to deliver mail to the businesses and residences along the highway addressed to Jefferson Davis Highway."

The County mailed postcards to the residences, property owners and businesses along the portion of the highway that lies within Arlington, informing them of the Board's intent, and providing information about the April 25, 2019 public hearing before the Board on the proposed resolution.

When the CTB approved the name change, the County posted answers to frequently asked questions, including information on what, if any, records need to be changed by businesses or residents, on the County website: keyword search "Jefferson Davis Highway."



At the Arlington County Board's meeting on September 15, County Manager Mark Schwartz presented a plan to review county symbols and names over the next few months. The review will include "gathering perspectives on race and equity in Arlington," and examining county symbols, street names and facility names that may be associated with systemic racism or oppression. The review will "build on this fall's community process to update the County's Historic Preservation Master Plan," according to a county press release.

Schwartz said he will present in December a summary of community feedback, as well as recommendations to the Board for next steps.

On December 9, a county board-designated advisory panel voted overwhelmingly to change the name of Lee Highway to Mildred and Richard Loving Avenue, the couple who successfully challenged Virginia's ban on interracial marriage. Twenty-one of the 25 board members made it their first choice; their poll of 3,400 Arlingtonians showed 1,200 making it their first choice as well.

Ginger Brown, the Lee Highway Alliance's executive director said "The Loving name has both Virginia and national importance and it encompasses the idea of justice. It's also short, easy to spell and can be used in branding for our businesses. I think it's a fantastic change."

The panel will inform the County Board on December 15 of its recommendation for subsequent approval, and then the recommendation will head either to the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the Virginia General Assembly, who need to agree to the change because Lee Highway is a state route.

Just in case the county and state boards disagree, the working group also offered other choices, in this order: John M. Langston Boulevard, for an abolitionist who became the first Black congressman from Virginia; Ella Baker Boulevard, for the civil rights and human rights activist; Dr. Edward T. Morton Avenue, for a Black physician who lived along the road and in 1931 was the first African American to run for the county board; and Main Street, which several group members warned could spark tensions with other neighborhood groups who consider their road arteries to be Arlington's "Main Street."

The advisory group originally came up with 20 names for Lee Highway, but the community's preference was clear. Upon questioning from the panel, the county staff said they'd prefer a name that was no more than 15 characters long so that it would easily fit on standard street signs, but the group members noted that several existing streets violate that recommendation.

On February 23, the bill authorizing the Arlington County Board to rename "Lee Highway" passed the Virginia State Senate. It passed through the House of Delegates late January. The bill now goes to Governor Ralph Northam for his signature, which will officially codify it.

However, it's unlikely to be renamed Loving Avenue in honor of the Virginia couple whose fight to get married went to the U.S. Supreme Court despite the recommendation of the Lee Highway Alliance work group in December. This is due to the family's objection, says Arlington County Board Vice Chair Katie Cristol. The Loving family has reiterated that the couple was extremely private and would not want a road named after them.

Ginger Brown, Executive Director for the Lee Highway Alliance, said that Langston Blvd is the "strong second" choice.

Either way, the bill will allow the renaming, though it only applies to Route 29 in Arlington.

The bill notes that while the Virginia Department of Transportation will place and maintain the appropriate signage, the county has to pay for that signage.

Arlington County Board Vice Chair Katie Cristol says the timeline for the change is being coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions that the east-west artery also runs through, including Falls Church, Fairfax City, and Fairfax County. The county has been in touch with the jurisdictions, particularly Fairfax County, in hopes of collaborating on an exact timeline. The other jurisdictions are in the midst of their processes as well and are also considering the recommendations made by the Lee Highway Alliance's work group.

<https://dcist.com/story/20/08/10/arlington-county-robert-lee-highway-name-change/>

<https://www.arlnow.com/2019/09/05/first-richmond-highway-signs-now-up-along-route-1-in-crystal-city/>

<https://www.arlnow.com/2019/04/26/arlington-county-board-votes-to-rename-jefferson-davis-highway/>

<https://www.arlnow.com/2020/09/18/arlington-county-to-launch-review-of-logo-street-and-place-names/>

<https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-to-examine-its-names-symbols-and-history/>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/arlington-lee-highway-renaming/2020/12/10/675f5f16-3a4c-11eb-98c4-25dc9f4987e8\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/arlington-lee-highway-renaming/2020/12/10/675f5f16-3a4c-11eb-98c4-25dc9f4987e8_story.html)

<https://www.arlnow.com/2021/02/24/state-bill-allows-county-to-rename-lee-highway-but-loving-avenue-name-unlikely/>

### **Charlottesville, Virginia – Feb. 2017-July 2018 – renamed parks twice, retained statues, Apr. 2021 – removed statues**

In 2016, Charlottesville City Council convened a panel to explore what the city should do about its statue of Robert E. Lee, as well as one of Confederate Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

In February 2017, the panel recommended the city keep the statues in the city, though two options were presented: move them to McIntire Park or re-contextualize them in their current locations. The explicit and final recommendation to the council was to consider both options, but seven of the nine panel members voted in favor of relocating the Lee statue.

In June 2017, Charlottesville’s City Council voted to rename Lee Park as Emancipation Park and Jackson Park as Justice Park. The commission recommended renaming the parks in response to its charge to study whether the city should move the city’s statues of Confederate Gens. Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. Public consultation showed that the majority of citizens did not want the park name to be changed.

After riots in the city, the statues were not removed. In July 2018, Charlottesville City Council voted 4-1 to change the name of the former Lee Park from Emancipation Park to Market Street Park, while the former Jackson Park’s name has been changed from Justice Park to Court

Square Park. Councillor Kathy Galvin says some community members felt the parks' idealistic names were ill-fitting since Confederate monuments remained within.

On April 1, 2021, after years of thwarted attempts, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that Charlottesville can remove statues of Robert E. Lee and General "Stonewall" Jackson.

Two months after the Unite the Right rally in 2017, a circuit court ruled against removing the statues from public spaces, saying that they were protected by a state statute that barred the removal of "memorials and monuments to past wars," court documents show.

The state's highest court has now overturned that decision, ruling that the Lee and Stonewall monuments "were erected long before there was a statute which both authorized a city's erection of a war memorial or monument and regulated the disturbance of or interference with that war memorial or monument," according to Justice S. Bernard Goodwyn's opinion.

Both monuments were erected in the 1920s but the state law protecting monuments was enacted in 1997, and "had no retroactive applicability and did not apply to statues erected by independent cities prior to 1997," the opinion reads.

City officials praised the ruling and said they plan to redesign the park spaces where the statues are located "in a way that promotes healing and that tells a more complete history of Charlottesville."

<https://www.wric.com/news/virginia-news/virginia-parks-that-shed-confederate-names-renamed-again/>

[https://richmond.com/news/virginia/charlottesville-city-council-selects-new-names-for-lee-and-jackson/article\\_e09118b5-09f1-5031-a9d8-b0793d92ba1b.html](https://richmond.com/news/virginia/charlottesville-city-council-selects-new-names-for-lee-and-jackson/article_e09118b5-09f1-5031-a9d8-b0793d92ba1b.html)

[https://dailyprogress.com/news/local/council-votes-to-redesign-rename-parks-after-ousting-lee-statue/article\\_913b0dac-ed4e-11e6-b9e0-0f7b6fca3286.html](https://dailyprogress.com/news/local/council-votes-to-redesign-rename-parks-after-ousting-lee-statue/article_913b0dac-ed4e-11e6-b9e0-0f7b6fca3286.html)

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/01/us/charlottesville-confederate-statues-removal-trnd/index.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/high-court-charlottesville-remove-confederate-statues-76810979>

### **Culpeper, Virginia – Feb.-May 2021 – retained reservoir name**

Lake Pelham, which was named after a Confederate soldier, will eventually have a new name. By a 5-4 vote during its Feb. 9 meeting, the Culpeper Town Council decided to rename the lake dubbed after Alabama-native Major John Pelham.

This comes after a town committee consisting of elected officials recently forwarded a recommendation to the council that the lake be renamed.

Although the title was never formally adopted by the town, the man-made body of water off Route 29 has been referred to as Lake Pelham for decades. Exactly how the lake came to be named after John Pelham, an Alabama slave owner who died in Culpeper after being wounded in battle, is unclear.

Councilman Frank Reaves Jr. brought forward the idea, noting that he has received requests from many people that the lake be renamed.

Councilman Keith Price suggested that the matter be left up to a fall referendum, adding that he suspects the matter would pass in an election. If the lake's name is changed, Price asked: "Where do you stop?" He noted there is a Lake Pelham Drive, along with a variety of other Confederate-related street names. Several council members noted that renaming streets is different as it would change residents' addresses.

Councilwoman Jamie Clancey explained that she previously brought forward a motion to rename the lake during a fall meeting but did not receive a second. To find a new name, she suggested a community contest.

Local businessman Joe Daniel has led the charge in seeking a name change and offered \$50,000 to offset any related costs. At a December council meeting, he said Pelham "contributed absolutely nothing to the Culpeper community" and "contributed zero to society in general."

On April 28, Town Council committee recommended Lake Culpeper as the new name for the municipal reservoir.

Pelham's moniker became attached to the reservoir in the 20th century through a government-sponsored "name-the-lake" contest, according to Star-Exponent archives. The Culpeper County school superintendent's wife submitted the winning entry just a few short years after Culpeper schools finished being racially integrated.

The Town Council will vote on the matter during its May 11 regular meeting. Community feedback on the change will be accepted during the public-comment session at the beginning of the meeting.

On May 11, during the Culpeper Town Council meeting, a motion to change the name to Lake Culpeper failed with a 4-4 vote. Before that vote failed, there was a motion for the name to remain Lake Pelham, which also failed. The lake will keep its name for now.

Member Jamie Clancey thinks the decision should be reached with more community input. Member, Jon Russell agreed that the name change should be left up to the people, adding that this should be accomplished in a referendum.

The estimated cost to the town for renaming the lake is \$5,000. The town council did not make it clear when or if future discussions would continue about renaming the lake.

[https://www.rappnews.com/news/government/so-long-pelham-culpeper-votes-to-remove-confederate-soldiers-name/article\\_218bbdb8-da45-5e51-b9e9-462425c073b0.html](https://www.rappnews.com/news/government/so-long-pelham-culpeper-votes-to-remove-confederate-soldiers-name/article_218bbdb8-da45-5e51-b9e9-462425c073b0.html)

[https://www.rappnews.com/features/history/lake-pelham-s-name-goes-to-a-vote/article\\_a36f9106-6b39-11eb-bcb9-f3e33cf1b530.html](https://www.rappnews.com/features/history/lake-pelham-s-name-goes-to-a-vote/article_a36f9106-6b39-11eb-bcb9-f3e33cf1b530.html)

[https://fredericksburg.com/news/state-and-regional/panel-suggests-new-name-for-culpeper-reservoir-named-for-confederate-officer/article\\_12aa983f-f492-5771-abc2-67c2e15e96d7.html](https://fredericksburg.com/news/state-and-regional/panel-suggests-new-name-for-culpeper-reservoir-named-for-confederate-officer/article_12aa983f-f492-5771-abc2-67c2e15e96d7.html)

[https://www.rappnews.com/news/government/vote-to-change-lake-pelhams-name-to-lake-culpeper-fails/article\\_6172dfab-3942-533c-acb2-0fe9e62377aa.html](https://www.rappnews.com/news/government/vote-to-change-lake-pelhams-name-to-lake-culpeper-fails/article_6172dfab-3942-533c-acb2-0fe9e62377aa.html)

### **Fairfax County, Virginia – June 2020-May 2021 – reviewing street and asset names, removed monument**

- For Fairfax County Confederate Names Inventory Report, see:  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/sites/history-commission/files/assets/documents/confederate-names-committee/confederate-names-inventory-report.pdf>
- For Presentation at Board Land Use Committee Meeting on May 25, 2021, see:  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2021/may25-land-use-confederate-names-presentation.pdf>

Fairfax County has begun the process of getting rid of Confederate names on streets, parks and other sites, part of a broader reckoning over Virginia's Civil War legacy amid calls for greater racial and social equity in the state.

On June 23, 2020, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, requested the History Commission prepare a report listing a full inventory of Confederate street names, monuments and public places in Fairfax County and on Fairfax County-owned property. In an effort to prepare the report, the History Commission has formed the History Commission Confederate Names Committee which met regularly until the report was finalized. The History Commission surveyed approximately 26,500 assets across the county. Their report was presented to the Board of Supervisors on December 8, 2020. Federal properties, public schools, places of worship, and cemeteries are excluded from the report.

The Board of Supervisors requested the report to include the following:

- A comprehensive list and history of places in Fairfax County named after individuals who held military or governmental responsibilities under the authority of the Confederate States of America between 1861-1865;
- Identification of the party responsible for renaming the street, monument and/or place;
- Implications (including legal, cost, and other) of removing Confederate names of public places in Fairfax County;
- Recommended guidelines with the input of other relevant County Boards and Commissions such as the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Architectural Review Board for the renaming/replacement process of Confederate: Monuments, Street Names, Rec Centers & Parks, Additional Public Places
- Input from the County Attorney's office and other relevant county agencies on the renaming process of Confederate names of public places in the county.
- This should include coordination with other local governments for any existing removals or replacements, to include the Marr monument located on Fairfax County grounds.

On December 8, the county Board of Supervisors agreed to start public discussions around a renaming process featuring 157 locations that, in many cases, would require county residents and businesses to change their mailing addresses.

Among them are two of the county's largest thoroughfares: Lee Highway, named for Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, named for Lee and Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

The dialogue over what to call those highways, and a host of parks and recreation centers that also honor Confederate leaders, can serve to bring greater awareness about Fairfax's role in the Civil War and the role African Americans have played in the county, Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) said during a December 8 board committee meeting about the effort.

"It's a community discussion that is going to be more long-lasting and meaningful than the actual final change," said Alcorn, who along with Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik (D-Providence) co-sponsored a motion in June to launch the renaming process. "We're definitely moving down this path, not to in any way erase history, but to bring it alive," Alcorn said. "And, where appropriate, to think about where we do want to glorify something or someone [who is] not a Confederate leader."

In November, Fairfax officials removed a stone obelisk outside the county courthouse that marked the site where the first Confederate soldier was killed in a land battle and a pair of accompanying Dahlgren howitzers. The board agreed to donate the obelisk to a local historical society and to send the howitzers to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. A state marker commemorating the battle was sent to the state Department of Historic Resources.

Fairfax will rely heavily on community input in dealing with street names and other public property, while commercial property owners and developers would have to sign off on renaming shopping centers and neighborhood subdivisions that honor Confederate leaders.

Several county supervisors said a high priority will be to find new names for Lee Highway and Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in the county. Palchik said it would make sense to coordinate with Arlington officials on what to call Lee Highway for the sake of consistency.

Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk's Lee District was not mentioned in a county history commission's list of sites to be considered for renaming. But Lusk, the board's sole African American member, said he will spearhead an effort to separate his district from the legacy of one of the Confederacy's most prominent leaders.

On April 20, Hunter Mill residents will have the opportunity to weigh-in on Fairfax County's review of Confederate street names, monuments and public places, during an online panel discussion and town hall hosted by Supervisor Walter Alcorn. The discussion will focus on the History Commission's inventory and report.

"I am looking forward to a thoughtful discussion that ensures that we move forward in a way that makes all residents in every community in our county feel welcome and respected," Alcorn said, in a release. "It is important for Hunter Mill residents to have opportunities to hear from and learn from each other as Fairfax County explores changing how we identify Confederate-named public streets and other places."

On May 25, Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny and his staff presented their recommendations to the board's land use policy committee for how to move forward with renaming the highways as well as streets and subdivisions.

Renaming the highways would involve the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Commonwealth Transportation Board because the roads are state-owned. Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay noted that the Commonwealth Transportation Board "doesn't use state funds to implement these road changes, so ultimately they get a say in whether or not that happens, [but] they contribute zero dollars to implementing that."



Although Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway are the first slated for the renaming treatment, most of the streets with Confederate names are in subdivisions.

Neighborhoods can decide whether to rename their streets and subdivisions. Neighbors will need a petition signed by at least 51% of landowners and money to pay for new signs, which cost between \$115-\$205 each, Biesiadny said.

A list of possible new names for Lee Highway and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway could be ready as soon as December 2021.

By July 13, 2021, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors could approve about 25 members for a task force to examine the possibility of renaming the highways and appoint the group's chair. The group would recommend whether to rename those streets and what new names to consider in December. A public hearing and decision could come in early 2022.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/fairfax-renaming-confederate/2020/12/11/f40005ee-3bd5-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/fairfax-renaming-confederate/2020/12/11/f40005ee-3bd5-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/confederate-names-committee>

<https://patch.com/virginia/reston/renaming-confederate-properties-fairfax-panel-discussion>

<https://www.tysonsreporter.com/2021/05/26/fairfax-county-proposes-timeline-to-consider-renaming-lee-lee-jackson-memorial-highways/>

### **Farmville, Virginia – removed monument**

Confederate monument ordered removed by Town Council. Statue placed in storage pending final deposition. Pedestal retained.

### **Fredericksburg, Virginia – July 2020-Feb. 2021 – renamed street**

- For Council Resolution from July 14, 2020, see:  
<https://www.fredericksburgva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18121/Resolution-20-57?bidId=>

The Fredericksburg City Council adopted a resolution on July 14, 2020 urging the Virginia General Assembly, during its special session in August, to remove the Jefferson Davis Highway name from U.S. Route 1 statewide and replace it with a name that is more inclusive and not connected to the Confederacy.

Fredericksburg's city council said it is seeking a new name for Jefferson Davis Highway that "promotes our shared values of unity, equality and a commitment to a better future for all Americans." If no action is taken by the General Assembly next month on renaming Jefferson Davis Highway, the city council said it will move on renaming the part of Route 1 that run through the city.

On January 21, a bill to change the name of Jefferson Davis Highway throughout Virginia, which was introduced by Del. Joshua Cole the previous week, advanced through a House subcommittee after a 6–4 vote.



Cole, a Democrat who represents parts of Fredericksburg and Stafford County, introduced a bill that would remove the name of the president of the Confederacy from any stretch of U.S. 1 in Virginia that bears it, and replace it with Emancipation Highway. The bill would not change stretches of U.S. 1 that have already been renamed or that have other names, such as Richmond Highway in Arlington and other localities or Cambridge Street in southern Stafford County.

