

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members
Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Christian Popoli, City Planner Supervisor – Planning and Development

RE: *West 1st Street to Reverend Henry T. Rhim Blvd*

DATE: March 27, 2019

Consistent with Chapter 745 of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code on addressing and street naming regulations, requests to rename streets require a review and recommendation from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission. In making a report and recommendation, the Commission shall address the following criteria:

1. The origin of the street name
2. Any historical significance of the existing street name
3. Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject street
4. Whether the existing name is part of a common theme of street names throughout the community where such street is located
5. The age of the street name
6. Whether the street name is a duplicate street name

Present Street Name: West 1st Street

Proposed Street Name: Reverend Henry T. Rhim Blvd

Reason for Change:

The proposed street name change is for the purpose of recognizing Reverend Henry T. Rhim for his accomplishments and contributions to Jacksonville's history and culture.

Background:

This portion of West 1st Street is located northwest of Downtown Jacksonville near the western edge of Springfield. Originally platted as Eagle Street, as part of the Edward A. Decotte's Subdivision in 1888. Eagle Street did not occupy the current location of this portion of 1st Street and appeared to be predominately a foot path, with a "foot bridge" noted at the crossing of Hogan's Creek. The Hogan's Creek Unit One replat established this portion of 1st street in 1979.

Report and Recommendation:

The origin of the street name and any historical significance of the existing street name
Located to the northwest of Downtown Jacksonville, the area was orgiagonally platted in the late 1800s. Though this area was hstirocially platted in 1888, the orgional orientation and name of Eagle Street has changed completely to what it is today, as a protion of the

historic West 1st Street. Although West 1st Street is part of the historic grid of the City, this portion was never historically named West 1st Street, or in the current location or configuration.

Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject street

This portion of West 1st Street is populated by modern development. Any Historic structures that may have been located along Eagle Street are either no longer there, or are not located along this portion of West 1st Street because of the replat / realignment.

Whether the existing name is part of a common theme of street names throughout the community where such street is located

As noted above, the name of West 1st Street is part of the historic platted grid of Springfield. As this portion resides west of Hogan's Creek, it was never part of the historic street grid, and dead ends at Jefferson Street.

The age of the street name

Although the name West 1st Street is part of the 1901 Plat for West Springfield, the name was not extended to this road segment until 1979, as best as staff can determine.

Whether the street name is a duplicate street name

The street name is not a duplicate.

Recommendation:

The Planning and Development Department recommends that the proposed street name change from West 1st Street to Reverend Henry T. Rhim Blvd be approved by the Commission.

65

1 COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So I do think that
2 the -- stepping it back to behind the sunroom,
3 it would actually match the house across the
4 street that we approved at the last Commission
5 with the exposed sunroom. So I would concur
6 with moving this in that direction.
7 THE CHAIRMAN: It sounds like we have a
8 majority on the same page, so I will take a new
9 motion, if you will.
10 MS. WEST: Well, through the Chair, I
11 think if -- right now you have a motion pending
12 before you.
13 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.
14 MS. WEST: The maker of the motion has the
15 option to withdraw or you may vote on that
16 motion. If that does not prevail, then you can
17 entertain a new motion.
18 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: I'll withdraw the
19 motion.
20 THE CHAIRMAN: So I will entertain a new
21 motion now.
22 COMMISSIONER KASPER: I'll make a motion
23 to approve COA-19-21877 with the condition that
24 the portion of the fence from the rear of the
25 sunroom forward be either eliminated or reduced
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66

1 to 4 feet in height. If eliminated, a 6-foot
2 section of fence would be allowed to be
3 constructed from the rear of the sunroom to the
4 Talbot Street [sic] property line.
5 COMMISSIONER STANSEL: I second.
6 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
7 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
8 THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
9 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
10 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
11 approved COA-19-21877.
12 And we will move right along to
13 New Business. Do I have a staff report on this
14 road renaming?
15 MR. POPOLI: Through the Chair, yes. We
16 have a staff report.
17 This is a request for a road renaming.
18 Chapter 745 of the Municipal Code requires that
19 this commission, as well as the 911 Addressing
20 Committee, review requests for road renamings
21 and provide a recommendation to City Council.
22 The request is for a portion of West 4th
23 Street, basically between North Pearl Street
24 and Broad Street -- no, that's not correct.
25 Sorry. It goes beyond that. Well, whatever
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67

