

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Textbook Brokers <[textbookbrokers1@yahoo.com](mailto:textbookbrokers1@yahoo.com)>

**Date:** Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 1:14 PM

**Subject:** Johnson to MLK

**To:** David McClain <[david.mcclain5@gmail.com](mailto:david.mcclain5@gmail.com)>

Alderman McClain-

Concerning the resolution RES-19-072 Renaming Johnson Ave to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr:

As a business owner and property owner of multiple parcels on E Johnson Ave, I support the resolution. I understand the perceived concern of creating additional costs to the businesses on E Johnson Ave but by my analysis, the additional expense and time incurred over a few years to change our address is minimal. These minimal costs are less important to us than the benefit to the community from the increased awareness and respect for Dr. King that would come from renaming the road.

Sincerely,

Bobby Lorimer

**Textbook Brokers**

[2106 E Johnson](#)

[Jonesboro, AR 72401](#)

[Ph: 870-935-2325](#)

[Fax: 870-935-9706](#)

[www.jonesborobooks.com](http://www.jonesborobooks.com)

**From:** Rekellye Scales <[1973rsheas@gmail.com](mailto:1973rsheas@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 12:12 AM

**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>

**Subject:** Street Name Change

Dear City Aldermen,

Hello, my name is Re Kellye Scales and I reside in Jonesboro. I use Johnson everyday and would be proud for it to be renamed to be Martin L. King. I am in full support for this new change in Jonesboro. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Re Kellye Scales

**From:** Tiaya Demby <[msdemby1998@yahoo.com](mailto:msdemby1998@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:25 PM

**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Martin Luther King Ave.

I Tiaya, support & stand with the making of MLK Avenue.  
Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** kayla adaway <adaway@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:38 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Renaming Johnson Ave

I'm in support renaming Johnson Ave. to Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. let's get it done!

Thanks Sylvester  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Adrian Everett <adrian.everett88@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:16 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Renaming Johnson Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue

**Subject: Renaming Johnson to Martin Luther King Avenue**

Hello Jonesboro Aldermen,

I am emailing in SUPPORT of renaming Johnson Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue!!! I have lived in Jonesboro for over 12 years now and I am ashamed and embarrassed for our city leadership that we DO NOT have a street named after one the greatest Civil Rights leaders, Dr. King. I have visited many other cities across this nation, and the majority of them pay respect to him by naming a street after him.

I moved to Jonesboro as a result of selecting Arkansas State University for my post high school education. When I think about the main streets surrounding the university, the majority of them are named after someone of historical significance. Hattie Caraway and Marion Berry both did great things for A-State! Then on the other side, Red Wolves Blvd is very attractive and shows school spirit on the drive into the town.

BUT THEN, there is Johnson Avenue. I've asked who is Johnson and I've yet to know the significance of it. But I do know that Martin Luther King is a reason for me as a MINORITY student being able to peacefully attend a predominantly white institution to attend college because of his peaceful civil rights demonstrations and speeches. He had a dream that we are able to live out today by going to college with other students of many other races.

I think it would be amazing to all of our citizens of Jonesboro if you all as a united voting body of elected city councilmen would show your love for diversity by agreeing to rename Johnson Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue!

If you have questions, please contact me at (870) 222-7201!

Thanks,

Adrian Everett  
500 Brentwood Drive  
Jonesboro, AR 72404

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Milan TV <[apostlemilan31@gmail.com](mailto:apostlemilan31@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 8:29 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:**

I am in support of Johnson St to being changed into Martin Luther King Blvd

**From:** Chris Toler <[c.atoler@yahoo.com](mailto:c.atoler@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:57 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR MLK AVENUE

Hello Jonesboro Aldermen,

I am emailing in SUPPORT of renaming Johnson Avenue to Martin Luther King Jr Avenue. I am a former resident of Jonesboro and alumni of Arkansas State University. When I first heard of the proposal to rename Johnson Ave to MLK Ave, I felt this was a positive step to connecting a city with all of its constituents. And now I am hearing reports of resistance to the change for some undisclosed reason. I don't understand why this has become a dividing issue or cause of concern outside of the business / economic change for local businesses and residents, but change is the result of a growing and developing city. This is the type of social inclusive thinking needed to continue developing Jonesboro into a top tier city in the State of Arkansas, attracting quality jobs / employees and providing your constituents with a high standard of living.

