

May 4, 2004

Mr. Lyndo Tippet
North Carolina Dept. of Transportation
State Highway Administrator
Co-Chair Road and Bridge Naming Committee
1536 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1536

Dear Mr. Tippet:

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King is something all of us should be interested in doing. However, in my opinion, renaming Airport Road in Chapel Hill for him would be destroying Chapel Hill history.

After attending the April 19, 2004 Public Forum about renaming Airport Road, I was very discouraged.

I have lived in Chapel Hill all of my life. Living on Airport Road for about 40 years has made me aware of its importance to the community. My home now is still on Airport Road. My children grew up on it and now own property on Airport Road. It is, and has long been, a part of our local history.

I hope the North Carolina Department of Transportation will consider my thoughts and work with us to prevent the changing of the road's name. My neighbors, family and friends all seem to be as opposed to the name changing as I am.

Thank you for any help you can give us.

Sincerely,

Faye C. Stinson
603 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

~~David Heilig~~
2000 Harrison Court
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 942-3686

May 5, 2004

Town of Chapel Hill
306 N. Columbia St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for the postcard soliciting input on renaming Airport Road to MLK, Jr., Blvd.

With all due respect to Dr. King, I think this is a situation that will expend needless resources, create animosity, and waste money. Dr. King's memory is certainly guaranteed. It should be and it is. To keep wanting more to memorialize him sets up a situation where those opposed are labeled as racist.

I keep thinking about Ms. Wiggins' comments in Council meeting where she said she wanted Airport Road (as opposed to other suggestions) because "it wasn't the easiest thing to do, it would take some sacrifice". What exactly are we looking for here?

If the feeling is that more recognition for Dr. King is needed, look for something appropriate (building, park, area at Carolina North, etc.) that will not expend needless resources, create animosity, and waste money.

Thanks again for your postcard.

Sincerely,

David Heilig
David Heilig

-----Original Message-----

From: That Coffee Place [mailto:thatcoffeeplace@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2004 5:31 PM

To: Manager

Subject: My Thoughts on Renaming Airport Road

Please forward this e-mail to the mayor and all members of the town council.

First and foremost, I think this gesture by the town (and even more surprisingly other local civic organizations) is tokenism, at its worst. It does little, or nothing to honor the memory, or dream, of a great American. In fact, I think it does more to diminish the memory and extinguish the dream of Dr. King.

After 36 years, I would have hoped that this administration would have come up with something more fitting. Dr. King's dream was not to have streets named after him, but rather to create an America (and world) where all men are treated equally and have equal opportunities to excel. In the last 36 years, many middle-class (and this is a race-neutral term) have renamed obscure (and occasionally non-obscure) streets to honor Dr. King. Once done, they pat themselves on the back, but for what? For having done next to nothing? I would expect and demand the town of Chapel Hill to do more.

If you really want to honor his memory, why not name the new high school after Dr. King, and include a special tutorial that would be mandatory for all high school students in the CHOSS on Dr. King's life, his dream for all men, and how we can continue to honor the man by furthering his dream. The town might also consider converting one of the many empty store fronts on Franklin Street into a small museum honoring Dr. King and serve as a focal point for future programs and projects.

As for furthering his dream, the town could join forces with UNC to establish a scholarship program for local students. Scholarship awards would be based on ideas/activities that the candidates develop to further Dr. King's dream in their communities. Or, perhaps, the town could work in conjunction with the county and state to establish a fund to help local organizations in projects/activities that further the dream.

All these ideas require time, commitment, and effort. That is the very least we should be willing to give in honoring Dr. King! Shame on the town council, mayor, and other local civic organizations who think that renaming a street is adequate. Dr. King was an agent for change. He had big dreams and did big things to reshape the landscape of America. Say NO to tokenism that does nothing to deliver the promise of Dr. King's vision. Say YES to doing all that his vision demands.

Robert Owens - Owner
That Coffee Place
1226 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-880-8247
thatcoffeeplace@nc.rr.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Patterson [mailto:joepatterson@mindspring.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 12:34 PM

To: Town Council

Cc: editor@nando.com

Subject: Proposal to rename Airport Road

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

I have nothing but the greatest respect for Dr. King. I feel, however, that renaming Airport Road in his honor is not the appropriate way to honor his memory. I think naming the new high school after him would be far more in keeping with his legacy and something he would prefer, if given the choice.

