

# HONORARY STREET NAMING POLICIES

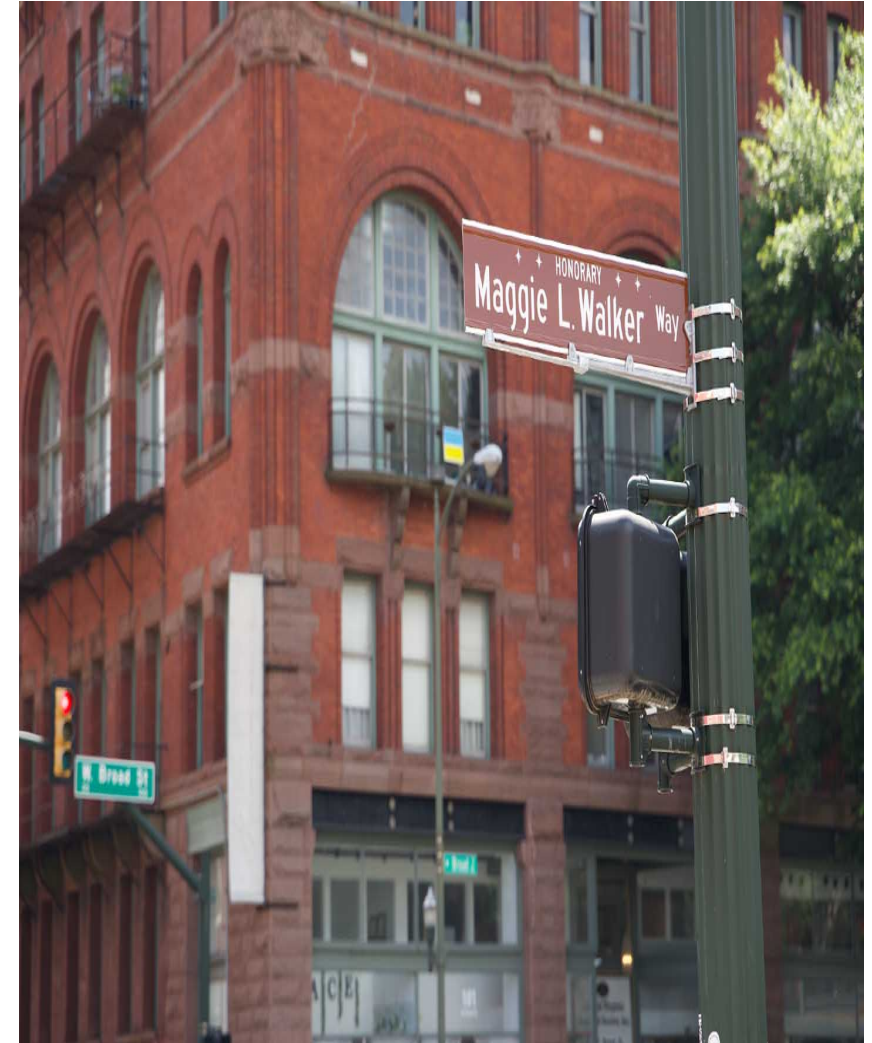
*Preliminary  
Research*



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Honorary street names can be found throughout Richmond.

Honorary Streets are intended to memorialize individuals for their civic, cultural, humanitarian, or historically significant contributions to the Richmond Community.



[HTTPS://WWW.RVA.GOV/RICHMOND-CITY-COUNCIL/HONORARY-STREET-NAME-DESIGNATIONS](https://www.rva.gov/richmond-city-council/honorary-street-name-designations)

## Richmond City Code, Section 8-10 (4)

Section 8.7 of the City Code titled “Naming of City facilities—Purpose; definition of “City facility”; applicability.” states that “(a) The purpose of this section through Section 8-10 is to provide a systematic and consistent approach to considering, approving and implementing the naming or renaming of City buildings, streets, alleys, bridges, parks, recreation facilities and other public places owned by the City of Richmond. (b) For the purpose of this section through Section 8-10, the term “City facility” means any street, bridge, building, park, recreation or community facility or place as well as any natural feature and any other forms of historical interpretation or exhibit owned by the City of Richmond. (c) This section through Section 8-10 do not apply to (i) street names designated through the subdivision or other land use processes pursuant to Chapter 25 or 30.”

