

PUBLIC PROPERTY RENAMING & SPECIAL RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:00 P.M.

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson, Kenneth Stokes; Vice Chair, Aaron Banks; and Vernon Hartley. Constance White, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council; Louis Wright, Chief Administrative Officer; and Sondra Moncure, Deputy City Attorney.

Absent: Brian Grizzell.

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The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Kenneth Stokes**.

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DISCUSSION: Chairperson Stokes voiced concerns regarding pushback from Planning Department leadership on adopted renaming ordinances voted on and passed by the Council. The planning department has been slow to respond to these ordinances siting issues with available street signs due to cost of signs. **Chairperson Stokes** also announced that the committee has agreed to change several formal renaming requests to reflect honorary to propel the agenda forward and minimize costs. Stokes asked CAO Wright to please work through roadblocks with Planning and Public Works to have signs available. **Chairperson Stokes** did say that council would make budget revisions if necessary to make those funds available for signs.

Chairperson Stokes recognized **Co-chair Banks** who briefed committee members on the Bobby Rush Blvd. formal renaming. Banks advised that he had spoken with Commissioner Willie Simmons. Commissioner Simmons requested a proclamation or letter from the city of Jackson in support of the formal renaming. **Chairperson Stokes** asked **Co-Chair Banks** to continue taking the lead on the Bobby Rush Blvd. Ordinance, updating committee members as necessary.

Chairperson Stokes requested assistance from **Louis Wright**, Chief Administrative Officer, with the following renaming issues.

1. Renaming of Gymnasium Drive to James Rice, Jr. Drive, in honor of Johnson Elementary student who was struck and killed by a bus. Because Gymnasium Drive is not a dedicated street, it is was reported that the renaming could not take place.
2. W.C. Gordon Park/Street signs need to be changed to reflect spelling as "Gorden." The misspelling has been reported for some time, but has yet to be corrected.
3. The Williams Brothers sign has been placed on Gallatin Drive, but has not been placed at the corner of State Street and Capitol Street. The official ribbon cutting ceremony is

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scheduled to take place at the State and Capitol Street location, but this cannot happen until the sign is placed.

4. Please verify sign availability with Planning, as the council would like to introduce a street renaming ordinance for former Council Member Doris Smith in March. Chairperson Stokes would like this process to move swiftly.
5. Status of sign for Johnetta Jurden

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Chairperson Stokes requested that the Clerk’s Office speak with CAO Louis Wright before scheduling the next committee meeting, a timeline for renaming by the end of February, and that the Clerk of the Council’s office complete any street renaming applications that are missing from the agenda.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

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