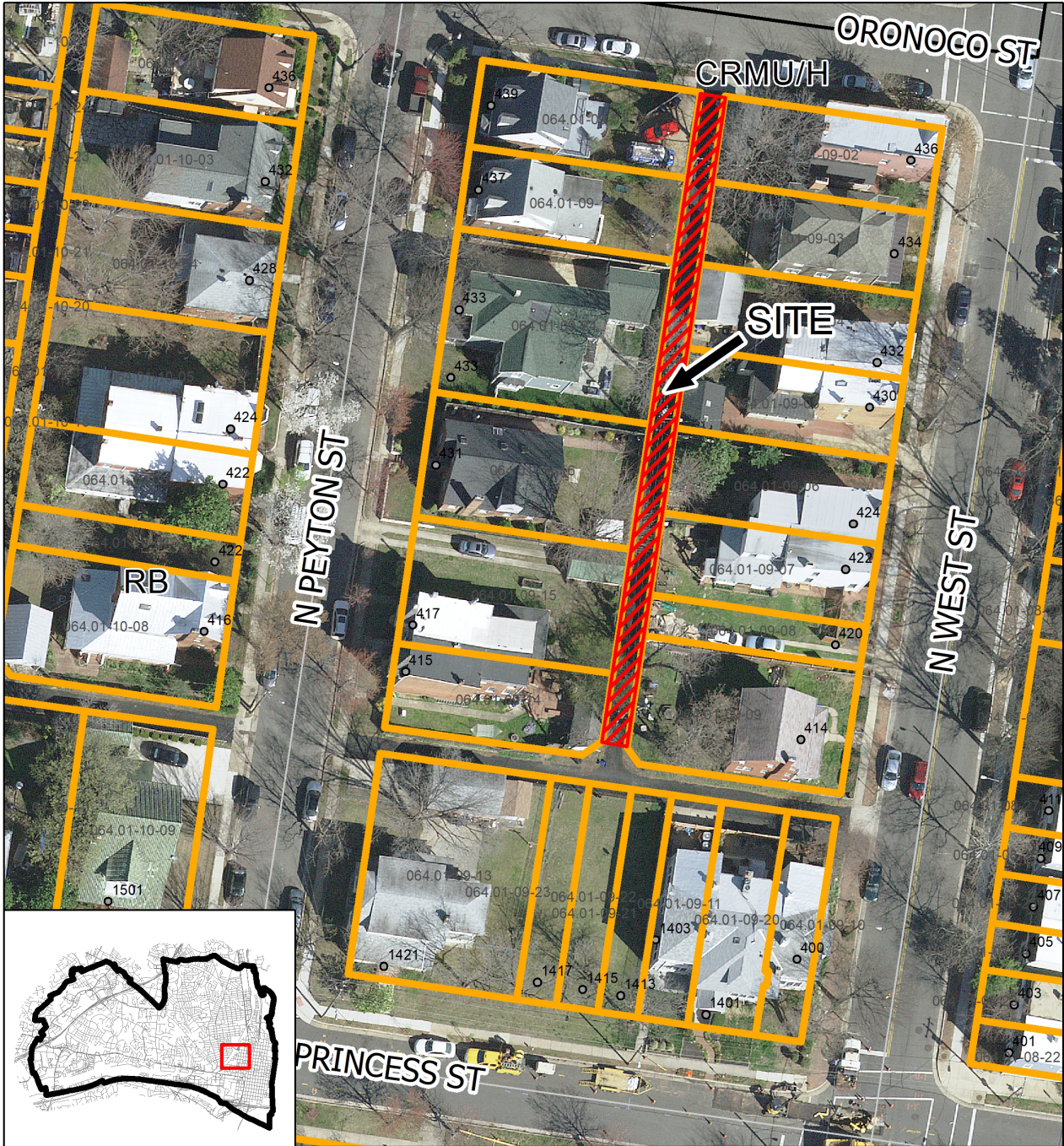


***DOCKET ITEM #7***  
***Street Name Case #2020-00002***  
***Alley between the 400 Blocks of N. Peyton***  
***and N. West Streets***

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<b>Application</b>		<b>General Data</b>	
<b>Request:</b> Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Street Name Case to change the name of an existing unnamed alley to Dawkins Alley		<b>Planning Commission Hearing:</b>	October 6, 2020
		<b>City Council Hearing:</b>	October 17, 2020
		<b>Zone:</b>	RB/Townhouse
<b>Address:</b> Between the 400 Block of N. West Street and N. Peyton Street and perpendicular to Oronoco Street.		<b>Small Area Plan:</b>	Braddock Road Metro
<b>Applicant:</b> Jessica Leischner, Esq.			

