

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative:

Town Code Amendment to Codify Street Name Change. The purpose of this agenda item is to amend the Town Code to change all references of E. Carr Street and W. Carr Street to E. Braxton Foushee Street and W. Braxton Foushee Street.

Department:

Planning

What are the racial and equity impacts? The Town Council directed the renaming of E. Carr Street and W. Carr Street to Braxton Foushee Street on November 28, 2023. The act of codifying this change could have impacts to people who have not yet learned of this change. Braxton Dunkin Foushee, first Black member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, lifelong resident and civil rights and community leader for over 60 years (<https://www.carrboronc.gov/2307/Our-Roots-Run-Deep-Black-History-in-Carr> and <https://fromtherockwall.org/people/braxton-foushee>). Julian S. Carr, former owner of the Durham Hosiery Mills, has become best known for the racially charged speech he made just four months before the General Assembly voted to name the Town in his honor in 1913 at the dedication of the statue erected on the campus of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recognizing students who had served as Confederate soldiers during the Civil War (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silent_Sam). The initial work of the Town's Truth Plaque Task Force (<https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3489033&GUID=F33B7D3B-25F8-43A9-8424-44AE2813D6B0&Options=&Search=>) considered the relationship of the Town's name to Carr. (<https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3767382&GUID=C8B0D4C3-9920-4DC8-892D-11341DED6228&Options=&Search=>). Renaming the street for Foushee provided an opportunity to honor an individual whose efforts and contributions represent the Carrboro of today.

Who is or will experience community burden?

Residents living along the street corridor will experience the burden and associated costs, direct and indirect for changing their address information. Others, who may not travel to Carrboro frequently, may be disoriented by the change. Delivery workers may experience delays due to the time associated with mapping products being updated to include the new addresses. Lingering addresses in databases and other service and product delivery may affect the time services or products are obtained by individuals with these addresses. The cost assistance developed for this type of Town-initiated renaming seeks to compensate residents with incomes lower than 80 percent of the Area Median for some of the indirect and direct impacts of the change.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

Community members who will learn more about the history of the town and individuals like Braxton Foushee who work to advance the values described in the first truth plaque. All who will see and use the new street name and in so doing feel more connected to Mr. Foushee and his lifelong commitment to establishing a more inclusive community, a more just and racially equitable place.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Structural racism in government decisions, particularly those relating to transportation, as well as residents' personal experiences with government, can further contribute to a reticence by historically marginalized people to understand or believe that they can request recognition of leaders and expand everyone's understanding and knowledge of history to include the whole truth.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

The burden of changing address information may be more costly than anticipated. There may be a transitional period where mail is misdelivered, or other challenges associated with directions. Searching for older, non-digital records may be somewhat more involved to locate those with the old and new addresses.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

Planning Department GIS staff administers the process for assigning street names, including reviewing candidate street names with Orange County EMS to prevent selecting names that are already in use or too like existing street names, shepherding property owners through the various steps and handling mapping updates and notifications. In this instance when the naming originated with the Town Council a budgetary allocation has been made that will allow residents who identify as having an income at or below 80 percent of the area median income to apply for a \$100 cost assistance payment from the Town.