

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Emily Dickens  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 12:03 PM  
**To:** Sally Greene (sally@ibiblio.org); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk (dverkerk@nc.rr.com); Ed Harrison; Edith Wiggins; Jim Ward; Mark Kleinschmidt; Kevin Foy; Toni Pendergraph (E-mail); Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton (E-mail); Carol Abernethy; Flo Miller (E-mail); Joyce Smith (E-mail); Ralph Karpinos (E-mail); Sonna Loewenthal (E-mail)  
**Subject:** FW: Airport Road Response

Emily M. Dickens, Esq.  
Mayoral Aide  
Town of Chapel Hill  
919-968-2888 ext. 225

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Suzanne Haff [mailto:shaff@nc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 4:42 PM  
**To:** Kevin Foy  
**Subject:** Fw: Airport Road Response

Dear Mayor Foy,  
I received the postcard requesting a response to the renaming of Airport Road and these are my thoughts for what they are worth.

I do not oppose renaming Airport Road.  
But...  
Airport Road is also Route 86, as you know.

The East - West route that seems similar in statue is Route 54.  
As far as I know it does not have another name.

I therefore suggest that Route 54 might be a more logical choice and not require a "renaming" since it has only a number, not a name.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Haff  
107 Hunter Hill Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

5/10/2004

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 2:53 PM  
**To:** 'djlofland@yahoo.com'  
**Cc:** George Small; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: regarding renaming of Airport Rd

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Donny Lofland [mailto:djlofland@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 08, 2004 9:40 AM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** regarding renaming of Airport Rd

Hello,

I appreciate to desire to honor a great and positively influential individual in our country's history; but, I find the renaming of roads to be disruptive to existing residents, visitors, and the business community. I would also question whether people would confuse an MLK Jr. Blvd in Chapel Hill with MLK Jr. located nearby in Durham. (For example, I as a local resident am forever confusing the Chapel Hill Rd with Old Chapel Hill Rd and it seems like there is another local rd with Chapel Hill in the name --- very confusing). I am not passionate in my opinion and will adapt no matter what, but I would prefer that we avoid road naming confusion whenever possible.

If the Town Council absolutely wants to rename Airport Rd and is set on honoring influence black leaders (which is fine), then would you consider another name that might lead to less confusion. For example:

W.E.B. DuBios - <http://www.duboislc.org/html/DuBoisBio.html>  
Booker T Washington - <http://www.ushistory.net/toc/washington.html>

As an aside, if you go with a less known leader, you might inspire more individuals to brush up on their history ... everyone knows of MLK Jr., but few people outside of students taking American history probably have knowledge of others.

Just my opinion ... I appreciate your time,  
Donny Lofland

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5/10/2004

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 2:57 PM  
**To:** 'David Berry'  
**Cc:** George Small; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: renaming Airport Rd

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** David Berry [mailto:mdberry@conninc.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 2:14 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** renaming Airport Rd

Mr. Mayor:  
Town Council:

Since I do own property on Airport Rd. Chapel Hill.  
I like the current name.Re-name something else after ML King.  
Do not change the name of Airport Rd. Leave it alone.

Change something else.

David M Berry

5/10/2004

**~~David and Linda Heilig~~  
100 Harrison Court  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
(919) 942-3666**

May 5, 2004

Town of Chapel Hill  
306 N. Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for the postcard soliciting input on renaming Airport Road to MLK, Jr., Blvd.

With all due respect to Dr. King, I think this is a situation that will expend needless resources, create animosity, and waste money. Dr. King's memory is certainly guaranteed. It should be and it is. To keep wanting more to memorialize him sets up a situation where those opposed are labeled as racist.

I keep thinking about Ms. Wiggins' comments in Council meeting where she said she wanted Airport Road (as opposed to other suggestions) because "it wasn't the easiest thing to do, it would take some sacrifice". What exactly are we looking for here?

If the feeling is that more recognition for Dr. King is needed, look for something appropriate (building, park, area at Carolina North, etc.) that will not expend needless resources, create animosity, and waste money.

Thanks again for your postcard.