We should try to keep what remains of the old Chapel Hill. There is so little left.

Please find some other way of recognizing this great American.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Patterson

-----Original Message-----

From: TARHEELCOO@aol.com [mailto:TARHEELCOO@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2004 10:07 AM

To: Manager

Oci Kevin Foy; edithwiggins@nc.rr.com; hillco@nc.rr.com; overkark@nc.rr.com; sally@biblio.org;
mark@cdpl.org; windsxcircle@mindspring.com; ed.harrison@mindspring.com; billabrom@nc.rr.com

Subject: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Marie Johnson Lucas. I am writing to you today because of my concern over your consideration to rename Airport Road.

On or about April 1932, when I was only 8 months old, my parents Wille and Annie Bell Johnson moved into their home on Airport Road. My Grandparents lived directly across from them on Airport Road, "On Top of the Hill." At that time, Airport Road was a two lane dirt Road which extended north only to McDuffie Memorial Baptist Church (Now North Chapel Hill Baptist Church.) A few years after moving to our Airport Road address, my father opened an Auto Repak Garage on the same parcel of land where our home was and operated that Garage until his death. My brother Bruce still operates the Garage today. Nearly 70 years of continuous operation on that same site. My Brother and I own the property now, we inherited it from our parents. As you can imagine, I have a lot of memories, and have actually lived a lot of the history of Airport Road.

I give you this brief background information on myself and my family, because it is important for you to understand that there are those of us with deep Chapel Hill roots who not only are concerned about the cost of this change and the historical significance of the Airport Road name and what it means to Chapel Hill, but also for what the name Airport Road means to us and our own family history as citizens. I am one of those people. There are those of us who have lived all of our lives being a part of Airport Road walks, Airport Road marriages, Airport Road births and yes, Airport Road funerals. How could you possibly change the name of this Historic Road and take away our rights to our History? The individuals affected by such decisions should be considered foremost. These are the individuals who have helped Chapel Hill be what it is today.

While I do not argue that Dr. King is worthy of recognition for his achievements; I honestly do not believe that he would be in favor of taking away other citizens rights and History in order to promote his own accomplishments. He was not a selfish man. Would you ever consider changing the name our beloved Franklin Street in Downtown? The Street which was named for one of this country's greatest statesmen, Ben Franklin. Of course not, but how do you decide? Where do you draw the line? Are not individual freedoms, memories and History still as important when making decisions on such matters?

I urge you to please make the correct decision concerning this issue. Lets don't take away the rights of any of the people involved in this debate. They can each be considered. Those with Airport Road History would like to keep the Airport Road name. Those same people would also like to see Dr. King honored. Lets find a newer Road or a proposed Road without the History of Franklin Street or Airport Road to recognize Dr. King, and prove that it is still possible to compromise on such issues and find a resolution which benefits all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Johnson Lucas

2808 Cravenridge Road

Garner, North Carolina 27529

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane McArthur [mailto:dianamcarthur@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 11:28 AM

To: Manager

Cc: Manager

Subject: renaming of Airport Road

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed renaming of Airport Road. I am absolutely supportive of honoring Dr. King, however, the renaming of Airport Road is not the way to do it. Other possibilities include a park, a building, a library wing, or a NEW Road if you are bent on the honor being a roadway. These alternatives pose no additional cost to the town or citizens and there is no inconvenience to or imposition on residents and business owners.

There is no economic benefit in renaming this road. On the contrary, in addition to expense incurred by the town, there will be significant costs to businesses in changing signage, letterhead, business cards and the time involved in notifying hundreds of vendors and clients PER BUSINESS. Then there is the very real possibility of loss of business because customers can't find the new address on their current map.

The name Airport Road carries with it a history that is important to the town and it's residents. By changing the name you are sending the message that this history is either A) unimportant and meaningless or B) that another history is more important. EACH HISTORY MATTERS. Forcing a name change on an unwilling citizenry will create anger and resentment--the opposite of the desired outcome. This is a lose/lose proposition. You have the opportunity to honor both histories by choosing another way to memorialize Dr. King.