Cole's initial plan was to introduce legislation to rename U.S. 1 Loving Memorial Highway after the Caroline County couple who filed a lawsuit that successfully overturned laws against interracial marriage in 1967. But after Cole read an email the Loving family wrote objecting to Arlington renaming Lee Highway after the couple, he changed his suggestion to Emancipation Highway.

"We received a petition from over 7,000 citizens requesting it to be named Loving Memorial Highway," Cole said. "Once the family said what they said, we did a quick one-day survey and we received 3,000 for Emancipation Highway."

Cole said he reached out to the Loving family over the summer and never received a response. He said the message forwarded to him from Arlington representatives indicated that Richard and Mildred Loving were private people who preferred to keep a low profile and wouldn't want the attention associated with such an honor.

The next step toward the renaming of the highway is for the bill to pass through the House Transportation Committee and then the Appropriations Committee on January 27 or 29. Cole will have to present the bill to the Appropriations Committee before it can advance to the House floor for a vote and then to the Senate. If the bill passes through the House and Senate, the name change would take effect January 2022.

Cole noted the state will not cover any payments for signage, as localities will have to do so. He said many of the counties that will be affected have already agreed to take that on. In the Fredericksburg area, U.S. 1 goes through Stafford, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County and Caroline.

On February 3, the bill to rename Jefferson Davis Highway and rename it Emancipation Highway passed the House of Delegates by a 70–28 vote.

Cole said he expects the bill to head to the Senate in the next week or two. If the Senate passes the bill, it would head to Gov. Ralph Northam for his signature.

The four localities impacted will absorb the cost of the name change. The Virginia Department of Transportation has indicated there are generally two signs per locality that cost a total of \$1,100 each. But there are additional expenses. According to VDOT, the estimated replacement costs of signs maintained by the agency include overhead guide signs at interchanges, street-name signs attached to traffic signal support structures and other miscellaneous signs.

Stafford is expected to have to pay \$102,000, while Spotsylvania would pay \$94,000 and Caroline, \$18,000. Chesterfield County would have the highest expense of the affected localities at \$373,000.

<https://patch.com/virginia/fredericksburg/fredericksburg-urges-virginia-rename-jefferson-davis-highway>

[https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/del-josh-cole-proposes-changing-jefferson-davis-highway-to-emancipation-highway/article\\_fe1c58f0-cb6c-50c9-b746-23068251556a.html](https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/del-josh-cole-proposes-changing-jefferson-davis-highway-to-emancipation-highway/article_fe1c58f0-cb6c-50c9-b746-23068251556a.html)

[https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/bill-to-rename-jefferson-davis-highway-passes-virginia-house/article\\_d96f6b89-8f27-5f46-ad58-bf8ab921bc2c.html](https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/bill-to-rename-jefferson-davis-highway-passes-virginia-house/article_d96f6b89-8f27-5f46-ad58-bf8ab921bc2c.html)

### **Fredericksburg, Virginia – removed monument**

Slave auction block removed. To be displayed in the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

### **Lexington, Virginia – Jan.-Apr. 2021 – reviewing street renaming process**

- For draft street renaming policy from Feb. 2021, see:  
<https://lexingtonva.civicweb.net/document/10274/Public%20Hearing,%20Review%20and%20Consideration%20of%20a%20D.pdf?handle=D6CD80917A114E37AF7B54E890710956>

Lexington City Council has begun reviewing a draft of a city policy that, if approved, will allow citizens to apply to rename the streets on which they live.

Although the issue of renaming streets arose in the summer of 2020, city officials say the draft policy is not solely in response to calls for renaming streets named after Confederate leaders but to have a policy in place for renaming any streets in the future.

Mayor Frank Friedman said the council's been working on a renaming policy for months after a petition called on them to rename statues, buildings and streets with history based in the Confederacy. A majority of council members want citizens to take the lead.

The draft policy, as outlined and presented on January 21, asks citizens interested in changing the name of a city street to submit a petition, an application and \$400 in application fees to the city manager for review before the proposal appears before City Council. The proposed policy would require at least 75% of citizens who live on the street to agree to change the street name and agree on a new name. Petition organizers believe that cost should fall on the city's shoulders.

Council members have already begun editing the policy and plan to hold a work session to discuss its details in the future. "Once all the tweaks are put in place in one document, then that's when we can schedule a work session to go over it," City Council member Marilyn Alexander said.

But, Mayor Frank Friedman said, "We're in no rush, from that standpoint, of working towards a due date of any type."

Several city citizens submitted public comments to City Council, expressing concern about the city manager's potential role in the street renaming process and the application fee, as they are outlined in the first draft of the policy.

City Manager Jim Halasz said his potential role in the process is meant to maintain uniformity and fairness for all citizens who submit applications.

Halasz said that he and City Attorney Jared Jenkins reviewed other communities' street renaming policies and consulted state resources before drafting the policy. "I asked the Virginia Institute of

Government for policies that they could recommend, and VML [Virginia Municipal League]," Halasz said. "So, we did reach out across the commonwealth to look at what other communities are doing."

Halasz noted that the \$400 fee is similar to fees that accompany rezoning requests in the city. Renaming streets also has a material expense. "Should we have a street renamed, all the street signs have to be replaced. Very significant expense," he said. "If somebody's interested in renaming a street, seemingly it will be more than one individual; that cost can be born by a number of individuals. We didn't necessarily see it as a barrier or impediment to that process."

"Government isn't free," City Council member Chuck Smith said. "We have costs, and we need to pass those along when we're doing projects and concentrating on groups instead of the citizenry at large. Those groups need to bear some of the cost."

Ely Spencer, a city resident, said the policy draft seemed to put too much responsibility on the shoulders of city residents. "The proposal continues to put the onus on residents to initiate and carry out the process," he said. "While I understand that changing a street name would cause a number of minor inconveniences for the residents of that street, I don't think those inconveniences outweigh the negative impact that Confederate street names have on our town's image on a daily basis. Everybody uses these streets, and everybody has to interact with their names."

But City Council member Dennis Ayers said "the process we went through with renaming Oak Grove Cemetery, that was very instructive and I'm very glad we did it, but there's just no way we could do that for the 30-odd streets that people want, you know, might have an interest in changing the names on, or any in the future," he said. "We really need to put the onus on the citizens to come to us with a petition, with the proposed name, and the approval of a predominant number of the property owners on that street."

Halasz agreed. "I did not put this in place solely to look at the potential of renaming Confederate-related streets to something else. We have many streets in the community," he said. "Over a period of a number of years, you could see a number of requests for renaming various different streets. So, it differs dramatically from the one instance of renaming one cemetery, as opposed to potentially dealing with several street names over 10 years."

Council member David Sigler said it was important the city work on the policy now. "I think we need to work on this policy before we need it," he said. "I think it's excellent to have a policy in place, so people are treated equally and fairly and not differently based on the emotion in the room or in a meeting, when you're dealing with something like this."

Council member Leslie Straughan suggested that the application for renaming the street must be submitted by the individuals living on the street in question. "I think whoever initiates the survey needs to be a property owner on the street," she said. "I think it sets up a bad dynamic having someone who doesn't even live on the street initiate it." Alexander agreed. "You would start having a lot of resentment if it's not someone on that street."

Straughan also suggested that all residents on the street in question be notified of the renaming proposal. Alexander concurred, adding that residents also must be notified concerning the practical and financial consequences of changing street names.

Council also agreed that the proposed, new name of the street in question should be included on the application. "In an effort to make this as efficient as possible, the name should be a part of the process," Smith said. "We don't need to go back and forth."

The first draft of the policy requires 60 percent of property owners on the street in question to sign their approval of the name change on a petition or survey. Smith said 60 percent seems too low. "I think it should be a number of like 75 percent of the addresses on that street need to approve the name change," he said.

As of March 9, groups including 50 Ways Rockbridge, CARE Rockbridge and the Rockbridge Area NAACP are looking at streets like Lee and Jackson Avenues, and Rebel Ridge Road.

The policy city council is looking at would be controlled by the people living on the street itself, while the groups petitioning for the name changes would prefer a committee allowing for greater input. "A citizen commission whereby there could be input in terms what the new names could be."

Council will discuss this at the next meeting on March 18, hear from the public and then should make a decision on April 1.

There was no vote on April 1. There will be another public hearing before consideration of the policy to allow for more voices to be heard.

On April 15, Lexington City Council approved a system for the renaming of streets. A petition to rename a half dozen streets with names associated with the Confederacy raised the question for council. The new procedure requires the involvement of residents along the street being named, and a final vote by city council. However, council can still act on its own to name or change the name of a street. The policy was approved with an amendment that Council will revisit it at its meeting Sept. 2. Council Member Marylin Alexander made the suggestion to revisit the approved policy in September, once city residents have had the opportunity to operate with the policy as-is.

One "test run" for the new policy is already in the works. City Council expressed an interest at its April 1 meeting in renaming New Market Place, on which only one resident, John Knox, resides. The street honors a Confederate victory in the Civil War but leads to the city's predominantly Black cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery. Its status as the "test run" street is widely supported.

Council member Charles Aligood cited the \$400 application fee as one reason he voted against the policy. "As it is my desire for City Council to take the initiative in the renaming process, there should be no fee," Aligood said. City Council may choose to waive that application fee for specific requests, but Council member Charles "Chuck" Smith said the fee adds legitimacy to the street renaming process. "It, I think, prevents frivolity of noise toward Council," Smith said at the Council meeting. "But the legitimate claims of change, I think, should be heard. And if the fee gets in the way, we can discuss that at the time."

Straughan noted that the Council is not giving up its right to change street names by resolution but is rather sharing the street renaming responsibility with citizens. "This policy is to help us consider proposals. City Council is not losing our right to change a name whenever City Council decides," Straughan said, citing city code. "We can initiate it at any time that we want. This policy allows the community, the residents on the street, if you want to rename your street, this is how you go about doing it."

<https://www.thenews-gazette.com/content/city-considers-street-renaming-policy>

<https://www.wdbj7.com/2021/03/09/lexington-looks-at-street-names/>

<https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2021/03/11/lexington-officials-consider-policy-to-rename-streets-tied-to-confederacy/>

<https://www.wdbj7.com/2021/04/02/street-renaming-public-hearing-extended/>

<https://www.wdbj7.com/2021/04/16/lexington-city-council-approves-system-for-street-renaming/>

<https://www.thenews-gazette.com/content/council-approves-street-renaming-policy>

### **Loudoun County, Virginia – July 2020-May 2021 – review of all assets, removed monument, renamed streets**

- For Board meeting initiative from Sept. 1, 2020, see:  
[https://loudoun.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=77&event\\_id=2753&meta\\_id=181428](https://loudoun.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=77&event_id=2753&meta_id=181428)
- For Review of Symbols document, see Action Item no. 5 from Board of Supervisors meeting on Dec. 15, 2020:  
[https://loudoun.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=77&clip\\_id=6504](https://loudoun.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=77&clip_id=6504)
- For Highway Renaming Action Item from May 18, 2021, see item 06:  
<https://www.loudoun.gov/3426/Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings-Packets>

Loudoun County’s Board of Supervisors is set to take inventory of county buildings and roads that honor Confederate and segregationist figures. The board considered reviewing and detailing “roads, buildings, signs and other public infrastructure, named after and honoring Confederate or segregationist figures, symbols and slogans in Loudoun County.”

In July, after years of debate, a Confederate statue was removed from the grounds of the Loudoun County courthouse, in downtown Leesburg. The removal came shortly after a new Virginia law took effect, giving localities the right to decide how to handle Confederate war memorials.

On December 15, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors directed staff to begin a planning process toward renaming two primary roads — Harry Flood Byrd Highway (Route 7) and John Mosby Highway (Route 50).

Mosby fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War, while Byrd served as governor of Virginia and later represented the state in the U.S. Senate, overseeing what was known as the Byrd Machine into the 1960s. He strongly opposed integration of Virginia’s public schools.

Vice Chairman Koran Saines (D-Sterling), who brought the initiative forward, directed staff to also coordinate with Fairfax County, provide a cost estimate and report back no later than May 2021.

The previous week, the board voted unanimously to move forward with replacing the plaque on the World War I memorial that racially segregates 30 white and Black soldiers.

Recently, the board directed staff to review Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County and report back by mid-2021. The scope of work, which was approved on December 15, includes developing an inventory list, a plan for public engagement and a timeline for the project.

Staff is projected to bring back the inventory by May at the earliest. They are expected to gather information listing and detailing the location of roads, buildings, signs and other public infrastructure named after or honoring Confederate or segregationist figures, symbols and slogans in Loudoun.

Though voting in support of the motion to change the name of Byrd and Mosby highways, Leesburg Supervisors Kristen Umstattd said if the Virginia Department of Transportation agrees to install new signage, the change will be disruptive to 200 addresses that include the current names.

On May 18, The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted 8-0-1 to begin the process of renaming Loudoun County's Route 7 and Route 50, named after former Virginia Gov. Harry F. Byrd and Confederate commander John Mosby because of their history of supporting racism. A final decision on names could come early in 2022. Supervisor Caleb Kershner was absent for the vote.

After a lengthy debate over the recommended logistics by county staff, the board voted on a process that would form a 16-member task force focused on providing input and assisting with public outreach to determine alternate name recommendations for Harry Byrd Highway and John Mosby Highway.

The 16-member task force will include seven members from the Heritage Commission and nine selected by each respective supervisor. Residents, business owners and employees along the corridors will be considered by the supervisors.

The board directed staff to establish a capital project account for funds in renaming the highways and approve the amendment of the fiscal 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) by authorizing the execution of a budget adjustment to transfer \$87,000 from the Capital Project Management project to the newly established capital account in the Capital Projects Fund to fund the highway sign inventory. Additionally, the board directed staff to send the balance of the remaining estimated costs for sign replacement in the amount of \$621,000 — \$3,204,000 to the CIP fiscal 2021 budget process for consideration and prioritization.

What the board said:

Chairwoman Phyllis Randall (D-At Large): "I actually don't believe that businesses would oppose the name change, because if they actually know who these people are, they may not want that name on their business anyway — if they did the research themselves — but it is a lot to name change."

Saines: "In my talking to members of the heritage commission myself, they said they're interested in taking up this initiative and willing to do the work. So let them do the work."

Supervisor Matt Letourneau (R-Dulles) on including residents and businesses to the task force: "With respect to my colleagues, I think you're underestimating those businesses that have invested thousands of dollars in signage, and legal documents and business cards. It's painted on their trucks. It's everywhere. This is a big deal. A very big deal. I mean, it's expensive for these folks." He said in his district there are many businesses and residents located along Route 50. He said it's important to consider input from all the stakeholders along the highway.



Supervisor Kristen Umstattd (D-Leesburg) on setting up a grant system for residents and businesses potentially impacted by name changes: “I would predict we’re going to hear from people who have their homes or their businesses along 7 or 50, who are going to be upset that we’re proposing to change the names of those streets.”

Supervisor Mike Turner (D-Ashburn): “There is no question that this is going to create a lot of turmoil. There’s no question that it’s inconvenient, there’s no question that it’s an expense. But frankly, there’s no question that the when one of these is named after — remember the KKK — a notorious segregationist, and the other ones named after a guy who was engaged in treason, I’m sorry.”

County staff will continue to work with other jurisdictions and conduct a sign inventory. The goal is to have the board select the new names between January 2022 and February 2022.

Below is an estimated schedule approved by the board:

Task 1 — Interjurisdictional coordination, January 2021 to end of process

Task 2 — Conduct sign inventory, June 2021 to September 2021

Task 3 — Create task force, July 2021 to November 2021. A Task Force is to be created with the goal of creating a list of alternate road name choices. The Task Force would operate as a temporary committee and dissolve at the end of the process. It is envisioned to include one subject matter expert each from the Heritage Commission, Black History Committee, Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun Branch of the NAACP, Piedmont Heritage Association, the Loudoun Museum, and the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Collation (LCPCC), Chamber of Commerce, and others to be determined. Additionally, each Board Member may appoint one additional representative to the Task Force. The Task Force shall consist of no more than twenty members. Staff support and facilitation will be provided. It is anticipated that the Task Force will conduct between four and five meetings; all meetings will be open to the public. At the first meeting, A Chair and Cochair will be selected via nominations and votes. The first meeting will also serve as an introduction to the County Initiative and Task Force members. The second meeting is envisioned to discuss the process and determine the schedule for the process and public outreach campaign. Meeting three is envisioned to conduct an initial road name discussion. Meeting four is envisioned to prepare the final determination of the road names. Meeting five will be held, if needed.

Task 4 — Prepare alternate road name list, July 2021 to November 2021. Establish a project website which will provide a comment form providing a mechanism for the public to submit road name suggestions. A dedicated project email address will also be created to collect road name suggestions. In addition to the names collected by the Task Force and the public, each Board Member may elect to submit two alternate road names for each roadway directly to the Task Force for consideration. The alternate road name list will be reviewed against Chapter 10-20 (Naming of Streets) of the Loudoun County Codified Ordinance, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Resolution Relating to County Memorials and the Names for County Parks, sites, and Department of Transportation criteria. Names that do not comply with the criteria of any of these three policies will be removed from the list. The Task Force will narrow the list down to ten alternate names for each roadway. Upon completion of generating ten alternate names and prior to the Public Outreach Campaign, staff will report back to the Board for approval of this list. To assist the Task Force, the following selection criteria is recommended:



1. The name is appropriate to Loudoun County/Northern Virginia history and culture.
2. The name reflects the natural or cultural geography of Loudoun County.
3. The name is not already used, nor does it sound similar to another street in Loudoun County.
4. The name meets all the requirements of the Loudoun County Codified Ordinance (Naming of Streets).
5. The name is considerate, sensitive, and respectful to all Loudoun County residents.
6. The name reflects the economy and/or the trade of the time frame.
7. The final list of ten alternate names for each roadway will be presented to the public through an outreach campaign for input and feedback.

Task 5 — Public outreach, July 2021 to November 2021. County staff assisting the Task Force will work with the Department of Public Affairs and Communications to develop a Public Outreach campaign. The campaign will be a County led initiative. The list of ten alternate names for each roadway will be presented to the public to solicit feedback and input. This campaign is envisioned to include: a dedicated project email address, creation of a project website, an online survey for voting, up to two public input meetings, utilizing the website blog feature, coordination with the Board to send news blasts, and advertisement in local newspapers.

