

REQUEST FOR NON-SPONSORED NAMING OR RENAMING OF AN EXISTING SCHOOL DIVISION FACILITY

The School Board has the authority to name or rename any new or existing schools, school division buildings or facilities, rooms, fields, grounds, or any portions or areas thereof (collectively, "School Division Facilities"), used by or in connection with the operation of the Alexandria City Public Schools, as defined in Policy FF. Once this form and petition are completed, mail to Alexandria City School Board, c/o Board Clerk, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, or email to boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us. You will be contacted as to the status of the application by the Clerk's office.

Name of Person/Group Making Request:

MARC SOLOMON + OTHERS - SEE ATTACHED

Current School Division Facility:

T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Proposed Name Change:

TUBMAN - CHAVEZ HIGH SCHOOL

Biographical/Historical Data Concerning Name and Rationale for Request: (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

T.C. WILLIAMS WAS A SEGREGATIONIST. HARRIET TUBMAN WAS A BLACK FEMALE FREEDOM FIGHTER AND CESAR CHAVEZ WAS AN IMPORTANT LATINO CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST. THIS NAME CHANGE CAN PRESERVE MOST BRANDING, ALLOW STUDENTS TO STILL BE PART OF "TC", AND REMOVE THIS STAIN ON OUR HISTORY.

-SEE ATTACHED

Dear Members of the Alexandria School Board:

T.C. Williams was an arch-segregationist who did everything in his power to segregate Alexandria's black students from its white students. He was against everything for which our high school, our school system, and our community stand. It is not only unacceptable that Alexandria ever honored Williams by naming our only high school for him, but it is reprehensible that nothing has been done to change it. It is long past time to remove the name of a known racist, arch-segregationist from our city's high school.

According to Alexandria City Public School Board rules, in order to initiate the process, the School Board must receive a petition to change the name that includes the (1) the name(s) of the individual and/or group(s) making the request; (2) biographical/historical data concerning the proposed name; (3) the rationale for the request; and (4) a petition of 100 Alexandria City residents in support of the request. As we cannot just submit a petition to rename TC Williams without suggesting a new name to change it to based on these rules, we have chosen "Tubman-Chavez High School" as a placeholder.

Harriet Tubman and Cesar Chavez were incredible Americans whose names would honor our high school while allowing it to keep the initials "T.C." They would provide representation to students who do not see their heritage adequately in Alexandria schools' names. However, the renaming process must be much larger than 100 Alexandrians. We view this petition as the start of a larger conversation and urge the School Board to instruct the Superintendent to begin the process outlined in FF-R D.1 to rename T.C. Williams High School, including:

- 1) Solicitations for other nominations for naming the school.
- 2) Community outreach and meetings across the city for discussion and nomination.
- 3) Community voting through a variety of means (i.e., in-person, online and/or written) at multiple points throughout the engagement process.
- 4) A review of the community's nominations, after which the Superintendent will formulate recommendations to the School Board for consideration.

Some additional suggestions we have heard during the petition process include Alexandria High School, Chinquapin High School, Earl Lloyd High School, Herman Boone High School, and many others. We urge the School Board to accept this petition to rename TC. and immediately begin a robust renaming process that involves the entire Alexandria community, and to eliminate T.C. Williams' name from our high school as soon as possible

Signed,
Councilman Canek Aguirre
Councilman John Taylor Chapman
Councilman Mohamed E. "Mo" Seifeldein
Delegate Charniele Herring
Delegate Mark Levine

Elijah Griffin Sr
Lindsay Woodson Vick
Christopher Harris
Ingris Moran
Marc Solomon
Barry Epstein
Dan Edwards
Allen Irwin
Purvi Irwin
Mai Trinh
Catherine Estes
Greg Gittleman
Sue Setliff
Jeanne Snapp
Crissy Dyer
Rashmi Pappu
Meron Hailu
Mimi Mussie
Marta Schantz
Sandy Marks
Sharon Solorzano
Paula Fitzgerald
Abby Froemming
Karin Paruggs
Lara Jakes
Michael Jakes
Tricia Maher-Miller