

INTRODUCED: June 8, 2020

A RESOLUTION No. 2020-R043

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be developed a process for renaming the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge.

Patrons – Ms. Lynch, Ms. Robertson, Mr. Jones, Ms. Larson, Mr. Addison, Vice President Hilbert and President Newbille

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JUN 22 2020 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, the bridge which carries U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 301 across the James River, extending from South Belvidere Street to Cowardin Avenue, was built in 1933 and was originally known as the James River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, the James River Bridge was dedicated and named the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge in 1934; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge (the “Bridge”) was completely rebuilt in 1985 and later modified by the installation of the pedestrian walkway underneath that leads to Belle Isle; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JUN 22 2020 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

name for the Bridge which reflects contemporary culture and uses; and

WHEREAS, the Council is in favor of renaming the Bridge and hereby endorses a fair, clear, and transparent process that encourages and promotes community input according to existing laws, policies, and procedures of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE,

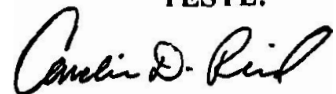
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council requests that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be developed a process for renaming the Bridge that, at a minimum:

1. With the assistance of the History and Culture Commission, involves one or more community input sessions, which incorporate social distancing protocols, for the solicitation of proposals for a new name for the Bridge, and the submission of a report to the Mayor and the Council on such sessions by no later than July 31, 2020.
2. Requires that any proposed name for the Bridge adhere to sections 8-7 through 8-10 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended.
3. Requests that the History and Culture Commission provide the Mayor and the Council with a list of potential new names for the Bridge.
4. Preserves the prerogative of the Council to review and approve any new name for the bridge as provided for in section 8-8 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:



Carolin D. Reed
City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell C. Brown, III, Interim Richmond City Attorney
Richmond Office of the City Attorney

THROUGH Lawrence R. Anderson
Council Chief of Staff

RECEIVED

By Elyse Steele at 3:52 pm, May 29, 2020

FROM William E. Echelberger, Jr, Council Budget Analyst

COPY Stephanie A. Lynch, 5th District Representative
Tabrica C. Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney
Meghan K. Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Amy E. Robins, 5th District Liaison

DATE May 29, 2020

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Rename the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Stephanie A. Lynch, 5th District
Representative

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing, and Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The Patron requests a resolution to create a process for renaming the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge:

- The History & Culture Commission will conduct one or more community input sessions via in-person, digital, or survey. Social distancing should be followed.
- The purpose of these community input sessions is to receive proposals from the public for a new name for the bridge.
- Any proposed name must adhere to the policies and criteria for the naming of city facilities that are set out in §8-7 to §8-9 of the Richmond City Code.
- History & Culture Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and Richmond City Council.

After receipt of the required report, City Council may, as provided for in §8-8 of the Richmond City Code, at its sole discretion, approve or disapprove by resolution any recommendation for renaming the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge.

BACKGROUND

Summary:

- The Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge carries U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 301 across the James River, and runs from South Belvidere Street to Cowardin Avenue.
 - In February 1933, the Richmond Bridge Corporation received a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to build a bridge from downtown to south side as well as the Fifth and Marshall Street viaducts.
 - The city acquired the original bridge from the Richmond Bridge Corp in 1933.
 - The bridge was originally referred to as the James River Bridge
 - The bridge was dedicated on November 4, 1934 as the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge.
 - The bridge is often referred to as the Belvidere Bridge.
 - In 1985, the bridge was completely rebuilt. The new bridge, which was dedicated on November 28, 1988, includes a pedestrian walkway under the bridge connecting to Belle Isle.
- The patron believes that a new name for the bridge will better serve the City of Richmond in the 21st Century.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact

The proposed ordinance has no fiscal impact.

Attachment/s Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 10.5.2012 /rs