Task 6 — Board selection and approval of alternate road names, January 2022 to February 2022. At the conclusion of the public outreach campaign, an Action Item containing a ranked list of road names will be presented to the Board for approval. The staff recommendation will contain the top ranked candidate based on the Public Outreach campaign. The required Department of Transportation/Transportation Board resolution will be included in this Action Item. Also included in this item will be any additional costs determined during the public outreach campaign.

Task 7 — Virginia Department of Transportation/Commonwealth Transportation Board approval of new road names, January 2022 to TBD

Task 8 — Implement new road names, January 2022 to TBD

According to the staff report, the following are not legal requirements for a name change, but are recommended elements that should also be taken into consideration.

- Public Outreach: Although it is not required, it is highly recommended that local jurisdictions conduct a public outreach campaign because the Commonwealth Transportation Board desires that citizens are given ample avenues to have their voices heard when it comes to renaming a primary road. Also, cross departmental efforts are recommended to assist in the plan to choose a new roadway name. To meet these goals, it is recommended that Loudoun County establish a Task Force.
- Outreach to Impacted parcel owners: Currently, 350 parcels are addressed Harry Byrd Highway, and 294 parcels are addressed John Mosby Highway. Buildings containing multiple units are included in these counts. Engaging the impacted residents and businesses early in the process can help identify community concerns and provide additional feedback.
- Impact on parcel owners: Additionally, the Board may choose to consider the impact of the cost of a change of address for property owners. Of the 350 impacted parcel owners addressed Harry Byrd Highway, approximately 255 are residential uses and approximately 95 are commercial uses. Of the 294 impacted parcel owners addressed John Mosby Highway,

approximately 146 are residential uses and approximately 148 are commercial uses. Typically, the costs associated with changing a residential address are relatively low; the impacts are associated with the time and effort required to change utility bills, mortgage statements, etc. The costs associated with changing a commercial business address are likely to be more substantial and include items such as, but not limited to, replacing signage, marketing materials, and legal documents that are specific to the business. The cost could also vary greatly depending on the size of the businesses. A stipend program is one potential mechanism to provide assistance for commercial business owners to offset the costs. Should the Board desire to provide a stipend program to provide monetary assistance to the impacted commercial businesses, staff would develop a proposal and report back to the Board at a later date.

<https://wtop.com/loudoun-county/2020/09/loudoun-co-set-to-inventory-confederate-and-segregationist-roads-buildings/>

[https://www.loudountimes.com/news/loudoun-county-supervisors-consider-renaming-harry-byrd-john-mosby-highways/article\\_003432ae-3fd2-11eb-9574-abfdc69e7d77.html](https://www.loudountimes.com/news/loudoun-county-supervisors-consider-renaming-harry-byrd-john-mosby-highways/article_003432ae-3fd2-11eb-9574-abfdc69e7d77.html)

<https://wtop.com/dc-transit/2020/12/loudoun-county-to-rename-2-major-commuter-routes/>

[https://www.loudountimes.com/news/loudoun-county-supervisors-move-forward-with-renaming-harry-byrd-john-mosby-highways/article\\_42da0342-b8b1-11eb-ad33-3743684b70a8.html](https://www.loudountimes.com/news/loudoun-county-supervisors-move-forward-with-renaming-harry-byrd-john-mosby-highways/article_42da0342-b8b1-11eb-ad33-3743684b70a8.html)

### **Newport News, Virginia – Sept. 2020 – retained name**

City Councilman Dave Jenkins pitched the idea of renaming Wickham Avenue. Wickham Avenue is named for Williams Carter Wickham, a plantation owner, attorney and politician from Virginia who voted against secession before serving as an officer and eventually Brigadier General in the Confederate Army.

At the Sept. 22 work session, no one else on the council supported the idea, pointing to the level of need in the schools and other matters in front of them.

Jenkins said the road may be named for Wickham not because of his service in the Confederacy but for his work after the war, particularly as a rail executive that helped bring rail lines to the southern end of the Peninsula, aiding the establishment of Newport News Shipbuilding and the establishment of Newport News. Wickham's descendants have said their ancestor gained wealth and power through "the exploitation of enslaved people."

City Attorney Collins Owens said the city staff could start investigating the name with direction from the city manager, and an official change would have to come from a vote by the council. The council noted that along with taking time, a change would cost money.

Mayor McKinley Price asked if there was a consensus from the council to explore changing Wickham Avenue. "Seeing none, then I would suggest the manager not waste time and talent when we have so much that we need to be doing," Price said.

<https://www.dailypress.com/government/local/dp-nw-wickham-avenue-newport-news-20200929-6tjbtndmnmvfhfmwx44xwykubyg-story.html>

### **Newport News, Virginia – removed monument**

The City has decided to petition the Department of Historic Resources to allow for the removal of a Confederate monument.

### **Norfolk, Virginia – removed monument**

City Council approved the removal of the Norfolk Confederate monument.

### **Prince William County, Virginia – Sept.-Nov. 2020 – renamed street**

- For Board Motion to rename highway, including estimated costs and timeline, see: <https://eservice.pwccgov.org/documents/bocs/agendas/2020/0908/11-B.pdf>

Prince William County voted to rename a 12-mile stretch of highway currently named for former Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Prince William County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the change to the stretch of U.S. Route 1 on September 9. The highway runs the entire eastern length of the county outside of Washington and through other portions of the state. Property owners of 940 addresses will be impacted will be notified of the change as well as the general public.

The vote allows the board to petition the Commonwealth Transportation Board in Richmond for a formal change. The county plans to rename it Richmond Highway, following moves by neighboring Arlington and Alexandria counties. Arlington and Alexandria made the change last year.

The change would occur over the next three years. The minimum cost to Prince William County is approximately \$1.2M, which covers: complete address analysis, the notification process, street signs, database and records update and follow up. Additional costs to mitigate the impacts to businesses is approximately \$1 million to \$3.8 million.

The street signs won't get changed until 2022, but Prince William officials received the state's blessing on November 24 to remove the name of Confederate President Jefferson Davis from one of the county's most traveled thoroughfares. In a unanimous vote, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the Prince William Board of County supervisors' request to rename the 12 miles of U.S. 1 that run through Prince William County to "Richmond Highway." The 17-member board is appointed by the governor to oversee the state transportation projects and initiatives.

It will take the county between 12 and 18 months to implement the change, and the actual signs won't be changed until July 2022. The time is needed to allow businesses along the roadway to prepare for the change. The estimated cost of the change is about \$1.2 million, which includes creating and installing the signs and staffing costs to update records and work with affected businesses. "County staff has identified potential costs to small businesses, including updating signage, print and digital marketing materials and administrative costs and fees to update licenses and permits," the county website says. "Following CTB action on the renaming, the county will work with affected businesses to develop a more detailed plan for mitigating impacts."

Money for the name change will be allocated in the fiscal year 2022 budget, which the supervisors will begin working on in the coming weeks.

[https://www.insidenova.com/news/prince\\_william/prince-william-supervisors-move-to-rename-jefferson-davis-highway/article\\_fd7d68ea-f2e8-11ea-91b5-dbd56d966203.html](https://www.insidenova.com/news/prince_william/prince-william-supervisors-move-to-rename-jefferson-davis-highway/article_fd7d68ea-f2e8-11ea-91b5-dbd56d966203.html)

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/virginia/jefferson-davis-highway-renamed-in-prince-william-county/65-7eb9ca4d-fb20-40a5-abba-58b8ffff3845>

[https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/jefferson-davis-signs-are-coming-down-from-u-s-1-but-not-until-2022/article\\_73f4a2ac-2f27-11eb-96e9-4339ab01d60f.html](https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/jefferson-davis-signs-are-coming-down-from-u-s-1-but-not-until-2022/article_73f4a2ac-2f27-11eb-96e9-4339ab01d60f.html)

### **Richmond, Virginia – June-Dec. 2020 – renamed bridge and streets**

- For bridge renaming Resolution from June 8, 2020, see: <https://www.wric.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/74/2020/06/Res.-No.pdf>
- For street renaming Ordinance from June 22, 2020 and Impact Statement from July 21, 2020 see: <https://richmondva.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4577832&GUID=82E5D7BD-ACD2-47B1-894A-0E2BFDC46B9A>

Richmond City Council is moving forward with a plan to rename the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge. On June 22, councilmembers passed a resolution to develop a process to rename the structure that spans the James River. There is no word yet on what the new name could be or when that change could take place.

At that same city council meeting, the resolution to rename Jefferson Davis Highway to “Richmond Highway” within city limits was pushed to a discussion on July 21. The process would include public consultation and an impact statement noted and that it would cost \$40,000 to replace the streets signs.

As of early September, the city of Richmond is seeking the public's input on renaming certain Richmond streets and landmarks with Confederate symbolism. The History and Culture Commission aims to rename the streets to "reflect our city's mission of equity and inclusion." Residents can take an online survey to help rename Jefferson Davis Highway and the Lee Bridge, or submit names of other streets or landmarks to be renamed.

Richmond City Council, while stalled on renaming Jefferson Davis Highway, is expected to vote to change the Confederate Avenue to Laburnum Park Boulevard. On October 20, the council's Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee sent the name change to the full council with a recommendation for approval. That virtually ensures it will be on the consent agenda for items that are not contested.

The proposed renaming received a unanimous final vote at the November 9 Richmond City Council meeting in favour of the name change. Confederate Avenue, a stretch of four residential blocks in Richmond's North Side, is now Laburnum Park Boulevard, with most of the residents there supporting the change. Surveys conducted by the community over the summer found that 75% of the street's 60 households supported the change.

A majority of the community in a subsequent ranked-choice survey elected for Laburnum Park Boulevard over 10 other names. The new name reflects the street's central position between Brook and Hermitage roads in its namesake historic district.

On November 17, a Richmond City Council committee voted to recommend changing the name of Jefferson Davis Highway. If approved by the council, the South Side portion of the road will be renamed Richmond Highway. The proposal is on the council's Dec. 14 agenda.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy led the effort to name the street for Davis in 1913, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

On December 14, city council members voted unanimously to rename a roadway formerly known as Jefferson Davis Highway. US Route 1 will now become Richmond Highway. All members of council gave the OK.

According to the legislation council passed, the city's chief administration officer will begin moving forward with the process to erect signs, where needed. A timeline on when the work will begin and end is not immediately known, nor is the final price tag.

<https://www.nbc12.com/2020/06/23/city-council-moving-forward-with-plan-rename-robert-e-lee-memorial-bridge/>

<https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/how-to-submit-name-ideas-for-richmond-streets-landmarks>

<http://richmondfreepress.com/news/2020/oct/22/confederate-avenue-be-renamed/>

<https://vpm.org/news/articles/17402/city-council-moving-forward-with-confederate-ave-renaming>

[https://richmond.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/richmonds-confederate-avenue-now-laburnum-park-boulevard-after-city-council-renaming/article\\_65528afb-90cd-5900-bbeb-edf06d7df642.html](https://richmond.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/richmonds-confederate-avenue-now-laburnum-park-boulevard-after-city-council-renaming/article_65528afb-90cd-5900-bbeb-edf06d7df642.html)

[https://richmond.com/news/local/richmond-committee-recommends-renaming-jefferson-davis-highway-to-richmond-highway/article\\_2b3b6cb0-02fc-5c2d-8d86-b5b76a390708.html](https://richmond.com/news/local/richmond-committee-recommends-renaming-jefferson-davis-highway-to-richmond-highway/article_2b3b6cb0-02fc-5c2d-8d86-b5b76a390708.html)

<https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/richmond/jeff-davis-highway-to-be-renamed-in-richmond/>

### **Roanoke, Virginia – Jul. 2020-May 2021 – removed monument, renamed plaza**

City Council voted to remove the Robert E. Lee Memorial which was moved to storage until its fate is determined. They have also started the legal process to rename Lee Plaza.

On March 4, the public got to weigh in on what they think Lee Plaza, named after the Confederate General, should be called. Roanoke's newly formed Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board met to discuss the change some feel has been long overdue. Vice-Mayor Trish White-Boyd leads the board and it fielded about a dozen calls from people during a public hearing to give suggestions for the new name.

The most popular suggestion was naming it for Henrietta Lacks, the Roanoke woman whose cancer cells led to ground-breaking medical discoveries. Others suggested naming the plaza for local civil rights crusaders such as Rev. RR Wilkinson or William Bernard Robertson. A few others liked something more generic such as Patriots Plaza or Freedom Plaza.

"The EEAB will have further discussion and we will present a recommendation to city council and then council will then have further discussion and then council will make the final decision," White-Boyd said.

A decision is expected by late spring and White-Boyd said no matter what they choose, it's a step in the right direction.

A local cemetery took possession of the Confederate memorial and intends to put it on display with appropriate context.

As of May 6, Roanoke's Equity and Empowerment Board is moving ahead with possible replacements when it comes to the name of Lee Plaza. They held a vote on finalizing a survey that will be given to the community to share their thoughts on the names.

The choices that will be included in that survey are listed below:

- Henrietta Lacks Plaza, after the woman who had a drastic impact on medical research
- Sherman Lea Plaza, after the current mayor of Roanoke
- Freedom Plaza
- Star City Plaza

That survey is expected to be released on the City of Roanoke's social media accounts and website.

<https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2021/03/05/roanoke-city-leaders-asked-for-suggestions-to-rename-lee-plaza/>

<https://www.wfxrtv.com/news/local-news/roanoke-valley-news/roanoke-to-release-survey-on-renaming-lee-plaza/>

### **Virginia Beach, Virginia – removed monument**

City Council voted unanimously to remove the Confederate monument after public consultation.

### **Winchester, Virginia – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – deferred renaming street, developing new naming protocols**

- For discussion of resolution from July 28, 2020, see: <https://winchesterva.civicweb.net/document/17778/A%20DISCUSSION%20OF%20A%20RESOLUTION%20TO%20RENAME%20E.%20JUBAL.pdf?handle=D76CFFF1B502428EBD21689ED2736D93>
- For results of public consultation survey, see: <https://www.winchesterva.gov/jubal-early-drive-renaming>

On July 28, 2020, the Winchester City Council passed a motion to table the discussion on renaming Jubal Early Drive, saying it needs more time to consider the ramifications. Seven council members voted in favor of tabling the matter, and two voted against it. Jubal Early was a Confederate general in the Civil War, and Winchester residents had signed petitions and sent emails to the city regarding the local street named for him.

The city council wanted to hear more public input on the discussion and collected 6,189 survey responses, with 54.5% of respondents in favor of the name change. According to the survey, a majority of the 333 business owners who responded did not want the name changed. However, there are only 80 businesses on Jubal Early Drive. No homeowners would be affected because no Winchester residences have a Jubal Early Drive address.

Staff with the city's Development Services Department recently spoke with 36 business owners on Jubal Early Drive, and 28 of them said it would cost anywhere from \$2,000 to upwards of \$30,000 to update materials with a new street address. The remaining eight business owners said the costs would be either inconsequential or less than \$2,000. Councillors said it would be unfair to place an extra financial burden on any of the Jubal Early Drive businesses during a global coronavirus pandemic that has caused many firms to lose revenue.

City staff have determined the estimated costs associated with replacing local and state roadway signs if Council decides to rename E. and W. Jubal Early Drive. Those estimates are as follows:

Local Signs:

- (10) regular street name signs: \$20/ea. = \$200
- (8) LED illuminated street name signs: \$500/ea. = \$4,000

State Highway Sign:

- Overlay existing signs with 12" lettering= \$4,000 - \$5,000
- Estimate assumes no structural changes needed. If structural changes or complete replacement of the existing sign is needed, the estimate would likely increase significantly.

On February 25, Winchester City Council has joined a growing list of government organizations seeking a way to continue honoring prominent individuals without running the risk of stirring future controversies. Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee discussed the possibility of creating naming protocols for public places, buildings and roads.

Winchester Planning Director Timothy Youmans told the committee that any policy regarding how a city-owned structure, street or property is named should reflect the values and character of the community. Additionally, he said the public's input should be an integral part of the naming or renaming process.

Youmans suggested the committee consider creating strict criteria that spells out when it would be appropriate to name or rename a city-owned place, street or facility after a person. The rules could require any naming proposal to be comprehensively vetted so that all aspects of an intended honoree's life are considered before they are publicly honored.

The criteria could also create a standardized, bureaucratic process for bestowing naming honors. Currently, Youmans said, there is no standard. The Timbrook Public Safety Center was named in honor of fallen Winchester Police Officer Ricky Timbrook through a City Council resolution, the Mayor Elizabeth A. Minor Council Chambers was created through a council ordinance, and Ruth Jackson Memorial Park was named based on community recommendations.



In Virginia, the cities of Harrisonburg and Roanoke have already created criteria for naming public places, roads and buildings, and Youmans suggested Winchester refer to those policies if City Council chooses to draft a standardized naming process.

Youmans said he would help to create Winchester's rules, and would appreciate council's guidance throughout the process. For example, he would need to know if council wants to establish the same naming policies for all city-owned buildings, places and streets, or if different branches of the government — Winchester Public Schools, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and so on — should be allowed to name things that fall under their department's direct control.

Mayor David Smith suggested Youmans come up with a list of questions that City Council could answer to help him understand what rules, if any, it wants to create. Additional discussion about the naming proposal is expected at the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting on March 25.

<https://www.localdvm.com/news/virginia/winchester-city-council-votes-to-table-jubal-early-drive-renaming-discussion/>

[https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester\\_star/city-delays-possible-renaming-of-jubal-early-drive/article\\_21747fb3-931d-5578-95b2-fb878df61b0f.html](https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester_star/city-delays-possible-renaming-of-jubal-early-drive/article_21747fb3-931d-5578-95b2-fb878df61b0f.html)

[https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester\\_star/city-looks-to-avoid-future-naming-controversies/article\\_ffbf0ef6-e373-5f70-94af-6053fec7c4c4.html](https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester_star/city-looks-to-avoid-future-naming-controversies/article_ffbf0ef6-e373-5f70-94af-6053fec7c4c4.html)

### **State of Virginia – April 2020-Feb. 2021 – removed statues, retained statues, renamed highway**

Governor Ralph Northam signed new laws to repeal racially discriminatory language, and giving power for localities to control the status of Confederate monuments in their communities.

