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CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS Development Engineering Services

Public Works Plans Review Services

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Entrance Requirements for Honorary & Official Street Renaming

Authority:	Denver <i>Revised Municipal Code</i> , § 2.3.3(c) "Powers and Duties of the Department of Public Works"; and § 49-63 "City engineer to renumber or rename streets"
Purpose:	The purpose of this document is to summarize the key issues related to renaming a street, whether a Honorary or Official Street Renaming.
Version & Date:	Version 1.0; April 27, 2005
Customer Interface	Most communications between the Customer and the City will be through the local City Council office who will then interact with Public Works Plans Review Services (PWPRS) and other agencies as appropriate.
Affiliated Departments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable, Telecommunications, & Utility companies • City Council Office • CPD Building, Records, Zoning • Denver Fire Department • Denver Police Department • Department of Public Works (Wastewater, Addressing, Engineering) • Office of the Assessor • Public Works Permit Operations; 2000 W. 3rd Avenue, Room 107; Denver, CO 80223-1027; 303-446-3759 • Public Works Plans Review Services; 201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 202; Denver, CO 80202; 720-865-2782. • U. S. Postal Service
How are Streets Officially Named?	There is a pattern to the names of streets in the City and County of Denver and the region. This pattern often extends out into the suburbs and forms a consistent means of locating homes and businesses. Per the City Charter, the City Engineer has the authority to name streets and assign addresses in the City and County of Denver. Most streets are named at the time of subdivision plat when the plat is formally adopted by ordinance. In other instances, small segments of city owned property is given a street name when "dedicated" by ordinance as city right-of-way.
What is the difference between "official" renaming and "honorary" renaming?	Official street renaming permanently changes the name of a street. For example: 32 nd Ave. became Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Honorary street renaming generally occurs during a special event. For example: Bannock St. became John Elway Blvd. for the Super Bowl Parade.
Why does anyone want to officially rename a street?	<p>In some cases a change to the street name is needed to fix a typographic error that occurred on an official document, or to improve way-finding. These types of changes generally have overwhelming support by the community that is directly impacted.</p> <p>In other cases a person or group of individuals desires to name a street after a person in honor of their accomplishments. These types of changes generally have support by an advocacy group, but it is difficult and costly to determine how much support exists by those directly impacted by the street renaming.</p>

<p>What happens when streets are officially renamed?</p>	<p>Official street renaming changes all legal documents for land addressed along the renamed street. This means that all addresses change, stationary, monthly bills, signs, etc. must all be changed and residents/business owners directly impacted may incur considerable expense.</p> <p>Street renaming also changes all official City maps, utility records, 911 systems, city street signs, and in some cases highway signs, etc. Depending on the situation, the cost can range from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands of dollars.</p>
<p>What has been the City's policy on officially renaming streets in the past?</p>	<p>Official street renaming has always been problematic, and since 2002 it is the policy of Public Works to not rename streets. The key issues are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without a complex and costly process, it is almost impossible to accurately determine the support for the name change by those residents/businesses directly impacted. • Official Street Renaming has a substantial financial impact on the City and the impacted citizens. Proponents generally have little or no money behind their initiative. The cost of both the process and the construction is unfunded or grossly under funded. • Expedient way-finding and emergency service delivery is more difficult when an off-pattern street name is added to a patterned street name system. Emergency service providers are not always familiar with the service areas. <p>It is the recommendation of Public Works that <u>streets not be officially renamed</u> unless a need critical to emergency service delivery, or the health and safety of the citizens is demonstrated.</p> <p><u>An honorary street name policy is developed & stated herein that allows streets to have an honorary designation.</u> The designation would come by way of City Council Resolution. Streets carrying an honorary designation are not officially renamed, but carry a second honorary name (much the same as buildings do).</p>
<p>Application Process</p>	<p>1. Request to the local City Council Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name of existing street proposed for honorary street name designation, with "from" and "to" cross-streets. ○ Proposed honorary street name designation. ○ Basis for requesting honorary street name designation, i.e., historic figure/person and background on the figure/person. ○ Name of individual or group requesting the honorary street name designation <p>2. Internal Notification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor's Office and Key Departments/Agencies are informed by the local council office that an Honorary Street Name Designation is being proposed. <p>3. Public Notification Procedure:</p> <p><i>(This Process is somewhat elaborate and may be revised to obtain a level of comfort to the council person who is taking the resolution forward. The goal is to determine the amount of support in the community for the Honorary Street Name Designation.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Public Works will provide the local council office a list of official addresses within the proposed honorary street name designation area, and a list of registered neighborhood and business organizations within the area. • The proponent shall have 90 calendar days to obtain signatures on the petitions from the occupants of the buildings on the official address list. The petitions shall provide the name, business name, address, signature, and an indication of whether the signer is for or against the proposed honorary name designation.

	<p>(When a single property with one address has multiple units, the proponent must receive input from at least 50% of the units. The decision of the majority of the units shall be the decision for the official address.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proponent shall have 90 calendar days to obtain written responses from all registered neighborhood and/or business organizations whose boundaries lie within the street proposed for the honorary designation. • To advance the honorary street name designation proposal, the proponent must demonstrate to the local council office that input was received from 75% of the official addresses, with 75% in favor (total 56%). Additionally, a majority of all registered neighborhood and/or business organizations must provide written support for the honorary street name designation. • Once the local council office is satisfied that the proponent has met the above criteria, it shall request a cost estimate for sign fabrication and installation from the Department of Public Works. Public Works shall forward the cost estimate to the local council office. Anticipate 30-60 days for estimate upon formal request. • The local council office shall provide written notification to the proponent that the above conditions are satisfied and forward the cost estimate prepared by Public Works. The proponent must show proof that it has funds available to construct the new signs, before a resolution is carried forward. The proponent shall have 180 days to obtain the funding required for the signs. <p>4. Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local council office will carry forward a resolution to have the Honorary Street Name Designation made. The designation will automatically sunset in ten (10) years which is the estimated life of the street name signs. • Before a re-designation occurs, the proponent shall show proof that it has funds available to replace the signs. • Prior to installing any signs in the public right-of-way, applicant shall obtain the necessary Public Occupancy Permit for sign(s) placement. This is an annual permit requiring renewal. <p><i>Implementation Notes:</i></p> <p>Honorary Street Name Signs <u>will not</u> be placed on any Federal Highway. Signs on State Highways must be approved by Colorado Department of Transportation.</p> <p>Honorary Street Name Signs will be ground mounted signs only.</p> <p>The approximate cost per block for sign fabrication and installation is approximately \$500, costs may be higher depending on existing equipment.</p> <p>Honorary Street Name Signs may have a different appearance than the standard street name signs presently used by the City and County of Denver.</p>
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