

Portland City Council Agenda
Written Testimony - Item 932

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 932	Xavier D. Stickler, Vice President, Downtown Neighborhood Association	Support		Yes	10/29/24 5:01 PM



October 17th, 2024

To Portland City Council,

The Downtown Neighborhood Association, which represents nearly 800 Portlanders who work, go to school, own a business, or reside in Portland's downtown, calls upon the Portland City Council to authorize the formal process of renaming SW Jackson St. to SW Rose Hill St.

Presently named for 7th US President Andrew Jackson, Jackson Street in the downtown travels east from SW Park Avenue to 5th Avenue—passing Portland State University's Native American Student & Community Center (NASCC). It is unacceptable and improper for our city's cornerstone space for Native Americans to be on a street the name for which honors a man who was instrumental in perpetrating systemic violence against this marginalized community.

In light of this, faculty from PSU's Indigenous Studies Program approached the City with the proposal to rename Jackson St. A process was then initiated by the program to find a suitable individual to be honored in a replacement name. Rose Hill, an indigenous activist and former faculty member of PSU who was instrumental in the founding of the NASCC, was selected. On September 24th, the Board of the DNA voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

"With the context of the participation of President Andrew Jackson in the historic genocide of Indigenous peoples, an understanding that Portland's street names are meant to honor those with a positive influence on our city, and an acknowledgment of Rose Hill's passionate contributions to the Native students at PSU, the DNA endorses the renaming of SW Jackson St. in the downtown to SW Rose Hill St."

This segment of public right-of-way is only 3 blocks long, and a renaming will affect few properties, but will result in a tremendously positive symbolic impact to the downtown area, the PSU community, and our indigenous neighbors. We urge City Council to formally authorize the renaming process of Jackson St, and prioritize allowing City staff to proceed with reviewing and moving forward the documentation necessary to complete this task.

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Vice President, Downtown Neighborhood Association