

Emma

I have learned several things during this street renaming process. One thing I have learned is that the majority of those opposed to renaming Johnson have said they are in agreement with naming a street in honor of Dr. King.

This is very encouraging to hear. However, where we disagree is where to put this street and what the location of a ML King Avenue will symbolize and the statement the location of the street will make about our city.

Another thing I have learned, members of the council, it does not matter where it is proposed that a street be named in Dr. King's honor, there will be push back, there will be those opposed to renaming a street in honor of Dr. King, and/or the location of such street.

We are thoroughly convinced that Johnson Avenue IS the best location for a ML King Ave. in Jonesboro. Johnson Avenue is known as the street that separates North Jonesboro from the majority community, both figuratively speaking and literally speaking.

Being a small business owner myself, I understand and sympathize with residents and business owners who will be affected by the name change. Hence the request for a two-year transition period. They will be allowed to use their current Johnson Avenue address for up to two years.

In 2019, lets make Johnson Avenue the street that bridges the gap and brings Jonesboro together rather than the street that separates and divides Jonesboro.