



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact
Karen Acar Thayer, APR
703-255-6330 | Office
571-263-4035 | Cell

Feb. 8, 2022

Town Council Approves Street Name Change

At its regular meeting last night, the Vienna Town Council unanimously approved a motion to rename Wade Hampton Drive to Liberty Lane. The vote came after a public hearing at which nearly one dozen residents voiced their support for changing the street name.

The short street located off Maple Avenue had been known as Lewis Street, SW until 1962 when it was renamed for former slaveholder and Confederate general Wade Hampton in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the American Civil War. The street is roughly the location of where Hampton and his cavalry unit of about 600 men and horses came into Vienna at the end of December 1862 under the direction of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart.

“I think we all know what was happening in the 1960s,” said Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert referring to overt racism, particularly in southern states, during the Civil Rights Movement. “I like the name Liberty Lane because I think that’s now what our Town is all about. We are all created equal, and we should all have equal liberties, and the name Liberty Lane puts the emphasis on it.”

Liberty Lane was one of five options an ad hoc committee of residents and historians put forth for consideration. The committee was formed in June 2020 after resident Dee Dee Carter proposed the name change.

The Town Council also voted to provide \$500 for each of the four households on that street to cover personal expenses related to the name change such as driver’s license renewals and changing addresses on deeds and other property records. The Council directed that that the street name be changed by Independence Day, July 4, 2022.

Background information and meeting video, including public comments and Council comments, are posted on the Town Clerk’s calendar on the Town website: <https://vienna-va.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

###