



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### July 1, 2020

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Appoint the Mayor and Vice Mayor to a multijurisdictional working group to participate in the community discussion regarding the potential name change of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Appoint the Mayor and Vice Mayor to a multijurisdictional working group to participate in the community discussion regarding the potential name change of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

#### **DISCUSSION**

In 1931, the County of Marin named the roadway running from the end of the Point Reyes Peninsula to Interstate 580 just west of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge after the explorer, Sir Francis Drake. Sir Francis Drake Boulevard passes through the City of Larkspur, the Towns of Ross, San Anselmo and Fairfax, and through parts of unincorporated Marin County.

Recently, a resident of Larkspur organized a petition to have the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (SFD) changed due to the fact that he was a known slave trader. To date, the petition has received over 5,800 signatures. The petition was presented at the June 16, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting. A Marin Independent Journal article about the petition is available at <https://www.marinij.com/2020/06/15>.

Given the public interest in this issue and the fact that SFD serves as an artery through the Ross Valley, the City/Town Managers in these jurisdictions have discussed the possibility of forming a working group made up of elected officials to address the issues associated with a potential name change. All the City/Town Councils of San Anselmo, Larkspur, and Ross have appointed Council representatives. The request was too late to be placed on the agenda for the Fairfax Town Council meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Board of Supervisors President Rice and Supervisor Rodoni, as the County representatives, convened a community listening session on Friday, June 26.

Staff asked the Mayor and Vice-Mayor if they would be willing to serve as the interim Town representatives to the SFD working group, with the caveat that the Council would need to confirm their appointments at the next Council meeting, on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None