Sincerely,

  
David Heilig

## **Joyce Smith**

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 2:55 PM  
**To:** 'Day McLaughlin'  
**Cc:** George Small; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment re renaming Airport Road

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Day McLaughlin [mailto:dmclaughlin@chccs.k12.nc.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 8:51 AM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:**

Re renaming Airport Road:

I have no problem with naming a street after Dr. King.

I do not think renaming Airport Road after him makes sense.

- The costs to the businesses on Airport Road could be high.
- There would be confusion for out of town people trying to find the businesses or residents.
- And, the airport is not necessarily gone.

Thank you for your time.

Day McLaughlin

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 5:45 PM  
**To:** 'jlrhj'  
**Cc:** George Small; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Rename Airport Road?

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** jlrhj [mailto:jlrhj@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2004 3:52 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Rename Airport Road?

Chapel Hill has long and loudly proclaimed and prided itself on its uniqueness, village atmosphere and openness to ideas, both old and new. The airport road has been with us as Airport Road for as long as I have been here and longer than that for sure. Its name is both a tradition and unique to our town. It is non referential to anything other than itself and its town. Changing its name to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard does not honor Mr. King (we already have a street named after him anyway) but rather dishonors the traditions of our town, we would no longer be unique, but just another town with just another street named after MLK Jr. Sincerely, Barry and Jennifer Jaeger

5/11/2004

## **Joyce Smith**

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2004 5:13 PM  
**To:** 'egriffin@cimginc.com'  
**Cc:** George Small; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Airport Road

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Erika Griffin [mailto:egriffin@cimginc.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2004 2:43 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Airport Road

Please do NOT rename Airport Road. It places an undue financial burden on small businesses on Airport Road due to an address change, and a ridiculous expense for our town to change signage. In addition, Chapel Hill is a unique and original place to live. WHY on EARTH would we rename the road to something so common and overdone!!!

Erika Griffin  
Mortgage Banker  
Corporate Investors Mortgage Group  
1526 E. Franklin Street, Suite 201  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
919-929-6116 phone  
919-929-6146 fax  
egriffin@cimginc.com  
www.cimginc.com

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2004 5:12 PM  
**To:** 'Mike Bryan & Tara Nutley'  
**Cc:** George Small; Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Proposal to Rename Airport Road

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mike Bryan & Tara Nutley [mailto:tmnutan@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2004 3:48 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Proposal to Rename Airport Road

My "vote" is not to rename Airport Road.

Further, I'm amazed that this issue has risen to a level of importance meriting postcard public meeting announcements sent to residents. That the discussion has progressed this far and been given such priority is embarrassing to the Town. Where were the meeting announcements for the new building/zoning code document, the Carolina North plans, the free transit plan, or any of the numerous other issues the town has been working on that actually have impact on the day-to-day lives of residents?

There are countless Boulevards, Avenues, Roads, etc. all over the country named after him already- what does Chapel Hill add to his legacy by joining the oversaturation? Only an uninformed or insensitive person would deny Dr. King's importance in American history, but renaming Airport Road after him is unnecessary, costly, and, silly.

Michael Bryan

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5/10/2004

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 1:02 PM  
**To:** 'Diane McArthur'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: renaming of Airport Road

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Diane McArthur [mailto:dianemcarthur@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 11:28 AM  
**To:** Manager  
**Cc:** Manager  
**Subject:** renaming of Airport Road

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed renaming of Airport Road. I am absolutely supportive of honoring Dr. King, however, the renaming of Airport Road is not the way to do it. Other possibilities include a park, a building, a library wing, or a NEW Road if you are bent on the honor being a roadway. These alternatives pose no additional cost to the town or citizens and there is no inconvenience to or imposition on residents and business owners.

There is no economic benefit in renaming this road. On the contrary, in addition to expense incurred by the town, there will be significant costs to businesses in changing signage, letterhead, business cards and the time involved in notifying hundreds of vendors and clients PER BUSINESS. Then there is the very real possibility of loss of business because customers can't find the new address on their current map.

The name Airport Road carries with it a history that is important to the town and its residents. By changing the name you are sending the message that this history is either A) unimportant and meaningless or B) that another history is more important. EACH HISTORY MATTERS. Forcing a name change on an unwilling citizenry will create anger and resentment--the opposite of the desired outcome. This is a lose/lose proposition. You have the opportunity to honor both histories by choosing another way to memorialize Dr. King.