**Staff Reviewer:** Alexa Powell, [alexa.powell@alexandriava.gov](mailto:alexa.powell@alexandriava.gov)  
Ann Horowitz, [ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov)



**Street Name Case #2020-00002**  
**Unnamed Alley Between 400 Blocks of**  
**North Peyton Street and North West Street**



**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



## I. REPORT SUMMARY

The applicant, Jessica Leischner, Esq., requests approval to rename an unnamed alley.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject alley is within the 400 block of N. West Street and N. Peyton Street. The alley provides a north-south connection and is situated perpendicular to Oronoco Street and Princess Street (Figure 1). According to records this alley is publicly owned but is currently unnamed. The subject site is located in the Parker-Grey Historic District and is zoned RB/Townhouse. This alley is surrounded exclusively by residential uses.

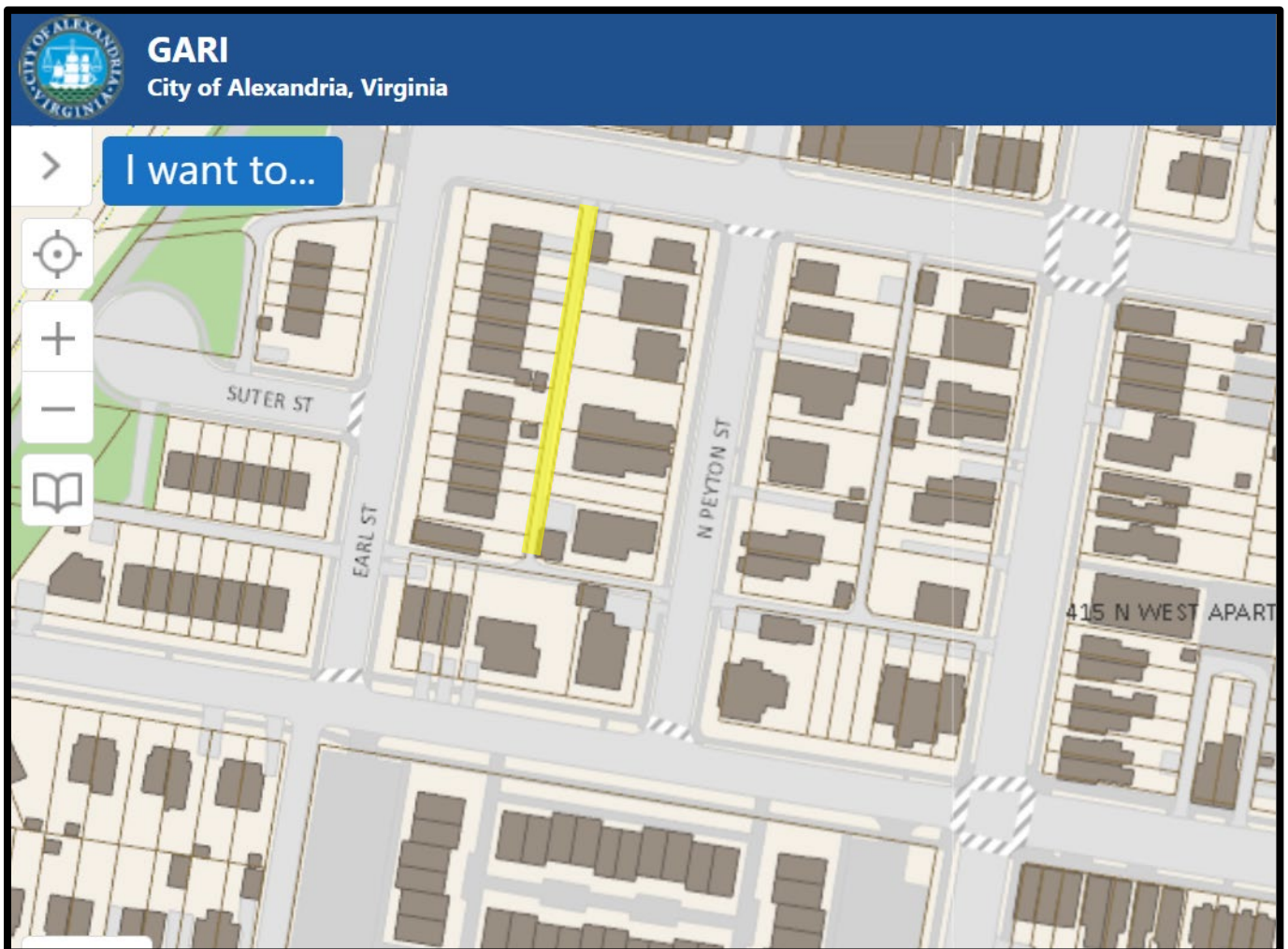


Figure 1. Existing Conditions. Alley highlight in yellow.

## PROPOSAL

The applicant, Jessica Leischner, requests approval for renaming the unnamed public alley as Dawkins Alley in honor of Judge Nolan Dawkins to recognize his contribution to the City of Alexandria.

Judge Dawkins has demonstrated a lifetime of service to the community as illustrated by the synopsis of his achievements provided by the applicant:

“Judge Dawkins was born in Alexandria, grew up in this Peyton Street home, attended Parker Gray High School in 1963, and was among the first African Americans to integrate George Washington High School graduating in 1965. After graduating from Central State University in Ohio in 1969, serving in Vietnam as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and graduating from law school at Seton Hall University, he worked with legal services in New Jersey for several years until relocating back to his hometown in 1977 as the Alexandria Assistant City Attorney. In 1989, following his mother’s death, he moved back into his Peyton Street boyhood home.

Following his stint as Assistant City Attorney and several years in private practice, on June 15, 1994, Nolan Dawkins was appointed to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and became the first African American judge in the City of Alexandria. In 2008, he was appointed to the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court and became Alexandria’s first African American Circuit Court judge.

The retirement of The Honorable Nolan B. Dawkins, former presiding Circuit Court Judge for the City of Alexandria, on June 26, 2020, represents the culmination of a lifetime of dedicated service, professionalism, and judicial excellence. He is a true son of the City and has devoted his entire legal career to justice and to the community of Alexandria, Virginia. It would be a fitting honor and tribute to have his name represented on this alley.”