At a time when we are facing rising property taxes (probably for 2 consecutive years) recycling fees, stormwater management fees, economic crisis downtown, and difficult budget decisions why in the world would you choose to impose additional financial burdens on taxpayers, both private citizens and businesses?? The cost to the town for changing the signage would come close to paying for health insurance for those council members in need of it.

Why is there such a rush to make this decision? There needs to be much more discussion between the town and residents to determine what all citizens would like to do to honor Dr. King. You have received many suggestions worthy of further consideration.

Finally, you underestimate the difficulty this change of address will cause. I urge each of you to talk with a business owner and find out what he/she faces. Talk with residents along this corridor. LISTEN to what we have to say. You were elected to represent all of us--not a select few. Each of you as an obligation to hear what we are saying and weigh it carefully. Your decisions must be based on what is best for the whole community.

Sincerely

Diane McArthur
501 Colony Woods Drive
Chapel Hill
NC 27517

929-2228 home phone

-----Original Message-----

From: Dana Deason [mailto:madeline46und@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 2:51 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: renaming of Airport Road

Dear Mayor Foy and Members of the Town Council,

I recently received a card in the mail inviting me to a meeting that is to be held on May 24, 2004, to discuss the potential name change of Airport Road. I cannot attend the meeting as I have to be out of town on that date, but I wanted to send you my thoughts on this matter anyway. I have lived in Chapel Hill for ten years now and the community is very important to me. I feel that I must express my dislike for the proposal to rename Airport Road.

Airport Road is one of the main roads through town, and as such, is of great importance to both residents of the town and those persons commuting to and from work each day. I have lived on Airport Road for the past five years and have a keen appreciation of its significance. I feel that to change the name of the road is to ignore its historical importance to the town. For as long as most residents can remember, the road has been called Airport Road. Changing the name at this late date would have no benefit to the town that I can see, and in fact, would create a lot of unnecessary and unwanted complications for those of us who reside on Airport Road.

For practical reasons, I do not want the name of Airport Road changed. I would have to change the address on all of my banking and personal correspondence, and this would be a huge inconvenience and expense to have new documents issued. I cannot afford to make such a change at this time. I feel that the town could better honor Dr. King by creating a park or some other memorial to his memory where everyone could benefit. Dr. King is indeed worthy of recognition, but it can be better done in some other way than by renaming Airport Road.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments, and for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Dana Deason
600 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Cabbage (mailto:TCabbage@nc.rr.com)

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 3:04 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Renaming Airport Road

This proposal is coming 25 to 30 years too late, and is so belated that it's embarrassing: it suggests that Chapel Hill slept through the Civil Rights movement and has just woken up to the fact that events of great significance took place a generation ago!

I gather that, as Dr. King's contemporaries and comrades in the civil rights movement are nearing the end of their lives, or have passed on, there is concern among "old line" black leaders that the younger generation doesn't appreciate and understand their historic struggle. That's human nature, and changing a street name isn't going to address the problem or encourage young people to join the NAACP.

Dr. King has received just about every honor his nation can bestow on one of its heroes. Are there no local leaders from that era who deserve recognition and have not yet received their due? Can't we at least honor someone from North Carolina?

The nation's cities and towns are full of "MLKJRBVLVDs" and there is no point to adding another one at this late date. If we can't find a local civil rights leader to honor, I say forget it!

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzanne Haff [mailto:sochaff@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 4:42 PM

To: Kevin Foy

Subject: Fw: Airport Road Response

Dear Mayor Foy,

I received the postcard requesting a response to the renaming of Airport Road and these are my thoughts for what they are worth.

I do not oppose renaming Airport Road.

But...

Airport Road is also Route 86, as you know.

The East - West route that seems similar in status is Route 54.

As far as I know it does not have another name.

I therefore suggest that Route 54 might be a more logical choice and not require a "renaming" since it has only a number, not a name.

Respectfully submitted,

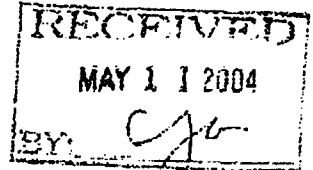
Suzanne Haff

107 Hunter Hill Road

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

5/10/2004

5/7/04



Scan 573

To: Mayor & Council
From: Jeff Moore
601-4 Airport Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC

Dear Mayor:

Please place on record that my family opposes
any name changes for Airport Rd. Please do
NOT change this name. We are out of
town and unable to attend the May 24th
meeting.

Thank you.

Jeff Moore

-----Original Message-----

From: Erika Griffin (mailto:egriffin@cinginc.com)

Sent: Friday, May 07, 2004 2:43 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Airport Road

Please do NOT rename Airport Road. It places an undue financial burden on small businesses on Airport Road due to an address change, and a ridiculous expense for our town to change signage. In addition, Chapel Hill is a unique and original place to live. WHY on EARTH would we rename the road to something so common and overdone!!!

Erika Griffin
Mortgage Banker
Corporate Investors Mortgage Group
1526 E. Franklin Street, Suite 201
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-929-6116 phone
919-929-6146 fax
egriffin@cinginc.com
www.cinginc.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Bryan & Tara Nutley [mailto:trnutan@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, May 07, 2004 3:48 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

My "vote" is not to rename Airport Road.

Further, I'm amazed that this issue has risen to a level of importance meriting postcard public meeting announcements sent to residents. That the discussion has progressed this far and been given such priority is embarrassing to the Town. Where were the meeting announcements for the new building/zoning code document, the Carolina North plans, the free transit plan, or any of the numerous other issues the town has been working on that actually have impact on the day-to-day lives of residents?

There are countless Boulevards, Avenues, Roads, etc. all over the country named after him already- what does Chapel Hill add to his legacy by joining the oversaturation? Only an uninformed or insensitive person would deny Dr. King's importance in American history, but renaming Airport Road after him is unnecessary, costly, and, silly.

Michael Bryan

-----Original Message-----

From: Donny Lofland [mailto:lofland@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, May 08, 2004 9:40 AM

To: Town Council

Subject: regarding renaming of Airport Rd

Hello,

I appreciate to desire to honor a great and positively influential individual in our country's history; but, I find the renaming of roads to be disruptive to existing residents, visitors, and the business community. I would also question whether people would confuse an MLK Jr. Blvd in Chapel Hill with MLK Jr. located nearby in Durham. (For example, I as a local resident am forever confusing the Chapel Hill Rd with Old Chapel Hill Rd and it seems like there is another local rd with Chapel Hill in the name --- very confusing). I am not passionate in my opinion and will adapt no matter what, but I would prefer that we avoid road naming confusion whenever possible.

If the Town Council absolutely wants to rename Airport Rd and is set on honoring influence black leaders (which is fine), then would you consider another name that might lead to less confusion. For example:

W.E.B. DuBois - <http://www.dubois.org/html/DuBoisBio.html>

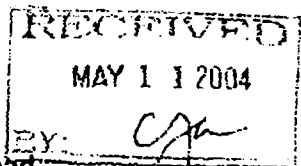
Booker T Washington - <http://www.ushistory.net/btc/washington.html>

As an aside, if you go with a less known leader, you might inspire more individuals to brush up on their history ... everyone knows of MLK Jr., but few people outside of students taking American history probably have knowledge of others.

Just my opinion ... I appreciate your time,
Donny Lofland

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3708 Sweeten Creek Road
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
Sunday, May 9, 2004

Chapel Hill Town Council
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516

Re: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

Dear Town Council:

I am strongly OPPOSED to renaming Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

I have lived in Chapel Hill since 1990. I own a condominium at the Gables at 620 Airport Road. I travel on Airport Road daily to my work at UNC.

I am opposed to renaming Airport Road any name because it will affect thousands of residents and businesses along the road. Has any one calculated the cost to the businesses that will have to change their address on multiple business documents including federal and state income tax forms? What would be the cost of altering and reprinting thousands of maps of the area?

I am not at all against honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. I suggest that we pick a park or other town space or building to rename or create a monument to Dr. King. This would not affect thousands of residents and businesses.

There is already a road named after Martin Luther King, Jr. in Durham. Having two roads named for Dr. King will confuse newcomers.

Thank you for consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely,

Lesli Taylor, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

From: Day McLaughlin [mailto:dmclaughlin@chocs.k12.nc.us]

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2004 8:51 AM

To: Town Council

Subject:

Re renaming Airport Road:

I have no problem with naming a street after Dr. King.

I do not think renaming Airport Road after him makes sense.

