

August 13, 2020

RESOLUTION TO RENAME CALHOUN ROAD TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD

WHEREAS we, the undersigned, are the faculty and staff of the University of Houston Law Center; and

WHEREAS Calhoun Road is the main thoroughfare that runs along the eastern portion of the University of Houston campus through Houston's Greater Third Ward Neighborhood, and on which the University of Houston Law Center is located; and

WHEREAS Calhoun Road was named in recognition of John C. Calhoun, a South Carolina Congressman, U.S. Senator from South Carolina, U.S. Secretary of State, and U.S. Vice-President; and

WHEREAS John C. Calhoun was a staunch defender of the institution of slavery, a slave owner, and widely known to have described slavery as a "positive good;" and

WHEREAS John C. Calhoun's only connection to the state of Texas and Houston is that while U.S. Secretary of State, Calhoun advocated for and participated in the final stages of the Texas Annexation Treaty negotiations, motivated by his desire to add another slave-holding state to the Union; and

WHEREAS the continuation of the name "Calhoun Road" is a constant and unwelcome reminder of the racism, violence, and morally reprehensible history of slavery in this country; and

WHEREAS a portion of the road continuing to Calhoun Road has already been renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to wit "Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard;"

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the undersigned hereby respectfully request and petition that the name of Calhoun Road running from the northernmost segment of Calhoun Road north of Wheeler Avenue running by the University of Houston Law Center to Spur 5 be changed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the undersigned hereby respectfully request and petition that the referenced portion of Calhoun Road also be renamed in honor of the Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the undersigned believe it is appropriate to rename the referenced portion of Calhoun Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, as doing so will

logically extend Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard north of Wheeler Avenue by the University of Houston campus to Spur 5;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT renaming the referenced portion of Calhoun Road to “Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard” would allow the University of Houston community to honor the legacy of Dr. King, who fought to end racial inequality and systematic oppression in our country.

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