

MOTION

NO. M-20-170

CITY HALL: June 18, 2020

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS BANKS, GISLESON PALMER, BROSSETT, NGUYEN
AND GIARRUSSO**

WHEREAS, Section 3-127 of the Charter authorizes the appointment of advisory committees to provide the Council with counsel and advice; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Confederacy, the State of Louisiana, and the City of New Orleans committed treason against the United States of America by directly circumventing the Constitution and levying war against the United States in order to preserve slavery in human beings against perceived threats to its continued existence; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Confederacy, the State of Louisiana, and the City of New Orleans continued to foment rebellion against the United States after the official defeat of the treasonous insurrection by killing 47 citizens of the U.S., Louisiana and New Orleans at the state's Constitutional Convention in the City of New Orleans in 1866 and by attacking the New Orleans Police Department and state militia of Louisiana in an attempt to overthrow the elected government of Louisiana in 1874 resulting in at least 21 deaths of citizens of the U.S., Louisiana and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Confederacy, the State of Louisiana, and the City of New Orleans named and renamed streets and places and erected monuments to participants in these treasonous insurrections for the purpose of glorifying their prior and ongoing circumvention of the Constitution, including Amendments Fourteen and Fifteen, the levying of war against the United States of America, and the killing of citizens of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Confederacy, the State of Louisiana, and the City of New Orleans named and renamed streets and places and erected monuments to participants in these treasonous insurrections as part of establishing what has been understood by leading American historians for more than 65 years as a “Lost Cause Mythology” intended to justify and glorify these repeated violations of the Constitution, and in support of their ongoing attempts to circumvent the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution between 1877 and 1965 by denying persons within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws via racial segregation; and

WHEREAS, insofar as the tenets of this Lost Cause Mythology remain prominent on the names of streets and places in the City of New Orleans their presence directly hinders the health, safety, and general welfare of the community by justifying and glorifying treason, white supremacy, and repeated violations of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, these ongoing travesties - along with New Orleans’ troubling history of mistreatment of and violence towards immigrant groups, which are upheld by this same glorification of white supremacy, disrespecting rich contributions to the growth and development of this city by the diverse populations that have and continue to shape New Orleans - require remedy, through true reconciliation and healing, which may only occur by ensuring a robust and transparent public conversation about those we choose to recognize and honor; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That an advisory committee is hereby established to provide recommendations and guiding principles to the Council of the City of New Orleans regarding the renaming of certain public streets, parks and places. The advisory committee (hereafter named the City Council Street Renaming Commission (Commission)) shall be established as follows:

1. The Commission shall consist of 9 members and be appointed as follows: one member will serve as an appointee of the Mayor and one member will serve as an appointee of the Executive Director of the City Planning Commission Office. The remaining seven appointees shall be selected by the City Council, with each Councilmember selecting one appointee.
2. Each member of the Commission shall have a demonstrable record of scholarship, formal or informal, regarding the history and geography of the City of New Orleans, especially in relation to traditionally underrepresented communities.
3. All appointees shall be confirmed by Council motion.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Commission shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding:

1. The initial list of streets, parks, and places that should be renamed. These recommendations should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of why each street, park, or place was chosen.
2. A proposed list of replacement names for each recommended street, park, or place. These recommendations should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of why each proposed name represents a preferable replacement.
3. A process to facilitate both educating residents on the preceding processes as well as receiving public feedback on the proposed changes.
4. Any recommended changes to the street renaming process established in Section 146-759.5 of the Code of the City of New Orleans, studied by the City Planning Commission in response to City Council Motion M-15-444.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Commission is authorized for one year, from June 18, 2020 to June 18, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That, no more than three months from its first meeting, the Commission shall be required to issue an initial report with its recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That the Commission shall be required to hold a public hearing on its initial report within one month of its issuance, and shall provide a final report,

incorporating any changes deemed necessary, to the Council no later than six months from the Commission's first meeting. Each district Councilmember should use this report as the basis for beginning the street renaming process, as established in the City Planning Commission Rules, as well as renaming parks and other places.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Commission shall elect a chair from among its members. The Commission chair shall hold meetings at least once a month, at hours as may be fixed by the Commission. The Commission is also authorized to establish subcommittees in furtherance of providing aforementioned recommendations. All such meetings shall be subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Open Meeting Law. Special meetings may be held on call of the chair upon 24 hours' notice to the members of the Commission and the public. A copy of the minutes of all meetings shall be sent to the Council of the City of New Orleans. The Commission shall have no legislative powers of its own but shall be an advisory body of the Council of the City of New Orleans concerning the matters with which it is charged, and the Council of the City of New Orleans will receive and consider the Commission's recommendations and report in determining to further this measure.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Clerk of Council deliver certified copies of this motion to the Office of Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Robert Rivers, Executive Director of the City Planning Commission Office; and Paul Harang, Interim Chief of Staff for the New Orleans City Council.

THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION OF THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.