The laws repeal racist and discriminatory language from Virginia's Acts of Assembly and gives localities the ability to remove or alter Confederate monuments. As of April, 2020. Gov. Northam was also beginning the process of replacing Virginia's statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee residing in the United States Capitol.

The Release by The Office of the Governor stated:

*"Senate Bill 183 and House Bill 1537... overturn the Commonwealth's prohibition on the removal of Confederate war memorials. Starting July 1, localities will have the ability to remove, relocate, or contextualize the monuments in their communities. Virginia is home to more than 220 public memorials to the Confederacy."*

- The bill, as passed states:

*"Memorials for war veterans. Provides that a locality may remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover any monument or memorial for war veterans on the locality's public property, not including a monument or memorial located in a publicly owned cemetery, regardless of when the monument or memorial was erected, and removes certain criminal and civil penalties. Current law makes it unlawful to disturb or interfere with such monuments or memorials or to prevent citizens from taking proper measures*

*and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation, and care of such monuments or memorials. Prior to removing, relocating, contextualizing, or covering any such publicly owned monument or memorial, the local governing body shall publish notice of such intent in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality. The notice shall specify the time and place of a public hearing at which interested persons may present their views, not less than 30 days after publication of the notice. After the completion of the hearing, the governing body may vote whether to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial. If the governing body votes to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial, the local governing body shall first, for a period of 30 days, offer the monument or memorial for relocation and placement to any museum, historical society, government, or military battlefield. The local governing body shall have sole authority to determine the final disposition of the monument or memorial. The bill authorizes the local governing body to call for an advisory referendum prior to voting on such motion. The bill repeals an 1890 act of assembly related to the placement of a statue in the City of Alexandria and does not apply to a monument or memorial located on the property of a public institution of higher education within the City of Lexington. The bill also provides that the Board of Historic Resources shall promulgate regulations governing the manner in which any monument or memorial may be contextualized.” (<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB183S>)*

*“Senate Bill 612 and House Bill 1406... create a commission to recommend a replacement for the Robert E. Lee statue in the United States Capitol. To date, eight statues in the National Statuary Hall have been replaced, and seven additional states are working through a similar process to replace statues.”*

- The bill, as passed states:
  - o Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol; replacement of Robert E. Lee statue in National Statuary Hall Collection. Creates the Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol to determine whether the Robert E. Lee statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol should be replaced and, if so, to recommend to the General Assembly as a replacement a statue of a prominent Virginia citizen of historic renown or renowned for distinguished civil or military service to be commemorated in the National Statuary Hall Collection.
  - o The Commission will consist of eight members appointed as follows: one member of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; two non-legislative citizen members who are Virginia or American historians appointed by the Governor; three non-legislative citizen members appointed upon the vote of the Commission members appointed by the Speaker, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Governor; and the Director of the Department of Historic Resources, who serves ex officio with nonvoting privileges. The Department of Historic Resources will provide staff support to the Commission.
  - o The Commission will also be required to (i) select a sculptor for the new statue, with preference given to a sculptor from Virginia; (ii) estimate the costs associated with the replacement of the Robert E. Lee statue, including costs related to construction and placement of the new statue, for the removal and transfer of the Robert E. Lee

- statue, and for any unveiling ceremony of the new statue; and (iii) recommend to the General Assembly a suitable state, local, or private non-profit history museum in the Commonwealth for placement of the Robert E. Lee statue.
- The bill requires the Commission to hold at least one public hearing prior to making any recommendation to the General Assembly on a new statue and requires the costs of the Commission's work to be borne by the Commission from such private funds as are collected by the Commission and general funds as are appropriated by the General Assembly. (<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB612>)

On July 23-24, a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee and busts of seven of his Confederate colleagues were quietly removed from the Virginia Capitol building. House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) ordered them removed from the historic Capitol's Old House Chamber and simply acted without announcing it first. She also announced the formation of an advisory group to propose new types of memorials for the Thomas Jefferson-designed Capitol building.

Also, on July 24, a commission voted to remove the state's statue of Lee on display at the U.S. Capitol. The state governor encouraged the commission to recommend a different figure to stand alongside Virginia's other representative in Statuary Hall: George Washington.

On August 3, a Virginia judge imposed a 90-day injunction blocking the removal of a large statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond as other monuments have been removed or are in the process of being removed statewide.

The new injunction went into effect immediately after the judge dissolved a separate injunction blocking the statue's removal. The new injunction was issued on behalf of Richmond property owners who are suing the state to halt the removal. Their lawsuit argues the statue's removal could cause them to lose their Historic Landmark designation, which would cause them to lose favorable tax treatment and have a reduction in property value.

On December 11, Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam announced a proposal to spend \$25 million to transform historical sites in Virginia, including the Richmond spot where a soaring statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee became a recent focal point of protests against racism.

Nearly \$11 million of the money would be used to reconstruct Richmond's Monument Avenue, a historical boulevard that was lined with the Lee statue and other Confederate monuments for more than a century.

Most of the statues were taken down in July after Mayor Levar Stoney ordered their removal amid weeks of protests following the killing of George Floyd.

Northam announced plans to remove the Lee statue in June. But its removal was blocked by a lawsuit filed by a group of residents who live near the statue, which is located on state-owned land. A judge sided with Northam in October, but the statue remains standing while the residents appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Northam said the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts would use the funding to hire staff and lead an initiative to redesign Monument Avenue. "At a time when this Commonwealth and country are grappling with how to present a more complete and honest picture of our complex history, we must work to enhance public spaces that have long been neglected and shine light on previously untold stories," Northam said in a news release.

The spending proposal is contingent on winning approval from the Democratic-controlled General Assembly. Northam plans to address his proposed “historic justice” initiatives and other components of his budget plan with the money committees of the legislature on Wednesday.

Patrick McSweeney, an attorney for the residents who sued to try to block the removal of the Lee statue, said the public is “deeply split” over the removal of Confederate monuments.

Alex Nyerges, director and chief executive officer of the museum, said he hopes to bring together artists, art historians, urban planners and residents of the community to contribute to a plan to reinvent Monument Avenue.

The \$25 million investment proposed by Northam includes \$9 million for the development of a Slavery Heritage Site and improvements to the existing Slave Trail in Shockoe Bottom. The funding will support efforts to preserve the area known as the Devil’s Half-Acre, or Lumpkin’s Jail, where many slaves were held.

Another \$5 million would be used to repatriate tombstones from the former Columbian Harmony Cemetery in Washington, D.C., and create the Harmony Living Shoreline memorial. Headstones were removed from the historic African American cemetery and relocated in 1960 to make way for commercial development. Some headstones were moved to a new cemetery in Landover, Maryland, while others were sold off by the developer and used to create a riprap shoreline for erosion control along the banks of the Potomac River.

The funding also includes \$100,000 to support the Virginia Emancipation and Freedom Monument project on Brown’s Island.

On Monday December 21, the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee that has represented Virginia in the U.S. Capitol for 111 years was removed. The state commission has recommended replacing Lee’s statue with a statue of Barbara Johns. She protested conditions at her all-Black high school in the town of Farmville in 1951. Her court case became part of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling had struck down racial segregation in public schools.

On January 22, a panel of Virginia legislators advanced a bill to remove a statue of Harry F. Byrd Sr., a staunch segregationist, from the state Capitol grounds.

The decision came amid a years-long effort in history-rich Virginia to rethink who is honored in the state’s public spaces. Byrd, a Democrat, served as governor and U.S. senator. He ran the state’s most powerful political machine for decades until his death in 1966 and was considered the architect of the state’s racist “massive resistance” policy to public school integration.

The bill moved out of the House committee on a party-line vote of 13-5, with all Republicans voting against it. It still must clear both chambers of the General Assembly, but with Democrats controlling the statehouse and Democrat Gov. Ralph Northam backing the measure, it is almost certain to pass.

Rita Davis, counselor to the governor, said the question before the committee was “not whether we should remove Mr. Byrd’s statue from Capitol Square, but rather, why on earth would we keep it in Capitol Square?”

The larger-than-life statue erected in 1976 and located a stone's throw from the Capitol depicts Byrd with a copy of the federal budget. A nearby plaque says the statue was dedicated in appreciation of Byrd's "devotion throughout a long public career to governmental restraint and programs in the best interest of all the people of Virginia."

The same panel on January 23 also advanced a measure that would make official an earlier recommendation that civil rights hero Barbara Johns represent Virginia in the Statuary Hall collection at the U.S. Capitol instead of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. No one voted against the measure.

On February 19, the Senate Rules Committee voted 11-0 in favor of a bill to remove the statue of segregationist Gov. and U.S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd Sr. from Capitol Square.

The House and Senate Rules committees backed resolutions to put a Virginia statue of teenage Barbara Johns at the U.S. Capitol. The Johns statue would replace a statue of Robert E. Lee, which has been moved to the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

Also, the House Rules panel voted 13-4 to defeat a measure from Senate Minority Leader Tommy Norment, R-James City, that would have authorized the Capitol Square Preservation Council to review and approve plans for changes to artifacts within the state Capitol building.

On February 23, the Senate voted 36-3 to remove the statue of Harry F. Byrd, Sr. from Capitol Square in Richmond. Next, the bill will head to Governor Northam's desk for final review.

On February 23, the General Assembly gave final approval to a bill, sponsored by Del. Joshua Cole (D-Fredericksburg), that would rename Route 1, Jefferson Davis Highway, to "Emancipation Highway" throughout the state. The bill includes a clause delaying its impact until the start of 2022.

Cole said this was intended to give localities enough time to vote on their own name, if they don't like one state lawmakers have chosen. "All we are saying is 'You have until the end of this year to pick a new name, otherwise we will pick one for you,'" he said.

Local governments will be asked to foot the bill for renaming, with cost estimates ranging from \$18,000 in Caroline County to \$373,000 in Chesterfield County.

<https://www.wric.com/news/politics/gov-northam-signs-laws-repealing-racially-discriminatory-language-confederate-monuments/>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/confederate-memorials-quietly-removed-from-virginia-capitol-overnight/2020/07/24/8d2a0dee-cced-11ea-bc6a-6841b28d9093\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/confederate-memorials-quietly-removed-from-virginia-capitol-overnight/2020/07/24/8d2a0dee-cced-11ea-bc6a-6841b28d9093_story.html)

[https://www.thecentersquare.com/virginia/judge-temporarily-blocks-lee-statue-removal-as-other-monuments-taken-down-statewide/article\\_5d092414-d69e-11ea-b630-ff8ae30859a0.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/virginia/judge-temporarily-blocks-lee-statue-removal-as-other-monuments-taken-down-statewide/article_5d092414-d69e-11ea-b630-ff8ae30859a0.html)

<https://www.570news.com/2020/12/11/northam-seeks-25m-for-historic-justice-initiatives/>

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/virginias-lee-statue/YNM6PLBHRDSGP46VWR3S4JPPDE/>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/virginia-lawmakers-vote-remove-statue-segregationist-75427191>

[https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/senate-panel-backs-removal-of-segregationist-harry-byrd-sr-s-statue-from-capitol-square/article\\_ceed95b0-e531-5456-96ae-234056d43a68.html](https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/senate-panel-backs-removal-of-segregationist-harry-byrd-sr-s-statue-from-capitol-square/article_ceed95b0-e531-5456-96ae-234056d43a68.html)

<https://www.whsv.com/2021/02/23/bill-to-remove-byrd-statue-from-capitol-square-heads-to-northam/>

<https://vpm.org/news/articles/20644/general-assembly-votes-to-rename-jefferson-davis-highway>

## Washington

### **Bellingham, Washington – June-Sept. 2020 – reviewing street name**

Bellingham City Council will be asked whether it wants to rename Pickett Road after questions were raised about a possible link to a Confederate officer. Bellingham officials have been looking into the name since the issue surfaced on social media and during a June 12 protest in Bellingham against racial injustice.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has listed the short road as a public symbol of the Confederacy, one of two in Washington state. The organization says on its website that the road was named in honor of a Confederate general named George Pickett.

The road's name was Bennett Street until 1971, when residents living in what was then the county outside Bellingham asked county officials to rename it Pickett Road. They didn't provide a reason for their request.

A Bellingham committee that handles administrative requests for changes to addresses and street names was looking into the origin of the street's name. It was told that it might have been named after William S. Pickett, who reportedly owned property in the area, perhaps in the early 1900s. The committee is part of the Bellingham Fire Department. The research hasn't turned up an answer. "City staff from Fire, Library, and Museum completed various searches for records and could not locate anything that indicated why the County Commission picked Pickett Rd. when they changed the name. We were also unable to locate any records of a Pickett owning property in the area, as suggested by one of the current property owners".

Mayor Seth Fleetwood would likely bring the matter before the City Council at its Sept. 14 meeting to determine the council's "interest in any next steps."

On September 14, Council members briefly discussed the matter after Mayor Seth Fleetwood brought it up during the City Council meeting, noting that renaming the road would be up to the council. "It's in your court," Fleetwood said to the City Council on after a day and night of meetings, adding that he wanted to bring it to their attention though it was too late for them to take action that night. The mayor said the council could chew on it and bring the matter back later.

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article245437765.html>

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article245727240.html>



### **Bellingham, Washington – Nov. 2019 – renamed bridge**

In November 2019, the Bellingham City Council voted to strip George E. Pickett's name from the bridge that spans Whatcom Creek on Dupont Street, as recommended by the city's Historic Preservation Commission. It was a previous City Council that named it after the Confederate general Pickett in 1918.

Council member Pinky Vargas pointed out that this is the culmination of a two-year process and the council is following the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission that the name be removed. The commission also recommended that a plaque taken off the bridge should be placed in a historical setting where Pickett's role in our history can be discussed.

<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article245437765.html>

<https://kgmi.com/news/007700-council-votes-to-remove-pickett-name-from-bridge/>

### **Seattle, Washington – Apr. 2021 – reviewing street name**

Spanning less than a half mile just south of Yesler Terrace in Seattle, South Lane Street seems like an innocuous stretch of road. But as it was recently pointed out on social media, the street is named for Joseph Lane, Oregon's first territorial governor, and a noted pro-slavery advocate whose support of the Confederacy at the start of the Civil War led to an ignoble end to his political career.

The Seattle street named for Lane was brought to the attention of District 3 Councilmember Kshama Sawant on April 22 by a local historian, who proposed it be renamed for renowned community activist Donnie Chin.

Sawant appeared amenable to that proposal. "Absolutely, we should rename this street," she said. "My office is happy to make this happen alongside the community and (District 2 Councilmember Tammy Morales)."

Chin was well-known throughout Seattle's Chinatown-International District, leading a volunteer first responder group in a neighborhood that had long struggled with slow emergency response times from police and fire services. Chin was shot and killed in 2015 while patrolling the CID, a murder that remains unsolved to this day. A park that sits on South Lane Street was renamed in his honor in 2016.

<https://mynorthwest.com/2833689/kshama-sawant-renaming-seattle-lane-street-pro-slavery-lawmaker/>

### **Spokane, Washington – Nov.-Dec. 2020 – renamed street**

Fort George Wright Drive is now Whistalks Way. The name change, an acknowledgment of the brutality imposed on Native American tribes in Spokane by Col. George Wright and the United States government, was approved unanimously by the Spokane City Council on December 14.

"The Spokane Tribe worked very hard to involve tribal elders and the tribes that were directly affected by the acts of Col. George Wright," said Margo Hill, a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians and proponent of the new name.



Wright led a violent campaign against Indigenous people to suppress their resistance as white settlers spread across the land of the Yakama, Palouse, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane tribes in the mid-19th century.

The road will be named Whistalks Way in honor of Whist-alks, a woman warrior and Spokane Indian who played a role in the resistance against Wright in 1858.

The effort to rename the street has been spearheaded on the council by members Betsy Wilkerson and Karen Stratton, whose mother was a member of the Spokane Tribe. It was endorsed unanimously by the Plan Commission in November.

Stratton lamented only that the process was not initially more inclusive of more perspectives, an inadequacy noted Monday night by multiple members of Native American Alliance for Policy and Action.

A mile long, Fort George Wright Drive cuts along the Spokane Falls Community College campus in Northwest Spokane. Campaigns to change the street's name date back at least to 1993 but have stalled until this year. The effort picked up steam again in 2020 amid protests for racial justice following the death of George Floyd.

The majority of public comments submitted to the city ahead of Monday's vote were supportive, but the change was not without opponents. Thomas Cooney, a member of Westerners Spokane Corral, a history club, wrote to the Plan Commission in advance of its November meeting. He argued Whistalks Way "makes reference to a little-known person, whose name is not easily pronounced." Cooney defended Wright as a man following the orders of the U.S. Army and argued that he should be "judged by the standards in practice during his lifetime."

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/dec/14/fort-george-wright/>

## West Virginia

### **Charleston, West Virginia – removed monument**

The plaque was removed from the Kanawha Riflemen Memorial, but the benches associated with the memorial were retained.

### **State of West Virginia – Mar. 2021 – reviewing law to prohibit removal of monuments/renaming of streets**

On March 15, House Bill 2174, the West Virginia Monument and Memorial Protection Act, advanced from the House Government Organization Committee on a party-line 19-6 vote. It will be on amendment stage on the House floor on March 18 and up for passage on March 19.

HB 2174 prohibits the relocation, removal, alteration, renaming, rededicating of statues, monuments, memorials, schools, streets, bridge, and parks named for historical military figures, units, and actions. The bill's prohibitions cover everything from the French and Indian War in the early 1700s to Operation: Iraqi Freedom in 2004. The bill protects monuments for labor

movement leaders, black civil rights leaders, native American history, natural and manmade disasters.

The bill specifically applies to public property owned by the state, counties, and municipalities. Monuments would only be able to be moved upon petition to the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. The bill includes criminal penalties for moving monuments without approval, making it a misdemeanor with a up to a \$500 fine and up to six months in jail.

Supporters of the bill claim it helps preserve history for future generations. They also claim the bill creates a streamlined way to petition for the removal of monuments and have those petitions evaluated by an unbiased group of historians.

The bill's intent was made clear when the committee rejected an amendment to exclude Confederate statuary from the bill's protection. The committee also rejected, on a voice vote, an amendment clarifying that protection for military statuary would apply to individuals and forces that fought for the United States, not against it.

Delegate Evan Hansen, D-Monongalia, said language in the bill protecting other types of statuary is a smokescreen, and that the real intent of the bill is a response to efforts nationally and locally to remove Confederate monuments from public places because of their allusions to white supremacy.

