

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: April 26, 2018

Item Number: 077

Public Hearing and Possible Action

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance renaming 'Jeff Davis Avenue' to 'Will Holland Avenue' or other name.

District(s) Affected: District 7

Lead Department	Austin Transportation
Fiscal Note	There is no financial impact for this item.
Prior Council Action	Ordinance No. 20171109-090
For More Information	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Jim Dale, 512-974-4070; Lauren Seyda, 512-974-9395; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092

Additional Backup Information:

Conduct a public hearing for the proposed street name change of Jeff Davis Avenue to be changed to Will Holland Avenue. An application was submitted by Council Member Leslie Pool for the purpose of honoring a person, place, institution, group, entity, or event, which is consistent with Code Section 14-5-4(7) Allowed Reasons for Street Name Change. As stated in the application, "William Holland was a local leader in Austin. He was born into slavery in Mississippi in 1841. His father, a white man named Bird Holland, bought his and his brothers' freedom in the 1850s. Holland served in the Union Army. After the Civil War, Holland moved to Texas, where he worked as an educator and was elected to the Texas Legislature. In his capacity as an elected official, Holland helped establish Prairie View A&M University.

Additionally, Holland played an important role in the establishment of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute for Colored Youth and also served as its first superintendent. Holland also won election as the first African-American county commissioner in Travis County.”

Property owner support forms were mailed on January 15, 2018 to 370 property owners owning property abutting Jeff Davis Avenue. Initial review of responses shows that the majority of property owners are opposed to changing the name of the street. A detailed summary of responses will be provided prior to the Public Hearing.

Concur review forms were sent to seven agencies on January 25, 2018: Austin Fire Department, Austin Police Department, Austin Transportation Department, Emergency Medical Services, Texas Gas Service, Travis County, and United States Postal Service. Responses were received from all but Texas Gas Service. None of the six agencies that responded objected to the street name change.

Staff has determined this request to be consistent with the City’s Codes and Policies.