

Williams, Kit

From: Wiederkehr, Mike
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2022 11:20 AM
To: Williams, Kit
Cc: Jordan, Lioneld
Subject: Renaming Archibald Yell Blvd

Dear City Attorney Williams,

I am writing to respectfully request that you draft a proposed amendment to agenda item "C.7 2022-0721 Rename Archibald Yell Boulevard to Nelson Hackett Boulevard", for City Council consideration at the September 6th meeting.

I am not a historian, and I do not offer this proposed amendment to disrespect history, Mr. Archibald Yell, Mr. Nelson Hackett, or the people of Fayetteville, but rather to offer due consideration for the father and daughter who organized the first known publicly funded school in the State of Arkansas – Ebeneazor & Clara Henderson.

The Henderson School, as it came to be known, was conceived in 1866 and opened in 1868 as the first public school in the state, resulting in Fayetteville subsequently being identified as School District No. 1 by the State of Arkansas. The school was built near the intersection of North Olive Avenue and Sutton Street, and exists still today as a private residence. It was organized to teach the sons and daughters of African American residents of Fayetteville, most of whom were recently emancipated.

It strikes me, that Archibald Yell Blvd. not only serves as a form of gateway to our downtown, this section of street transitions from South School Avenue to South College Avenue, and what more logical and appropriate means of joining those two academically named streets than for the Hendersons and the Henderson School to be the means of connection.

This being said, there may be many more such deserving entities worthy of Council's naming consideration, including the existing historical figure for whom the street is current named. I do not know when the street was originally constructed or how it came to be named as it currently is and would find such background information valuable. It may be in our best interest to give further research, consideration, and opportunity due to Fayetteville's notable and historical figures.

I respectfully request you include this email with any communication you provide to Council on this agenda item.

Sincerely,
Mike Wiederkehr