This should not be a dividing issue, but instead a proposal warranting unanimous consent. The man Martin Luther King Jr was not only one of the most memorable African American icons and American heroes, but also a Nobel Peace Prize Winner, an immortal model for peace, civility, education and intelligence, and also a martyr for human rights and equality for every person.

Renaming the street will be a visible shining light of inclusivity and positive self imaging for the African American students looking across the street from an predominatly white school surrounded by teachers, buildings and other streets being enshrined for people who do not look like them.

If a street was to be named after anyone, it should be Martin Luther King Jr. This is a step in the right direction, I hope you will make the right decision.

Christopher Toler

Arkansas State University Alumnus '2008

**From:** EMMA Agnew <[williamsemma62@gmail.com](mailto:williamsemma62@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 1:32 PM

**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>

**Subject:** I'm For MLK Avenue

Tuesday night will be a defining moment in the history of Jonesboro. I know that each of you have been giving a lot of thought to your vote as we petition you to rename Johnson Avenue in honor of Dr. King. And for that I say 'thank you'. Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful considerration. Thank you to those who have decided that this is the right thing to do and will cast your vote in favor of the renaming. I realize this is not an easy decision to make and I don't take that lightly. I respectfully request that you base your decision on what is best for the City of Jonesboro as a whole and not the wishes of a few.

Johnson Ave has long been known as the street that separates North Jonesboro from the rest of the City. Many residents in North Jonesboro have a sense that they don't belong and that their thoughts, ideas, and dreams don't matter to the City.

Dr. King is certainly worthy of this honor. National and International historic figure, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Presidential Medal of Honor, Congressional Medal of Honor, and of course, civil rights icon.

Dr King believed that everyone, regardless of race and economic status should be treated fairly, and his leadership was instrumental in making our world, our country, our state, and yes, our City a better place to live.

I urge you to vote yes on June 18th, and send a message loud and clear that Jonesboro is progressive, that we are inclusive and that we value the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Let's make Johnson Avenue a street that bridges the divide and brings us together, rather than the street that separates us.

Emma Agnew, President  
Craighead County NAACP

**From:** Jameika Harris <[jameikahearn@gmail.com](mailto:jameikahearn@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave Support

Good morning,

I am honored and excited to support the renaming of Johnson Ave to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This will be historic for the city of Jonesboro. It is my hope that city members and leaders will be in support and put much effort into the initiative, just as they were during the renaming of Stadium Blvd to what is currently known as Red Wolf Blvd. This name change will establish much needed development of diversity for our city, which was part of the mission of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,  
Jameika Harris

**From:** Rebekah Evans <[rebekah.laurel@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.laurel@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 9:48 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** Please SUPPORT Street Renaming Resolution

Dear City Councilors,

I am writing to ask that you support the street renaming resolution that would name Johnson Avenue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We know from the recent change to Red Wolf Blvd that the renaming of streets is fairly common and reflects the growth and priorities of a city. Here, the priority of the city is showing that we value the contributions of African Americans and value the vision and inspiration of Dr. King--that we can all live together and value each other based on the content of our characters.

Representation is important, and representation in names is also important. I want the community that I live in to send a message that ALL its people are important, that we value the work of civil rights heroes, and that we value diversity. A street name is one small way to send that message.

(As a side note, I was also glad to see that the concerns of financial burdens for businesses have been well addressed and the post office will continue to deliver to Johnson Avenue for a specified time, thereby solving the issue of businesses having to re-order letterhead or business cards too quickly and causing a financial issue.)

Please support the renaming of Johnson Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr Avenue.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rebekah Evans  
Jonesboro, AR

**From:** Rebekah Evans <rebekah.laurel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 9:58 AM  
**To:** Rebekah Evans <rebekah.laurel@gmail.com>; Donna Jackson <DJackson@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Please support street renaming proposal

**Dear City Councilors,**

**I tried to send the message below to all of you at the [aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:aldermen@jonesboro.org) address, but I received a failure notification from several inboxes. If it came to you, please forgive the double email.**

Dear City Councilors,

I am writing to ask that you support the street renaming resolution that would name Johnson Avenue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We know from the recent change to Red Wolf Blvd that the renaming of streets is fairly common and reflects the growth and priorities of a city. Here, the priority of the city is showing that we value the contributions of African Americans and value the vision and inspiration of Dr. King--that we can all live together and value each other based on the content of our characters. Representation is important, and representation in names is also important. I want the community that I live in to send a message that ALL its people are important, that we value the work of civil rights heroes, and that we value diversity. A street name is one small way to send that message.