At a time when we are facing rising property taxes (probably for 2 consecutive years) recycling fees, stormwater management fees, economic crisis downtown, and difficult budget decisions why in the world would you choose to impose additional financial burdens on taxpayers, both private citizens and businesses?? The cost to the town for changing the signage would come close to paying for health insurance for those council members in need of it.

Why is there such a rush to make this decision? There needs to be much more discussion between the town and residents to determine what all citizens would like to do to honor Dr. King. You have received many suggestions worthy of further consideration.

5/10/2004

Finally, you underestimate the difficulty this change of address will cause. I urge each of you to talk with a business owner and find out what he/she faces. Talk with residents along this corridor. LISTEN to what we have to say. You were elected to represent all of us--not a select few. Each of you as an obligation to hear what we are saying and weigh it carefully. Your decisions must be based on what is best for the whole community.

Sincerely

Diane McArthur  
501 Colony Woods Drive  
Chapel Hill  
NC 27517

929-2228 home phone

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 1:04 PM  
**To:** 'Joe Patterson'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Proposal to rename Airport Road

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Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joe Patterson [mailto:joepatterson@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 12:34 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Cc:** editor@nando.com  
**Subject:** Proposal to rename Airport Road

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

I have nothing but the greatest respect for Dr. King. I feel, however, that renaming Airport Road in his honor is not the appropriate way to honor his memory. I think naming the new high school after him would be far more in keeping with his legacy and something he would prefer, if given the choice.

We should try to keep what remains of the old Chapel Hill. There is so little left.

Please find some other way of recognizing this great American.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Patterson

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 1:05 PM  
**To:** 'Jon Haebig'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Rename Airport Road

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jon Haebig [mailto:jhaebig@nc.rr.com] .  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2004 8:40 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Rename Airport Road

Dear Mayor and Council,  
We both favor renaming Airport Road Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Signed,  
Jon E. Haebig  
Miriam P. Haebig  
(103 Highland Drive, Chapel Hill )

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 1:05 PM  
**To:** 'Bill Wadlin'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Airport Road

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bill Wadlin [mailto:bwadlin@nc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2004 8:12 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Airport Road

I am IN FAVOR of your  
proposal to change the name of Airport Road to ML King Blvd.

Bill Wadlin

5/10/2004

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 1:06 PM  
**To:** 'Carole Wadlin'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Name change for Airport Road

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Carole Wadlin [mailto:cwadlin@nc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2004 8:14 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Name change for Airport Road

Dear Town Council,

I support the proposal to change the name of Airport Road to  
Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

Carole Wadlin

5/10/2004

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 5:25 PM  
**To:** 'Dana Deason'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: renaming of Airport Road

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dana Deason [mailto:madeline46unc@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 2:51 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** renaming of Airport Road

Dear Mayor Foy and Members of the Town Council,

I recently received a card in the mail inviting me to a meeting that is to be held on May 24, 2004, to discuss the potential name change of Airport Road. I cannot attend the meeting as I have to be out of town on that date, but I wanted to send you my thoughts on this matter anyway. I have lived in Chapel Hill for ten years now and the community is very important to me. I feel that I must express my dislike for the proposal to rename Airport Road.

Airport Road is one of the main roads through town, and as such, is of great importance to both residents of the town and those persons commuting to and from work each day. I have lived on Airport Road for the past five years and have a keen appreciation of its significance. I feel that to change the name of the road is to ignore its historical importance to the town. For as long as most residents can remember, the road has been called Airport Road. Changing the name at this late date would have no benefit to the town that I can see, and in fact, would create a lot of unnecessary and unwanted complications for those of us who reside on Airport Road.

