



MOTION: DEVINE

SECOND: DUFFY

RE: Changing the Name of Jefferson Davis Highway

ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 6; Nays: 1

July 14, 2020
Regular Meeting
Resolution 20-57

In 1922, the Virginia General Assembly officially designated the newly-established Primary Road 1, known today as U.S. Route 1, as the Jefferson Davis highway, in honor of the president of the Confederate States of America. Nearly one hundred years later, that highway, which traverses the Commonwealth from north to south, still largely carries that name, making it Virginia's largest Confederate monument.

We find ourselves in a time when our nation, our commonwealth, and our city are grappling with the realities of racism and the failures of our institutions to realize the promises of the ideals on which they were built. The values of our systems and institutions are reflected in the symbols we choose, and the name of a major public thoroughfare is a powerful symbol.

U.S. Route 1 is a prominent statewide corridor, and renaming it is a project of statewide significance; therefore the City Council urges the General Assembly to take immediate action. Nevertheless, change will come. In 2019, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria renamed the portions of U.S. Route 1 that run through their respective jurisdictions. If the Commonwealth fails to act before the end of the 2021 General Assembly session, City Council is committed to changing the name of the portion of the highway located within the Fredericksburg City limits.

Therefore, the City Council hereby resolves that:

The Fredericksburg City Council urges the Virginia General Assembly, in its special session planned for August 2020, to remove the name Jefferson Davis Highway from U.S. Route 1 statewide and replace it with a name that promotes our shared values of unity, equality, and a commitment to a better future for all Americans.

Votes:

Ayes: Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Withers

Nays: Kelly

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 20-57, adopted at a meeting of the City Council held July 14, 2020, at which a quorum was present and voted.

Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council