

**From:** [Rasheed @ Berkeley](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wilma Chan and the Way to Transform Alameda's Memory Landscape (Public Hearing)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 3:11:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)  
[Wilma Chan and the Way to Transform Alameda's Memory Landscape.pdf](#)

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Correspondence for Public Hearing

## **Wilma Chan and the Way to Transform Alameda's Memory Landscape**

The proposal to rename Constitution Way to honor the late Wilma Chan brings up questions about processes and priorities to change names of public spaces. On April 3, 2018, I emailed the Recreation and Parks Commission suggesting (Andrew) Jackson Park be renamed. The Commission took no action. Two years later, following the murder of George Floyd, a renaming process was initiated that resulted in both the renaming to Chochenyo Park and the development of policy for future renamings. On April 9, 2018, I also emailed City staff and the Planning Board suggesting (Henry H.) Haight Ave be renamed. The City never responded.<sup>1</sup>

Last year, some of us suggested a broader Renaming Commission, modeled on New Orleans, to address the dozen streets honoring racists, enslavers, and conquistadors across the local memory landscape. Due to the stage in the pandemic, this suggestion was not considered urgent. There now appears to be a greater sense of willingness to change a street name and a willingness to honor a wider spectrum of Alamedans, which is great, but I want to raise a few questions.<sup>2</sup>

First, last year, following many critiques of the process to rename the park formerly known as Jackson Park, the City adopted a policy and process for future place renamings. After developing a policy that received input from the Park Renaming Committee, multiple Boards and Commissions, and adopted by the City Council: What's the purpose of having a policy if in the first instance the process could be utilized if it is instead ignored or has portions waived?

Second, there are at least two other active petitions to rename streets. Residents of Calhoun Street have formed a petition and have been waiting for about three years.<sup>3</sup> There was also a formal petition created by a resident of Haight Ave.<sup>4</sup> If those petitions predate the adoption of the renaming policy, why is this request considered first? Why

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<sup>1</sup> Rasheed Shabazz to Amy Wooldridge, April 3, 2018  
<https://renamejacksonpark.wordpress.com/2018/04/03/2018-letter-to-recreation-and-parks-commissioner-s/and-Rasheed-Shabazz-to-Andrew-Thomas, April 9, 2018.>

<sup>2</sup> Item 6-C, February 2, 2021 City Council Correspondence,  
<https://renamejacksonpark.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/renaming-correspondence-updated-22.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Calhoun St petition has 772 names as of February 15, 2021. A New Name for Calhoun St  
<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-alameda-city-council-a-new-name-for-calhoun-street-in-alameda>

<sup>4</sup> Haight Ave petition has 543 names as of February 15, 2021. A New Name for Haight Ave in Alameda  
<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-alameda-planning-commission-a-new-name-for-haight-avenue-in-alameda>

does this proposal have more urgency than others? Or is it more expedient since the presumed financial cost is lower? Regardless of the reasons or order of consideration: What is the status of the other renamings, like Rename Godfrey Park, that have been previously proposed?<sup>5</sup>

And as I pointed out during the Park Renaming process, Alameda has no park names that honor Asian women. This is not to question the merits or worthiness of Wilma Chan.<sup>6</sup> These questions are about process and priorities.

Hopefully, the processes to consider renaming Calhoun St, Godfrey Park, and Haight Ave also begin soon.

I hope the family continues healing as you grieve and that Wilma Chan is not only remembered but appropriately honored in Alameda and folks continue the work.

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<sup>5</sup> Petition to Rename Godfrey Park has over 1,085 signatures as of February 15, 2021  
<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-alameda-rename-godfrey-park>

<sup>6</sup> Momo Chang and Rasheed Shabazz, "Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan killed by motorist," *Oakland Voices*, November 4, 2021  
<https://oaklandvoices.us/2021/11/04/alameda-county-supervisor-wilma-chan-killed-by-motorist/>

**From:** [Stewart Chen](#)  
**To:** [Lara Weisiger](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wilma Chan Way  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:11:03 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I would like to express my support of the Chan family's request to rename Constitution Way to "Wilma Chan Way." Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan was a dedicated public servant who represented the City of Alameda for over 30 years at both the County and State levels. A long-time Alameda resident, Supervisor Chan loved our city, and her legacy can be seen throughout the Island she was proud to call home. Founding the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and their Families (ACCYF) – a visionary partnership between Alameda County, City of Alameda, Alameda Unified School District, and Alameda's community-based organizations that continues to develop innovative programs to better serve the children and youth in Alameda. Supervisor Chan's passing is a tremendous loss to our community, and she will be sorely missed, but her extraordinary legacy will endure. I respectfully ask the City of Alameda to honor and recognize her legacy and contributions to the Alameda community by renaming Constitution Way to "Wilma Chan Way."

Sincerely,

Stewart G. Chen, D.C.  
莊錦鎮  
Alameda City Council member ( ret. )  
Alameda Hospital / City of Alameda Healthcare District Director

Tel 510 465-7982 Fax 510 465-3876

<https://alamedahealthcaredistrict.org>

*"The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease." Thomas Edison*

**From:** [Madlen Saddik](#)  
**To:** [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [TSpenser@alamedaca.gov](mailto:TSpenser@alamedaca.gov)  
**Cc:** [Madlen Saddik](#); [Kelly Lux](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tonight's meeting agenda item 7A street renaming  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:39:50 AM

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Dear Councilmembers,

The Alameda Chamber and Economic Alliance would like to express our support of the Chan family's request to rename Constitution Way to "Wilma Chan Way." Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan was a dedicated public servant who represented the City of Alameda for over 30 years at both the County and State levels. A long-time Alameda resident, Supervisor Chan loved our city, and her legacy can be seen throughout the Island she was proud to call home.

**We vividly remember the late-Supervisor Chan:**

- Founding the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and their Families (ACCYF) – an innovative partnership between Alameda County, City of Alameda, Alameda Unified School District, and Alameda's community-based organizations that continue to develop innovative programs to serve the children and youth in Alameda better.
- Founding First 5 Alameda County—headquartered on the Island, an innovative public entity that supports county-wide continuous prevention and early intervention system that promotes optimal health and development, narrows disparities and improves the lives of children from birth to age five and their families
- She served as Board champion for the successful \$580 million affordable housing bond measure, which will build nearly 3,000 homes, including 1,000 for the homeless. Of these units, over 330 are in the City of Alameda.

Supervisor Chan's passing is a tremendous loss to our community, and she will be sorely missed, but her extraordinary legacy will endure. We respectfully ask the City of Alameda to honor and recognize her legacy and contributions to the Alameda community by renaming Constitution Way to "Wilma Chan Way."

Sincerely,  
Alameda Chamber and Economic Alliance  
Kelly Lux  
Board of directors chair

And

Yours in Commerce and Community,  
**Madlen Saddik**  
***President & CEO***



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[AlamedaChamber.com](http://AlamedaChamber.com)

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*