(As a side note, I was also glad to see that the concerns of financial burdens for businesses have been well addressed and the post office will continue to deliver to Johnson Avenue for a specified time, thereby solving the issue of businesses having to re-order letterhead or business cards too quickly and causing a financial issue.)

Please support the renaming of Johnson Avenue to Martin Luther King, Jr Avenue.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rebekah Evans  
Jonesboro, AR

**From:** Elijah Agnew <agnewelijah@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 9:50 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** I support MLK Avenue

Dear Councilman, I am thanking you in advance for your vote and support in the renaming "Johnson Avenue" To "Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue." Remember that Monroe, Washington, Franklin Streets as well as many other streets are named for some of our leaders that were not citizens of Jonesboro.

Sent from [Outlook](#)

**From:** Jerrod Lockhart <[jerrod\\_lockhart@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrod_lockhart@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 10:47 AM  
**To:** Charles Frierson <[cdfrierson3@hotmail.com](mailto:cdfrierson3@hotmail.com)>; Gene Vance <[GVance@jonesboro.org](mailto:GVance@jonesboro.org)>; Charles Coleman <[crcjab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crcjab@sbcglobal.net)>; [chrismooreplumbing@yahoo.com](mailto:chrismooreplumbing@yahoo.com); Ann Williams <[edgecoffehouse@hotmail.com](mailto:edgecoffehouse@hotmail.com)>; [clgrehabman@yahoo.com](mailto:clgrehabman@yahoo.com); John Street <[jwstreet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwstreet@sbcglobal.net)>; Mitch Johnson <[johnsons3@suddenlink.net](mailto:johnsons3@suddenlink.net)>; Larry Bryant <[LJ@ljbryant.com](mailto:LJ@ljbryant.com)>; Joe Hafner <[Joeforjonesboro@gmail.com](mailto:Joeforjonesboro@gmail.com)>; Bobby Long <[blongicc@gmail.com](mailto:blongicc@gmail.com)>; David McClain <[DMcClain@jonesboro.org](mailto:DMcClain@jonesboro.org)>  
**Cc:** Harold Perrin <[HPerrin@jonesboro.org](mailto:HPerrin@jonesboro.org)>; Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** Decision Time

Honorable Mayor Perrin & Distinguished Members of the City Council -

It is my earnest prayer that this message finds each of you well. I would like to begin by thanking you for your service to the citizens of Jonesboro. I came to Jonesboro in 1994 as a student at Arkansas State University. One of the things that encouraged me to remain in Jonesboro was "opportunity." Opportunity for personal growth and professional development, opportunity to raise my "future" family in a safe environment, and most importantly the opportunities for growth.

However, in complete transparency I have felt that the City of Jonesboro, in some ways, has not acknowledge my presence in the city. When I say "acknowledge my presence" I am speaking to the absence of cultural connection to the city. Certainly, there are community centers and social programs that are located within the community that attempt to speak to the presence of African-Americans in Jonesboro. However, those things are hidden and lack prominence. I am asking each of you, my representative to vote in favor of the renaming of Johnson Ave. to Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. This name change will in fact make a statement to the citizens of Jonesboro that we acknowledge the presence of our African-American community and that there is a systemic value placed on unity, harmony, civility, and a mutual respect for all man kind.

I am aware that this topic has created a great deal of discussion and isn't that what democracy is about, creating a space where voices can be heard. It is clear to me that up to this point the voices of concerned citizens have been heard or this discussion would not have made it to a vote. Now I am asking you to show us that not only were the citizens of Jonesboro heard but that THEY MATTER. Your vote in the affirmative will catapult our city to the next dimension to the current members, future members, and guest of our community. In fact, I believe this change will be the "gateway" to begin the work of erasing the divide that exist in our great city. Jonesboro is on the pulse of something great and I am hopeful that you will seize this moment.

