

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Michael Dever
Commissioner Robert Chestnut
Commissioner Mike Amyx
Commissioner Sue Hack
Commissioner Boog Highberger

From: Beverly McMurry, 900 Missouri St.
Scott McMurray, 900 Missouri St.
Robert Proctor, 902 Missouri St.
Phil Schlaman, 920 Missouri St.
Donna Schlaman, 920 Missouri St.
Ginny Fuerst-Kinnebrew, 921 Missouri St.
Neil Kinnebrew, 921 Missouri St.
Christopher Long, 922 Missouri St.
Melissa Meyer, 922 Missouri St..
Isolda Birt, 930 Missouri St.
Tom Birt, 930 Missouri St.
Jon Josserand, 931 Missouri St.

Date: March 23, 2009

Re: Proposal to Rename Missouri Street

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

We write this letter to you to express our individual and collective concerns regarding any proposal to rename **any segment** of Missouri Street.

We are all property owners and full time residents of Missouri Street. Our concerns are attached to this memorandum.

While each of us may differ about the relative importance of any of these items, they collectively represent our mutual concerns.

While we have empathy and support for the Lawrence individuals wishing to honor a beloved coach and mentor, we strongly disagree that the proposal achieves its purpose of honoring Don Fambrough. Further, we believe its adoption would reflect poorly upon KU, the City of Lawrence, its City Commission, and the State of Kansas. We believe that alternative opportunities exist within the University, which are more appropriate, and would better achieve the stated objectives of the street renaming.

We strongly question the appropriateness of the city incorporating into official city ordinance something which is based either in game-day sports rivalry invective or something which is intended to demean or criticize others.

Isn't Lawrence better than this?

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OUR CONCERNS REGARDING STREET RENAMING

1) Street names serve an important public purpose. Renaming established streets should not be a casual or rushed process. Honorific renaming can be antagonistic to wayfinding and navigation.

Municipalities have an interest in promoting an organized scheme for the numbering and naming of streets and roads. Especially when part of an organized grid, street names provide a valuable way-finding function for public safety professionals, delivery businesses, visitors, friends, and the general public.

To enhance surface transportation efficiency and public safety, municipalities should strive to improve wayfinding, and minimize navigational confusion through an ordered system of geographical street naming.

- Renaming outside of an established ordered scheme can create mistakes and confusion.
- Renaming of long established street names can create mistakes and confusion.
- Renaming only a segment of a street can create mistakes and confusion.

2) Those most affected by the renaming proposal should be included in the development and consideration process.

Since no ordinance or policy exists in Lawrence for street renaming, legal landowners and long term residents of the street have not been formally consulted or included in development of the proposal or in evaluating the impact or merits of the proposal.

Without a formal renaming policy, requests in Lawrence have been handled in an inconsistent manner, further confusing the public and those affected.

3) This proposal fails to meet many common criteria contained in other municipalities' policies for street renaming.

Formal notice of naming proposals allowing for feedback from owners and residents *before* governing body consideration seems to be almost universally a requirement in jurisdictions having formal policies. Why not in Lawrence?

Some communities require a minimum showing of 50 percent support by affected landowners before an application can even be considered. At least one requires 100 percent consent.

Some communities as a matter of policy simply have prohibited any official street re-naming, unless it is to create a recording mistake, or to improve public safety by reducing mistakes and confusion.

Some communities accommodate honorific street names only in a "secondary" manner, which allows for secondary signage in addition to the primary legal signs. The primary legal address remains.

Some communities prohibit the renaming of street segments.

Some communities prohibit renaming of streets for living or recently deceased individuals.

Some require written consent, from either the living honoree, or the family of the deceased honoree.

Policies commonly require 90 to 180 days to assure adequate time for notice and review from stakeholders.

Some communities have policies prohibiting renaming proposals which can be deemed as being critical to other individuals, groups, and communities.

4) City staff has observed that "there is historical significance to this street name."

Although the Historic Resources Commission is not obligated to review this request, why is this request being handled in a manner different than the recent request to rename North Park Street? Should Lawrence have a consistent policy? Historic review input is required in some jurisdictions before a proposal may be considered.

5) There are two related, but distinct, objectives associated with this proposal.

Objective one, that of honoring a valued coach and mentor is commendable.

Objective two, although related to the first object, is different and is far less noble.

Its purpose is not to honor or recognize anyone. Instead, because of Coach Fambrough's notorious and regular opinions of MU and the State of Missouri, it must be considered to dishonor and insult MU, the State of Missouri, and its residents.. This is both ill-conceived and ill-mannered.

On a range of justifications, at one end it is said to be only game-day team motivation, offered and taken in good nature and in the spirit of sport. At the other end of this range, it is darker, and is offered to denigrate others and incite and inflame emotions of rivals.

In effect, renaming the street now, would undermine and reverse the noble gesture of forgiveness made by the citizens of Lawrence when they originally named the street over 90 years ago.

7) Far more appropriate opportunities should be considered to honor this individual.

This proposal is being advanced by, among others, a cadre of former student athletes of the Coach and members of the KU Athletics K-Club.

