



TOWN OF CARRBORO • NC
FACING RACE, EMBRACING EQUITY

NAMING LAUREL AVENUE, HONORARY STRAYHORN DRIVE

Carrboro Town Council – Agenda Item # 25-036



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Background

- A request was made by the Strayhorn/Barbee Family during public comment at a Town Council meeting and by email to name Laurel Avenue, Honorary Strayhorn Drive and installing a sign with that acknowledgement.
- The reason for the request is cultural and historical significance –
 - a. Toney and Nellie Strayhorn are believed to be the first Black family to settle in Carrboro.
 - b. The Strayhorn's and descendants have lived in Carrboro since 1879 before the town was incorporated at the same location along Laurel Avenue (what was called Strayhorn Drive) and Jones Ferry.
- Staff reviewed the request and supporting documents.
- Staff established an application process for which applicants can request the honorary naming of a town street that can be found on the town's website at <https://www.carrboronc.gov/2982/Street-Renaming-Honorary-Street-Names>
- The Strayhorn/Barbee recently family completed and submitted the application along with supporting documents.

Recommendations

- At the March 26th meeting, the Racial Equity Commission voted to recommend honoring the Strayhorn/Barbee family request, naming Laurel Avenue, Honorary Strayhorn Drive and installing a sign.
- Mock-up of honorary sign. Install sign under street sign.
- Staff recommends to approve the attached resolution.