1 that -- Jefferson. Excuse me. Between North
2 Pearl Street and Jefferson.
3 Typically, when reviewing things in the
4 Urban Core, we're usually reluctant to
5 encourage name changes because this is the
6 oldest part of the city and the streets were
7 platted over a hundred years ago in most cases.
8 This is a bit of an exception, so I'll go
9 through the criteria.
10 Just to kind of go over the basics, this
11 is an odd little pocket of unplatted land that
12 has been replatted over the years and
13 originally didn't have a clean grid street
14 system to connect to the existing street system
15 other than a foot path at one point.
16 So what you're looking at for your
17 recommendation is the origin of the street
18 name, the historical significance of the
19 existing street name, whether there are any
20 historical structures or landmarks that are on
21 the subject street, whether the existing name
22 is part of a common theme of streets throughout
23 the community, the age of the street, and
24 whether the street is duplicated anywhere in
25 the city.
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68

1 So just running through those criteria
2 briefly, as I said, the background on this is
3 that this was originally a plat that was
4 different than the Springfield plat and other
5 denoted plats in the downtown area. It was
6 part of the Edward Decotte plat from 1888.
7 Again, this is the area that's under
8 consideration (indicating). So it goes from
9 Pearl Street here, this is West 1st as it
10 follows the Springfield plat, and then kind of
11 curves around Missionary Baptist Church and
12 then connects to Jefferson here.
13 Originally, this area was part of this
14 older plat, and this area was known as Eagle
15 Street. And as you can see, this would be the
16 edge of 1st Street here -- or actually, I think
17 it's up here, but it doesn't match up to the
18 standard square block grid of the current
19 district.
20 And just for reference, again, this is the
21 area we're talking about (indicating). Here's
22 Hogan's Creek. And here is another look at
23 Hogan's Creek, Hogan Street, and this is Eagle
24 here.
25 Sorry. This thing is very slow.
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69

1 Again, you can see Eagle Street and how
2 it's kind of at an angle to the grid system.
3 This is a key map from an early Sanborn
4 that shows, again, where 1st Street ends,
5 Hogan's Creek, and then Eagle would begin on an
6 earlier map, which I wasn't able to get a clear
7 picture of. This is actually noted as a
8 footbridge, so it wasn't even a continuous
9 street.

10 And here, again, you can see where 1st
11 Street and Eagle -- this name had been
12 changed -- or is referenced differently at
13 different times as 1st Street or Eagle Street,
14 but was never formally changed and it was never
15 replatted. And then in 1979 this area was
16 replatted and West 1st Street was created in
17 this portion to connect to the original grid.

18 So that's a little background. So that is
19 the origin of the name and its reflection on
20 the current naming system.

21 Although there were historic structures
22 built along Eagle Street, none of them
23 currently remain, so there are no historical
24 structures or landmarks along the street. As I
25 noted earlier, there are portions of West 1st

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70

1 Street, obviously, that are historic and exist,
2 but this particular portion did not. And
3 1st Street, as it's known now, dead ends at
4 Jefferson, so there's no continuation of this
5 beyond, except outside the Urban Core.

6 As I mentioned, West 1st Street goes back
7 to 1901 as part of the Springfield plat, but
8 this segment wasn't created until 1979. And
9 then beyond this, West 1st Street is not
10 duplicated within the core.

11 So based on that and its lack of
12 historical context for this particular segment,
13 we're actually recommending approval from
14 West 1st Street to Reverend Henry T. Rhim
15 Boulevard, to pass that recommendation on to
16 the City Council.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Does anybody have
18 any questions for staff?

19 COMMISSIONER KASPER: Yes. Are we
20 referring to only the strip of West 1st Street
21 from Jefferson to Pearl?

22 MR. POPOLI: Yes, that's correct.

23 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: Do we know
24 anything about who Reverend Henry Rhim is or
25 was?