As part of the application, the applicant has also submitted a petition, signed by 13 neighbors adjacent to the subject alley, in support of this Street Renaming request.

## CODE OF ORDINANCES

Sec. 5-2-66 of the Code of Ordinances requires City Council adoption of an ordinance to change a street name. At the time this application was submitted, street renaming criteria did not exist. The GIS, Police and Fire Departments evaluate the proposed names and provide comments. The Planning Commission votes to recommend support or denial of a proposed street renaming to the



City Council. The City Council then votes to support or deny a proposed street renaming and confirms the name through two ordinance readings.

Future street renamings, however, will follow updated application guidelines and criteria implemented in June 2020.

## **II. CITY STAFF REVIEW**

The renaming of an unnamed alley to Dawkins Alley has not elicited concern from the reviewing City Departments: GIS, Fire and Police. The proposed name does not sound like or is similar in spelling to other street names in the City of Alexandria or neighboring jurisdictions, ensuring that emergency services and the United States Postal Service would not confuse the alley with another street or alley in the City.

As noted by Transportation & Environmental Services, the expense to the City for moving forward with the requested change would be \$300 for the materials and labor associated with printing and installing the alley name signs.

Based on the application submission and the department comments, the Planning Commission may vote to recommend support or denial of the proposed street renaming to the City Council. Acting on that recommendation, the City Council may vote to support or deny the proposed street renaming and would confirm the new name through two ordinance readings.

**STAFF:** Tony LaColla, AICP, Division Chief, Land Use Services  
Ann Horowitz, Principal Planner  
Alexa Powell, Urban Planner

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## **III. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS**

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

**GIS:**  
Proposed street name is acceptable.

**Fire:**  
No comments or concerns.

**Police Department:**  
No comments received.



# APPLICATION

## CHANGE STREET NAME

(must use black ink or type)

LOCATION: The alley between and parallel to the 400 block of North Peyton and North  
West Streets, Alexandria, Virginia

TAX MAP REFERENCE: Sheet No.: 84.01

ZONE: RB

APPLICANT'S NAME: Jessica Lelschner, Esq.

ADDRESS: 500 Montgomery Street, Suite 575, Alexandria, VA 22314

REASON FOR REQUEST TO CHANGE A STREET NAME: The alley is public and currently unnamed.