Delegate Geoff Foster, R-Putnam, suggested the bill simply clarifies who has authority to authorize removing or relocating statuary. "What this bill really does is set forward a process for removing a statue," he said. "It's not saying they can't be removed; it says you have to go through a process with the state Historic Preservation Office."

Under the bill, state, county or municipal governments could petition the office for a permit to remove or relocate statuary within their borders. The bill does not specify a process for petitioning the office, or procedures for the permitting process.

On March 17, a virtual public hearing was held. It drew 19 people who spoke against the bill, none who spoke for it — and only one legislator.

On March 19, after a couple of hours of passionate debate, delegates in the House passed the bill 70 to 28. It now goes to the Senate, where it may also spark intense debate.

[https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/legislative\\_session/bill-to-protect-confederate-monuments-advances-to-house-floor/article\\_91737e09-d597-5c74-8e99-db68e14e0487.html](https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/legislative_session/bill-to-protect-confederate-monuments-advances-to-house-floor/article_91737e09-d597-5c74-8e99-db68e14e0487.html)

[https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/legislative\\_session/public-hearing-on-confederate-monuments-bill-draws-19-opponents-no-supporters/article\\_e5283eb9-b9bf-531f-8747-e6f4b25abd83.html](https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/legislative_session/public-hearing-on-confederate-monuments-bill-draws-19-opponents-no-supporters/article_e5283eb9-b9bf-531f-8747-e6f4b25abd83.html)

<https://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2021/03/west-virginia-house-bill-to-protect-controversial-monuments-draws-public-opposition/>

<https://wvmetronews.com/2021/03/19/after-long-heated-debate-delegates-pass-historic-monuments-bill/>

## Wisconsin

### **Columbus, Wisconsin – removed monument**

City Council voted to temporarily store a statue of Christopher Columbus until another home can be found for it.

### **LaCrosse, Wisconsin – removed monument**

The Mayor asked for the removal of a statue of Hiawatha after a request from the sculptor's family.

## Federal Government

### **Capitol Building, Washington D.C. – July 2020-May 2021 – reviewing statues, renaming military bases**

The House of Representatives approved legislation to remove statues honoring figures who were part of the Confederacy during the Civil War from the U.S. Capitol. The bill would also replace the bust of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, author of the Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott decision, and replace it with a bust of Justice Thurgood Marshall.

The move comes a day after the House approved the annual defense bill with a provision that directs the military to rename Army bases bearing names of Confederate generals. President Trump has vowed to veto the measure if it comes to his desk, but it gained a veto-proof majority. The Senate is considering a similar version that has bipartisan support.

However, the bill to remove the statues could face hurdles in the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, has said it is up to the states to decide which statues they want displayed in the Capitol. Each state is allocated two, and McConnell said recently that some are already making moves to trade out statues in favor of new historical figures.

The legislation does not set up a specific timeline for moving most of the statues but sets up a process for the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to identify which figures have ties to the Confederacy.

It does call for removal of three specific statues 30 days after the bill is enacted — those of Charles Brantley Aycock, John Caldwell Calhoun and James Paul Clarke — from areas open to the public in the Capitol. The three defended slavery and segregation. It allows some period of time for the Architect of the Capitol to store any affected statues and work with the states to make arrangements to have them moved to another location.

It also calls for the removal of Taney's bust within 30 days of the law's passage. It is mounted in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the U.S. Capitol, and the bill creates a process to obtain a bust of Marshall, the high court's first African American justice, and place it there within a minimum of two years.

As of November 11, Senate Democrats are urging top negotiators on a mammoth defense bill to keep a plan requiring that Confederate-named bases be renamed in the final agreement. Thirty-seven Democrats sent a letter to top members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees as both chambers are expected to formally vote to start negotiations as soon as the week of November 23.

"We strongly oppose removing this provision and respectfully request the conferees to retain in the conference report the provision endorsed by both chambers: a requirement for the Department to rename all military assets named for the Confederacy no later than three years after the date of enactment," the senators wrote.

Language requiring that Confederate-named bases and other military installations be changed is one of the largest sticking points for getting an agreement on a final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a mammoth bill that broadly outlines defense policy.

Both chambers passed their initial versions of the bill earlier this year that requires the change, sparking a veto threat from President Trump. The House bill requires the names to be changed in one year. The Senate bill gives three years before the names have to be changed.

The push from Democrats to keep language in the final agreement comes as Senate Armed Services Committee James Inhofe (R-Okla.) has signaled that he expects the language to ultimately be removed.

On December 8, Congress put its final stamp of approval on a sweeping defense bill that would rename Fort Hood in Central Texas and nine other Army bases that honor Confederate generals, ignoring President Donald Trump's veto threat of the critical legislation.

The Democrat-run House voted 335-78 to pass a conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act, flexing an overwhelming, bipartisan margin that's well above the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a veto. On December 11, the GOP-run Senate also approved the bill. The bill must become law before Jan. 3, 2021 or it will expire.

The details about how Congress plans to make these changes happen is as follows: The NDAA establishes an eight-member commission to work on this issue. They'll develop a plan to remove the names and recommend procedures for renaming. They have to include how they're incorporating local communities' concerns. They'll also have to figure out how much it will cost the Department of Defense to remove and rename everything. The first meeting will be held within 60 days of the bill's enactment and the first briefing is due October of next year. The commission has \$2 million to do its work.

On January 1, the Senate overrode President Trump's veto of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2021. The countdown has now begun for 10 Army posts named for Confederate leaders. The 10 posts are Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia; Fort Hood in Texas; Fort Rucker in Alabama; Fort Bragg in North Carolina; Camp Beauregard and Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia. The forts, all in former states of the Confederacy, were mostly named in the years after World War I and during World War II.

There are still unanswered questions about the nascent process, which must kick off by March, including who will ultimately pick the new names of bases, who will serve on the panel and

whether President-elect Joe Biden could pre-empt some of the panel's work with a speedier executive action of his own after Inauguration Day.

Public scrutiny has centered on the 10 Army bases, but the review will assess myriad other military property that honor the Confederacy, including a pair of Navy ships, buildings and other memorials.

The missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, for instance, is named for a Confederate victory in the Civil War, and the oceanographic survey ship USNS Maury is named for Matthew Fontaine Maury, who served in the Confederate Navy. The U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Military Academy have also faced calls from lawmakers to rename buildings that honor officers who served in the Confederacy, including a barracks at West Point named for Robert E. Lee.

On January 8, Acting Defense Secretary Christopher C. Miller appointed four members of what will eventually be an eight-member congressionally mandated panel: the lengthily named Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America. Those members include Sean McLean, a White House associate director from California; Joshua Whitehouse, a former Republican member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives who now serves as a White House liaison to the Defense Department; Ann Johnston, acting assistant secretary of defense for Legislative Affairs, from North Carolina; and Earl Matthews, principal deputy general counsel for the Army and a colonel in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

The NDAA provision requires the Pentagon to form an eight-member commission to create a plan for renaming or removing certain Defense Department assets. The defense secretary was allowed to appoint four members of the commission; the other four will be appointed by the chair and ranking member of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, according to the legislation.

On February 3, a new service task force released a report that said the US Navy needs to rename ships and facilities that honor the Confederacy they once fought. The recommendations suggest the service might need to find new names for at least one aircraft carrier honoring a segregationist and a cruiser named for a Confederate victory.

Launched after the racial justice protests last summer, the official Task Force One Navy recommended that the Navy "initiate systemic review to identify and rename Navy assets in need of modernization consistent with Navy core values."

The service should look at renaming assets "honoring those associated with the Confederacy," as well as those that are "named after racist, derogatory or culturally insensitive persons, events, or language," the report says.

The 141-page task force report, which included dozens of suggestions for combating racism and promoting inclusion, said that while "renaming recommendations and decisions should be consistent with current naming authorities, policies and practices," the Navy should "focus on honoring persons of historically underrepresented demographics, racial minorities, women, and enlisted members."

The task force report noted that some ship names have been connected with "confederate or white supremacist ideologies."

The report did not identify any specific vessels that need to be renamed, but two ships that have been highlighted in the media and elsewhere include the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis, a US senator and segregationist who fought against racial equality, and the cruiser USS Chancellorsville, named after a major victory for the Confederacy.

Other potentially problematic Navy ship names include those of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, which is named after another southern lawmaker and segregationist, and the oceanographic survey ship USNS Maury, a vessel named after a man who left the US Navy to fight with the Confederacy.

On May 21, the chair of the congressionally chartered Naming Commission said the push to remove Confederate names from Pentagon properties, including storied Army posts, could eventually affect hundreds of items and facilities.

Michelle Howard, a retired Navy admiral who heads the commission, said her group began its work in March, with an interim report due to Congress in October 2021 and a final report a year later.

She said the eight-member group is still developing the renaming criteria and will begin its site visits with a trip to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The academy faces scrutiny because it has a barracks named for Robert E. Lee, commanding general of the rebel army of the Confederate States of America.

Howard said the commission is required by Congress to consider renaming “anything that commemorates the Confederate States of America or any person that served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.” This applies only to Defense Department properties, not state-owned military facilities.

Howard said the commission's mandate from Congress is to look more broadly, and that it will consider the naming of military base streets, for example, as well as ships, aircraft and Defense Department buildings. The only federal military item explicitly exempted by the legislation is grave markers, she said. “Once we get down to looking at buildings and street names, it potentially could run into the hundreds,” she said.

Howard said a key part of the commission's work will be consulting with local civic leaders to consider their views.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/22/894165717/house-poised-to-pass-bill-removing-confederate-statues-from-capitol>

<https://thehill.com/policy/defense/525452-senate-dems-warn-against-nixing-plan-renaming-confederate-named-bases-from>

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2020/12/08/house-lawmakers-ignoring-trump-veto-threat-are-poised-to-pass-defense-bill-that-would-rename-fort-hood/>

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/national/military-news/confederate-military-bases-renaming/65-bacd1027-d628-4806-85eb-251fb98cd738>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/senate-sends-defense-bill-trumps-desk-veto-proof/story?id=74673934>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/jan/5/defense-act-override-sets-stage-renaming-10-army-b/>

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/05/pentagon-confederate-name-bases-455180>

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/01/08/pentagon-begins-process-purge-confederate-names-military-bases-property.html>

<https://news.yahoo.com/us-navy-needs-rename-warships-154835175.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/removal-confederate-names-affect-hundreds-sites-77834503>

### **Washington, D.C. – June 2020-Feb. 2021 – reviewing federal monuments and park name**

The Emancipation Statue by Thomas Ball depicts a Black man, shirtless and on his knees, in front of a clothed and standing Abraham Lincoln. In one hand, Lincoln holds a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, while the other is stretched out over the Black man. Ball intended it to look as though the man were rising to freedom, but to many, it looks like he is bowing down or supplicating to Lincoln.

The original statue in Washington's Capitol Hill neighborhood was also criticized over the summer of 2020 and a copy of the statue was removed in Boston in December. Officials in Washington placed the statue under police guard and surrounded it with protective barriers after a group of demonstrators tore down a statue of former Confederate Albert Pike a few blocks away and threatened to do the same with the Lincoln statue. Afterward, residents posted notes to the fence expressing their views; the fence was removed after several months.

The Emancipation Memorial statue was commissioned and paid for by a group of Black Americans, many of whom were formerly enslaved. But the group did not have a say in the design of the statue; that distinction went to an all-White committee and the artist, Ball, who was White.

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke at the unveiling, noting that the "Great Emancipator" Lincoln was reluctant to free enslaved people, and when he did so, it applied only to enslaved people in Confederate states. Enslaved people in most Union states were not freed until December 1865. Days after the unveiling, Douglass was the first to criticize the statue and suggest it be replaced or added to.

The Black man who modeled for Ball, Archer Alexander, was not freed by Lincoln but by his own actions. Alexander escaped his bondage in the middle of the night in 1861. He repeatedly evaded capture by his former enslavers.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) has introduced legislation to remove the statue to a museum. Because it sits on federal land, it is administered by the National Park Service, not the District. Norton plans to determine whether the Park Service has the authority to remove it without congressional approval, she said.

In honor of Black History Month, Norton is reintroducing a bill to remove the Lincoln statue from Lincoln Park. It's the first in a series of bills Norton plans to introduce throughout the month that aim to remove racially insensitive statues and memorials across the D.C. region.



Instead of occupying its current post near the center of the park, the bill proposes putting the statue in a museum with an explanation of its origin and meaning.

Similar calls to remove the statue started in 2020 when Marcus Goodwin, a local real-estate developer and former candidate for an at-large seat on the D.C. Council, started a petition seeking the monument's removal. To date, it has more than 10,000 signatures.

At the end of February, in less than a week, Norton has introduced four bills in Congress and written a letter about various statues and locations.

On February 24, Norton's office announced she had introduced a bill to remove a statue of Andrew Jackson from Lafayette Park due to the seventh president's ownership of slaves and role in the genocide against American Indians.

On February 23, Norton also wrote a letter to the National Park Service asking it to change the name of Melvin Hazen Park off Tilden Street in Northwest Washington, citing former city leader Hazen's pro-segregation views and successful effort to demolish a one-time Black community called Reno City.

Norton has also introduced a bill to take down a plaque at Chevy Chase Circle honoring a pro-segregationist senator from Nevada, Francis Newlands. Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin joined her in introducing that bill.

The previous week, Norton also introduced a bill asking for the permanent removal of a statue of Confederate Albert Pike near Judiciary Square. The statue was already illegally torn down by protesters last summer, but Norton wants to legally permanently remove the memorial to Pike and prevent the statue from coming back.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2020/12/29/lincoln-statue-removed-boston-dc/>

<https://dcist.com/story/21/02/18/eleanor-holmes-norton-reintroduces-bill-to-remove-emancipation-memorial-from-lincoln-park/>

<https://wjla.com/news/local/dc-delegate-introduces-bills-remove-segregationist-statues>

## 2 Other International Case Studies

### Australia

#### **Alice Springs, Australia – June-Dec. 2020 – retained street name**

A majority of councillors voted on December 8 to take no further action on the renaming of Willshire Street. The street in Alice Springs is named after William Willshire, a constable in the region in the 1880s and 1890s who was implicated in the deaths of multiple Aboriginal people.

This comes six months after they unanimously voted in support of the renaming and after a woeful community consultation.

"Embarrassing" was the word Councillor Marli Banks used, specifically because officers did not consult on the matter that council's motion required them to, and instead consulted on a matter that was not a direction of council's motion. The motion expressed council's support for the name change and directed that consultation be undertaken to determine potential new names for council to formally submit to the Place Names Committee, a Northern Territory Government entity. Suggestions for possible new names seem to have been canvassed in individual letters to "stakeholders", among them Lhere Artepe, the native title corporation, which responded on this point.

However, just one question was asked of the community generally in a poorly advertised online survey. It was "Do you support the renaming of Willshire Street?" Of the 55 respondents, 41 were in favour, 14 were against.

Mayor Damien Ryan cast doubt on the validity of this majority, suggesting, without citing specifics, that some respondents were not residents of Alice Springs.

Another arm of the consultation was with the residents of the street. There was complaint in the chamber on December 8 about the confusing notice given of the meeting.

No-one complained about the paucity of the information put before them. It seems to have been just this: "William Henry Willshire worked as a Policeman between 1878 – 1908 within the NT as a First-Class Mounted Constable. In 1891 W.H. Willshire was charged and tried for the murder of two Indigenous males from which he was acquitted."

This misses by a wide mark the core of the information provided by the movers of the original motion, Cllrs Jimmy Cocking and Jacinta Price: a series of interviews about Willshire by Erwin Chlanda with historian Dick Kimber, a nationally recognised authority on historic matters in the Centre; and an impassioned critique of Willshire by Dave Price, Cr Price's father. The egregious historic record for Willshire goes well beyond the two murders of which he was acquitted (in a legal process that wouldn't pass muster today). The entry on him in as sober a source as the Australian Dictionary of Biography states that "by 1890 Aboriginal deaths associated with his actions certainly exceeded the official number of thirteen." The entry also refers to his sexual exploitation of Aboriginal women.

Residents of Willshire Street attending the council meeting referred positively to the man's writings; questioned a process by council that "disrespects the Australian legal system" (in impliedly challenging a 100-year-old verdict); argued that not only whites committed atrocities, so did Aborigines on their own people; argued that sometimes you do things in your job that you don't agree with, but you do them because you are ordered to. This last was a point made by Ms. Booker, an Aboriginal resident of the street, who does not support Willshire's actions, but "we weren't here, we are not responsible for what happened then."

This argument was countered by native title holder Pat Ansell Dodds, not a resident of the street but someone who feels the issue closely, as "this man killed a lot of my people around Alice Springs, on Undoolya Station where I come from." Why would such a man be acknowledged in a street name, she asked. In contrast, "council has never really acknowledged us properly," she said.

Willshire Street residents also complained about council's process: apart from confusing notice of the meeting, there had been little to no advice or follow up; no information about addressing

the financial impact of having to change address on all your documents (despite this having been raised by councillors in the June debate as something council should assist with); being unaware of the community survey; being misled by being consulted when the motion carried by council was about looking for suggested alternative names.

In response Cr Eli Melky felt himself to be in an “uncomfortable situation”, where his decision “one way or another” would offend or upset some. Cr Cocking argued that the name change was not about “erasing history” or “cancel culture”, it was about “acknowledging our history”, entering a “reckoning time” about the violence of the past that continues to impact the present. He noted the majority support for the change in the online survey.

In the end, council voted 5-3 to take “no further action with regard to Willshire Street”.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-16/calls-to-reconsider-street-name-and-statue-in-alice-springs/12359924>

<https://alicespringsnews.com.au/2020/12/09/council-goes-to-water-on-willshire-street/>

### **Brisbane, Australia – 2016-2020 – retained street name**

Early Brisbane's racist past has prompted in recent years calls for Boundary Street to be renamed to something more inclusive. The streets marked a perimeter line that Aboriginal locals had to stay outside of after 4pm between Monday and Saturday and all day on Sundays.

A 2016 change.org petition calling for the street to be renamed to 'Boundless Street' reached more than 1,000 signatures.

