

Legacy Commission

EMILY ZIMMERN, CHAIR

Legacy Commission Membership

- ◀ Emily Zimmern
- ◀ Donnie Simmons
- ◀ Frank Coley
- ◀ Levester Flowers
- ◀ Debra Smith
- ◀ Michael Sullivan
- ◀ Fannie Flono
- ◀ Alan Kronovet
- ◀ Len Norman
- ◀ Mary Newsom
- ◀ Tom Hanchett
- ◀ Mildred McCullough
- ◀ Kristen Wile
- ◀ Beatrice Thompson

Consultants:

- Dr. Willie Griffin, Levine Museum of the New South
- Dr. Karen Cox, UNCC

Historical Context and Commemoration

Monuments

It was determined that there are no Confederate monuments currently in public spaces controlled by the City of Charlotte, beyond those located in Elmwood Cemetery. The Commission shares the view that memorialization is appropriate in a cemetery setting.

The Commission recommends that interpretive signage be installed near the Confederate section of Elmwood Cemetery to explain the history of the Confederate memorials located there.

Street Names

The highest priority for change should be streets named for leaders of the Confederacy and white supremacists who actively fought to defend slavery and against racial equality. The Commission recommends that the City move expeditiously to change the names of these streets:

Jefferson Davis Street
W Hill Street
Stonewall Street
Jackson Avenue
Phifer Avenue

Aycock Lane
Barringer Drive
Morrison Boulevard
Zebulon Avenue

Neighborhoods and Developers

The Commission supports and encourages the efforts of neighborhoods and developers that petition for additional street name changes based on ties to slavery, the Confederacy, white supremacy or glorification of the Antebellum South.

Criteria for Naming New Streets

When the City considers naming a street for an individual, the Commission recommends using the following criteria to assess the worthiness of the proposed individual:

- Recognize those who have had an important and positive impact on the city, state or nation and give priority to those who have had a significant connection to Charlotte
- Honor individuals who represent the diversity of the city's history and whose contributions have been overlooked in the past.
- No street should be named for a living person, and not until the individual has been deceased for a period of no less than five years.

Criteria for Naming New Streets Continued

- Establish a standard for weighing morally repugnant past deeds and words against any important and positive impact the individual had on the city, state, or nation.
- Consider loosening its street-naming policies, to allow for streets to carry both first and last names.
- Authorized staff of the City of Charlotte consider reviewing street naming and renaming proposals and requests in consultation with local historians (recommended by the Levine Museum of the New South or the Historic Landmarks Commission) to ensure that street names tied to slave owners, leaders of the Confederacy, and white supremacists are no longer approved.

Future Street Names

The Commission invites the public to submit for future consideration the names of historically significant (both nationally and locally) individuals such as those listed below:

- Dr. Reginald Hawkins
- Julius Chambers
- Ella Baker
- Charlie Sifford
- Rosa Parks
- Elisabeth "Liz" Hair
- Wendell Scott
- Harriet Tubman
- Maya Angelou
- Street names rooted in healing: Apology Way, Equality Street, Healing Road, Compassion Drive, Diversity Way

Opportunities for Future Commemoration

The Commission recommends that the City educate residents about Charlotte's ties to slavery, the Confederacy, and white supremacy, and how the legacy of slavery and segregation continue to impact people's lives and shape the community today. The Commission recommends the following programming:

- Offer presentations about this history to elected officials and staff of the City, County and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.
- Provide educational materials about this history to CMS and other local schools.
- Post online resources about this history that will be available and accessible to all who are interested.

Opportunities for Future Commemoration

The Commission recommends that the City reimagine its commemorative landscape to align with the values and diversity of today's Charlotte. It urges the City to:

- Create a wall with names of enslaved people who lived in Charlotte.
- Connect and support with efforts to install the lynching memorial from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice that commemorates the deaths of Joe McNeely and Willie McDaniel, the two documented lynchings in Charlotte
- Create commemorative spaces across the city that feature Charlotteans of all backgrounds who advocated for positive change.
- Apply for a grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project.

Public Engagement Strategy

LEGACY COMMISSION SEEKS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FOR STREET RENAMING PROCESS

Revisiting Charlotte's Legacy

By Ken Brown (kbrown@cityofcharlotte.nc.us) on 12/2/2020



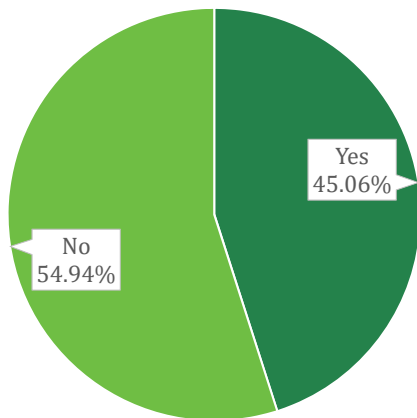
Charlotte's Legacy Commission is asking residents to share feedback [@](#) as the city considers renaming city streets that honor slavery, slave owners, Confederate veterans, supporters of white supremacy or romanticized notions of the antebellum South. The city is also considering a new process for approving new monuments and street names honoring historical figures.

[Legacy Commission Feedback Webpage](#)

Community Feedback: Do you agree with the proposed recommendations?

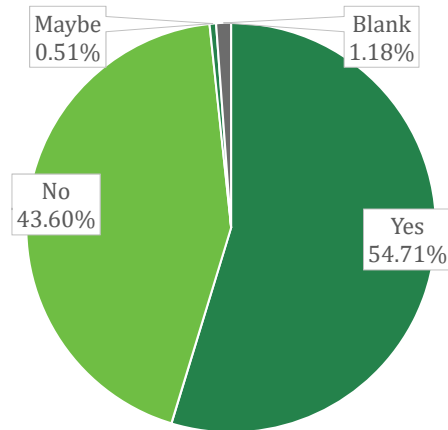
NextDoor Responses

901 Responses



Website Responses

594 Responses



Next Steps

Based on today's discussion and direction:

- Continued Community Engagement based on today's discussion and direction
- Implementation of recommendations



Questions

LEGACY COMMISSION