This application seeks to name the alley in honor of the esteemed Judge Nolan B. Dawkins.

Judge Dawkins was born and raised in Alexandria, lived decades in the home adjacent to

the alley, and long served the city with distinction. (Please see attached continuation sheet.)

Jessica L. Lelschner, Esq.

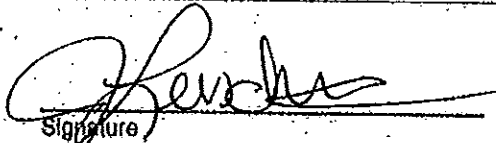
Print Name of Applicant or Agent

500 Montgomery Street, Suite 575

Mailing/Street Address

Alexandria, Va 22314

City and State Zip Code



Signature

703-836-9030

703-567-6899

Telephone #

Fax #

6-25-2020

Date

**New Street Names** are heard by the Planning Commission only.

**Change of Street Names** are heard by the Planning Commission and City Council.

**LAST UPDATED: 2/11/20**



## **Change Street Name Application (Continuation)**

This application seeks approval by the city of Alexandria to name the (previously unnamed) north-south alley between, and parallel to, the 400 block of N. West and N. Peyton streets in honor of the esteemed Judge Nolan B. Dawkins, residing at 431 N. Peyton Street. (See attached map and schematic.)

Pursuant to paragraph (a), section 2.03 of City Charter, cir. 1977-78 (initiated by Dir, Transportation & Environmental Services, Dayton Cook), this alley is declared dedicated to the public, open and used.

Judge Dawkins was born in Alexandria, grew up in this Peyton Street home, attended Parker Gray High School in 1963, and was among the first African Americans to integrate George Washington High School graduating in 1965. After graduating from Central State University in Ohio in 1969, serving in Vietnam as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and graduating from law school at Seton Hall University, he worked with legal services in New Jersey for several years until relocating back to his hometown in 1977 as the Alexandria Assistant City Attorney. In 1989, following his mother's death, he moved back into his Peyton Street boyhood home.

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The retirement of The Honorable Nolan B. Dawkins, former presiding Circuit Court Judge for the City of Alexandria, on June 26, 2020, represents the culmination of a lifetime of dedicated service, professionalism, and judicial excellence. He is a true son of the City and has devoted his entire legal career to justice and to the community of Alexandria, Virginia. It would be a fitting honor and tribute to have his name represented on this alley.

Incl:

Attachment 1: Map: Overview of Historic District Boundaries

Attachment 2: Schematic of Location of Proposed Dawkins Alley

Attachment 3: Street/Alley Naming Petition (by the residents adjacent to the alley)





