

Chapter 41 Amendments

City-Initiated Street Name Changes

Presented by the **Planning & Development Department**
Patrick Walsh, P.E., Director
Brian J Crimmins, Chief of Staff

Houston City Council – Quality of Life Committee
Wednesday, August 24, 2016



**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Background

- Mayor directed the Planning Department to consider city-initiated street name changes
 - Dowling Street consideration a catalyst to explore merits
 - Report back to City Council in early fall
- Department reviewed best practices and considered potential Code changes



Current Citizen-Initiated Petition Process (To Remain)

Step 1: Abutting property owner submits a written petition to the Planning Director.
**Petition must be signed by at least 75% of abutting property owners.

Step 2: Director verifies request meets ordinance requirements.
Director sends notice to affected agencies and utility providers.
Director sends notice to abutting property owners.

Step 3: Planning Department accepts comments for 30-day period.

Step 4: City Council consideration.

Step 5: If approved by Council in **Step 4**, then:
Director sends notice of street name change. (Within 15 days of council approval)
Director requests Public Works & Engineering erect new street signs.
Street name change takes effect no sooner than **90-days after** council approval.

Recommendations

- Keep the current petition process
 - Allows the City to consider citizen-initiated changes
 - Consistent with other cities
- Add a City-initiated process for certain situations
 - Health and safety concerns
 - Adjacent to public park or public facility
 - Robust public engagement process
- Two options to change public street name:
 1. Citizen-initiated petition
 2. City-initiated public engagement



Proposed City-Initiated Process

Step 1: Mayor instructs Planning Director to initiate the process.
Director verifies request meets ordinance requirements.
Director sends notice to affected agencies and utility providers.

Step 2: Director sends Community Meeting notice. (15 days prior to meeting)

Step 3: A minimum of one Community Meeting held in area.

Step 4: Director sends Response Forms to abutting property owners.
Planning Department accepts comments for 30-day period.

Step 5: Director reviews Response Form and documents results.
Director establishes Public Hearing and sends notice. (15 days prior to hearing)

Step 6: Planning Commission holds hearing and makes recommendation to Council.

Basis of Commission Recommendation

1. Complies with ordinance requirements & naming standards
2. Demonstrated sufficient support by abutting property owners
 - Special consideration to property owners who have property addressed on the street
3. Will not be injurious to public health, safety, or welfare
4. Will not create unreasonable hardship to abutting property owners
5. Name change is not contrary to sound public policy

Proposed City-Initiated Process

Step 1: Mayor instructs Planning Director to initiate the process.
Director verifies request meets ordinance requirements.
Director sends notice to affected agencies and utility providers.

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Step 3: A minimum of one Community Meeting held in area.

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Planning Department accepts comments for 30-day period.

Step 5: Director reviews Response Form and documents results.
Director establishes Public Hearing and sends notice. (15 days prior to hearing)

Step 6: Planning Commission holds hearing and makes recommendation to Council.

Step 7: City Council consideration.

Step 8: If approved by Council in **Step 7**, then:
Director sends notice of street name change. (Within 15 days of council approval)
Director requests Public Works & Engineering erect new street signs.
Street name change takes affect no sooner than **90-days after** council approval.

Timeline for Amendments

- **Aug. 24th** Quality of Life Committee Presentation
- **Sept. 1st** Reminder in director's report at Commission
- **Sept. 15th** Reminder in director's report at Commission
- **Sept. 18th** Mail/email public comments due
- **Sept. 23rd** Recommended modifications sent to Commission
- **Sept. 29th** Public hearing at Commission
Commission closes public comment period
- **Oct. 5th** Anticipated **City Council** Consideration

UPCOMING EXAMPLE:

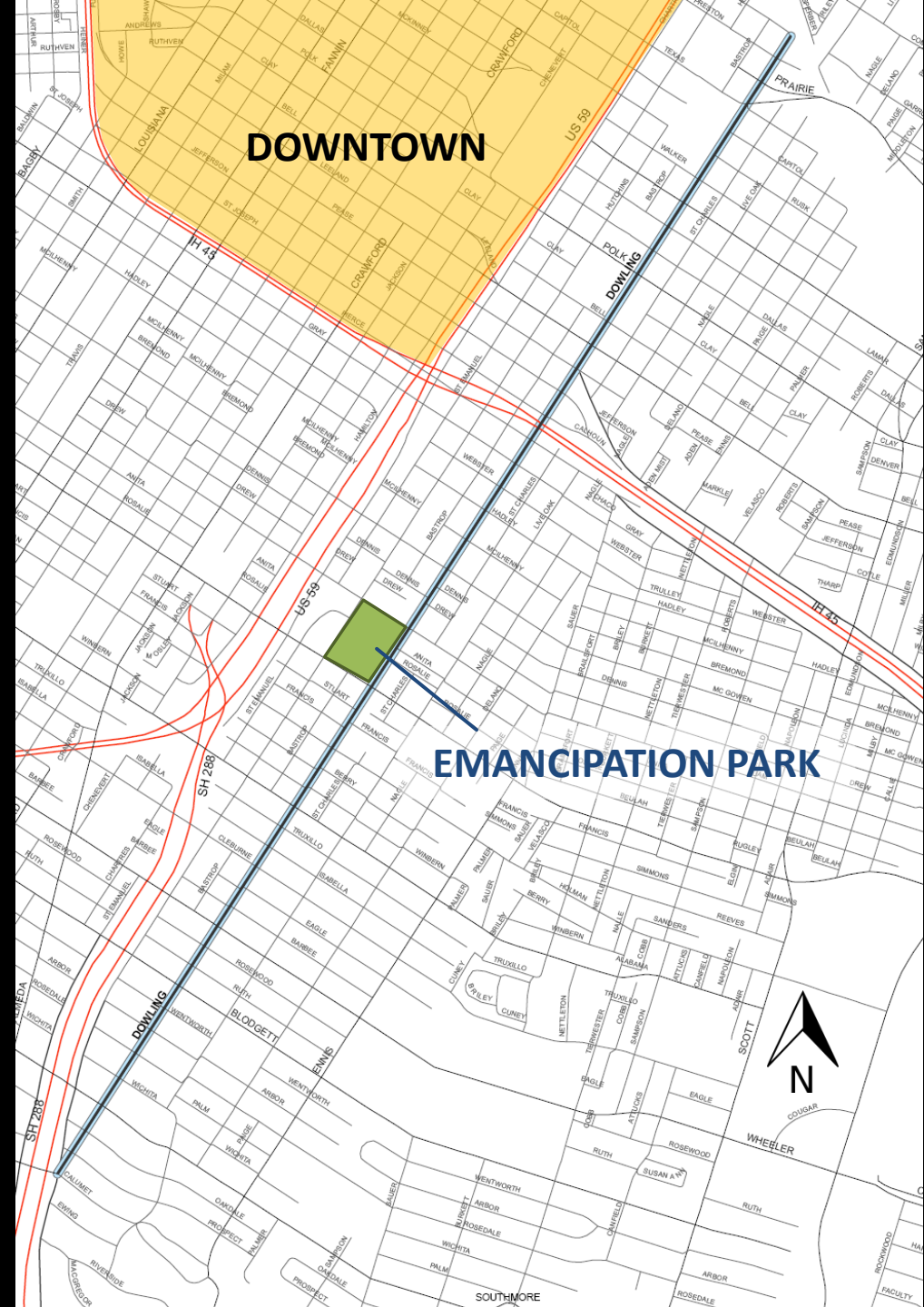
DOWLING STREET PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

CONSIDERATION OF A CITY-INITIATED STREET NAME CHANGE



DOWNTOWN

EMANCIPATION PARK



Timeline for Dowling Public Engagement

- **Aug. 26th** Community meeting notification to abutting property owners
Notify affected district council members (Districts D & I)
- **Sept. 2nd** Response form/public hearing notice to property owners
30-day comment period
- **Sept. 12th-15th** Hold two community meetings – one day/one evening in area
- **Sept. 28th** Public hearing notice for three days in newspaper
- **Oct. 3rd** Comment period ends
- **Oct. 13th** Public hearing at Commission
- **Oct. 19th** Anticipated **City Council** consideration
- **Nov. 6th** Emancipation Park rededication (**anticipated announcement**)

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