Indigenous elder Sam Watson though said the Boundary Street in the West End - which has a strong Aboriginal community - should remain in place to serve as a reminder of how life used to be for his ancestors.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8419059/Haunting-historical-photo-reveals-dark-history-seemingly-innocent-Brisbane-street-name.html>

### **Darebin, Australia – 2016-2018 – renamed park**

In July 2016, Darebin Council unanimously voted to establish a Batman Park Renaming Committee to explore dumping the use of John Batman's name for its association with indigenous dispossession. The explorer convinced indigenous elders to sign a treaty trading more than 200,000ha of ancestral land for blankets, flour and other goods in 1835.

Councillor Julie Williams said it was important for the council to work with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council to find a more suitable name for the park. Four community consultations were held to illuminate the many connections between the Aboriginal heritage and history of this area, and to hear the community's feedback on the renaming.

Following extensive community consultation, Darebin City Council formally endorsed 'Gumbri' as the preferred name for Batman Park. The name Gumbri has endorsement by The Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation Wurundjeri

Corporation. Gumbri, also known as Jessie Hunter, was a much loved and respected Wurundjeri Elder. Her name means 'white dove' in Woi wurrung, the traditional language of the Wurundjeri people. She was the last girl born on the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve in Healesville and she had a great passion for Wurundjeri people and Country with a special interest in bush foods and medicines.

Gumbri was the overwhelming favourite in a public survey conducted by the council last year. The survey found 83 per cent of respondents supported a name change, with 14 per cent opposed. 62 per cent of the supporters chose the name Gumbri. The survey was completed by 354 respondents and included two other names proposed by the Wurundjeri Council: Be Hallsville Jern and Billibellary.

Overall, the community expressed:

- A positive response to the potential renaming of Batman Park to recognise the traditional owners
- A high level of respect for the experience and wisdom of Wurundjeri Elders
- A desire for recognition of John Batman to be retained in some way within the park
- Support for constitutional recognition, recognition of Traditional Owners, reconciliation, and a potential treaty
- A high level of interest in accessing local places and spaces to learn more about the Aboriginal history, living culture, spirituality and heritage of Darebin
- A desire to retain the visibility of Batman in some form within the Park, keeping all layers of history visible and ensuring continued and respectful acknowledgement of the past.

The final process for name change was submission to the Office of Geographic Names as part of the statutory process set out under the Geographical Place Naming Act 1988. As of July 17, 2018, Council received a formal response from the Office of Geographic Names. While they acknowledged both the Wurundjeri Council and the support of the community to recognise Jessie Hunter (Gumbri), the proposal was not approved under the naming rules for places in Victoria. The Office have indicated they are supportive of Batman Park being renamed and recommended that Council seek to adopt an alternative name. Council is now looking at renaming options moving forward in consultation with the Wurundjeri Council.

<https://melbournehistoryworkshop.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/darebin-council-unanimously-backs-plan-to-rename-batman-park-leader.pdf>

<http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Darebin-Living/Community-support/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Darebin>

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/north/batman-park-in-northcote-to-be-renamed-gumbri-park/news-story/5c8c6617e18cb26b97238246b8ed44ec>

### **George Town, Tasmania, Australia – June 2020-Apr. 2021 – retained bridge name with plaque to honour Indigenous community**

The George Town Council will lobby nearby councils and the state government to place a sculpture and plaque commemorating the Northern Midlands First Nations people at the Batman Bridge. It will write to the City of Launceston council and the West Tamar Council to request

collaboration and ask the state government for permission to place the sculpture and plaque at the site.

It proposes commemorating the Northern Midlands First Nations people, the Leetarmairremener people who stretched from Low Head to Launceston and both sides of the kanamaluka/Tamar river.

Councillor Peter Parkes put forward the motion at a council meeting in March 2021 and said it was a wonderful opportunity for it to lead the way.

"We have a chance to show that our Aboriginal community does matter and that they have a voice in the process and that we are commemorating their long 65,000-year history at this particular place as a starting point. I understand that there is contention and that this doesn't address the contention around naming. This is about recognising ... the Indigenous/Aboriginal history."

Calls to rename the bridge resurfaced in June 2020 after a global push to tear down monuments of racist historical figures, with John Batman's part in the genocide of Aboriginal people behind the name change push.

At 206 metres long and joining the eastern and western banks of the Tamar River in northern Tasmania the Batman Bridge, built in the 1960s, was Australia's first cable-stayed bridge and one of the first in the world. It was named after Australian grazier and explorer of the early 1800s John Batman, who was noted for his achievements including the founding of Melbourne and capture of notorious bushranger, Matthew Brady.

Batman was also famous for establishing a treaty with Wurundjeri elders for the purchase of land around what is now known as Melbourne. It was the first and only treaty documented between Traditional Owners and Europeans, but it was overturned by the Governor of New South Wales soon after.

Cr Greg Dawson seconded the motion and said it was important both sides of history were acknowledged. "It's a part of just letting [the Indigenous community] know, we see you, we hear you, we know that we weren't here first and we need to recognise that and the history pre-white settlement," he said.

If the councils agree to collaborate on the project and permission is given from the government, the GTC will seek funding to: Consult with the Indigenous community; Seek submissions for the artwork and commission it; Cover all associated costs.

However, word of a bid to place a sculpture and plaque at the Batman Bridge to commemorate the Northern Midlands' First Nations people has renewed a push to change the name of the bridge.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council chairman Michael Mansell said it was a great idea provided the bridge's name was changed. "We can't have a plaque honouring Aboriginal people at a bridge named after a racist, murderer," he said.

On April 8, the City of Launceston council passed a motion to acknowledge the name of Batman Bridge was inappropriate and should be changed. In its first meeting of the month, councillors voted five to three to support the name change of the Tamar River bridge named after explorer John Batman, following a motion put forward by Councillor Tim Walker.

The motion asked the council to acknowledge the name of the bridge was inappropriate due to Batman's murderous treatment of Aborigines, to write to the state government to request a renaming process and to seek support from the West Tamar and George Town councils on the matter.

However, the government has "no plans" to rename the Batman Bridge, according to Premier Peter Gutwein, but will still consider proposals brought forward by councils in the future.

Mr. Gutwein said the proposal was yet to reach the government, and was not on his agenda. "We haven't received a proposal yet, so at this stage there is nothing to consider. If we were to receive a proposal, we would consider it and have a conversation," he said. "But we have no plans to change the name of the Batman Bridge."

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7185736/council-pushes-to-honour-aboriginal-history-at-batman-bridge/?cs=95>

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7186985/renewed-calls-for-batman-bridge-name-change/>

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7201425/growing-support-to-rename-batman-bridge/>

<https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7204424/premier-has-no-plans-to-rename-batman-bridge/>

### **Marrickville, Australia – May 2021 – reviewing street names**

- For council meeting agenda motion, see item no. 26 from May 24, 2021:  
[https://innerwest.infocouncil.biz/Open/2021/05/C\\_24052021\\_AGN\\_3894\\_AT\\_EXTRA\\_WEB.htm](https://innerwest.infocouncil.biz/Open/2021/05/C_24052021_AGN_3894_AT_EXTRA_WEB.htm)

A proposal to rename a major city road because of its 'colonial links' has sparked a heated debate at a Sydney council on May 24, 2021.

Inner West Greens councillor Colin Hesse wants to rename Victoria Road in Marrickville because it is 'catastrophic to Indigenous Australians'.

The council is considering traditional Aboriginal names for streets in the region. 'For Aboriginal peoples the invasion of the British Empire was catastrophic,' Mr Hesse's motion said. 'The British stole their lands, fouled their waters, took their food, and Aboriginal peoples were murdered or died of imported diseases... a new name may be a small token of reconciliation.'

Inner West mayor Darcy Byrne said he supported the change in concept, but also understood it would be hard for local businesses.

'Aboriginal renaming is really important that's why we renamed wards with Aboriginal names,' the mayor said.

The council will consider renaming streets across the region to Aboriginal names.

Councillor Julie Passas voted for the motion but said there were bigger issues for the council to focus on. 'Things years ago were wrong, let's make sure they never happen again,' she said. 'But people want their footpaths fixed, people want streets cleaned, nobody wants street names changed.'

<https://www.wseetonline.com/rs/2021/05/27/inner-west-council-could-rename-victoria-road-in-marrickville-sydney-because-of-colonial-links/>

### **Melbourne, Australia – July 2020 – renamed street and park**

- For Consideration of Naming Proposals, see item 3.7 from July 28, 2020 Council meeting agenda, starting on page 43: [https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/About-Our-Council/Council-Meetings/CouncilCommittee-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes?dlv\\_OC%20CL%20Public%20Meetings=\(pageindex=3\)](https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/About-Our-Council/Council-Meetings/CouncilCommittee-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes?dlv_OC%20CL%20Public%20Meetings=(pageindex=3))

Black Camps Road, Black Camp Pre-school and Blacks Camp Bushland Reserve in Victoria's Mornington Peninsula will be renamed after a ruling by the local council. An archaeological investigation back in 2004 found Black Camps Road was likely named because of the presence of a local Aboriginal community. Each of the facilities will be renamed to respect the First Nations people.

The local council made three recommendations:

- That Council endorses the three Aboriginal names provided for the Blacks Camp Pre-school – Turrum, Beenap and Tillerkite and approves the commencement of public consultation in line with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (Naming Rules).
- That Council endorses the Aboriginal names from the list supplied by the Bunurong Land Council for the Blacks Camp Reserve and approves the commencement of public consultation in line with the Naming Rules.
- That the names with the most votes will be presented back to Council for final approval following which the approved names will be submitted to Geographic Names Victoria for approval and registration in VICNAMES.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8572401/Blacks-Camp-road-pre-school-reserve-renamed-Victorias-Mornington-Peninsula.html>

<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/About-Our-Council/Council-Meetings/CouncilCommittee-Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes>

### **Russell Island, Queensland, Australia – Aug. 2020 – potential renaming with dual name**

Russell Island's name is back on the public agenda after a petition was launched calling on the state government to rename parts of Queensland which are linked to British aristocrats who voted against abolishing slavery. It comes about five years after the Natural Resources Department called on the community to submit feedback about whether the island should have dual names. Canaipa, meaning place of ironbark spear, was proposed as an alternative due to its deep significance to Quandamooka people. The plan was for two names to be in use until the Aboriginal name was broadly accepted but the request fell through at state level.

Cr Edwards said the state government would need to conduct community consultation again if a name change was to be revisited given the length of time since the previous proposal. There



would be some costs involved, as people would need to amend legal documents like the electoral roll and driver licenses. "With a dual name, it becomes an option for people so they could do nothing and still be legally covered," Cr Edwards said. Russell Island is home to more than 3000 people.

<https://www.redlandcitybulletin.com.au/story/6883958/petition-puts-russell-island-name-change-back-on-the-table/>

<https://upnewsinfo.com/2020/08/17/brisbanes-russell-island-community-hits-back-at-name-change-petition/>

### **Stirling, Australia – May 2021 – reviewing government council name**

One of Perth's biggest councils, named after Western Australia's first governor Sir James Stirling, is set to consider changing its name to better recognise the area's traditional owners. Electors for the City of Stirling, in Perth's north-western suburbs, moved and passed a motion for the name change at an elector's general meeting on May 17. This has ensured it will go to the next general council meeting for consideration. In a statement, the council said city officers would now give advice to the council that it would consider at a meeting on June 8.

"The City understands that any proposed renaming will be of significant interest to our community, however given the state-wide influence of Admiral Sir James Stirling, advice and direction will also need to be sought from the State Government," it said. "This is particularly relevant given that any renaming of a local government district must be approved by the Minister for Local Government and an order be made by Governor as per the Local Government Act 1995."

Sir James Stirling was the first governor of the colony of Western Australia after he commanded HMS Success and formed a British settlement in 1829. Historical records show Sir James and other colonial figures were involved in the 1834 Pinjarra massacre in the state's Peel region, where an unknown number of Bindjareb Noongar people were killed by settlers. It was one of the state's bloodiest battles, with the number of deaths estimated to be between 15 and 80.

The City of Stirling council area covers suburbs including Scarborough, Trigg, Carine, Osborne Park, Balga and Mirrabooka. The local government area (LGA) is 10km north of Perth's CBD and is WA's most populated LGA with 210,000 residents.

The area was previously called the Shire of Perth until 1971, when it was renamed Stirling.

Stirling is also the name of a Perth suburb, which was renamed from Balcatta in 1976. But the call for the name change applies to the LGA.

In June 2020, on the eve of a Black Lives Matter rally, a statue of Sir James in the Perth CBD was also vandalised. The hands and neck of the statue were painted red and an Aboriginal flag was spray-painted on the inscription at the bottom of the statue.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-19/city-of-stirling-to-consider-name-change-for-traditional-owners/100150288>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9595067/Perth-suburb-Stirling-pressured-change-honours-no-different-Hitler.html>

### **Australian Federal Electoral Commission – Feb. 2017-June 2018 – renamed electoral district**

The Melbourne electorate of Batman has been renamed after an Indigenous activist, following a public campaign to rid it of its ties to a man accused of involvement in the massacre of Aboriginal people.

Batman will now be called Cooper, after Yorta Muraoka activist and leader William Cooper, the Australian Electoral Commission said, as part of an update on Victorian electorate boundaries on June 20, 2018.

The electoral commissioner, Tom Rogers, said the decision to rename Batman was unanimous. The decision has also been welcomed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

After the change, 11 of Victoria's 38 electoral divisions would be named after an Aboriginal person or word, the AEC said.

The electorate had been named after Melbourne founder John Batman, who was allegedly involved in massacring Aboriginal people in Tasmania before journeying to Victoria and attempting to purchase land around Port Phillip Bay from the Wurundjeri people.

Cooper helped establish the Australian Aborigines League in 1935, serving as its secretary, and petitioned King George V to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples direct representation in parliament and land rights.

The process for change started when the City of Darebin council voted in February 2017 to make an application to the Australian Electoral Commission to rename the Federal Electoral Division of Batman.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/20/melbourne-electorate-of-batman-renamed-after-indigenous-activist>

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/bye-bye-batman-melbourne-founders-name-to-be-erased-from-electorate-history-20170216-guepuj.html>

## **Barbados**

### **Bridgetown, Barbados – Aug.-Oct. 2020 – removed statue**

The government has made the decision to postpone the removal of the Lord Nelson statue. Resources are instead being directed toward the official and long-delayed opening of the Rock Hall Freedom Park in St Thomas. based on the limited resources available to government the Ministry took a decision to concentrate on completing the Freedom Park. The initial plan laid out by the Ministry was to remove the statue of Lord Nelson from its current location in Bridgetown on the morning of Sunday August 23 and officially open Rock Hall Freedom Park at 4.00 pm on the same day. Back in July, the Mottley-administration announced the controversial statue was going to be removed from its place at Heroes Square in The City during the season of Emancipation, which ends on August 23.

"While so many families are struggling to keep their heads above water because of the challenges brought on by COVID-19, we felt it was critically important to create new opportunities for ordinary Barbadians by getting those shops that had been languishing for so long back in shape and ready for commercial activity."

On October 24, a Minister in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for Culture, announced that the controversial statue will be taken down on November 16 – a day designated by the United Nations as International Day of Tolerance – before being exhibited at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. It will cost taxpayers less than \$20,000. Once Nelson was gone, the vacant spot will be used by artists and sculptors to display their work until a permanent place is found.

<https://www.loopnewsbarbados.com/content/removal-lord-nelson-statue-delayed-focus-rock-hall-freedom-park>

<https://barbadostoday.bb/2020/10/24/lord-nelson-statue-to-be-relocated-in-less-than-a-month/>

## Belgium

### **Antwerp, Belgium – June 2020 – removed statue**

A statue of King Leopold II in the Belgian town of Antwerp was removed with its long-term future set for a museum, just days after being daubed with paint by anti-racism protesters. Statues of Leopold have long been criticized by activists because of the former king's brutal rule in Belgium's former African colonies.

The figure in the port city will not be returning to its pedestal and instead "become part of the museum collection," Johan Vermant, a spokesman for Antwerp's mayor Bart de Wever, said. And "because of the renovation work planned for 2023 in the square in which it was placed, the statue will not be replaced."

<https://www.dw.com/en/belgium-king-leopold-ii-statue-removed-in-antwerp-after-anti-racism-protests/a-53755021>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carlieporterfield/2020/06/30/another-statue-of-king-leopold-ii-comes-down-in-belgium-heres-why/#655a94625550>

### **Brussels, Belgium – Mar. 2020-Mar. 2021 – renamed tunnel**

Brussels has asked its residents to pick a new name for the King Leopold II Road tunnel in a step aimed at coming to terms with Belgium's colonial past and addressing gender inequality. Brussels wants to rename part of its traffic ring road after renovations in 2021.

"We know that Leopold II is a very controversial figure in our history. We need to start a course of decolonisation of the public space," the region's minister in charge of mobility and public works, Elke van den Brandt, said.

She said an expert panel, including specialists in colonial history and women's rights, would select a shortlist of names for the tunnel.

During the whole month of February, the people of Brussels are called upon to choose the new name of the longest tunnel in the country, Leopold II, from among 15 names of famous women, Brussels Mobility said in a press release.

The renaming procedure “to symbolically reinforce the place of women in the public space” began last year with a call for ideas to citizens and the reflection of a committee of experts.

Currently, 43% of the streets in Brussels bear the name of a person. Of these, only 6.1% of the streets are named after a woman.

Fifteen candidates are in the running, ten of which were selected by the committee of experts and five by the people of Brussels: Andrée De Jongh; Chantal Akerman; Isala Van Diest; Marguerite Yourcenar; Marie Curie; Rosa Parks; Semira Adamou; Simone Veil; Sophie Kanza; Wangari Maathai; Marie Popelin; Annie Cordy; Astrid of Belgium; Elisabeth of Belgium; Antoinette Spaak.

The official name change will take place at the end of the renovation of the tunnel.

On March 8, International Women’s Day, Bruxelles Mobilité announced the outcome of the renaming procedure, which aimed “to symbolically reinforce the place of women in the public space.” The Leopold II tunnel in Brussels has been named the Annie Cordy tunnel after the recently deceased Belgian singer and actress received a fifth of the votes in a competition that allowed the public to vote on the name change.

