

Sandra L. Combs, 2121 Bristol Drive, Jonesboro

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**My name is Sandra Combs. For 11 years, I have been a registered voter, property owner and taxpayer in Jonesboro.**

**I support naming a street after slain civil rights leader and Noble Peace Prize winner – the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

In an article last month in the Chicago Tribune, there was a story about the difficulty of getting streets, outside of the dilapidated predominantly minority neighborhoods, named after the non-violence advocate and Baptist preacher who supported human rights and economic equality for **ALL PEOPLE**.

The Chicago Tribune said it was a fight because **“it represents a battle over race, power and symbols of what a community values. The battle determines which groups within cities have the power to claim certain places and express themselves. It is often the case where African Americans have not had a large voice in identifying communities and they now want and deserve an opportunity to have a voice in how cities look. The fight against naming a major street after Dr. King is the epitome of White Privilege.”**

And according to the article, as of 2017, 955 U.S. cities in 41 states had streets named after the Drum Major for Justice. Arkansas cities such as Fayetteville, Forest City, Little Rock and West Memphis have streets named after Dr. King. (And as an aside, Arkansas has had a King holiday since 1983 and in March 2017, Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson signed a bill separating the King Holiday from the birthday observance of the Confederate general.)

Nevertheless, it is time for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Jonesboro, Arkansas.