

12
1-20-24

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: kipusscat@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 11:16 AM
To: Gloria Sitton; CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Cc: Tanya Schweider
Subject: Re: Resident Comments for Alexandria City Council Naming Committee Re: North Early Street

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Dear Naming Committee Members,

My name is Tanya Schweider-Bingham and my husband, daughter and I live at 124 N. Early St (off of Duke Street). I am a 1988 graduate of TC Williams and I purchased my home on N. Early St 31 years ago in 1993. My mother, purchased her home at 150 N. Early St in 1991 and she still resides on N. Early street as well.

In addition to my family and I, approximately half of the residents have lived on N. Early St for 20 to 50+ years. Many of us have raised our children on N. Early St and our children know no other home than their home on N. Early St. We contribute to the community through charity and other services, such as volunteering at the Carpenter Shelter, Christ House, Animal Shelter, and other community venues. So, we are proud to call N. Early St in Alexandria our home and we treasure our neighborhood and sense of community that we have shared with our N. Early St neighbors for so many decades.

Moreover, many of the elderly residents are on fixed incomes and the other residents all work full time. So the to spend countless hours and taking time off from work/volunteering to change decades worth of documentation and potentially incur expenses associated with an address change is unnecessary when a more amicable solution to renaming the street is available. Furthermore, many of the elderly/disabled residents will face additional challenges associated with a street name change. We therefore hope that the Street Naming Committee will honor our wishes to **rededicate** the street name and NOT change the name of our street.

Let it be understood that no one is negating the fact that honoring those who contributed to slavery is atrocious. Furthermore, no one on N. Early Street has ever associated N. Early St with Jubal Early. We have always referred to N. Early Street as "Early" in the morning.

Therefore, we are proposing that the Street Naming Committee keep the street name of N. Early St. But rededicate the street name in order to do away with any reference to Jubal Early. By rededicating the street name, the city would not need to spend precious taxpayer money on new street signs and instead, this money could go towards other programs that are much more important for the community. Moreover, the longtime residents could continue to call the street where they have raised their children and forged so many wonderful memories "N. Early St".

With that said, we recommend that N. Early Street be rededicated as "Early in the morning".

However, if the city insists on dedicating the street to noteworthy individual, then please consider dedicating the street to James Early. James Early (now deceased) was an American electrical engineer who developed the transistors for America's first commercial communications satellite, the Telestar. The "Early Effect" in bipolar junction transistors is named after James Early. Rededication of the street's name to James Early will not require a name change.

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Clayton Wirtz <clayton@thewirtzs.com>
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2024 10:44 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Resident Comments for Alexandria City Council Naming Committee Re: North Early Street

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Dear Naming Committee Members,

My name is Clayton Wirtz. My story in Alexandria began in 2002 when I bought my first home on North Early St. After searching for nearly six months, I finally found the perfect property in the Spring of 2002. I signed the paperwork that day to make it my home. Little did I know that this decision would begin a nearly quarter-century adventure. One that saw me marry and start a family. One that saw me embark on a decade-plus-long remodel with my soon-to-be wife by my side. A remodel done primarily with our own hands.

My wife and I made countless trips to City Hall to submit drawings of our hopeful North Early family home. We still have nearly all of these documents, including the special exemption application (BZA CASE #2006-0007 on April 13, 2005), the building permit receipts (from June 20, 2006), and most importantly, the final building approval on Aug 31, 2016. In all, we have had more than 150 inspections and dozens and dozens of inspector signatures on all these plans, schematics, and drawings... all with our North Early Street address on them.

We have made lifelong friends in this neighborhood. We have shared the joy of the birth of neighbors' children and our own two daughters, mourned the loss of a few dear neighbors and a defacto neighborhood matriarch, and witnessed our community bond tighten during extreme weather events (e.g., communal shoveling during blizzards, extreme extension cord generating sharing during the Derecho, and more). This neighborhood history, my own documents, and all of these memories are with and of our family and friends on North Early Street. They are not tied to some long forgotten namesake. That is why we request our street be rededicated and retain its current name to allow our memories and keepsakes to remain tied to our address and to bring a new meaning and a new meaning or namesake to our continuing story on North Early Street.