- The costs to the businesses on Airport Road could be high.
- There would be confusion for out of town people trying to find the businesses or residents.
- And, the airport is not necessarily gone.

Thank you for your time.

Day McLaughlin

-----Original Message-----

From: David Barry (mailto:mdibarry@comcast.com)

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2004 2:14 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: renaming Airport Rd

Mr. Mayor:

Town Council:

Since I do own property on Airport Rd. Chapel Hill.
I like the current name. Re-name something else after M.L. King.
Do not change the name of Airport Rd. Leave it alone.

Change something else.

David M Barry

-----Original Message-----

From: jrbhj [mailto:jrbhj@earthlink.net]

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2004 3:52 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Rename Airport Road?

Chapel Hill has long and loudly proclaimed and prided itself on its uniqueness, village atmosphere and openness to ideas, both old and new. The airport road has been with us as Airport Road for as long as I have been here and longer than that for sure. Its name is both a tradition and unique to our town. It is non referential to anything other than itself and its town. Changing its name to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard does not honor Mr. King (we already have a street named after him anyway) but rather dishonors the traditions of our town, we would no longer be unique, but just another town with just another street named after MLK Jr. Sincerely, Barry and Jennifer Jaeger

Original Message

From: Yvonne Duke [mailto:yduke@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2004 8:08 PM
To: Cal Horton
Subject: Renaming of Airport Road

Dear Council and Mayor,

We received your postcard soliciting comments about the proposal to rename Airport Road. We are against this proposal for a number of reasons:

- 1) There is still an Airport off Airport Road;
- 2) It would be disruptive and expensive for those who live or have businesses on Airport Road. The Town should not be burdening small businesses in this manner.
- 3) It makes more sense to give the "Martin Luther King Jr." name to a new road, or to a road with no name. Two possibilities are: 15/501, 54.
- 4) Renaming Weaver Dairy Extension is another possibility. Being a relatively new road, if few people have this address, renaming would be minimally disruptive.
- 5) Ideally, the majority of people living on a thoroughfare should be happy with the name. Streets seem to be named after families who live or lived in the area (Weaver Dairy), idealized places/states of mind (Camelot Ave., Fortune's Ridge Dr.) or sentiments (Harmony Road; Fidelity Street). Naming any road after a political figure may offend or escalate demands. What will be done if a group wants Chapel Hill to name something "Ronald Reagan Way" or "Scalia Court"?

It seems that this may not be the right time to rename any current road in Chapel Hill; waiting would be preferable.

Best regards,

Yvonne Duke, Rick Duke
503 Westminster Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC
yduke@earthlink.net

5/11/2004

-----Original Message-----

From: Arthur Marks [mailto:akmarks@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2004 8:17 AM

To: Town Council

Subject: Renaming Airport Road

We are unable to attend the 24 May meeting that shall discuss the proposal to rename Airport Road as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

We have no problem with renaming Airport Road, especially as it is very likely that within the next five years or so it will no longer lead to Horace Williams airport.

However, if it is to be named why should the renaming result from a single petition. Instead, the town should solicit proposals from the citizenry as a whole. Not failing to acknowledge King's contribution to American life, at this time he has been many times honored, including a street in Chapel Hill with his name, at the same time there may well be a more suitable name for the road, one that resonates better with Chapel Hill and its residents. I expect you would get suggestions to call it Dean Smith Blvd. or the like, but at the same time a call for suggestions may also produce some real viable possibilities.

Perhaps the final choice may rest with a citizens' committee.

What I do not see the need for is to jump at this one proposal, for if others knew that the Council would take it seriously, they too would have or could have sent forward their recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Judith and Arthur Marks
211 Friendly Lane
Chapel Hill, 27814

akmarks@earthlink.net

5/11/2004

-----Original Message-----

From: David Ripperton [mailto:dripperton@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2004 12:05 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

I will not be able to attend the public meeting, May 24, 2004 regarding the Proposal to Rename Airport Road. However, I wanted my views known. My family has lived on Whitfield Road for over 40 years. The road was known as Piney Mountain Road at that time. I have wonderful images of a red dirt road lined with loblolly pines, winding toward my parents house. I have always regretted the fact that the road was renamed Whitfield Road. It has never seemed right to me. I feel that renaming Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard would be inappropriate as well. I believe there are many other ways to honor Dr. King's memory. Why change the precious memories that we hold onto?