For practical reasons, I do not want the name of Airport Road changed. I would have to change the address on all of my banking and personal correspondence, and this would be a huge inconvenience and expense to have new documents issued. I cannot afford to make such a change at this time. I feel that the town could better honor Dr. King by creating a park or some other memorial to his memory where everyone could benefit. Dr. King is indeed worthy of recognition, but it can be better done in some other way than by renaming Airport Road.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments, and for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

5/10/2004

Dana Deason  
600 Airport Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

5/10/2004

## Joyce Smith

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**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 5:24 PM  
**To:** 'Tom Cabarga'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Renaming Airport Road

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*Carol Abernethy  
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tom Cabarga [mailto:TCabarga@nc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2004 3:04 PM  
**To:** Town Council  
**Subject:** Renaming Airport Road

This proposal is coming 25 to 30 years too late, and is so belated that it's embarrassing: it suggests that Chapel Hill slept through the Civil Rights movement and has just woken up to the fact that events of great significance took place a generation ago!

I gather that, as Dr. King's contemporaries and comrades in the civil rights movement are nearing the end of their lives, or have passed on, there is concern among "old line" black leaders that the younger generation doesn't appreciate and understand their historic struggle. That's human nature, and changing a street name isn't going to address the problem or encourage young people to join the NAACP.

Dr. King has received just about every honor his nation can bestow on one of its heroes. Are there no local leaders from that era who deserve recognition and have not yet received their due? Can't we at least honor someone from North Carolina?

The nation's cities and towns are full of "MLKJRBLVDs" and there is no point to adding another one at this late date. If we can't find a local civil rights leader to honor, I say forget it!

5/10/2004

**Joyce Smith**

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**From:** Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2004 5:42 PM  
**To:** Mayor pro tem Edith Wiggins ; Council Member Bill Strom ; Council Member Cam Hill; Council Member Dorothy Verkerk ; Council Member Ed Harrison ; Council Member Jim Ward ; Council Member Jim Ward (W) ; Council Member Mark Kleinschmidt ; Council Member Sally Greene ; Mayor Kevin C. Foy (TCH)  
**Cc:** Sonna Loewenthal ; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Carol Abernethy; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Owen Franklin; Ralph Karpinos  
**Subject:** FW: My Thoughts on Renaming Airport Road

-----Original Message-----

**From:** That Coffee Place [mailto:thatcoffeeplace@nc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2004 5:31 PM  
**To:** Manager  
**Subject:** My Thoughts on Renaming Airport Road

Please forward this e-mail to the mayor and all members of the town council.

First and foremost, I think this gesture by the town (and even more surprisingly other local civic organizations) is tokenism, at its worst. It does little, or nothing to honor the memory, or dream, of a great American. In fact, I think it does more to *diminish* the memory and *extinguish* the dream of Dr. King.

After 36 years, I would have hoped that this administration would have come up with something more fitting. Dr. King's dream was not to have streets named after him, but rather to create an America (and world) where all men are treated equally and have equal opportunities to excel. In the last 36 years, many middle-class (and this is a race-neutral term) have renamed obscure (and occasionally non-obscure) streets to honor Dr. King. Once done, they pat themselves on the back, but for what? For having done next to nothing? I would expect and demand the town of Chapel Hill to do more.

If you really want to honor his memory, why not name the new high school after Dr. King, and include a special tutorial that would be mandatory for all high school students in the CHCSS on Dr. King's life, his dream for all men, and how we can continue to honor the man by furthering his dream. The town might also consider converting one of the many empty store fronts on Franklin Street into a small museum honoring Dr. King and serve as a focal point for future programs and projects.

As for furthering his dream, the town could join forces with UNC to establish a scholarship program for local students. Scholarship awards would be based on ideas/activities that the candidates develop to further Dr. King's dream in their communities. Or, perhaps, the town could work in conjunction with the county and state to establish a fund to help local organizations in projects/activities that further the dream.

All these ideas require time, commitment, and effort. That is the very least we should be willing to give in honoring Dr. King! Shame on the town council,

mayor, and other local civic organizations who think that renaming a street is adequate. Dr. King was an agent for change. He had big dreams and did big things to reshape the landscape of America. Say NO to tokenism that does nothing to deliver the promise of Dr. King's vision. Say YES to doing all that his vision demands.