Respectfully,

Clayton Wirtz
125 North Early Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

January 9, 2024

Re: Renaming of North and South Early Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

To Whom It May Concern:

I beg to oppose the renaming of Early Street for the following reasons:

I have lived here at North Early Street for almost 4 decades and upon moving here, only then did I feel at rest. I felt at home. It is endearing to recall those days with my kids growing up. They would love to frolic, jump, skip and play under the bright *early* morning sunshine that enshrouded North Early Street. The folks here are peaceful, tending to their homey chores, strolling and walking their toddlers and/or pet dogs *early* in the morning--and through the day. So, Early Street connotes peace, close family ties and good neighbors. It is nostalgic: it does not need to be renamed.

Besides, a name change to Early Street would just be more confusing to our longtime friends and families—from far and near. I believe that the name Early Street has earned a good reputable meaning now—a changed meaning different from that of the “old”. So, I entreat you: please do not rename Early Street.

At this juncture, I would like to reiterate what others mentioned in the November 6 renaming committee meeting at City Hall—that renaming Early Street would be extremely disruptive and cause hardship, especially for those of us who are elderly, with limited means, and dependent on timely and accurate delivery of critical documents, medications and other vital mail. Even though address changes may not be “legally” required, that completely misses the point. Any resident should need to do those update changes if we wanted to get reliable mail and deliveries. Imagine have to dig into 15, 20 or 40 years of documents and then try to contact the different companies, social services offices, agencies, and organizations just to update our addresses to ensure we get our important items. That will cost money, and be time consuming and may not be guaranteed to work.

May I offer an alternative plan. My humble suggestion to honor our heroes is to build a park, “Our Heroes Park”. Display statuettes of our heroes with captions of their foremost contributions in a beautiful and attractive park. This will give a more concrete picture to the viewers and visitors. School classes and student groups can make field trips to the park. They will enjoy the activity in open space, and it will be more conducive to learning and getting to know their heroes! With fun.

And, I would also ask to you take very, very serious consideration of the idea that others mentioned in the November 6 remaining committee meeting at City Hall: the idea of rededication. “Early Street” can be rededicated to any of the other admirable, historical figures who are also named “Early”. That would achieve the primary goal of this whole project and

would also, in fact, expand the goal by lifting up and recognizing a figure we may not know already. By keeping “Early” but rededicating to another “Early” figure, this would then also address the concerns many of us raised about the disruption and risks to our wellbeing that the name change would have. That’s a fair and reasonable compromise.

With my sincere thank you.

Lilia Butler
Early Street Resident since 1984

November 6, 2023

Re: Renaming of North and South Early Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

To Whom It May Concern:

I beg to oppose the renaming of Early Street for the following reasons:

I have lived here at North Early Street for almost 4 decades and upon moving here, only then did I feel at rest. I felt at home. It is endearing to recall those days with my kids growing up. They would love to frolic, jump, skip and play under the bright *early* morning sunshine that enshrouded North Early Street. The folks here are peaceful, tending to their homey chores, strolling and walking their toddlers and/or pet dogs *early* in the morning--and through the day. So, Early Street connotes peace, close family ties and good neighbors. It is nostalgic: it does not need to be renamed.

Besides, a name change to Early Street would just be more confusing to our longtime friends and families—from far and near. I believe that the name Early Street has earned a good reputable meaning now—a changed meaning different from that of the “old”. So, I entreat you: please do not rename Early Street.

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With my sincere thank you.

Lilia Butler
Early Street Resident since 1984

P.S.—Your honor—this is a 15 year project. You can do it!

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: mcpherson.brian@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:53 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Street Renaming Vote - N. Early St

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Writing today as directed by Mr. McHugh's "out of office" reply.

I've resided at 2356 N Early Street for over 30 years.
(the N Early off W Braddock & Menokin Streets)

I write today asking for you to vote N Early be **"rededicated"** for a person other than Jubal Early and NOT a complete name change.

I believe this is a reasonable and acceptable option which accomplishes the objective without disrupting the lives of the current residents.

Several alternative names were suggested at the last sub-committee meeting.

Thank you for your attention to the important matter

Brian McPherson

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1-20-24

Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson and Council Members,

My name is Fran Vogel, I reside on N. Early Street off of Duke Street. This past November marked 20 years in my house.

I am speaking today on the Second Reading addressing proposed Ordinance [version] 3 that will amend the current name of N. Early Street.

Our N. Early Street is home to residents who have called the street home for 20 to 60+ years; some living here their entire lives or close to that. Our street is “a village” and we truly look out for one another and pull together in times of need. It is a community. N. Early means something to long-term residents. A street, and its name, is a part of one’s life story along with all the other elements that contribute to one’s identity.

