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37682

Resolution

Declare support to rename SW Jackson Street to SW Rose Hill Street and approve the Public Works Deputy City Administrator to assign staff and resources to process the application

Adopted

WHEREAS, the Portland metro region's homelands include the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, Watlala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapuya, and many other Indigenous nations of the Columbia River. This region is home to one of the largest urban Native American populations in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, Portland State University (PSU) has been an integral part of downtown Portland since the 1950s and was recently ranked one of the top 10 college locations in the United States and Oregon by school ranking and review website Niche and U.S. News and World Report;

WHEREAS, PSU is celebrated as Oregon's most diverse university yet still aspires to attract and retain more students of color, especially in the STEM fields, with a plan to make Indigenous students central in their outreach efforts;

WHEREAS, PSU's Indigenous programs and partnerships lead to Indigenous PSU students and the surrounding community sharing the importance of feeling a sense of community and feeling represented on campus in supporting their personal and academic success; and

WHEREAS, PSU's Native American Student & Community Center, which opened in 2003, is a gathering space to celebrate and empower student success through culturally relevant programming, academic support, and inter-generational community engagement to preserve and perpetuate inter-tribal connection for Native American/Alaskan Native/Pacific Islander students and our allies through tradition, ceremony, and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, PSU's Native American Student & Community Center is located on SW Jackson Street, a street named after former United States President Andrew Jackson who signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 that resulted in the removal of over 50,000 Native American people from their land east of the Mississippi River; and

Introduced by

[Commissioner Mingus Mapps](#)

Contact

Cynthia Castro
Deputy Chief of Staff

✉ Cynthia.Castro@portlandoregon.gov

Requested Agenda Type

Time Certain

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date
October 30, 2024
Requested Start Time
10:15 am
Time Requested
30 minutes

WHEREAS, PSU and the surrounding community, since the opening of the center in October of 2003, began educating people about the current street name and thus determined to replace the street name Jackson following Indigenous and traditional protocols; and

WHEREAS, a SW Jackson Street Renaming Committee was formed to lead a culturally informed community engagement process to identify a new name for SW Jackson Street that honors an Indigenous leader, place, or living thing who is significant to the region and the university campus community; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new name for SW Jackson Street is SW Rose Hill Street, from SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue (refer to Exhibit A), after Indigenous community leader Rose Hill; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill is a Cultural Keeper and former Native American Student & Community Center Student Coordinator who serves as a Cultural Advisor at the Native American Rehabilitation Association in Portland; and

WHEREAS, countless students, and community members have been positively impacted by Rose Hill's mentorship, advocacy, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has worked with community members to rename city streets after prominent local and national figures in the past and in most, if not all cases, exceptions to City Code requirements were made; and

WHEREAS, the Portland Bureau of Transportation put a temporary pause on processing street renaming applications due to uncertainty about capacity, this proposed application will be processed as an exception due to the unique and significant circumstances, including the short three block section within the PSU campus and the robust outreach by PSU that has already taken place; and

WHEREAS, an application shall be submitted to the City of Portland with the proposal to rename SW Jackson Street, from SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue, to SW Rose Hill Street; and

WHEREAS, Rose Hill is still alive, therefore, Portland City Code 17.93.010 A.3. which requires that the person the street is named after must be deceased for at least five years must be waived in accordance with City Code; and

WHEREAS, the proposed street renaming only encompasses SW Jackson Street between SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue and not the entire length of SW Jackson Street within Portland city limits. Therefore, an exception to Portland City Code 17.93.020 (C) will be pursued; and

WHEREAS, the City will consider whether an exception can be made to the Portland City Code requirement that for a period of five years after the street renaming, the existing street name and the new street name must be posted together. The City must balance the needs of abutting property owners and emergency services with the very real impact this has on the Indigenous community; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Neighborhood Association has expressed their support for renaming SW Jackson Street to SW Rose Hill Street and is committed to assisting with any necessary additional community engagement; and

WHEREAS, SW Jackson Street, between SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue, is located on PSU's campus and the university is the primary property owner for buildings abutting the street. Outreach to other abutting property owners about the proposed street renaming has been initiated and will continue; and

WHEREAS, the formal language used by the U.S. government in "Whereas" statements, which are commonly found in treaties, resolutions, and official documents, have historically created a sense of authority while simultaneously obscuring the painful realities of broken promises, historical injustices, and the silencing of Indigenous voices; and

WHEREAS, this resolution offers the City of Portland and PSU a way forward that includes recognition, accountability, and a more profound, honest engagement with Indigenous experiences and perspectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED upon receipt of a completed application under Portland City Code to rename SW Jackson Street, from SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue, to SW Rose Hill Street, the City's Public Works Deputy City Administrator shall assign the necessary Public Works staff and financial resources to process the application.

Exhibits and Attachments

 [Exhibit A](#) 100.86 KB

Impact Statement

Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information

The purpose of this legislation is to declare the City of Portland's support to rename SW Jackson Street, between SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue, to SW Rose Hill Street in accordance with Portland City Code. These three city blocks are located within Portland State University's (PSU) campus boundary in the Central City.

