

First, let me thank the council for the time and energy that has gone into the naming of a street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like to make 4 points.

1. The Unity Coalition did not unify anything, and was a waste of time. We worked diligently, giving up time from our businesses and jobs, only to have the Public Works Committee not even vote on our proposed ordinance, but change it. The current ordinance could have been done without a Unity Coalition, as the proposed arterial has already been promised in a resolution that states the first street built will honor Dr. King.
2. Currently, no one knows when the arterial will be built, which, without the renaming of Commerce, makes this ordinance no more significant than the resolution to create an overpass.
3. At such time a date is determined by the Highway Department to begin in earnest on the arterial, we reserve the right to reconsider, at that time, the new arterial to be named in honor of Dr. King if no other opportunity has presented itself.
4. We request that this ordinance be tabled indefinitely. We have waited too long for this Council to do the right thing only to let this ordinance pass without expressing our dismay and disappointment with the entire process; Therefore we respectfully request that the records show the Craighead County NAACP does not support or accept this as a resolve to the naming of a street in honor of Dr. King and request that it not move forward, but that you table it indefinitely.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.