

# Legacy Commission

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

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## Briefing Objectives

- ◀ Committee Referral
- ◀ Legacy Commission Charge
- ◀ Legacy Commission Recommendations
- ◀ Next Steps

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## Committee Charge

On December 7, the Mayor referred the Legacy Commission Report and Recommendations to the Great Neighborhoods Committee for review and recommendations with the goal to have an interim Committee report at the January 4 meeting, and a final report at the 2021 Strategy session.

## Legacy Commission Charge

◀ Engage in a comprehensive study of street names and monuments in the City of Charlotte that honor a legacy of Confederate soldiers, slave owners and segregationists.

# Legacy Commission Recommendations

- ◀ **Create a new symbolic landscape that is representative of the dynamic and diverse city Charlotte has become and reflective of the inclusive vision it strives to achieve.**
- ◀ **Accomplish this through:**
  1. Addressing confederate monuments
  2. Addressing street names with ties to the confederacy and white supremacy
  3. Supporting neighborhood and developer requests for street renaming
  4. Developing street naming criteria
  5. Holding a public forum
  6. Educating residents
  7. Reimagining commemorative landscape
  8. Identify funding sources (Mellon Foundation)

## 1. Monuments

- ◀ **Install interpretive signage near the Confederate section of Elmwood Cemetery to explain the history of the Confederate memorials located there.**
- ◀ 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 shared the view that memorialization is appropriate in a cemetery setting.

## 2. 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.**
- ◀ **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

## 3. Neighborhoods and Developers

- ◀ **Support and encourage 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.**

## 4. Criteria for Naming New Streets

- ◀ **Develop street naming criteria, for streets names after people.**
- ◀ **Assess worthiness of the proposed individual by:**
  - Recognizing 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
  - Honoring 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.

## 4. Criteria for Naming New Streets (cont'd)

- 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 street-naming policies, to allow for streets to carry both first and last names.
- Review 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.

## 5. Hold Public Meeting

◀ **Invite 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

## 6. Education

◀ **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.**

◀ **Implement 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.

## 7. Reimagine Commemorative Landscape

◀ Reimagine the city's commemorative landscape to align with the values and diversity of today's Charlotte.

- 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 lynching's in Charlotte
- Create commemorative spaces across the city that feature Charlotteans of all backgrounds who advocated for positive change.

## 8. Identify Funding Sources

◀ Apply for a grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project.



## Next Steps

◀ **January 4, 2021, Public Hearing**