Robert Owens - Owner  
That Coffee Place  
1225 Airport Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
919-960-6247  
[thatcoffeeplace@nc.rr.com](mailto:thatcoffeeplace@nc.rr.com)

**Joyce Smith**

---

**From:** Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 04, 2004 10:18 AM  
**To:** 'Chapel Hill Wine Company'  
**Cc:** Sally Greene (w); Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; 'Jim Ward'; 'Edith Wiggins'; Toni Pendergraph; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Owen Franklin; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment RE: Regarding the re-naming of Airport Road

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

*Carol Abernethy  
 Exec. Asst., Manager's Office  
 Town of Chapel Hill*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chapel Hill Wine Company [mailto:chapelhillwine@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2004 6:36 PM  
**To:** Town Council; Manager; Joyce Smith; Virginia Knapp  
**Subject:** Regarding the re-naming of Airport Road

To members of the Chapel Hill Town Council:

I am writing to express my opinion regarding the proposed re-naming of Airport Road. Such a move would be detrimental to the community of Chapel Hill and should be opposed for economic as well as practical reasons. I recognize and agree that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deserves to be honored. However, there are philosophical reasons why re-naming Airport Road is not the appropriate way to honor the legacy of this great man. This does not have to be a divisive issue. Rather, the Town Council should grasp this opportunity to unite the community and truly promote the vision that was put forth by Dr. King.

On a purely economic basis, the argument against re-naming Airport Road is twofold. First, there are "real" economic costs involved, both to the city as well as the community. The city would incur the expense of replacing signs along the corridor of Route 86 now called Airport Road. Given the consistent challenges faced by the city to provide services to its citizens, how can we justify spending funds to fix what is not broken? Additionally, the business community, as well as citizens, would face costs associated with redoing business cards, letterhead and signs. More importantly, there would be far-reaching "unseen" economic costs as a result of a name change. An address is not simply a name on a piece of paper. It is part of a business's identity. What happens when a prospective customer attempts to locate a business on a map, but is unable to because the road they are looking for did not exist when the map was printed? Many customers will simply revert to patronizing a more familiar business rather than expend their precious time tracking down the precise location. Additionally, every lost customer has a multiplier effect. You don't just lose that customer, but also the customers who would have been referred by them. And these lost customers result in real economic losses. My average customer spent over \$350 last year. One lost customer is my daughter's childcare for two weeks. A dozen or more lost customers and her college education fund is lost. The economic costs involved with re-naming Airport Road are real and substantial. On

5/5/2004

these grounds alone, the proposal should be rejected.

Yet there are practical reasons to choose not to rename Airport Road. There are plenty of obvious alternatives to re-naming Airport Road. For example, the new park near Southern Village. Or the new wing on the library. Or the \$7 million aquatic center. All these projects are still unnamed. There is no additional economic cost to the city or economic burden to its citizens involved with the naming of one of these projects. If the city should desire to honor a person's legacy, why not do so with one of these projects? There are simply too many practical alternatives to renaming Airport Road.

Additionally, does naming a strip of asphalt and gravel after Dr. King do any justice to his legacy and vision? Dr. King promoted, among other things, equality, tolerance and civic activism. He left an indelible mark on this country. Yet his dream has not been fulfilled. Certainly, labeling a piece of tar in his honor does nothing to help achieve his goals or promote awareness of them. One possible alternative would be to put together a program of education at the new wing of the library. The Town Council should seize this opportunity to not just honor the man, but help fulfill his life's ambitions. Rather than drive an unnecessary wedge in the community, the Council should help it come together and find a fitting memorial to Dr. King. Don't simply name something after him. Effect real change and educate people. This is what Dr. King was about.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Wielar  
Owner

Chapel Hill Wine Company  
1229 Airport Road  
Located at the intersection of  
Airport and Homestead Roads  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
(919) 968-1884

Thanks

Todd Wielar

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chapel Hill Wine Co. | Hillsborough Wine Co. |
| 1229 Airport Road    | 200 South Churton St. |
| (919) 968-1884       | (919) 732-4343        |
| Mon - Sat 10-7       | Tues - Sat 10-7       |

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Service... Food and Wine Pairing... Selection... Price... Education... Community

**Joyce Smith**

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**From:** Chapel Hill Wine Company [chapelhillwine@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2004 6:36 PM  
**To:** Town Council; Manager; Joyce Smith; Virginia Knapp  
**Subject:** Regarding the re-naming of Airport Road