PSU representatives approached Commissioner Mapps and the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) about renaming SW Jackson Street which abuts the university's Native American Student & Community Center (NASCC). SW Jackson Street is named after former U.S. President Andrew Jackson who signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 that resulted in the removal of over 50,000 Native American people from their land east of the Mississippi River.

Since the NASCC opened in 2003, PSU and the surrounding community have been educating people about the current street name and thus determined

to replace the street name Jackson following Indigenous and traditional protocols.

A SW Jackson Street Renaming Committee was formed to lead a culturally informed community engagement process to identify a new name for SW Jackson Street that honors an Indigenous leader, place or living thing who is significant to the region and the university campus community.

The proposed new name for SW Jackson Street is SW Rose Hill Street after Indigenous community leader Rose Hill. Rose Hill is a Cultural Keeper and former NASCC Student Coordinator who serves as a Cultural Advisor at the Native American Rehabilitation Association in Portland.

Renaming SW Jackson Street to SW Rose Hill Street will help cultivate a sense of belonging and a feeling of representation for Indigenous PSU students and the surrounding community, support Indigenous PSU students' academic and personal success, and help attract more Indigenous students and faculty to the university.

PBOT put a temporary pause on processing street renaming applications due to uncertainty about capacity constraints. This legislation directs PBOT, now under the City's Public Works Service Area, to make an exception and process the application that will be submitted proposing to rename SW Jackson Street, from SW 5th Avenue to SW Park Avenue (refer to Exhibit A), SW Rose Hill Street due to the unique and significant circumstances, including the short three block section within the PSU campus and the decades long outreach that has already taken place.

The City of Portland has worked with community members to rename city streets after prominent local and national figures in the past and in most, if not all cases, exceptions to City Code requirements were made – that will also be the case for this proposal.

Financial and Budgetary Impacts

This resolution does not have direct financial impact to the City's budget, however, it will result in City staff time to process the street renaming application. New signage and materials associated with posting the new signage will also need to be purchased in the future.

Economic and Real Estate Development Impacts

This legislation does not have an impact on development projects or housing production. SW Jackson Street, between SW 5th Avenue and SW Park Avenue, is located entirely within Portland State University's campus boundary. PSU is the primary owner for properties abutting SW Jackson Street on these three city blocks. There are a handful of property owners on SW Jackson Street separate from PSU who the project team has engaged.

Community Impacts and Community Involvement

Portland State University's Native American Student & Community Center (NASCC) which opened in 2003, is a gathering space to celebrate and empower student success through culturally relevant programming, academic support, and inter-generational community engagement to preserve and perpetuate inter-tribal connection for Native American/Alaskan Native/Pacific Islander students and allies through tradition, ceremony, and storytelling.

PSU's NASCC is located on SW Jackson Street, a street named after former United States President Andrew Jackson who signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830 that resulted in the removal of over 50,000 Native American people from their land east of the Mississippi River.

Since the NASCC opened in 2003, PSU and the surrounding community began educating people about the current street name and thus determined to replace the street name Jackson following Indigenous and traditional protocols.

A SW Jackson Street Renaming Committee was formed to lead a culturally informed community engagement process to identify a new name for SW Jackson Street that honors an Indigenous leader, place or living thing who is significant to the region and the university campus community.

The proposed new name for SW Jackson Street is SW Rose Hill Street after Indigenous community leader Rose Hill. Rose Hill is a Cultural Keeper and former NASCC Student Coordinator who serves as a Cultural Advisor at the Native American Rehabilitation Association in Portland.

Renaming SW Jackson Street to SW Rose Hill Street will enhance PSU's efforts to ensure Indigenous PSU students and the surrounding community share the importance of feeling a sense of community and feeling represented on campus. This supports Indigenous students' personal and academic success. PSU is Oregon's most diverse university, but aspires to attract and retain more students of color with an emphasis on outreach to Indigenous students.

Commissioner Mapps' Office reached out to the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) about the proposed street renaming. The DNA expressed their support and desire to help with community outreach.

The three city blocks of SW Jackson Street that are the focus of this proposed street renaming are located within PSU's campus boundary. PSU is the primary owner of property abutting SW Jackson Street. Outreach to impacted property owners beyond PSU has been initiated and will continue as this process progresses.

Commissioner Mapps' Office also notified TriMet as they have a bus stop that would be impacted by the street renaming.

Commissioner Mapps' Office partnered with PSU, PBOT, the City's Public Works Deputy City Administrator, and the City Attorney's Office on the

drafting of this resolution. The City's former Tribal Relations Manager also contributed to the early engagement and planning efforts.

100% Renewable Goal

N/A

Financial and Budget Analysis

No fiscal impact.

Document History

Item 932 Time Certain in [October 30-31, 2024 Council Agenda](https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2024/10/30)
(<https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2024/10/30>)

City Council

Adopted

Aye (5):

Mingus Mapps, Carmen Rubio, Dan Ryan, Rene Gonzalez, Ted Wheeler