



City of Phoenix

To: Ed Zuercher
City Manager

Date: June 19, 2020

From: Mayor Kate Gallego
Councilwoman Thelda Williams

Subject: REQUEST TO INITIATE STREET RENAMING PROCESS

In accordance with the City of Phoenix Street Renaming process approved by the City Council on June 27, 2017 for street names that are derogatory or offensive based on City Code Section 18-1, this memo requests the initiation of processes to change the names of the following Phoenix streets: "SQUAW PEAK DRIVE" and "ROBERT E LEE STREET."

Because the term "squaw" is considered derogatory and offensive, as it has been historically used as a demeaning and degrading word for indigenous Native American women, it should not be the name of a street in our great city. Options to consider among these street names include: PEAK DRIVE or PIESTEWA PEAK DRIVE.

Robert E. Lee was a confederate general who represents historical institutions of racism and slavery in America, so the Phoenix street, which was renamed during the Civil Rights Movement, of his namesake is offensive and derogatory. Phoenix should not glorify what he represents with a street name in his honor. Replacing this street name does not try to change or remove history, rather it demonstrates our commitment to racial equity, justice and progress. Options to consider among these street names include: FREEDOM STREET or JUSTICE STREET.

I request an item be added to the July 1, 2020 Formal agenda to initiate the processes for both of these street names to be changed. If initiation of the process is approved by the Council, the staff analysis and the public input process, which would include engagement of the streets' residents, would bring this item back to the Council in fall of this year.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Mayor Kate Gallego in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Councilwoman Thelda Williams in black ink.