

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 13, 2011

Prepared By/Phone Number: Cheryl Aker

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: County Judge Sam Biscoe

Commissioners Court Sponsor: County Judge Sam Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON REQUEST FOR TRAVIS COUNTY TO NOTIFY THE CITY OF AUSTIN THAT IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO GIVING HONORARY RECOGNITION TO ROY Q. MINTON BY DESIGNATION ON A SINGLE STREET SIGN WITH HIS NAME ON ELEVENTH STREET, IN HONOR OF HIS LONG AND STORIED CAREER.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

See attached

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
THE TERRACE II
2700 VIA FORTUNA DRIVE
SUITE 400 (78746)
P.O. BOX 17428 (78760)
AUSTIN, TEXAS

512.447.6675
FAX 512.634.3789

RECEIVED
COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE
11 NOV 30 PM 3:31

Dear Judge Biscoe,

Please find attached a letter recently sent to Mayor Lee Leffingwell. The letter makes a request for the City Of Austin to add the name of "Roy Q. Minton" to the existing name on the City of Austin's street sign at the intersection of 11th and Guadalupe streets, in honor and recognition of Mr. Minton's long and storied career, at this intersection where he has practiced law for many decades. As I understand it, this would not actually "change" the name of the street on this one block section of 11th Street (between Guadalupe and San Antonio Streets), but it would **add** an "Honorary" name to the existing official name. The existing signage would continue in usage, with the honorary signage added at this one intersection. It is my understanding that this addition would not alter the addresses for postal services, emergency services, or other similar official purposes.

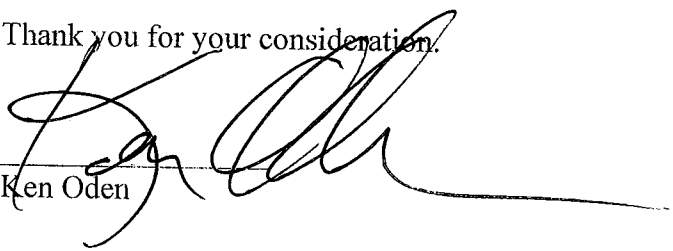
Mayor Leffingwell has agreed to propose that the City Council approve this request for honorary recognition of Mr. Minton's contributions to the civic and legal affairs in our community.

To my knowledge, Travis County has no legal authority in this matter but the County does own property across the street (the Courthouse building), across Guadalupe Street (the Granger building) and also the lot at the southeast corner of the same intersection. I suppose that, other than Mr. Minton's own property at the intersection in question, the County owns all of the other property on the other three corners of the intersection in question. Therefore, as a courtesy, I wanted to make you aware of the request to the City and to ask that the County express to the City that it does not oppose the request.

As the letter to Mayor Leffingwell states, I am not aware of any opposition to this proposal.

To that end, I have prepared the attached Resolution for consideration by the Commissioners Court. For the reasons stated in the letter to Mayor Leffingwell, I request that the Commissioners Court pass the attached Resolution in support of the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.


Ken Oden

KEN ODEN
Attorney At Law
1506 Gaston Ave.
Austin, Texas 78703

Dear Mayor Leffingwell,

The purpose of this letter is to make a request that the City of Austin consider adding an honorary name to a one block section of West 11th Street (the 400 block of West 11th Street) , between Guadalupe Street and San Antonio Street.

My proposal is that this one block section have the honorary name of "Roy Minton" added to the existing name of "West 11th Street", in honor of longtime Austin attorney, Roy Minton.

During the month of November, 2011, Mr. Minton will celebrate his 80th birthday. The spirit of this request is to use the occasion of Mr. Minton's 80th birthday to acknowledge his contributions to the civic life and the legal profession in this community and create a permanent reminder of his life's work for future generations.

I have attached some recent profiles of Mr. Minton for your consideration.

I am ignorant of the process that is used for such a request as this. If there is a standard process, please direct me to it and I will follow it if I am able to do so. I should also make

it clear that Mr. Minton neither knows of, nor supports, this proposal. I suspect that he would argue for paying homage to his own mentors and heroes, rather than himself. However, the reality is that he has been a mentor and inspiration to several generations of Austinites and few would be better deserving of this type of acknowledgement.

I have personally inquired on this matter and I can represent to the Counsel that a quick canvas of the opinions of our active and retired Judges, our legislative leaders, local attorneys and generations of law enforcement officials, press people, and many litigants, (some less guilty than others), would yield overwhelming support for such a modest acknowledgement of Mr. Minton's decades of good humored, passionate and effective engagement in the public affairs of our city and our state.

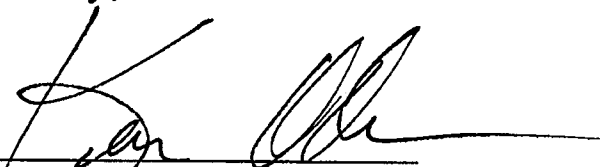
Mr. Minton has not only vigorously practiced law at the County Courthouse (on the street in question) for decades, he has also "held court" for over 40 years at his law office (for several generations referred to as the "Red Brick Courthouse") across 11th Street from the Courthouse itself. In the "Red Room" of this building he has hosted the discussions and debates of the day, teaching history and preserving the love of storytelling he has so enjoyed throughout his life. Under his roof, he offered a forum to any and all political persuasions and opinions. Loath to participate himself, he has "suffered" patiently through frequent episodes of slanderous gossip.

True to his own personal code, he has always encouraged mutual respect among the participants in our public affairs. Not an insignificant concept. At his place, you could be sure of the good humor of the guests, if not their total sobriety.

Mr. Minton grew up in a family which valued education and the progressive potential of our democracy. He has transmitted those values to many others through his life's work.

I request that you take whatever steps as are necessary to add his name to the street adjacent to his office at the intersection of 11th and Guadalupe. I know of no opposition to this proposal. Should any develop, I suggest that you do as he would do in the face of misguided objections and graciously disregard it.

Sincerely,



Ken Oden

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy Q. Minton has practiced law with distinction in Travis County for many decades at the intersection of 11th and Guadalupe Streets, where his law office is still located; and,

WHEREAS, a request has been made to the City of Austin to honor Mr. Roy Q. Minton's decades of progressive leadership by adding an honorary sign bearing his name to the existing City of Austin street sign at the intersection in question; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Minton's contributions to our community are worthy of this modest recognition;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL TO ADD MR. ROY Q. MINTON'S NAME TO THE STREET SIGN AT 11TH AND GUADALUPE STREETS IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS.