

Received 10/14/2020
Sandra P. Olin
Town Clerk

STREET NAME CHANGE PETITION TO THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

(A)

We, the property owners who have signed the attached petitions, being owners of real property abutting and addressed off of Dixie Drive, hereby Petition the Town of Chapel Hill to request the street name of Dixie Drive located between Stateside and Collums/Indian Trail in North Forest Hills be changed to the continuation of Seminole Drive.

We understand that each property owner will be responsible for any costs associated with changes in driver's license information, registrations, personal or business checks, or other personal documents related to a street name or address change.

We understand that there will be no need for a change in home or mailbox numbers as this street name change will allow us to keep our current home and mailbox numbers.

(B)

In support of this Street Name Change Petition, we show as follows:

Dixie Drive in North Chapel Hill runs approximately a mile and a half from Stateside to the four way intersection of Dixie Drive/Seminole Drive and Collums Road/Indian Trail Road. Seminole Road continues from that intersection for approximately one mile.

The reason for this request is that the name “Dixie” has connotations of slavery, the exploitation of black people, and racism that we would like to avoid.

The most accepted origin of the name “Dixie” is the Mason-Dixon line between Maryland and Pennsylvania drawn in 1767. It was regarded as the dividing line between slave states south of it and free states north of it. “Dixie” and “Dixieland” became nicknames for the slaveholding states south of the Mason-Dixon Line. During the Congressional debates regarding the Missouri Compromise, Congress discussed the Mason-Dixon Line as the boundary between slave states and free states.

By the mid-nineteenth century just before the Civil War “Dixie” was the name of a minstrel song composed and performed in blackface by Daniel Decatur Emmett in 1859. His performances, with his hands and face painted black, were billed as a “plantation song and dance.” By that point in popular culture “Dixie” was associated with the South and recognized as a racist term.

The song became the Confederate Army’s most popular marching song and the unofficial national anthem of the Confederacy.

Jesse Helms greeted either Barbara Jordan, the first Southern African-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representative, or Carol Mosely Braun, the first African American in the U.S. Senate, by whistling Dixie to her.

There has been some movement to remove the name Dixie. In 2015, Riviera Beach in Florida changed the name of Old Dixie Highway to President Barack Highway. In February of this year, Miami-Dade County voted to change the name of the Dixie Highway in that County to the Harriet Tubman Highway. (The Dixie Highway runs through nine other states.) The Dixie Chicks

changed their name to the Chicks. Dolly Parton dropped the “Dixie” from the name of her Civil War-themed park formerly the “Dixie Stampede.”

(C)

Ironically, in Chapel Hill, Dixie Drive runs parallel to Martin Luther King Blvd. and there is a one block access to Martin Luther King Blvd. via Dixie Lane (and via Stateside Drive).

There are approximately 24 houses abutting and addressed off of Dixie Drive. The property owners of 15 of those houses submit this Petition.

Several houses abutting on Dixie Drive are on the corner of another street and the property owners have chosen an address on the other street in order to avoid the Dixie Drive address — which strikes us as a vote in favor of the name change. For example the two houses on the corner of Dixie Drive and Stateside both use addresses on Stateside. One of those is a former member of the Town Council. Two houses facing Dixie Drive on the corner of Dixie Drive and Barbara Court use addresses on Barbara Court. The Christian Science Church which is on the corner of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane — but whose property appears to run to Martin Luther King Blvd. — uses an address on Martin Luther King Blvd.

The property owners of three houses abutting and addressed on Dixie Drive oppose this Petition. The property owners of two other houses abutting and addressed on Dixie Drive have voted that they are neutral on the petition. The property owners of the other houses abutting and addressed on Dixie Drive, including one who is not living here but has tenants who support the Petition and who has been contacted three

times by email, have not responded in any way to the Petition question.

The pandemic restrictions have made some of these communications somewhat difficult.

(D)

Our preference for a new name for Dixie Drive is simply to extend Seminole Drive across the intersection with Collums Drive/Indian Trail Drive. All of the property owners on Dixie Drive would be able to keep their street numbers on their houses and mailboxes.

The purpose of naming a street after a person, place or idea is to honor that person, place or idea. That is precisely why we would like to change away from the Dixie name. We would be glad to honor the Seminole Indian Tribe with this name.

We have considered other names such as John Lewis Drive or Frederick Douglass Drive but Chapel Hill already has streets named Lewis and Douglas.

Submitted to the Town of Chapel Hill on October 14, 2020.



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL
STREET NAME CHANGE APPLICATION

Existing Name of Road: DIXIE ROAD

Proposed Name of Road: SEMINOLE ROAD

1st Choice JOHN LEWIS ROAD

2nd Choice FREDERICK DOUGLASS ROAD

3rd Choice _____

Beginning at (cross street): STATESIDE

Ending at (cross street): COLLUMS / INDIAN TRAIL

Reason for Change: DIXIE DRIVE HAS A NEGATIVE

CONNOTATION ASSOCIATED WITH

SLAVERY, THE EXPLOITATION OF

BLACK AMERICANS, AND RACISM

Is this street in a subdivision? YES NO

If yes, subdivision name: NORTH FOREST HILLS

Applicant's Name: BARRY NAKELL

Mailing Address: 149 DIXIE DRIVE

Telephone: 919-967-7325

Email: ~~bnakell~~ @bnakell50@gmail.com

10/13/2020

Date

Barry Nakell

Signature

Petition Requirement: A Street Name Change Application must be accompanied by a petition that has been signed by the affected property owners. The petition must contain names, addresses, and signatures of all affected property owners. An affected property owner is one who owns an interest in real property that abuts and is addressed off of the street to be renamed.



