



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager *NRV*

From: Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer *Brion Oaks*

Date: December 2, 2020

Subject: Update on Resolution No. 20200729-091, Renaming City Assets Dedicated to the Confederacy and White Supremacy

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to [Resolution No. 20200729-091](#), which calls for the renaming of City assets dedicated to the Confederacy and white supremacy, and to recognize esteemed state and local heroes, places, and concepts that uphold the noble ideals of liberty, democracy, and self-determination. This resolution calls for the utilization of a co-creative community based renaming process designed for education and restorative justice.

In 2018, the Equity Office released a [memorandum report](#) in response to [Resolution No. 20171005-031](#) listing current City assets in each Council district that memorialize Confederate history or have tangential ties to the Confederacy and also provided recommendations and guidance for renaming them. Per the most recent resolution, the City Manager was directed to select at least five city assets with latent Confederate history to move through a renaming process.

The Equity Office has since convened representation from several departments, including the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), the Austin Transportation Department (ATD), the Watershed Protection Department (WPD), and the Law Department to identify department and division-level policies, practices, and procedures for renaming City-owned assets and any efforts in progress to do so. Because they were identified as high priority assets, the first five assets identified by the group for renaming include:

- Metz Park & Metz Pool (District 3)
- Dixie Drive (District 2)
- Confederate Street (District 9)
- Plantation Road (District 5 & District 8)

The next step includes convening a virtual working group involving community stakeholders across City Council districts most directly impacted by the trauma of the institutions of colonialism, slavery, and white supremacy in early 2021, to begin community conversations around history and recommendations for renaming. Staff plans to return to you with the next update in spring 2021. Additionally, staff will collaborate with Huston-Tillotson University in planning efforts for engagement,

research and interpretive history. Furthermore, staff will use a racial equity framework and co-creative methods of design to foster a process that is community-driven, transparent, and informed by history.

Please reach out with any questions to Amanda Jasso, Program Manager, at Amanda.Jasso@austintexas.gov or 512-974-9107.

Cc: CMO Executive Team