To members of the Chapel Hill Town Council:

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5/4/2004

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Sincerely,

Todd Wielar  
Owner

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(919) 968-1884

Thanks

Todd Wielar

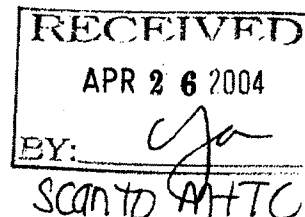
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5/4/2004

(m)

Janice M. Cosby  
603 Airport Road, # 1 K.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



April 24, 2004

Cal Horton, Town Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill  
306 N. Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mr. Horton;

After attending the public hearing on April 19 regarding the proposed renaming of Airport Rd. to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., I ask you to consider the following comments:

1. I question the propriety of Edith Wiggins serving on the committee tasked with considering the alternatives as well as chairing the public forum when she originally presented the petition to the Council as a representative of the NAACP. There is here, at the very least, the appearance of a conflict of interest.
2. Upon reading the 3-page handout before the meeting started, I wondered why the committee had settled on the one choice that it seems would cost the taxpayers the most and cause the most disruption and cost to individuals and businesses located on the road, despite what seemed like very good reasons to seriously consider some of the other choices. After the meeting I came to the conclusion that there was no valid reason other than that the selection of Airport Rd. was a foregone conclusion and the other 'choices' were nothing more than window dressing.
3. Councilman Kleinschmidt said that he did not feel the reasons given for opposition to the Airport Rd. choice were significant. I would add that although I heard much passion from those supporting the choice, I only heard one reason given (by Mr. Battle) for why this was the best choice, that Airport Rd. was in the heart of the 'white' side of Chapel Hill. Making a choice for this because it will hopefully cause division will in no way honor Dr. King, who was, first and foremost, a man of God who desired reconciliation, not division. I realize that this may be only Mr. Battle's opinion or desire, but I fear that, now that he has so openly expressed it, it will be seen as the sole purpose behind the proposal. And, if this is strictly Mr. Battle's view, then what are the reasons for the selection of Airport Rd.?
4. Another reason that Airport Rd. may not be the best choice is that since this road has apparently been Airport Rd. since its infancy, there will be a natural tendency for residents to continue to refer to it as Airport Rd. in spite of any official change (as is so often the case with the James C. Wallace parking deck which is continually referred to as the Rosemary Street parking deck, even in news articles).

5. I find it interesting that someone felt it necessary to approach the people who live on Martin Luther King Street to ask if they were willing for their addresses to be changed and even to persuade them that by demonstrating a willingness to go along they might be given the chance to have some input on what the new name would be, but no one bothered to approach any resident of Airport Rd. to ask how they felt about the possibility of this change. More openness during the work of the naming committee might have provided the council with a better idea of how all of the citizens they represent felt about the proposed change, rather than just one special interest group.
6. I would like the council to seriously consider two options that have been proposed – Estes Rd. and the new north-south corridor that will be built through Carolina North. Either of these satisfies the apparent requirement that this be a major artery through Chapel Hill, the Estes Rd. selection would allow Carrboro to participate, as they have requested, and the new road would involve no disruption to existing businesses and residences and obviously involve much less expense to the taxpayers at a time when every government entity seems to be short of money.

Perhaps this entire process needs to be started over with more widespread citizen input and open discussion of the pros and cons of all the alternatives.

Mr. Horton, I request that you pass these comments on to Mayor Foy and the town council members and add my name to your notification list for this subject (you may use my email address, [jcosby@nc.rr.com](mailto:jcosby@nc.rr.com), for notification).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice M. Cosby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janice M. Cosby

## Sandy Cook

---

**From:** Joyce Smith  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2004 9:23 AM  
**To:** Sandy Cook  
**Subject:** FW: agendas

Please add her to our agenda list.

Joyce A. Smith  
Town Clerk  
Town of Chapel Hill  
919-968-2757  
919-967-8406 Fax

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Carol Martell [mailto:martell@claire.hsrc.unc.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2004 9:20 AM  
**To:** Town Clerk  
**Subject:** agendas

please send agendas to me for town council meetings.

also, will there be opportunity for further citizen input regarding the renaming of airport rd?