The change of one’s street name is not a “mere inconvenience”, it is a change of self. That is why those who live on N. Early advocated to find a way to reimagine the reason behind the name Early Street. Keeping it singular, last name only. In talking with residents of South and both North Earlys, this was important to them.

While the preference was to maintain Early in its current form and rededicate it to the concept of time, “early in the morning”, rededicating the name of the street to Army Lieutenant Colonel Charity Earley, the first African-American woman officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later WACs) and the commanding officer of the first battalion of African-American women to serve overseas during World War II is appreciated.

We will still bear the burden of effort/time and costs of the change of address which is considerable. That said, renaming Early with the spelling E-A-R-L-E-Y preserves the sense of place, it eradicates the association with the confederacy, giving new meaning that is unrelated to Civil War history and results in a change all can embrace. Residents will know who the street is named for and Lt. Colonel Earley’s legacy.

So I appreciate Council’s consideration of our requests, allowing residents of all the affected streets to be an *integral* part of the process while striving to address the desires of the city as a whole.

I ask that Council vote to approve the new name of Earley.

Thank-you.

From: Michelle Poley <mbpoley@lightcue.com>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 11:00 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov; Gloria Sitton
Cc: Justin Wilson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]opposition to spelling changes to Early St.

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Dear members of the Council, Staff.

I am writing today to voice my opposition to spelling changes to Early St.

Any changes, while well intended, are placing unreasonable burdens onto the residents, and business owners that line on these streets.

We own a design business that is run out of our home at 117 N. Early. Changing spelling of this street forces us into a vast array of changes we must make to the federal, state and city government to again be compliant.

In addition, it also will include changing web, social and written material costs, professional registrations, and changing all business vendor, bank accounts.

Uber, mapping companies, US mail, shipping and firmament companies will take months for their databases to be updated.

I understand the need to recognize our past, correct the errors that were made. I feel streets that were more closely identifiable to their namesakes should be under review. However as benign the name Early, was unknown to most or all of the current residents as a problem honoree, rather a reference to a time of day. I would hope the city leaders would keep the name, as is, and save the name of Ms. Earley for a new street, or perhaps add a sign to the streets telling the public of her service to the nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Brooke Poley

117 N. Early Street

Alexandria, VA 22304

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Homeowner/Business related impacts

License changes

- Driver's license

- Passport address

Registration changes

- DMV vehicle registrations

- Voter id cards

Pet microchip information

Prescription changes

- Magazines

- Newsletters

- High school/college alumni bulletins and newsletters

Legal notices and changes

- Notification to courthouses wherever property has been held, including all out of state property

Notification to utilities

Notification to creditors

- Amazon/UPS

- Credit cards

Signage changes

Stationery changes

Advertising changes

Medical offices and records

All health forms for school, camps etc

College board

College applications

Business insurance

Business license and insurance

All business mailing accounts for vendors and shipping

Every correspondent (sure a change of address with USPS is supposed to work however may not cover all)

Address of record for schools and colleges, both current students and alumni

Foreign governments for their nationals living abroad (non- US passport holders) and US Immigration (green card holders and other visa holders)

Additionally, here is one very real example of this harm, and a hypothetical:

1. Someone owns property in rural Pennsylvania for years. The deed recites (in the margin on the first page) their now affected Street address for documents regarding their PA property there. Inquiring to the Clerk what would happen if that was not changed, and how it could be changed. If, say one forgets to contact the Clerk and doesn't change that address, then any mail about the property would be returned to.....who knows who. The property owner then could miss out on a special tax put on the property and fail to pay. The clerk also opined that some owners would have to pay a lawyer for a Deed of Correction, or such.

2. Say one has an elderly aunt with no children and a many nieces and nephews that she doesn't see much but wants to leave her money to them. She gives the lawyer her Christmas card list, which has the old address for one of the heirs. The possibility exists that relative c/would be left out. The attorney may not perform due diligence. It is not an impossibility.

New USPS regulations about address changes.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has implemented a new address verification policy, which can be done online, in person at a retail office, or by mail.

The new policy requires customers to verify their identity before submitting a "change of address" request for packages.

Now, that process is more involved. You must follow the necessary steps. Once complete, you'll receive an email containing a QR code. You will then need to bring your ID and the code in person to your local post office to update your address.