



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
County Executive, Montgomery County, MD  
Office of the County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

The Honorable Casey Anderson  
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

June 15, 2020

Dear County Executive Elrich and Chair Anderson,

We are at an inflection point in our country and in our county. The brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis represents not just a singular tragedy of one man, but another grotesque manifestation of generations of structural racism that permeate our society. Addressing institutional problems require institutional solutions, and we appreciate your shared efforts as we begin that critical work together in Montgomery County. But as we work to dismantle the structures that perpetuate racism, we must also target the symbols that normalize and legitimize it. The names of public streets and buildings are not merely a reminder of the past; they are a very clear indication of who and what we value today.

**As stewards of Montgomery County's public assets, we are calling on you to initiate a comprehensive review of all County owned and maintained street names and public facilities to determine all those named for Confederate soldiers or those who otherwise do not reflect Montgomery County values. Following that review, we hereby request a public process to rename these county streets and facilities in a manner that more appropriately reflects the community to which they belong.**

When we name a street or a building, we are not merely reflecting history. We are using our public funding and assets to bestow a high honor. These public tributes should appropriately reflect the entirety of our community and our values. This comprehensive review would build upon the efforts that the Board of Education has recently undertaken in reviewing the names of Montgomery County Public Schools facilities.



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We cannot change the troubling aspects of our past, but we must confront it – honestly and openly. We cannot recreate history, but we can decide how accurately we reflect it, and who we choose to glorify from it. The names of our buildings and streets should reflect the people in and on them, not threaten and intimidate them. As a county with four of the ten most diverse cities in the country, our residents rightfully expect it; they deserve it; and they are demanding it.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Andrew Friedson in black ink.

Andrew Friedson  
Councilmember, District 1

Handwritten signature of Sidney Katz in black ink.

Sidney Katz  
Council President, District 3

Handwritten signature of Tom Hucker in black ink.

Tom Hucker  
Council Vice President, District 5

Handwritten signature of Hans Riemer in black ink.

Hans Riemer  
Councilmember, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Will Jawando in black ink.

Will Jawando  
Councilmember, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Nancy Navarro in black ink.

Nancy Navarro  
Councilmember, District 4

Handwritten signature of Evan Glass in black ink.

Evan Glass  
Councilmember, At-Large

Handwritten signature of Craig Rice in black ink.

Craig Rice  
Councilmember, District 2

Handwritten signature of Gabe Albornoz in black ink.

Gabe Albornoz  
Councilmember, At-Large

CC:

Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chris Conklin, Director, Department of Transportation  
David Dise, Director, Department of General Services  
Partap Verma, Member, Planning Board  
Tina Patterson, Member, Planning Board  
Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Member, Planning Board  
Gerald Cichy, Member, Planning Board  
Marlene Michaelson, Executive Director, Montgomery County Council