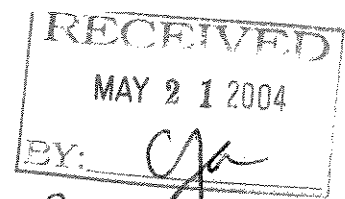


John J. Ratz
700 Airport Road -- Condo Unit A1
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Date: May 16, 2004

To: Chapel Hill Town Council
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Tel: 919-968-2743

RE: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

Dear Council Members,

I just received a notification that on May 24th you will be discussing a proposed name change of Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. I am strongly **opposed** to this action.

Prior to listing my reasons for opposition, I want to highlight a key piece of information that you omitted from this notice. Specifically, the individual / organization that proposed this change ... and the "political" reason that the Chapel Hill Town Council decided to spend my taxpayer dollars to print and mail these notices. ***How much money was spent on this notification?***

This "notice" expenditure is only the downpayment on the County, City, Business and Individual costs involved in renaming this road. And ... for what purpose?

Reasons for opposition ...

- ◆ Having a Martin Luther King Jr. roadway is hardly a novel idea. There are thousands around the country, two of which are in Durham and Raleigh.
- ◆ While I am a strong admirer of Dr. King, he had no direct impact on Chapel Hill's history.
- ◆ Horace Williams Airport, hence Airport Road, has been an important Chapel Hill feature, certainly enhancing the area's medical mobility and critical response reputation.
- ◆ If UNC's expansion to Chapel Hill North forces the closing of Horace Williams, Airport Road will remain as a historical legacy.
- ◆ The County and City will incur multi-thousands in expenses -- ranging from road signs to real estate maps, tax collection address updates, police and fire department updates, voter registration records, and a myriad of other expenses that I'm not even aware of. ***I'm hoping that the Town Council is cognizant of these other cost implications.***
- ◆ Businesses located on Airport Road will have to update their business stationary, advertising info, WEB sites, licenses / business registrations, etc. etc. etc.

◆ As an individual, I will have to ...

- ◇ Update governmental agencies -- Federal IRS ... NC Department of Revenue ... NC Department of Motor Vehicles (license and registration)
- ◇ Legal Fees -- Home Deed Address ... Mortgage Note 1st and 2nd Changes
- ◇ Home / Auto ownership -- Home and Auto Insurance changes
- ◇ Creditors -- Credit Cards ... Utilities ... Bank Loans
- ◇ Personal Contacts -- At least 60 "Change of Address" cards

For this no-benefit symbolism, especially when governmental and personal budgets are tight, can the Chapel Hill Town Council justify these frivolous across-the-board governmental / mandated personal expenses? ***Please ... regain your touch with reality.***

To reiterate, I want to know -- who has manipulated the Town Council to push this issue? This is a simple question? I expect a direct, but comprehensive, answer!!

Also, please include the costs (or estimated costs) for the following:

- ⇒ Postcard Mailings "regarding name change" meeting May 24th
- ⇒ Future County / City costs to develop / implement this change
- ⇒ County / City signs / record updates / tax updates, etc.
- ⇒ Airport Road businesses -- Number -- Cost per Business
- ⇒ Airport Road residences -- Number -- Cost per Residence
- ⇒ TOTAL COST -- Governmental / Private Business and Residence
- ⇒ Town Council "Cost Justification" -- Overall Cost vs. Benefits Derived ??

Sincerely,



John J. Ratz

cc: Kevin C. Foy, Mayor, Chapel Hill
891 Willow Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (B) 919-942-7002 (H) 919-932-1925