

TO: Mayor Allen Joines and Members of the City Council
FROM: A. Paul Norby, Director of Planning and Development Services
DATE: November 12, 2013
SUBJECT: Renaming of Linden Street to N. Research Parkway

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Two road construction projects are underway or being completed that will result in a new street extending through the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter in a north-south direction. The first project is being constructed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). They will be constructing the southern leg of this new street (under a project known as the "Salem Creek Connector") beginning at an intersection with S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive near Bowman Gray Stadium, extending northwest through an interchange with US 52, and then extending north to Rams Drive. The second project, the street recently completed within the Innovation Quarter, continues the new street from Rams Drive and extends northward to E. Third Street where it connects directly into what is now Linden Street.

These two construction projects comprise most of a larger project that originates between U.S. 52 and S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive near Diggs Boulevard at its southern terminus and extends northward through the research park, ultimately connecting into existing Linden Street, and then terminating at N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The street section south of E. Third Street and recently completed was named "Research Parkway" during its plat approval stage in February 2013. As part of the overall development of this corridor, Linden Street between E. Third Street and N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive should be renamed to N. Research Parkway. (The entire section north of Business 40 will be named N. Research Parkway; the section south of Business 40 will be named S. Research Parkway.) The entire street from south to north needs to have one name, end to end, to avoid confusion for motorists, business deliveries and emergency service provision.

The City of Winston-Salem began the process to rename Linden Street to N. Research Parkway in February 2013. The following highlights the key steps that have taken place in this process.

- The name "Research Parkway" was submitted by Piedmont Triad Research Park as the developer through the plat process. The name was reviewed through the normal street naming process. Property owners along Linden Street were notified, including Wells Fargo, owners of the Linden Center, and no objections were received.
- A public hearing was then held at the April 9, 2013, City Council Public Works Committee meeting and no objections were heard; however, the Public Works Committee held the renaming of Linden Street in committee.
- At the May 14 City Council Public Works Committee meeting, there was a request by a council member that an additional opportunity for public input be provided.

City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Wanda Merschel, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

Forsyth County Commissioners: Richard V. Linville, Chairman; Gloria D. Whisenhunt, Vice Chair; Mark Baker; Walter Marshall; David R. Plyler; Bill Whiteheart; Everette Witherspoon; County Manager: Dudley Watts, Jr.

City-County Planning Board: Arnold G. King, Chair; Allan Younger, Vice-Chair; Tommy Hicks; Clarence R. Lambe, Jr.; Darryl Little; Barry A. Lyons; Lynne Mitchell; Paul W. Mullican; Brenda J. Smith

- In response to that request, the Planning Department held an additional public hearing on August 8, 2013, at the City-County Planning Board meeting. The public hearing was advertised in the *Winston-Salem Journal* and *The Chronicle* and adjoining property owners and stakeholder organizations along and near the route were sent letters inviting them to attend the hearing and provide input on the name change. One person spoke against the renaming, citing that the construction of US 52 and US 421/Business 40 had destroyed what was once the Belews Street neighborhood area and something should remain to commemorate the community, but also acknowledging that things evolve and change. The Planning Board recommended approval of the street renaming from Linden Street to Research Parkway, and additionally requested that the City Council commemorate the Belews Street community that once existed there in some way, such as an historic marker.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony opening Research Parkway occurred on October 22, 2013.
- On October 24, 2013, Council Member Montgomery held an East Ward Community Chat meeting. Planning and Development Services staff attended the meeting to provide background information on the street naming/renaming process and the specific history of the Research Parkway name. As part of this discussion, it was explained that when Innovation Quarter filed their plat with the name “Research Parkway,” the portion of Linden Street from E. Third Street north to N. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard would need to be renamed. The renaming has been before the Public Works Committee since April 2013 but has been held to solicit additional input from the community stakeholders. As part of the East Ward Community Chat, several citizens said they liked the idea of a historic marker being placed to highlight the history of the area and also expressed interest to Innovation Quarter President Eric Tomlinson about including the history of the area in the piece of public art that Innovation Quarter will commission in the roundabout at E. Third Street and Research Parkway. There was no indication that the participants had an issue with renaming the remaining portion of Linden Street to Research Parkway.

Emergency service departments have found no conflicts or problems with the proposed name.

Historic Resources staff has reviewed its earliest Planning maps (1920s) and the Sandborn Insurance Map Collection (earliest in the late 1800s), along with the current known history of the area at or around Linden Street, it appears that the street name was derived from tree and/or land type names. Sometime in the late 1800s, the streets in this area were named and Linden follows along with other tree names streets such as Maple, Elm, Sycamore, Vine, and Hickory. Linden Street appears not to have been named after any person or neighborhood.

cc: Lee Garrity, City Manager