The renovation of the tunnel will be completed in the autumn of 2021 when the name change will be official and the signage will be adjusted.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-belgium-tunnel/belgium-seeks-new-name-for-road-tunnel-as-it-takes-on-colonial-past-idUSKBN25Z21P>

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/152126/brussels-called-on-to-vote-for-new-name-of-leopold-ii-tunnel-mobility-renovation/>

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/belgium-all-news/158747/leopold-tunnel-brussels-belgium-van-den-brandt-annie-cordy-cars-traffic-mobility-international-womens-day/>

### **Ghent, Belgium – 2019-Jan. 2021 – renamed street**

The city of Ghent has announced its decision to rename the avenue named for King Leopold II as part of its decolonisation strategy. The city council set up a working group in 2019 to look into the sensitive question of the remnants in the city of the colonial era. The group came up with 30 recommendations, including the renaming of streets and the removal of commemorative plaques and statues.

The Koning Leopold II-laan runs alongside the Citadelpark in central Ghent. It has already been the object of demonstrations by anti-colonialists, and a statue of Leopold II in the park itself had to be removed permanently after being attacked with paint several times.

“At the suggestion of the mayor, a new street name will be submitted to the college and city council that refers to local history and the nearby heritage site,” the working group said after a meeting on January 21.

A new name for the avenue has still to be decided. The city has drawn up a list of suitable candidates for commemoration, but has stressed that the avenue will not be named after Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected prime minister of the independent Congo in June 1960, the 60th anniversary of whose murder was marked just last week. “It remains the intention to assign this name to a suitable location for a new street or a new square in Ghent during this legislature,” said a spokesperson for Ghent mayor Matthias De Clercq.

Meanwhile the residents of the avenue, a street made up of a large number of apartment buildings in an area that includes the modern art museum SMAK and fine arts museum MSK, will be compensated for the administrative consequences of a change of street-name.

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/belgium-all-news/150984/city-of-ghent-to-rename-king-leopold-ii-avenue/>

### **Ghent, Belgium – June 2020 – removed statue**

A statue of King Leopold II, in a park in Ghent, was taken down at the end of June.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/carlieporterfield/2020/06/30/another-statue-of-king-leopold-ii-comes-down-in-belgium-heres-why/#655a94625550>

### **University of Mons, Mons, Belgium – June 2020 – removed statue**

University authorities decided to pull down the bust of King Leopold II and to permanently store it away so that no one else —students, teachers or visitors— feels offended by its presence.

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/belgium-all-news/116053/university-of-mons-takes-down-leopold-ii-statue/#:~:text=The%20Walloon%20university%20took%20down,demonstration%20took%20place%20in%20Brussels.>

### **University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium – June 2020 – removed statue**

Days after Mons removed its statue, the University of Leuven removed its bust of Leopold from its famous library building. “The bust has no particular historical or artistic value,” wrote Leuven rector Luc Sels. “It does not shed light on or illustrate historical facts. At the moment, it does not come with any context at all. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that it has the usual function of a bust: honouring a historical figure. Like myself, many have noted that Leopold II, despite his historical relevance to our country, is not the kind of public figure that we, as the KU Leuven community, want to put on a pedestal.”

<http://www.flanderstoday.eu/leopold-ii-statues-defaced-and-removed-across-belgium#:~:text=Several%20statues%20of%20Leopold%20II,monuments%20to%20the%20colonialist%20king.>

## Germany

### **Berlin, Germany – April 2018 – renamed streets**

In 2017, new names for streets in Berlin's African Quarter, linked to the German colonial past in Africa, were found after more than 10 years of complaints. The African Quarter, a multi-cultural neighbourhood in the Berlin district of Wedding, is home to squares and streets associated with German colonizers in Africa. The new names commemorate African liberation fighters.

<https://www.theafricancourier.de/europe/berlin-streets-to-be-renamed-after-african-heroes/>

### **Berlin, Germany – 2018-Nov. 2020 – renamed streets and subway station**

A Berlin underground rail station called Mohrenstraße (Moor Street) will be renamed, the city's public transit authority (BVG) announced on July 3, 2020. Organizations supporting the rights of Africans, Afro-Germans and groups that grapple with the legacy of Germany's colonial past have long demanded the renaming of the nearby street. They object to the presence of word "Moor," which they say is a derogatory term with no place in today's multicultural Germany.

BVG had planned to rename it Glinkastraße, a street which honors Russian composer Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka (1804-1857) and which is located at the intersection of the station, complying with the rules that a station must be named after its location. However, it was pointed out by members of the public that Glinka held anti-Semitic views and another name would have to be chosen. Now the authority says a final decision is yet to be made.

A BVG spokeswoman declined to say how much the renaming would cost, but added that the change will take place over the course of several weeks. The first thing to change will be the sign, but changes will also have to be made to timetables and the BVG internal systems.

The station was opened in 1908 and has already undergone several name changes. From 1908 to 1950 it was known as Kaiserhof, then it changed to Thälmannplatz (1950-1986) and Otto-Grotewohl-Straße (1986-1991). The name Mohrenstraße was added in 1991.

Both the street and the station are located in the central Berlin neighborhood of Mitte. The district is now set to decide on whether or not to rename the street altogether. But this might take longer, as Mitte residents have sought to take part in the discussions.

Two years ago, in March of 2018, the assembly of district representatives in the neighborhood wanted to start a "discussion process" in regard to Wissmannstrasse. The body's goal was to have the street renamed and to include its residents in the decision making. Then, in August of 2019, an official decision was taken. Two models were discussed: A renaming; or the installation of a plaque that would have explained who exactly von Wissmann was. Residents did not agree with the second option partly because plaques cannot be stuck to letters or parcels which include the Wissmannstrasse address.

Berlin authorities have announced they are to rename Mohrenstraße ("Moor Street") in the city's Mitte district after the country's first black philosopher, Anton Wilhelm Amo.

The announcement followed a meeting among councillors from Berlin's Mitte district at which the Greens and Social Democrats voted in favour of the move. They overruled a motion by the left-wing faction proposing the establishment of a naming committee which would have consulted the public over an alternative name.

Campaigners are now waiting to see if the city's public transport authority, BVG, will still press ahead with its controversial decision last month to rename Mohrenstraße on the U2 metro line as Glinkastraße, after the Russian composer, Mikhail Glinka.

On November 25, Councillors in Berlin voted to replace the street name Wissmannstraße which honors colonialist Hermann von Wissmann. Wissmann was governor of German East Africa (now Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) in the late 19th Century. It is to be renamed at the beginning of 2021 after Tanzanian politician and leading female activist Lucy Lameck.

Wissmann is said to have ordered massacres of the local population, according to German media. Councillors in Berlin began making plans to rename the street back in summer 2019. The Neukölln district council assembly in the German capital then began searching for an individual who has contributed immensely to the district or resisted colonial structures.

Residents and interested parties submitted over 400 name suggestions, out of which three were selected by a jury. On Wednesday evening, the Neukölln district council assembly voted for Lameck by a majority. Thus, Wissmannstraße would become Lucy-Lameck-Straße.

Lameck, whose full name was Lucy Selina Lameck Somi, was born to a farming family in 1934 near Kilimanjaro in the British territory of Tanganyika (modern-day Tanzania). Becoming the first woman to hold a ministerial post in the government, Lameck's family was politically active in the anti-colonial struggle.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53348129>

<https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-metro-station-to-be-renamed-after-pushback-over-racist-term/a-54043734>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-race-germany/berlin-metro-to-complete-change-of-derogatory-station-name-by-year-end-idUSKBN2450JU>

<https://berlinspectator.com/2020/07/05/racism-debate-berlin-to-rename-street-and-u-bahn-train-station/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/07/blm-inspired-name-change-for-berlin-metro-station-mohrenstrasse-fails-to-end-controversy>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/21/berlin-rename-mohrenstrasse-moor-street-black-philosopher-anton-wilhelm-amo>

<https://face2faceafrica.com/article/berlin-set-to-name-street-after-tanzania-independence-heroine-lucky-lameck>



## Greenland

### **Nuuk, Greenland – July 2020 – retained monument**

A vote in Greenland showed on July 22, 2020 that a majority of people are in favour of keeping up a statue of Danish-Norwegian colonizer Hans Egede that was vandalized as anti-racism protests reached the Arctic. 923 people voted for it to stay while 600 wanted it gone, according to the local municipality. About 23,000 of Greenland's 56,000 people were eligible to vote in the poll that ran from July 3-21. Lack of publicity and summer holidays may have affected turnout.

"It does not surprise me that there is a majority for the statue to stay, but that does not mean we should do nothing, because there is still a large minority who wants it removed," Greenlandic lawmaker Aaja Chemnitz Larsen said.

The fate of the statue remains subject to a final decision by the local council. But Nuuk's mayor Charlotte Ludvigsen has said it would require a large majority of up to 75% in favor of removal for her to process the case.

<https://o.canada.com/news/world/greenland-voters-want-to-keep-colonizers-vandalized-statue/wcm/464e6956-4b18-43d1-a2a2-af0deb4cb206>

## India

### **Bangalore, India – June 2020 – removed and relocated statue**

The statue of Sir Mark Cubbon, Commissioner of Mysore in the mid-19th century, was relocated on June 28, 2020. It was moved from near the back gate of the Karnataka High Court to Cubbon Park, which is named after him. The orders had come from the High Court and the horticulture department identified the spot in front of the bandstand.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2019/oct/29/lord-cubbons-new-home-will-now-be-park-bandstand-2054128.html>

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/case-of-controversial-statue-comes-to-an-end/articleshow/76698242.cms>

## Ireland

### **Cork, Ireland – Jan. 2021 – reviewing place names**

Green Party Cork City councillors have suggested that it may be appropriate to rename Bishop Lucey Park and certain other place names in the city in light of the publication of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes final report.

The suggestions were outlined in a letter to the Lord Mayor, Joe Kavanagh, written by Cork City North East councillor Oliver Moran on behalf of his party colleagues at city council. The letter

suggested that certain place names in the city, named after individuals or institutions mentioned in the report, may warrant renaming.

“There are names of institutions and people who are named in the report which are street names and which are place names and whether it’s still appropriate that places in our city should still be named after them or whether we should name them something else now,” he said.

“Bishop Lucey Park is one of them. It is something which is almost an immediate question because we are going to be redeveloping Bishop Lucey Park in the very near term and it does raise the question of whether it is still appropriate to have the park named after someone who is named in this report,” he said.

“It should form part of a rounded discussion on these things. I think it’s important that the survivor groups are central in that discussion.” In the letter, Mr. Moran asked that the topic be put on the agenda of a meeting of party whips on January 25.

<https://www.echolive.ie/corknews/arid-40213313.html>

### **Dublin, Ireland – July-Sept. 2020 – statues removed by hotel, reinstated with plaque**

Dublin City Council has said it is investigating the removal of four statues from outside Dublin’s Shelbourne Hotel for potential breaches of rules around listed buildings.

Four bronze statues depicting two Nubian princesses from the lower Nile and their slave girls holding torches were recently removed from outside the historic hotel. The statues stood on top of plinths and were taken down on July 27.

In response to their removal, the Irish Georgian Society expressed concern saying the hotel required planning permission considering it is a protected structure. Any alterations to protected structures require Council approval, including planning permission.

As of September 24, the owners of the Shelbourne Hotel are to reinstall four statues which were removed in the mistaken belief that two of them were representations of slave women.

Dublin City Council sent an enforcement letter on July 29th giving hotel management four weeks to respond to the claims of an alleged planning breach. Hotel management were granted another four-week extension to respond to the allegation.

The owners of the hotel commissioned University College Dublin art historian Professor Paula Murphy to examine the statues. An expert on sculpture, she has concluded that they are not depictions of slaves.

The statues will be restored to their plinths once they are cleaned, as there are layers of paint that have to be removed. Their restoration will include a plaque explaining their backgrounds.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/removal-of-shelbourne-slave-statues-under-investigation-by-dublin-city-council-5162693-Jul2020/>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/shelbourne-hotel-statues-to-be-restored-to-their-plinths-1.4362766>

## Mexico

### **Mexico City, Mexico – Oct. 2020 – removed statue**

Protesters had threatened to knock down Mexico City's Christopher Columbus statue on Reforma Avenue but it was conveniently removed — for restoration. Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum denied that its timely removal was due to politics. But no one is saying whether the statue will be returned.

The Ministry of Culture said its withdrawal was in response "to the request by the Government of the City of Mexico" to submit the monument "to an examination and possible restoration," which would be carried out by the National Institute of History and Anthropology, INAH.

When asked by a reporter with *El Financiero* if the monument's removal would be permanent, Sheinbaum said that decision was not solely hers to make. But she intimated at a press conference that after being restored, the monument might not be reinstalled on the avenue. A petition appeared online in July asking the city to remove the statue on the grounds that it represented a "monument to colonialism."

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/controversial-christopher-columbus-statue-removed-for-cleaning/>

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/world-all-news/135287/mexico-statue-of-christopher-columbus-taken-off-capital-street/>

## New Zealand

### **Auckland, New Zealand – Aug. 2020-Jan. 2021 – reviewing monuments**

In August, Auckland began a review of colonial-era monuments to determine whether they should be removed, given their link to racial inequality in New Zealand's past. The move came after three monuments were vandalised in June, including a statue of former prime minister Sir George Grey in Albert Park which lost its finger and nose.

Auckland Council will engage with local iwi before deciding on whether to keep the statues.

Arts and culture manager Emily Trent said she is looking at statues that commemorate historical events or figures, such as Grey.

As of January, a statue of former prime minister Sir George Grey has been repaired for close to \$9000 after its nose and thumb were cut off. The repairs come as Auckland Council looks to review colonial-era monuments to determine whether statues like Grey should be removed.

Grey was governor during the initial stages of the New Zealand Wars where many Māori were killed and land was confiscated.

Trent said repairing the Grey monument is part of the council's ongoing commitment to the care and maintenance of its existing collection.

She said the review of the monuments, announced in August, is still planned to go ahead. It came following questions from the Waitematā Local Board about whether the statues should be moved or taken down entirely.

Although the review is for the Waitematā ward, Trent said the council could look region-wide. “We are looking at which monuments may need to be considered for reinterpretation of the historical narrative; and, or, to find new opportunities to share alternative narratives and histories,” she said. “This may be done, for example, through the creation of new public art or taonga.”

The process is ongoing, and next steps include a request to present to the Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum of the 19 hapū and iwi authorities in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland). “Mana whenua voices are paramount to this process, and we will take their lead.

“It’s also important to note that while this is seemingly a local issue, we need to consider it regionally. This may mean including a number of mana whenua and other stakeholders in Tāmaki Makaurau in the process.”

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300080246/aucklands-colonial-era-statues-could-be-removed-after-vandalism-protests>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/123934018/aucklands-sir-george-grey-statue-gets-9000-repairs-after-nose-thumb-cut-off>

### **Hamilton, New Zealand – June-Mar. 2021 – removed statue, retained street names**

- For report to Committee on historical names on Aug. 13, 2020, see:  
[https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/AgendasAndMinutes/Community%20Committee%20Open%20Agenda%20\(Item%2015%20Matters%20of%20cultural%20significance%20work%20programme\).PDF](https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/AgendasAndMinutes/Community%20Committee%20Open%20Agenda%20(Item%2015%20Matters%20of%20cultural%20significance%20work%20programme).PDF)

On June 12, 2020, the New Zealand city of Hamilton removed a statue of the colonial military commander after whom it was named. A crane hoisted the bronze sculpture of Captain John Fane Charles Hamilton from the town square Friday morning after requests from local Maori and threats from anti-racism protesters to topple it.

The statue was donated to the council in 2013 and the council said its removal came after a formal request from the regional iwi, or tribe, Waikato-Tainui.

Waikato-Tainui praised the statue's removal, saying it was discussing other problematic colonial names and symbols with Hamilton council, including the prospect of restoring the city's original Maori name Kirikiriroa.

Hamilton council said the fate of the British commander's statue and what, if anything, should replace it were still under discussion.

The final decision on the future of the controversial Captain Hamilton statue is unlikely to be made until at least March next year. As of August 11, it is being stored in a secret council-owned facility. The statue is likely to remain hidden while the council develops a range of documents and policies relating to matters of cultural significance, according to a report to the Community Committee.

The programme will include a report, estimated to cost \$4000, looking at the options for the future of the Captain Hamilton statue. The report is not earmarked to be presented to council until March 2021. The overall works programme will also include a strategy to support the wellbeing and aspirations of Māori, a heritage plan for the city, a review of current street names

and an option for council to change those names and a public art process review. The total cost of the overall programmed is estimated at \$199,000 - with the final report not being received until the end of next year. Many of the projects have already been accounted for in the 20/21 long-term plan.

Other estimated costs include: \$10,000 for a historical report on Hamilton street and city names; \$20,000 for a review of the current street/open spaces/facility naming policy. These costs are all in staff time.

The council has already received a report into the Hamilton street and city names from Dr. Vincent O'Malley but this has not been discussed yet. The research found that while Captain Hamilton was a "minor figure in New Zealand" history other people whose names are on the city's streets such as George Grey were more dominant characters known for being ruthless, manipulative and deceitful.

Hamilton mayor Paula Southgate said the quick executive decision to remove the statue was a temporary measure made because of the threats that it would be attacked. She said there would be urgent discussions with councillors and the wider public about what they would like to see happen to it long-term. This could include requests around changing the name of the city and some streets.

As of March 24, about 1600 people have signed a petition calling for Hamilton street names honouring "individuals who have committed violent crimes of theft and murder" to be changed. It calls for the renaming of four specific streets - Bryce St in the central city, and Hamilton East's Grey St, Von Tempsky St and Cameron Rd.

Bryce St is named after John Bryce, who was Minister of Native Affairs in the late 1800s. According to Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand, he was known as "Bryce the Murderer" for his tough stance against Māori.

Grey St is named after Sir George Grey, an early Governor-General and Premier of New Zealand, who led an invasion of Waikato which saw 1.2 million hectares of land confiscated from local Māori.

Von Tempsky St is named after Gustavus Ferdinand von Tempsky, a Prussian adventurer who fought against Māori in the 1860s - including in a battle which saw "women bayoneted as they lay wounded", according to the Government's NZ History website.

Cameron Rd is named for Duncan Cameron, "who led a cowardly assault at Gate Pa and invaded the Waikato" according to the petition organisers, Decolonizing Oppressive Names Everywhere (DONE) Aotearoa/NZ.