These individuals are not without influence within KU, the KU Alumni Association, and KU Athletics.

It is more logical, more appropriate, and better policy, to confine this honoring to a campus location. Why shouldn't this be an issue for the University and KU Athletics to appropriately address on behalf of its K-Club members and students?

8) KU has many distinguished former coaches, athletes, alumni, and employees. How does a future commission respond to future requests for University affiliated individuals?

How should a future commission handle a request from the next set of K-Club officers, or future K-Club members? Is the commission prepared to handle requests for Wilt Chamberlin? Al Oerter? Danny Manning? Jim Ryun? All honorable individuals of note, some with strong community service records.

Beyond KU Athletics, what about the contributions of Alan Mulally, Gene Budig, Del Shankel, Deanell Tacha. Or those of Tak Higuchi, George Waggoner, Clark Bricker? And what about local individuals with less direct or no role with KU? Should criteria exist to measure future proposals?

9) Conclusion

Honoring Coach Fambrough for his contributions is a laudable purpose. However this proposal does not achieve that. It instead dishonors him, as well as KU, the city, and the state. The process, or lack of it, used in its consideration to date has been considerably flawed.

Insulting another state because of an athletic rivalry, with spite as motivation, is mean-spirited, and does not advance either athletic achievement or sportsmanship. Insulting another school or another state honors nobody.

12127 West 48th Terrace
Shawnee, KS 66216
March 5, 2009

RECEIVED

MAR 06 2009

**CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS**

Lawrence City Commission
City Hall
6 East 6th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Commissioners:

As a Lawrence native and weekly visitor, I look at the Lawrence Journal World online. I saw an article in yesterday's paper that says you are considering renaming Missouri Street between 11th and 9th for Don Fambrough.

I respectfully ask that you consider another way to honor Coach Fambrough. I grew up at 1014 Missouri, and my parents lived there from 1948 to 1987. The house is still there, and lived in. I think there are many more appropriate ways to honor someone than obliterating the heritage of all the families who lived on those blocks for so many years.

How about a statue, with explanation of Coach Fambrough's successes, at the Stadium? How about naming a new street for him? Surely you can think of something more appropriate and less destructive!

Sincerely,



Nancy Hitt Clark

From: Jackie McClenny [mailto:jrmcclenny@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 10:31 AM
To: David L. Corliss; mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com;
mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; suehack@sunflower.com; boog@lawrence.ixks.com
Subject: Proposed Renaming of Missouri Street

Dear City Commissioners,

I hope you will once again vote down the absurd proposal to rename a portion of Missouri Street after a football coach.

I have lived on Missouri Street north of the stadium, and I know there are people there that are inconvenienced enough by Kansas Football, Inc. without having to having to change their address information and start spelling out F-A-M-B-R-O-U-G-H to the Chinese delivery guy.

There are actually other things in life (and even in Lawrence!) than sports, and this fad of renaming streets is just plain silly. Let us try to maintain some sense of dignity as a city, and work on some real issues instead of letting our map be changed by a vocal minority of people that are taken up with what is, after all, just a glorified hobby.

Sincerely,

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Jackie McClenny
mccclenny@ku.edu
jrmcclenny@gmail.com

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

From: Mark Volmut [mailto:mvolmut@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 2:48 PM
To: David L. Corliss; mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com;
mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; suehack@sunflower.com; boog@lawrence.ixks.com
Subject: Proposed renaming of Missouri street

Dear City Commissioners,

I hope you will vote against the proposal to rename a portion of Missouri Street after coach Don Famrough.

I live in the neighborhood that will be affected and have lived on that portion of Missouri street north of the stadium for years, and feel it an insult to the integrity of my neighborhood to have its historic named changed in such a trivial way. I love the Jayhawks but this is simply ridiculous to change the street name to another football coach.

KU sports has overshadowed a large portion of our city's history. This town is beautiful and is ingrained with a proud history full of events and people, such as John Brown,

James Lane, Pelathe, Langston Hughes, and many others who gave this town its identity, and proportionally have very little to do with sports. I would like visitors that come to our city to know us for a history that made a difference on national and international levels instead of from inconsequential characters of a glorified child's game.

Please help us maintain our dignity as a city and vote down this absolutely ridiculous and silly proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Volmut

From: Brian Harris [mailto:bharrisks@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 11:02 PM
To: Lisa Patterson
Subject: Opposed to renaming Missouri Street

I am a former Lawrence resident, KU alum, KU athlete and a former KU staff member. I also used to live on Missouri street, first in the 900 block as a college student and later as the owner of 839 Missouri. I also happen to have grown up in Missouri.

An important part of the history and character of Old West Lawrence and other historic areas of Lawrence is its street names, which are, of course, named after states. The University is an important part of Lawrence, but Lawrence has a grand history of its own separate from the University. To me, the streets named states are one of the things that makes Lawrence, Lawrence.

Let the University name a campus street after coach Fambrough if it wants. But for the city to rename Missouri street for any reason would be a mistake.

Should we rename Iowa street the next time KU loses to Iowa State?

Sincerely,
Brian Harris