David Ripperton
2618 Whitfield Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929.7713

5/11/2004

~~-----Original Message-----~~

From: Deborah Cracker [mailto:dcracker@nc.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2004 1:31 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

Opposed to Deb Cracker

-----Original Message-----

From: HowardStewart194@aol.com [mailto:HowardStewart194@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2004 7:33 PM

To: Town Council

Subject: Rename Airport Road

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am opposed to the proposal to rename Airport Road. I was born at 407 Hillsboro Street (before you changed that to Hillsborough) and lived there until 1954.

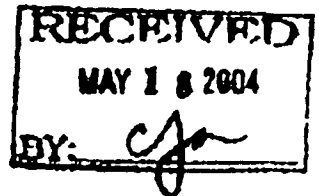
I lived with my grandfather since my father passed away in 1937. My grand father, Fred H. Sparrow operated a dairy from that address for many years. Airport Road has been airport road for as long as I can remember. It means a lot to me for past memories of those times, like driving a team of Mules with a hay wagon and mowing the runways of the airport for winter food for the milk cows.

Chapel Hill should remember the old times as well as the future.

Please do not change the name of Airport Road.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Stewart



Academy Eye Associates, O.D.

David L. Kroninger, O.D.
916 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919-842-8331

May 11, 2004

William Horton, Town Manager of Chapel Hill
Town of Chapel Hill
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mr. Horton and members of the Town Council of Chapel Hill,

I am writing this letter with regards to the renaming of Airport Road. I am opposed to this renaming for the reasons following. First, it is quite costly to all business owners and homeowners, and other residents whenever they have a change in address. All stationary, business marketing materials, pamphlets, signs, postal information, advertising and the like will need to be changed. It will be many thousands of dollars. In my office alone, I will need to notify 7,000 patients, several hundred vendors, one hundred or so insurance companies, along with many expenses I have not even thought of at this time. It will also take hours of time to do these address changes. Please do not forget this action affects many other people.

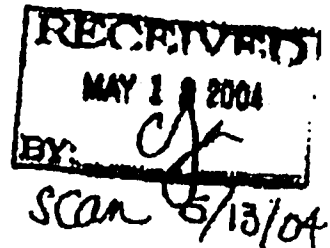
A second issue is that of one of Chapel Hill's main roads will now be very difficult to distinguish from the large M.L.K. Boulevard in Durham. I believe much confusion will exist within the two communities regarding where a specific business is located. I, as a business owner on Airport Road, do not want any confusion about my location by my prospective patients due to a road name change of this nature.

I assure you that my statements are unbiased. I do not want the road name changed to honor Jimmy Carter, or Thomas Jefferson, or any other person. I feel many other ways could be utilized to honor Dr. King without impacting those who work or live on Airport Road. Why not name a new road, or a city park, or the public library instead of a longstanding-named road, descriptive of what it is, Airport Road? This way the impact would be negligible on the individuals concerned.

Sincerely,


David L. Kroninger, O.D.

Kathy L. Davies, D.D.S., M.S., P.A.
P E R I O D O N T I C S



May 12, 2004

Chapel Hill Town Council
306 N. Columbia St.
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27514

Dear Council Members,

I am unable to attend the May 24 public meeting. Please hear my opinions via this correspondence.

I am a Periodontist with a private practice at 900 Airport Road. It has come to my attention that the city council is considering a name change for Airport Road.

I have strong feelings that this name change should not take effect. I am a firm believer in the values that Martin Luther King Jr. stood for and am happy to see a street, preferably a new street, named after him. Airport Road is a landmark in Chapel Hill and has, I am sure, been in existence for enough years that great confusion would arise if the name were changed.

As an owner of a dental practice, a significant amount of time and expense is put into signage, letterhead, referral pads, business cards, envelopes, credit cards, billing statements to name just a few items that have the address of my business engraved or carved on them. I feel it is unfair and extremely irregular to request that all the businesses located on Airport Rd be put through the time and expense of changing all the above mentioned items.

I implore you to discourage the renaming of our city's most prominent street, Airport Rd.

Sincerely,

Kathy Davies
Kathy L. Davies DDS, MS, PA