Thank you for time and I am prayerful that tonight's decision will be favor of the symbolic change needed in Jonesboro. Please say yes to renaming of Johnson Ave. to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jerrod O. Lockhart  
Jonesboro Resident  
705 White Dove Circle  
Jonesboro, AR 72401  
(870) 897-8807

Community Affiliations -  
Nettleton School District  
Member Fullness of Joy Ministries  
Member - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Mu Omicron Lambda Chapter  
NEA MLK Celebration Planning Committee Member  
Arkansas State University Employee

**From:** Jeff Flanigan <[jeffflanigan@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffflanigan@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 1:36 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Cc:** KLEK 102.5 F.M. LaGanzie Kale - General Manager <[klek1025fm@gmail.com](mailto:klek1025fm@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** MLK Street Proposal 60in,

Greetings Jonesboro Aldermen,

I'm writing to you in fervent support of the proposal to rename a portion of Johnson Ave. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. I believe that we would be hard pressed to find a person who, whether directly or indirectly, has not been positively effected by my esteemed fraternity brother, Dr. King. His reach far exceeds race and religion. To think of him as only a symbol of Black America greatly undersells his true worth.

Dr. King is an Icon. It is in his iconoclastic beliefs that ALL men should be treated as equals as God created them that we see the core of this great man. He pushed America to live up to it's creed, "We hold these truths to be self evident that ALL men are created equal..." My 93-year-old Grandmother got to meet Dr. King in 1955 at Tuskegee University. All my life I've revered her even more because of her interaction with the quintessential example of human kindness and altruism.

If Dr. King were living, he wouldn't be concerned about the naming of a street. He'd want us to continue his work. He'd want us to realize his dream. But because he isn't here physically, this is a way the community of Jonesboro can ensure that he remains alive much longer than God gave him on this earth. I support the name change and I support you and any others attempting to live up to the legacy of peace, love and brotherhood that Dr. King gave his life trying to spread. Thank you and bless you and your work.

**From:** Lisa Brown <[lisacbbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lisacbbrown@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:08 PM

**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>

**Cc:** Charles Frierson <[cdfrierson3@hotmail.com](mailto:cdfrierson3@hotmail.com)>; Gene Vance <[GVance@jonesboro.org](mailto:GVance@jonesboro.org)>; Charles Coleman <[crcjab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crcjab@sbcglobal.net)>; [chrismooreplumbing@yahoo.com](mailto:chrismooreplumbing@yahoo.com); Ann Williams <[edgecoffehouse@hotmail.com](mailto:edgecoffehouse@hotmail.com)>; [clgrehabman@yahoo.com](mailto:clgrehabman@yahoo.com); John Street <[jwstreet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwstreet@sbcglobal.net)>; Mitch Johnson <[johnsons3@suddenlink.net](mailto:johnsons3@suddenlink.net)>; Larry Bryant <[LJ@ljbryant.com](mailto:LJ@ljbryant.com)>; Joe Hafner <[Joeforjonesboro@gmail.com](mailto:Joeforjonesboro@gmail.com)>; Bobby Long <[blongicc@gmail.com](mailto:blongicc@gmail.com)>; David McClain <[DMcClain@jonesboro.org](mailto:DMcClain@jonesboro.org)>; Harold Perrin <[HPerrin@jonesboro.org](mailto:HPerrin@jonesboro.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Decision Time

Good Afternoon Honorable Mayor Perrin & Distinguished Members of the City Council,

18,703 days after the assignation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, his legacy and name continue to shine the light to the many injustices of the United States. The debate of whether or not Johnson Ave should be named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has reminded me that we are still so far away from the dream that Dr. King spoke about 20,384 days ago. It saddens me to read the comments under posts about the renaming of Johnson. To think these people that have said so many negative things are the same people that I shop with at Kroger, they are the same people that stand in line with me at Walmart, the same people I have the privilege to see as I go about my day in Jonesboro. The racial divides in Jonesboro are very apparent; unfortunate, but very apparent. And that is why I am in FULL support of the renaming Johnson Ave after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to help create a more inclusive community. Are there going to be uncomfortable changes required to assist in the changing of name, yes, but the cost of name changing does not compare to how many African Americans died for simple rights that White Americans are guaranteed at birth. Renaming the street will show not only Jonesboro that we believe in a world of faith that Dr. King spoke about but also shows the world that the south truly aligns with the beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and our actions are congruent to this nation's belief of freedom and justice for all.

Thank you,

Lisa Brown-Rodgers  
Jonesboro Resident

**From:** Tyriana Green <[tyriana.green@smail.astate.edu](mailto:tyriana.green@smail.astate.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:48 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR MLK BLVD

I support the change of Johnson st to Martin Luther King Jr st!! This needs to happen!!!