A spokesperson for Hamilton City Council said there are no concrete plans at this stage to change any of the street names and it can be "quite a laborious process", but "there has been one request from a business in Von Tempsky St. to discuss a name change to that street and some informal discussion". The council also said there are no plans to change the city's formal name.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/captain-john-fane-charles-hamilton-new-zealand-removes-statue-of-controversial-colonist->

2245012#:~:text=The%20New%20Zealand%20city%20of,are%20reckoning%20with%20their%20past.&text=I%20don't%20think%20the,us%20to%20bridge%20those%20gaps.%22

[https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12355613](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12355613)

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2021/03/hundreds-sign-petition-to-rename-hamilton-streets-named-after-assholes-who-fought-m-ori.html>

### **Tauranga, New Zealand – 2019-May 2020 and May 2021 – revised city asset naming policy, retained community name**

- For city naming policy from May 2020, see:  
<https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/Portals/0/data/council/policies/files/naming-policy.pdf>
- For public survey results on naming policy, see:  
[https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/Portals/0/data/community/consultation/files/2019/naming\\_policy\\_survey\\_summary.pdf](https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/Portals/0/data/community/consultation/files/2019/naming_policy_survey_summary.pdf)

Tauranga MP Simon Bridges has made it clear he opposes any proposal which involves the renaming of the suburb of Greerton. However, one community leader believes it is time to have a “brave conversation” about the background surrounding the Tauranga suburb and a potential future name change.

Greerton is named after Lieutenant-Colonel H.H Greer, a British commanding officer of the 68th Regiment, based in Tauranga from 1864 to 1866. Greer led the British forces in the Battle of Te Ranga in June 1864 following the Battle of Gate Pa in April the same year.

This affiliation has seen Te Tuinga Whanau executive director Tommy Wilson call on the community to consider a potential name change, an idea he has been bouncing around for about

“Colonel Greer...was far worse than Cameron. He almost massacred woman and children, well he did, at Te Ranga.” Tommy is referring to General Duncan Cameron, whom the main arterial road in Tauranga is named after, who led the British troops in the Battle of Gate Pa.

But Bridges has made it clear he opposes any potential name change. He suggests it would be a waste of time and an unnecessary inconvenience. He also opines that most residents are likely unaware of the origins of Greerton’s naming in the first place.

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa can alter the local authority names for a district or region over which a regional council has jurisdiction. However, the NZGB would require the support of any relevant local authority before processing a proposal for a populated place.

That would mean Tauranga City Council would need to be involved, including a formal resolution. If a proposal to NZGB received objections, the final decision would rest with the Minister for Land Information Damien O’Connor. The Minister’s office confirms there are currently no proposals tabled for any name change at Greerton.

In LINZ’s criteria for place names they encourage the restoration of original Māori place names or the adoption of surnames or ancestral Māori names of a notable leader, of good character, who has a strong association with the area.

The Tauranga City Naming Policy was revised in 2019 and adopted in 2020 to include the following:

- Will prioritise local identity, historical significance and significance to mana whenua in the naming of new streets, reserves, community facilities, and other public places.
- Will support dual naming (English and te reo Māori) of new and existing streets, reserves, community facilities and other public places. The English name will appear first on street signs and be used for addressing purposes.
- Will consider applications to rename reserves and other public places, and applications to rename existing streets when there are strong reasons for doing so. Council itself will also be able to initiate renaming a street following major changes in road layout or infrastructure, where necessary to avoid confusion, duplication or ambiguity, or where an incorrect name has become established over time by local usage.
- Will inform the community of new names provided by mana whenua for the purpose of increasing understanding, but will not ask the wider community to approve proposed Māori names.
- The mayor and councillors will decide whether to approve dual naming and renaming requests, but the decisions on names for new reserves and other public places will be delegated to the chief executive.

As of May 10, 2021, a spokesperson for Greerton business owners has suggested there would be near universal opposition to any potential name change for the suburb. They suggest it would not change historical actions and would also lead to costly rebranding for businesses. “The feedback from 99 per cent of the businesses that I have spoken to, and that’s not to say I have spoken to them all, I can categorically tell you is not in favour of a name change for Greerton at all,” says Sally Benning, Mainstreet manager of the Greerton Village Community Association.

“Colonel Greer was not a very nice man. Nobody denies that. But it is history, it happened in the 1800s. We don’t believe that changing the name of somewhere is going to make any difference whatsoever to that.”

Sally, who was speaking as a spokesperson for the Greerton Village Community Association, also suggested a name change could have a significant impact on businesses regarding the cost and energy involved in any rebranding. “It is a massive undertaking,” she says. “Imagine, for each individual business, they have just had a bad year with Covid and all that drama, if they were to be hit with a name change that they did not want in the first place? “That would mean everything. Their website, their Facebook page, their business cards, their invoices. Everything. Businesses are not willing to pay for something like that when they don’t want to do it.”

Sally also suggests that Greerton has now established its own reputation, far removed from the legacy of Lieutenant-Colonel Greer, which should not be forgotten. “We have spent a lot of time, energy and money in building the brand of Greerton Village. “People before me have spent a lot of time and money branding ourselves as Greerton Village and we have come through some tough times but Greerton is booming. The overriding feeling is ‘please can we not let this happen?’”

The subject of a possible name change will be brought up at a Greerton Village Community Association board meeting on May 11, after which Sally suggests there may be a formal communication to Tauranga City Council.

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/267886-tauranga-mp-opposes-greerton-name-change.html>



<https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/council/council-news-and-updates/latest-news/artmid/456/articleid/5013>

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/268222-greerton-businesses-verdict-on-name-change-idea.html>

## Slovenia

### **Radenci, Slovenia – July-Dec. 2020 – renamed street**

In late May 2020, the local council of the spa town of Radenci decided that Titova Road shall be renamed to Slovenian Independence Road.

However, the Constitutional Court stayed the implementation of the decree amending the naming of streets, squares and villages in the Radenci municipality. They will wait until there is a final say on a referendum proposal launched by locals who oppose renaming a road that bears the name of the former Yugoslavia's communist leader Tito.

The mayor proposed to the municipal council that the decree renaming Titova Road be annulled, and that a referendum be held in which the name of the road would be decided on. The mayor also noted that the procedure was causing the municipality much costs with legal fees, and that it could take a year or more. The cost of referendum would be considerably smaller than the cost of litigation.

On December 30, the Radenci municipal council renamed Tito Road to the Road of Slovenian Independence, capping months of disputes in the community that ensued after the mayor proposed renaming a road that bears the name of Yugoslavia's communist leader Tito.

<https://www.total-slovenia-news.com/lifestyle/6680-further-delay-to-renaming-of-radenci-s-titova-road>

<https://english.sta.si/2850004/radenci-ditches-tito-road-renames-it-road-of-slovenian-independence>

## South Africa

### **South Africa – 1994-2021 – renamed and retained name of Apartheid and colonial streets and places**

The initial attempts at transformation of place names were based on three main policy pillars: changing offensive place names, restoring the correct spelling of African place names that had become Anglicised or Afrikaanised, and changing place names that represented the history and values of colonialism and apartheid to reflect the democratic dispensation.

The pace of change in the provinces was uneven. The former Northern Province succeeded in short order in changing its name and that of a large number of towns and cities. The Eastern Cape, in contrast, failed to change its name, despite the best efforts of the then premier, Makhenkesi Stofile. Changing the corrupted spellings of indigenous place names was more successful — as in Bhisho, Mthatha, Dutywa, Qumra and Centane. The Western Cape appears to have not even made a serious attempt.

The implementation of the third policy pillar, despite some lengthy consultations, petered out because of a combination of resistance, vested interest and official indifference. Part of the

problem is that provincial structures intended to guide renaming processes, undertake consultations and make recommendations to the minister of arts and culture did not have the necessary capacity.

The nature of the various consultations also led to dead ends because they became subsumed in a welter of service delivery and other complaints, allowing those opposing name changes to successfully stall proceedings. The absence of clear criteria and principles upon which name changes could be based further hampered consensus.

Changing place names is guided by the South African Geographical Names Act of 1998.

In Feb. 2018, The Western Cape's Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) called for public comments on a number of potential name changes it was looking at implementing throughout the province.

The audit aims to identify all offensive names as part of the ongoing process to develop a common national identity, social cohesion and inclusivity within the province. According to the documentation, name changes will be considered for all "geographical places" – including mountains, dams, bridges, rivers, and streets.

According to a 2010 Mail and Guardian report, over 850 official name changes took place in South Africa from 1996 to 2010 alone.

The changes have primarily focused on streets, roads, and government buildings – however government has also proposed a number of much larger changes including the renaming of OR Tambo International airport in 2006 as well as reported proposals to rename South Africa itself in June 2017.

While name changes have remained a prerogative of the national Department of Arts and Culture, it has also been met with criticism due to the high costs involved in affecting the name changes. Notably in 2016, the Constitutional Court set aside an interim High Court order that would have forced the City of Tshwane to return the old street names alongside the new ones. As part of the dispute, it was alleged that the city had spent R98 million on over 25 street name changes.

As recently as September 4, 2020 the DA has opposed the Eastern Cape government's plans to rename towns in the Buffalo City Metro Municipality, saying this would not improve the lives of the people in the area. This comes after the provincial government's proposal to change the names of East London to KuGompo, King William's Town to Qonce, Berlin to Ntabozuko and East London Airport to King Phalo.

The DA in the Eastern Cape said the renaming of the Buffalo City Metro towns and the airport would not increase tourism, boost investment, improve service delivery, create employment nor would it eradicate the problems faced by residents on a daily basis. "Instead of spending millions on new signage, the money should be used to improve the lives of the people of the Buffalo City Metro. Residents have been given 21 days to oppose or comment on the renaming of the three towns and the airport.

On September 24, 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that monuments 'glorifying' the country's 'divisive past' should be repositioned and relocated. "This has generated controversy, with some saying we are trying to erase our history. Building a truly non-racial society means

being sensitive to the lived experiences of all this country's people. We make no apologies for this because our objective is to build a united nation."

Additionally, the head-of-state also declared that certain towns and cities would be renamed and that new statues and monuments would be erected to honour those who had fought against the segregationist regime.

On November 9, historians warned that building statue "graveyards" to artificially reconstruct history was "absurd" and not the solution to nation-building and transforming South Africa's cultural landscape, following Minister of Arts and Culture Nathi Mthethwa's address on the subject at a provincial legislature sitting in Gauteng.

Mthethwa told the recent virtual special sitting on the transformation of South Africa's heritage landscape that controversial statues would be relocated if the public in local municipalities and metro councils supported the move.

Mthethwa, speaking in a debate said the community-led transformation was in line with a Cabinet decision to appoint a consultative task team of 260 people led by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to perform a full audit of all the statues, symbols and monuments in the country and highlight how they espouse constitutional "post-colonial" and "post-apartheid" values. The outcome of the audit would guide the identification of proposed cultural "nation-building theme parks" that would house the statues.

"We had to consult widely for about four years ... and came to a point that there have to be particular criteria used to transform those spaces, and those criteria are the foundational principles of our constitutional democracy, that those who stood opposed to these values should not necessarily occupy prominent spaces in our public areas," he said.

However, Mthethwa said this did not mean that symbols should be relegated "to the dustbin of history". "We should have cultural nation building parks in the provinces where the narrative of each individual and what he or she did in the past is known for generations to come," he said. "We have learned from other countries. On the fall of the Soviet Union in the late '80s and early '90s statues of Lenin and Marx were destroyed and confined to a museum, but people across the world demanded to see these statues, and, as a result, officials had to do facelifts to those statues and they are a source of tourism," he said.

On February 24, 2021, South Africa's Arts and Culture Minister, Nathi Mthethwa, announced the renaming of the city of Port Elizabeth to Gqeberha, along with other changes to names of towns and public infrastructure. Gqeberha the Xhosa name for the Baakens River, which flows through the city.

In a statement on February 25, Mthethwa said: "There was a need for the name changes as this is part of a Government Programme to transform South Africa's Heritage landscape. The names of places we live in reflect the identity and cultural heritage of the people of South Africa."

The city's airport is now named after David Stuurman, a leader of the Khoi people who fought colonialists in the 19th Century.

The other changes include: the city of Uitenhage renamed Kariega; the towns of Berlin to Ntabozuko, MaClear Town to Nqanqarhu, and King William's Town to now Qonce; and the East London Airport to King Phalo Airport.

<https://mg.co.za/article/2018-09-21-00-change-the-names-to-rid-sa-of-its-colonial-apartheid-past/>

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/222657/name-changes-on-the-cards-for-offensive-streets-in-the-western-cape/>

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/eastern-cape-government-wants-to-rename-towns-7c9a0830-ee98-43ee-9578-312860977aa2>

<https://www.okayafrica.com/south-africa-cyril-ramaphosa-supports-racist-statue-south-removed-/>

<https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/colonial-and-apartheid-statue-graveyard-absurd-historians-warn-government-31e09dda-f03a-455a-b7af-8448ab67634e>

<https://ewn.co.za/2020/11/16/govt-audit-of-nation-s-statues-and-monuments-to-decide-on-removal>

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/25/africa/port-elizabeth-renamed-gqeberha-intl/index.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56182349>

## Spain

### **Barcelona, Spain – March 2018 – removed statue**

In March 2018, Barcelona removed a statue of slave trader Antonio López from the central Via Laietana avenue. This happened amid an environment of festivities, with fireworks and performers, organized by the Barcelona City Council and put on by the Comediantes troupe.

<https://www.catalannews.com/society-science/item/barcelona-removes-slave-trader-statue>

### **Barcelona, Spain – July 2020 – retained statue with plaque**

Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau is one of only a few public officials who say Spain must revisit its colonial legacy — though she doesn't back timid calls to remove the city's monument to Columbus located at the end of its famous Las Ramblas promenade. Instead, she wants to encourage a public discussion about the Italian explorer whose landing in the Caribbean in 1492 gave birth to Spain's overseas empire.

But in Colau's view, the monument commemorating the encounter between Columbus and Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella on his return from his first voyage in 1493, should undergo a redo, not a removal. Colau said that she would back removing some figures on the nearly 200-foot-tall pedestal that lifts Columbus above Barcelona's old port because they could be considered offensive for their depiction of native peoples. She also would like to put up explanatory plaques that would balance Columbus' achievements and the negative impacts of the period of European colonialism his explorations inaugurated.

<https://apnews.com/ea65d930acee6d76b1cb67bb30dee99f>

### **Madrid, Spain – 2018 – renamed streets**

Madrid's city council said some 49 streets would be renamed. The process has been fraught with legal disputes in a show of how Spain still struggles to come to terms with its dictatorship past.

Many of the names refer to generals who took part in the military uprising against the Spanish republic in 1936 and the Civil War that followed. Streets will revert to their pre-Franco era names or, if this is not possible, in honor of illustrious women, education institutions or politicians, the council said.

With its drive to rename streets, the Madrid authorities invoked the 2007 Historical Memory Law, brought in under the previous Socialist government, which made provision for the removal of statues and the changing of place names connected to the Franco regime.

The plan was approved in 2015 but was appealed against in the courts by the Francisco Franco Foundation - which campaigns to keep the memory of the dictator alive. This appeal was later overturned by a Madrid court.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-politics-streets/madrid-removes-franco-era-place-names-of-streets-idUSKBN1HY28Z>

<https://www.thelocal.es/20180427/madrid-begins-renaming-streets-that-honour-franco-regime>

### **Palma de Mallorca, Spain – Mar. 2021 – renamed streets**

As of March 30, Avinguda Joan March in Palma will cease to be known by this name. It will become Avinguda Gran i General Consell, which was the name of the main governing institution in Mallorca at the time of the Kingdom of Mallorca.

Joan March is often referred to as Franco's banker. His association with the dictator and the regime is the reason for the name change. The town hall is changing the names of twelve roads and streets in all, these changes being in accordance with the regional government's law of democratic memory and recognition.

The cost of changing signs will be 40,000 euros. Work on this has already started and will be completed within a week. Residents will not have to carry out any administrative procedures; these will be done automatically.

Mayor José Hila was accompanied at a presentation of the street name changes on March 22 by the councillors for education and citizen participation, Llorenç Carrió and Alberto Jarabo, and the regional secretary for democratic memory, Jesús Jurado.

Carrió said that "the Civil War and the dictatorship were black pages in our history". "The changes in the names of the streets will not make them forgotten but they will no longer be exalted".

Some 1,800 people in Mallorca died at the hands of the fascists. For Jurado, "erasing Franco's heritage from our streets and from our society is not only a legal obligation, it is also a moral obligation towards the victims".

The other eleven streets, which include squares, are:

- Plaça Almirall Churruca - renamed Plaça de Mateus Pruner (a current-day cartographer).
- Carrer Almirall Gravina - Angelí i Dulcert (a 14th century cartographer).
- Carrer Almirall Cervera - Pere Rosell (a 15th century cartographer).
- Carrer Toledo - Rafael Valls (a crypto-Jew from the 17th century).
- Passatge Castillo Olite - Francesca Vidal (a trade unionist 1851-1939).
- Carrer Josep d'Oleza - Marc Ferragut (cultural promoter 1901-1981; he founded Palma Auditorium).
- Carrer Alfambra - Joan Daurer (a 14th century painter).
- Carrer Brunete - Joan Desí (a 15th-16th century painter).
- Plaça Bisbe Planas - Plaça del Poble.
- Carrer Gabriel Rabassa Street - Frederica Montseny (politician and writer 1905-1994).
- Carrer del Canonge Antoni Sancho - Aina Moll (philologist 1930-2019).

But controversy has arisen as the reasoning behind some changes seems confusing. The names to be changed include those dedicated to Admirals Cosme Damian Churruca, Federico Gravina and Pascual Cervera y Topete, who all died long before Franco was in power. Churruca fought in the Battle of Trafalgar and died in 1805; Gravina just a few months earlier, and Cervera, who fought in the Cuban war, died in 1909, when Franco was 17. A municipal spokesperson has said that the streets are named after Francoist ships of the Spanish Civil war.

The city council, under the direction of socialist mayor Hila aims to comply with the 2018 Democratic Memory Law and the "moral obligation" to do away with symbols which represent the Franco era from urban areas in Palma. The council is also providing €40,000 for businesses which will need to change their details due to the change of address.

<https://www.majorcadailybulletin.com/news/local/2021/03/22/81283/palma-mallorca-town-hall-changing-francoist-street-names.html>

<https://www.euroweeklynnews.com/2021/03/23/controversy-in-palma-over-decision-to-change-street-names/>