# Objectives of Street Naming Policies

- To ensure that street name designations are “honorary” and at the discretion of City Council.
- To ensure that streets continue to retain their official name and remain easily identifiable.
- To ensure that street name designations are accepted by the community and consistent with City values.
- To encourage the recognition of individuals and groups for their contribution to the community.



# Honorary Street Naming Policies

	Process	Costs	Length of Existence	Placement Duration
Richmond	Council member receives a request from residents	None to residents Production: \$700	Unlimited Number for Decision Street Naming Policy	Permanent
Norfolk	Application submitted, Council votes Review Council Appointed Committee Historian	No costs to residents Production: \$400	7 per year, one in each ward Honorary Street Naming Policy	Permanent
Portsmouth	Residents request, Council approves; Planning reviews; DPW; Attorneys	Requestor pays costs of production: Approx. \$400 for costs	Limited Number	Permanent

# Portsmouth Process and Background

- Portsmouth currently allows citizens to request a change to the official name of a city street, however, City Council may determine if the change is an honorary designation or a permanent name change.
- Sec. 33.1-55 9 (c) of the Portsmouth City Codes states: “Names of existing streets or subdivisions shall not be changed except by approval of the governing body.”
- This is the only adopted and codified reference regarding the renaming of city streets.  
Honorary Street Name Designation Policy | July 26, 2022
- Honorary street name signs are intended to recognize and honor the citywide contribution, impact, or fame of individuals or groups.
- The placement of the signs posted above standard city street name signs does not change the official name of the street or the official addresses of residences and businesses on the street.

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# Portsmouth Criteria

The following criteria shall be used in determining the appropriateness of the designation:

- An individual or group of historical or cultural significance.
- An individual or group that has made a significant positive impact on the city, state or country. This impact must be well documented and broadly acknowledged within the community and by the City of Portsmouth.
- An individual or group donating to the City of Portsmouth and/or the use of land or facilities for community purposes.

# Portsmouth Application Process



- A completed application would be submitted to the Director of Planning, accompanied by a written justification, family/estate consent form (if applicable) and application fee (to be determined by City Council).
- The written justification should show how the proposed designation is consistent with the criteria stated in the policy. When honoring a person or persons, the application will describe the contributions to the City.
- Written documentation and approval by family/estate agent of individual to be honored (if available/possible) is required as part of the proposal.



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# Portsmouth Costs

- If approved by City Council, the requestor shall pay all costs associated with the design, fabrication, and installation of the signs.

The cost to cover future maintenance costs that the City is expected to incur over the life of the honorary designation.

- Signs will not be installed until all payments received.

# Portsmouth Application Process (con't)

- Application reviewed by Planning Department staff for adherence to criteria, then voted on by staff committee made up city staff appointed by the City Manager.
- Committee provides recommendation to City Council.
- City Council may approve, reject, or propose a different designation.
- City Council has sole authority to approve honorary street designation requests. The approval of the request shall be permanent, unless otherwise directed by the City Council.

# Awareness of Richmond City Street Signage of Honorees



- A synopsis and picture of the Honorees has been captured on the City Council webpage.
- The goal is to associate this Honoree summary with a QR code linking it at the location of the street sign. The QR code project has not been funded at this time. <https://www.rva.gov/richmond-city-council/honorary-street-name-designations>
- This webpage can also be used as an online resource or as guidance for a walking tour and historical reference to the Council webpage.

# Alternative methods to recognize individuals with significant contributions to the city

- Post a summary on the Council website of resident accomplishments with an acknowledgement of significant cultural, historical, or humanitarian impact to the community.
- Council could sponsor an annual citywide recognition event or district wide event to honor deserving residents.
- Compile annually a running list of names for acknowledgement of deserving residents.

# Proposed Next Steps

- Governmental Operations Standing Committee identify next steps and desired guidelines to propose to the Council body.
- Establish a timeline and next report.
  - Develop policies which affords the City the opportunity to recognize important individuals or groups within the community.
  - Establish an appropriate structure of governance related to the enactment of official street name changes and honorary street dedications.
  - Develop suitable criteria for the evaluation of honorary street dedication proposals as well as street name changes based on best practices; and
  - Explore the role of the History and Culture Commission in both the street renaming and honorary street naming processes.

**ANY  
QUESTIONS?**



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