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**Dec. 2, 2019**

***As a member of the Unity Coalition Advisory Committee, I am a supporter of naming all of Commerce Road in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a slain civil rights activist who believed in justice for all. Dr. King has a federal holiday in his name, a Nobel Peace Prize, a massive monument in the Washington, D.C., area, a U.S. postage stamp but no street in Jonesboro.***

***I'm a taxpayer, registered voter and Ward 3 homeowner, and my opinion is that a street named after Dr. King will be an asset in Jonesboro. My opinion is that an overpass is NOT a street. My opinion is that an unfunded trail that needs "much love" is NOT a promised street.***

***I respectfully ask that you hold on to two main facts. First, there is NOT a law in Jonesboro, against renaming streets. Second, the U.S. Postal Service will deliver mail forever to any and all streets, regardless of how many times the street names are changed. For instance, Red Wolf is on its third name and the Post Office will and can still deliver mail to Young or Stadium.***

***And just as a reminder: in 2000 Rogers Chapel Road was renamed Nestle Road and Council members Moore, Williams, Perrin and Street voted yes. In 2005, part of Nestle Road was changed back to Rogers Chapel Road and Council members Moore, Perrin, Street and Johnson voted yes. In 2009 Cook Road was renamed Nordex Drive and Williams, Frierson, Moore, Street, Vance and Gibson voted for it.***

***I respectfully ask that you take in consideration how hurtful it is to essentially say, "name a street after Dr. King but it doesn't exist yet and who knows when it actually will be a real street."***

***Also, I ask that we NOT try to put ourselves in Dr. King's shoes and say what we think he would want. I don't think there is anyone in Jonesboro who is qualified to do that. And if anyone is saying that Dr. King wouldn't want a street in his honor and, therefore, we shouldn't have it, I ask whether that should have been said or would be said about Robert E. Lee or Stonewall Jackson. There are countless schools, streets and monuments throughout the country in their honor but history doesn't say that anyone asked them or spoke for them about having such distinctions.***

***Nevertheless, I respectfully ask that you consider that there are Jonesboro taxpayers and registered voters of all races, genders, politics and religions, who look up to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and would love all of Commerce Road named in his honor.***

***Finally, I respectfully ask that in the spirit of transparency, before voting, that each honorable Council member openly reveal why they will vote the way they will vote rather than just say YES, NO or ABSTAIN. I'd like for the vote to be transparent, and I'm sure others would, too,***

*so if there are issues or concerns that need to be further addressed for the Council, we can address them openly.*

*Thank you in advance for seriously considering naming all of Commerce Road in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

*Sandra L. Combs*