

Legacy Commission Update

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

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Legacy Commission Background

- ▶ **July 2020: 15-member commission appointed by the Mayor and City Council.**
- ▶ **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, including a historical explanation of the naming, and provide recommendations for changes.
- ▶ **February 2021: City Council approved Commission recommendations.**

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Legacy Commission Recommendations

1. **Change the names of streets named for leaders of the Confederacy and white supremacists.** Additionally, support and encourage efforts of neighborhoods and developers that petition for additional street name changes.

Aycock Lane

Jefferson Davis Street

Stonewall Street

Barringer Drive

Morrison Boulevard

W. Hill Street

Jackson Avenue

Phifer Avenue

Zebulon Avenue

2. **Reimagine the commemorative landscape to align with the values and diversity of today's Charlotte.**
3. **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.**

Phase 1 – Street Name Changes

Completed Steps

- ▶ **Explored best practices from cities across the country** (*most just beginning*).
 - Phoenix, Eugene, Atlanta, Richmond, Portland, Austin, Greensboro, New Orleans, Memphis, Dallas and Hollywood (FL)
- ▶ **Co-created implementation plan and schedule with Mecklenburg County, residents and businesses.**
- ▶ **Developed and tested an engagement strategy.**

Phase 1 – Street Name Changes

Completed Steps (continued)

- ▶ **Developed name change resource for residents and businesses.**
- ▶ **Analyzed costs.** \$80K allocated for FY22, includes \$56K for sign blade replacement.
- ▶ **Launched Website, email and survey** - charlottenc.gov/legacy | legacy@charlottenc.gov
- ▶ **Performed site visits for all streets (CDOT).**
- ▶ **Initiated pilot program on Jefferson Davis Street.**

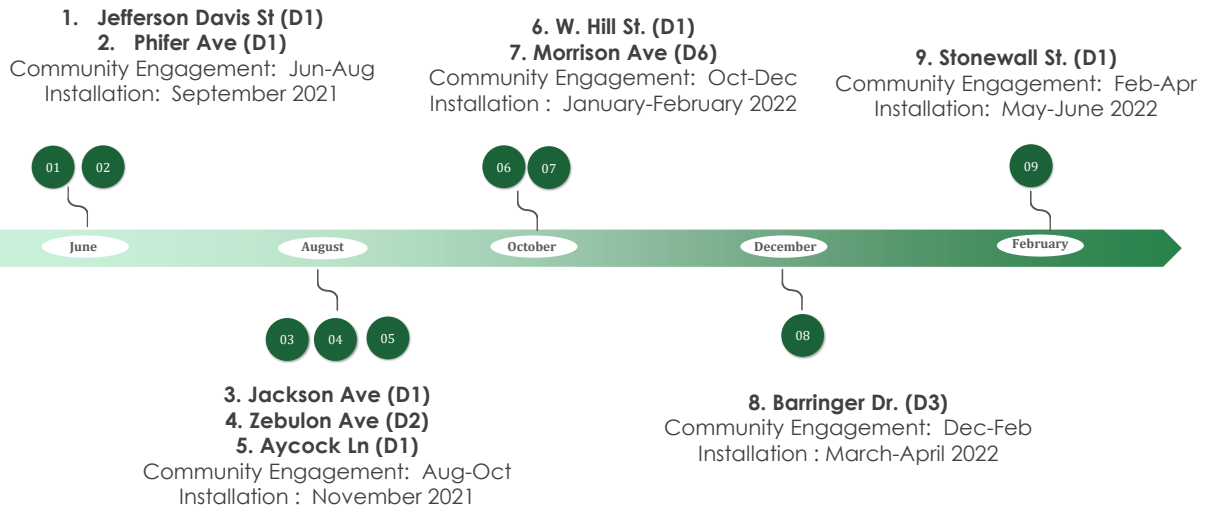
Phase 1 – Street Name Changes

▶ What We Are Hearing

- Community is supportive of changes and wants to be involved.
- Approach may differ based on specific needs & characteristics of each area.
- Renaming selections should be community derived; final decisions should be reserved for residents and owners on the streets being renamed and will be shared with City Council.
- Clearly define and communicate roles for community, city and partners.



Timeline for Street Name Changes



Phase 2 – Commemorative Landscape

Commission Recommendations

- ▶ Create commemorative spaces across the city that feature Charlotteans of all backgrounds who advocated for positive change.
- ▶ Create a wall with names of enslaved people who lived in Charlotte.
- ▶ Install interpretive signage to explain Confederate memorials located in city-owned cemeteries.
- ▶ Support efforts to install the lynching memorial from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Phase 2 – Commemorative Landscape

► In Progress

- Collaborating with Charlotte Mecklenburg Remembrance Commission to affirm responsibilities, goals and progress for installing the lynching memorial from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in remembrance of Joe McNeely and Willie McDaniel.



► Next Steps

- Collaborate with local arts community to create commemorative spaces.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with a non-profit to submit a request for invitation to apply for Mellon Foundation grant to support the building of Charlotte's commemorative landscape and explore other grants.
- Commission interpretive signage for cemetery and historic markers for renamed streets.



Phase 2 – Education

Commission Recommendations

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

Phase 2 – Education

► In Progress:

- Scheduled educational presentation by Dr. Karen Cox and Dr. Willie Griffin (June 22, 2021).
- Scheduled meeting with CMS to discuss curriculum options.
- Exploring other opportunities for programming and community engagement.

► Next Steps:

- Build out website with educational resources, videos & links to resources.
- Explore developing an app to allow the public to identify and explore places in Charlotte impacted by the Legacy Commission recommendations.

Questions?