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL
STREET NAME CHANGE APPLICATION

Existing Name of Road: DIXIE DRIVE

Proposed Name of Road: SEMINOLE

1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

Beginning at (cross street): STATESIDE

Ending at (cross street): FOREST HILL RD.

Reason for Change: NAME OF DIXIE PERCEIVED AS
NEGATIVE CONNOTATION ASSOCIATED
WITH SLAVERY IN THE
SOUTHERN U.S.

Is this street in a subdivision? YES NO

If yes, subdivision name: NORTH FOREST HILLS

Applicant's Name: SCOTT J. PARKER

Mailing Address: 150 DIXIE DRIVE

Telephone: 919-942-8113

Email: PARKERS@LIVE.UNC.EDU

SEPT. 21, 2020 Scott Parker
Date Signature

Petition Requirement: A Street Name Change Application must be accompanied by a petition that has been signed by the affected property owners. The petition must contain names, addresses, and signatures of all affected property owners. An affected property owner is one who owns an interest in real property that abuts and is addressed off of the street to be renamed.

PETITION

As a resident of Dixie Drive or Dixie Lane in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, I would like to join the Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council to change the names of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane to eliminate the racist or slavery connotation that has been associated with those names.

Thank you!

Name: Elliott & Sandy Portnoy Mills

Date: July 22 '20

Address: 122 Dixie Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Telephone number: 919 942-1347

Email address: sandy.p.mills@gmail.com
mills008@duke.edu

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Thank you!

Name: W. JOSEPH ALEXANDER, SR
BETH G. ALEXANDER

Date: 8/6/20

Address: 107 DIXIE DRIVE

Telephone number: (919) 942 3537

Email address:

FOUNDER.OF.AI@GMAIL.COM

I am opposed to the Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council to change the names of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

PETITION

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Thank you!

Name: *Arthur Drake*

Date: *8-17-2020*

Address: *143 Dixie Drive Chapel Hill NC 27514*

Telephone number: *919-929-4061*

Email address: *libbydrake@outlook.com*

I am opposed to the Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council to change the names of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

PETITION

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Thank you!

Name: ~~Arthur~~ Elizabeth Drake (Libby)

Date: 8-17-2020

Address: 143 Dixie Drive Chapel Hill NC 27514

Telephone number: 919.925.4061

Email address: libbydrake@outlook.com

I am opposed to the Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council to change the names of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane.

Name:

Date:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

PETITION

As a resident of Dixie Drive or Dixie Lane in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, I would like to join the Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council to change the names of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane to eliminate the racist or slavery connotation that has been associated with those names.

Thank you!

Name: Jesse Paddock / Rebecca Mormino

Date: 7/17/2020

Address: 126 Dixie Dr

Telephone number: 919.923.1629 // 919.260.5909

Email address: jesse.paddock@gmail.com
rebecca.mormino@gmail.com

we strongly support this proposal, & any way we can help we will.

Thank you!

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Thank you!

Name: Casey Scully + Kelly Bodie

Date: 7/21/20

Address: 116 Dixie Dr

Telephone number: 571-403-0219

Email address: Kelly Bodie@gmail.com

Name Suggestion: Lewis Lane + Lewis Drive
after the late Rep. John Lewis

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Thank you!

Name: KEN HURST

Date: 29 JULY 2020

Address: 146 DIXIE DR, CHAPEL HILL

Telephone number: 919.942.8684

Email address: kmhurst@bellsouth.net

Suggest using Seminole Dr,
continuation of existing street,
already in GPS data base.

Else Lois Lane.

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Thank you!

Name: Kate Weisshaar & Tyler O'Neil

Date: July 25, 2020

Address: 124 Dixie Dr.

Telephone number: 608-438-9802, 925-708-0137

Email address:

kateweisshaar@gmail.com, tne.tyler.oneil@gmail.com

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Thank you!

Name: Philip Tester
Hillary Tester

Date: 2/18/20

Address: 141 Dixie Dr

Telephone number: (828) 773-7139
(704) 519-7731

Email address: philiptester@gmail.com
hillary.tester@gmail.com

If they're open to suggestions,
Douglass Dr would be a relevant
(and alliterative) replacement

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Thank you!

Name: Quinta Odondi Jackson Odondi

Date: 7/20/20

Address: 147 Dixie^{*} Dr. Chapel Hill NC 27514

Telephone number: 919-308-7395 or 919-949-3585

Email address: jodondi@hotmail.com
qojwang@hotmail.com

Grace Odondi

PETITION

As a resident of Dixie Drive or Dixie Lane in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, I would like to join the Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council to change the names of Dixie Drive and Dixie Lane to eliminate the racist or slavery connotation that has been associated with those names.

Thank you!

Name: Michael Goy

Date: July 17, 2020

Address: 142 Dixie Drive

Telephone number: 919-491-0179

Email address: mgoy@med.unc.edu

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Thank you!

Name: Regina Martinez

Date: 7/18/20

Address: 117 Dixie Dr Chapel Hill NC

Telephone number: 919 798 1433

Email address: star2628@yahoo.com

PETITION

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Thank you!

Name: VAIDA THOMPSON

Date: 7/17/2020

Address: 2 BARBARA CT. (CORNER of Dixie Drive)

Telephone number:

919-942-7458

Email address:

VAIDA_THOMPSON@UNC.EDU

I moved here in 1977. I ASKED THE Post office if it would make my ADDRESS ON BARBARA COURT BECAUSE I simply did not want to live on a street named Dixie. We spent more of my life in the south than in the north but I'm still a transplanted northerner and "Dixie" is too southern, too confederacy, too slavery rem-iniscent.