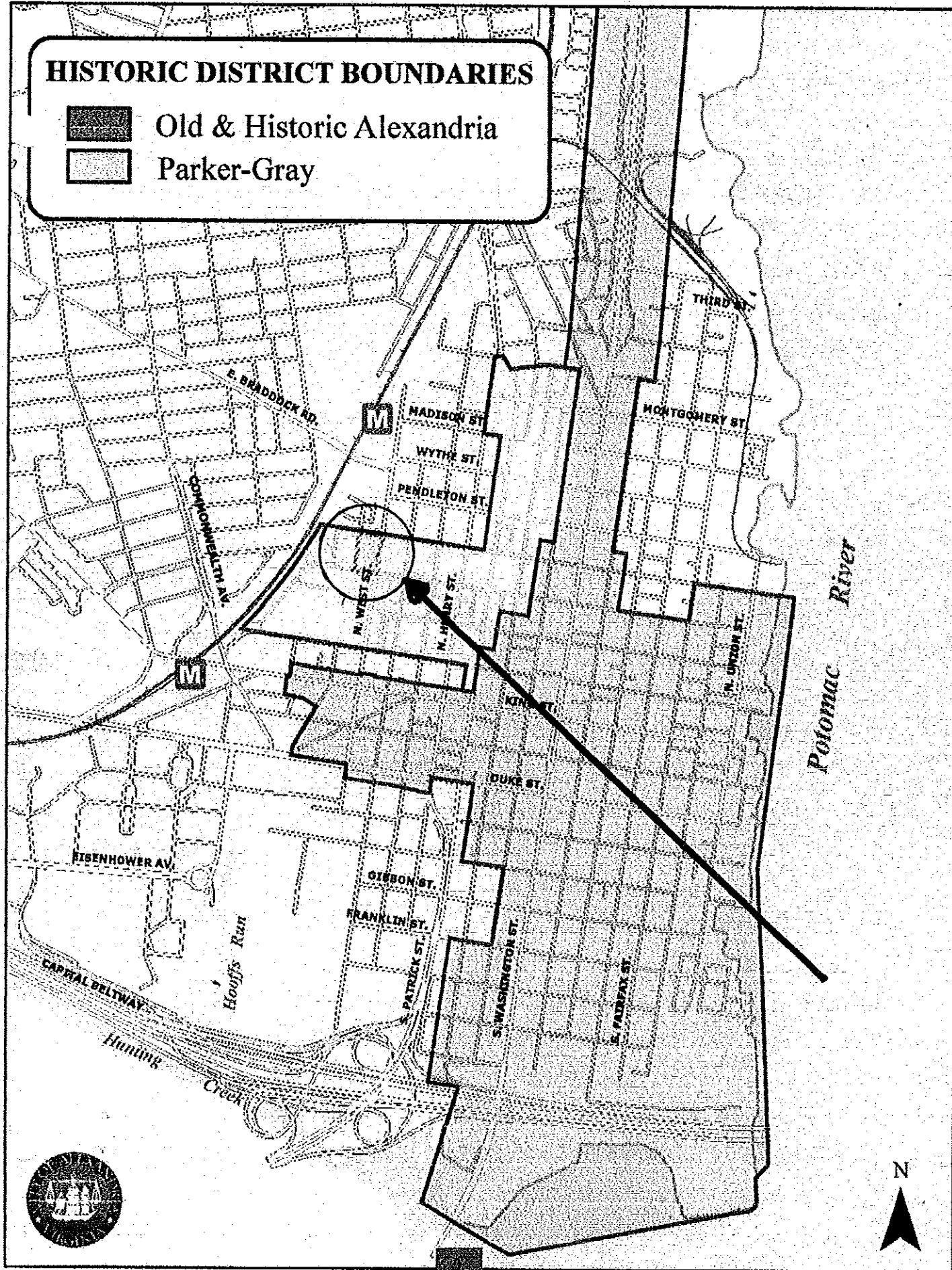
# HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



Old & Historic Alexandria



Parker-Gray



**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**Street/Alley Naming Petition**

The undersigned support the naming of Dawkins Alley.

Address	Owner/Occupant Name	Signature	Contact Phone (Optional)	Contact Email (Optional)
415 N. Peyton	EMILY LAPP	Emily Lapp	425-246-5987	emilylapp@gmail.com
417 N. Peyton	CYNTHIA STUEBNER	Cynthia Stuebner	703-837-1908	mail405@gmail.com
431 N. Peyton	Honoree: Judge Nolan & Lorraine Dawkins	Judge Nolan & Lorraine Dawkins	540-8183652	dawkinsk@gmail.com
433 N. Peyton	Glen Hewitt/ Michele Smith	Glen Hewitt Michele H. Smith	571-244-5825	hewittglen@gmail.com
437 N. Peyton	AVERY MORTON	Avery Morton	571-494-2717	
439 N. Peyton	Patricia Cedotal	Patricia Cedotal	337-315-6448	tricia.cedotal@gmail.com
414 N. West	Ivan Charity	Ivan Charity	703-896-2122	Incharity@outlook.com
422 N. West	Jason Gordon Elizabeth Tregaskis	Jason Gordon Elizabeth Tregaskis	703-727-9578	eltreg@yaho.com
424 N. West	Michael S. Hill Genette Hill	Michael S. Hill Genette Hill	571-215-6011	genettehill@aol.com
430 N. West	Robin A. Baldwin	Robin A. Baldwin	703-407-3422	robin21078@gmail.com
432 N. West	Nicole Scott	Nicole Scott	520-991-4826	nikipscott@me.com
434 N. West	Stade Elkins	Stade Elkins	703-508-0463	Stade.Elkins@gmail.com
436 N. West	Beth Elkins	Beth Elkins		



**re: Planning Commission**

Barbara Hodges <nellie3ster@gmail.com>

Sat 8/8/2020 4:25 PM

**To:** PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>

NO street anywhere should b renamed for Judge Nolan Dawkins..... the murder by Bouaichi of his RAPE victim, by the inmate Judge Dawkins released, is abhorrent. WHY name a street for this Judge?

NO NO NO NO.