



Olympia City Council Referral Request

Tracking Number (Provided by Susan) 2019-0032NJ **Date of Referral** 3/26/19
4/16/19 (action considered) **Requester** Nathaniel Jones

- Referral To**
- Study Session
 - General Government Committee
 - Other Meeting Body Heritage Commission (Staff liaison - Marygrace Goddu)
 - Finance Committee
 - Land Use & Environment Committee

Problem Statement

A clear concise description of the issue(s) that need(s) to be addressed.

The City of Olympia is missing an opportunity to honor one of the most important visionaries of our time. Doctor Martin Luther King Junior's legacy is large and irreversible, his greatest contribution is a vision of the future and his unwavering commitment to that vision. He saw what we might be capable of — as individuals and as a nation — and believed in that possibility so deeply that he dropped everything to hold it high where we can always see it.

Request

What is being requested to assist in addressing the issue described in the problem statement?

Identify meaningful and effective way to honor and communicate the vision and goals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and their significance to our community through a bold and permanent action.

Relationship to City Business or Proposed City Business/Services

Describe how this will enhance what is already offered and/or what it will provide that is not currently available. Why is this the City's issue to address? How will this create a more adaptive and resilient organization?

Human equity, social justice, and human rights are important to the City because this work is core to our values.

Connection to Comprehensive Plan

Choose all that apply.

- Community, Safety and Health**
Inclusive, respectful, civic participation; a safe & prepared community; health and wellness; adequate food and shelter; a quality education
- Downtown**
Vibrant, attractive urban destination; a safe and welcoming downtown for all; a mix of urban housing options; a variety of businesses; connections to our cultural & historic fabric; engaging arts & entertainment experience
- Economy**
Abundant local products and services; a thriving arts and entertainment industry; sustainable quality infrastructure; a stable thriving economy
- Environment**
Clean water & air; a daily connection to nature; preserved quality natural areas; a toxin-free community; a waste free culture
- Neighborhoods**
Distinctive places & gathering spaces; nearby goods & services; neighborhoods that are engaged in community decision making; safe and welcoming places to live

Options

Describe proposed options for moving the idea or issue forward for the meeting body to consider.

Dedication of a public asset to the vision of MLK follows a time-honored tradition. Public parks, buildings, or streets are likely candidates for this approach. *The high-visibility of a major roadway makes dedication of a street attractive. However, renaming a street carries a significant cost because businesses and residences would need to modify a substantial volume of registrations, licenses, addresses, and marketing materials. These costs are generally considered a public expense, although philanthropy might fill the gap. Neither of these ideas has been adequately researched and resolved. If the Martin Way corridor is included in this dedication action, early understanding of the current name is primary.

Timing

Is this issue time sensitive, are there other timing factors to consider?

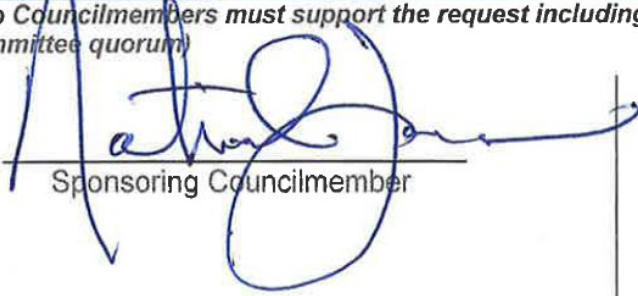
Timing – A bold and permanent action is proposed for implementation on Monday, January 20, 2020 – our national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.


Supporting Documentation


Are there documents that support your request or that should be considered?

Councilmember Signatures

Two Councilmembers must support the request including the Chair of the Committee of referral. (Cannot be a committee quorum)


Sponsoring Councilmember

1. 
Councilmember

2. 
Councilmember

Staff Supplement

Staff will review the request to generate administrative impacts to be considered as part of proposal (staff to initial after their review):

Budget Impacts: Unknown. If a street is chosen, new signage could be produced for minimal cost.

Legal Review (to include regulatory authority):

Policy implications: Consistent with Council and City values support of diversity, equity and compassion.

Implementation Considerations: Outreach to key leaders in the black community is an important part of the consideration.

Staff Liaison:

*Martin Way Name Change Option

To boldly and clearly demonstrate the change, Olympia could replace existing street signs with a modified version which carries the profile of our national hero. The cost of new street signs is estimated to be less than \$4,500. Additional costs associated with possible art work or interpretive signage, the dedication ceremony, or other improvements are quite flexible.

Rededicating the roadway provides the opportunity to invite the City of Lacey to join together in honoring the late Dr. King. The Martin Way corridor is shared with the City of Lacey and extends from the Olympia City limits, at College Street, to the Lacey City limits east of Ridgeview Drive.

There is confusion about the corridor's current name. Some have suggested that the road is named after Governor Clarence D. Martin (1886 – 1955), who was the 11th Governor of the state of Washington, who served two terms from 1933 to 1941.

Martin Way is also thought to recognize the important contributions of Saint Martin of Tours (316-397). The roadway is believed to honor the same Catholic saint that Saint Martin's University has been named for since its founding in 1895.

The Lacey roadway segment contains more than twice the number of street intersections as the Olympia segment. Several of Lacey's street signs on this corridor are illuminated and would likely be more expensive to upgrade. However, the total cost of this modification may be within the capacity of the City of Lacey if they wish to participate in the rededication.