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71

1 MR. POPOLI: Yes. At the end of your
2 packet is the actual ordinance that goes into
3 fairly great detail on his life and
4 accomplishments.

5 I will note that one of the things they're
6 calling for in the ordinance is the waiver of
7 the provision, 745.105(I)(2), which -- I think
8 that's correct. A portion of 745.105, which
9 requires that the person who the road is being
10 named after must be deceased five years.
11 Although it's not clear, I'm speculating that
12 he is still alive.

13 But according to the ordinance, he's been
14 a major contributor to the local congregation,
15 the community at large, and he's been involved
16 in many good works in the city. The particular
17 church has been in the city a very long time.
18 He's received many accolades from other -- both
19 religious and educational institutions, various
20 contributions to the local and state
21 government. So I think a worthy individual as
22 outlined in the ordinance.

23 COMMISSIONER BRAMWELL: I was more
24 concerned about the alive or dead thing because
25 that's a pretty standard policy.

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72

1 MR. POPOLI: It's actually enumerated in
2 the code, but the sponsor and councilman has
3 asked to waive that provision. So I don't
4 know, like I said, if he's currently alive or
5 if he's recently passed away, but he's
6 apparently not been dead five years.

7 COMMISSIONER KASPER: Through the Chair to
8 Christian, I guess. Does transportation or
9 anybody comment on a road that's traveling and
10 then changes the name or is that not -- because
11 West 1st Street is going to continue to be
12 West 1st Street if you're traveling in a
13 westerly direction and then you cross Pearl and
14 the road name is going to change.

15 MR. POPOLI: I know the addressing and
16 road name are predominantly the purview of the
17 911 Committee, so they will also have an
18 opportunity to hear this. It will be in April,
19 the beginning of April.

20 COMMISSIONER KASPER: So any traffic or
21 safety concerns is not our concern?

22 MR. POPOLI: Correct.

23 COMMISSIONER KASPER: Okay.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else have
25 questions?

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73

1 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I will entertain a
 3 motion.
 4 COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve
 5 the road renaming, a portion of the road to
 6 Reverend Dr. Henry T. Rhim Boulevard.
 7 COMMISSIONER STANSEL: Second.
 8 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
 9 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
 11 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
 13 approved the road renaming through the Historic
 14 Preservation Commission.
 15 And unless anyone has anything else --
 16 MR. POPOLI: Lisa had a couple of quick
 17 announcements.
 18 MS. SHEPPARD: I just wanted to give you a
 19 heads up that there are some conferences that
 20 are coming up related to historic preservation.
 21 One in particular, Keeping Historic Structures
 22 Above Water is a conference on sea level rise
 23 and it's going to be in St. Augustine. I think
 24 it's like \$300. There's probably AIA credits
 25 and some other things, but that's fairly close

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75

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74

1 by.
 2 And then there is the Florida Trust for
 3 Historic Preservation, which you'll probably
 4 get in one of the emails that I send out.
 5 That's going to be in Pensacola this year.
 6 This is an annual conference by the Florida
 7 Trust, and that's coming up in mid May as well.
 8 COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Would you like us to
 9 attend?
 10 MS. SHEPPARD: We would always encourage
 11 you to go to training so you can pick up on
 12 great ideas and bring them back here, so you
 13 have those good solutions for those difficult
 14 applications.
 15 THE CHAIRMAN: If we charter a bus and run
 16 like a field trip, I'm in.
 17 MS. SHEPPARD: A party bus? You want a
 18 party bus?
 19 COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Your parents better
 20 sign permission slips.
 21 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
 22 MS. SHEPPARD: That's it.
 23 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Then we are
 24 adjourned.
 25 (The above proceedings were adjourned at

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76

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
 2
 3 STATE OF FLORIDA)
 4)
 5 COUNTY OF DUVAL)
 6
 7 I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional
 8 Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
 9 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and
 10 that the transcript is a true and complete record of my
 11 stenographic notes.
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 14
 15 DATED this 7th day of April 2019.
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 19 _____
 20 Diane M. Tropia
 21 Florida Professional Reporter
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