

Dear Mayor Foy, Town Council Members, and Manager Horton,

I am very opposed to the proposed name change to Airport Road. I feel that it is an imposition on me and on my family business. I have lived on Airport Road for 64 years and 5 months. I was born at 701 Airport Road, I was raised at 701 Airport Road, have raised my family on other property I own down Airport Road, and run two business on Airport Road. I also have rental property on Airport Road. Our family business has been located on Airport Road since my father opened it in 1952. During the 54 years of the business we have served customers from all over Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough, the Triangle and the country, as well as a number of customers from other countries. My pre-owned car sales business, Bruce Johnson's Auto Finders, is also located on Airport Road

This proposed name change is more than a minor imposition. The economy has been very bad the last few years and business has been slowed. The proposal to change the name involves expenses that are not minor to a small business owner. It has been stated repeatedly by those wishing for a name change that it only takes a few minutes to make a change of address—obviously not a statement made by a landowner or business owner. There are many legal documents that will incur fees and time to take care of if this proposal is approved. There is also the confusion for those who move in and out of the area looking for my businesses.

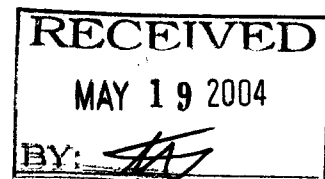
The history of Airport Road also remains a factor in this decision. It seems to be very easy for those new to Chapel Hill to move forward and work hard to erase our history. There are few people still in this town who have lived through all the changes Chapel Hill has faced over the last 60+ years—I am one of those few! This is one proposed change that seeks to erase history and impact the future of Chapel Hill. The airports future is in limbo and it appears that it will be with us for a bit longer—let's hold onto the history of Chapel Hill and treat ALL taxpaying citizens with an equal ear and voice in decision-making.

Dr. King's legacy lives on in the actions and deeds of people, *not* through the naming of a street. Honoring someone is about keeping his or her spirit alive, a living legacy, not an inanimate one. I believe that is what any honorable person would desire. And Dr. King was indeed an honorable person!

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Johnson
1187 Airport Road
Chapel Hill



C: M&C