

Linda Lopez

From: Doug Prezzano <douglasprezzano4173@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Town counsel agenda

Hi Linda,

I wanted to pass along comments on a notice I received in the mail regarding 2 Town agenda items-

Renovating our emergency / public facilities. I understand, this needs to be addressed.

Discussion on a name change for Sir Francis Drake blvd. I'm probably a bit biased as I live on SFD - and the last thing I'd want to deal with right now is sorting out an address change, nevertheless....

- 1) We're in the middle of a pandemic - almost one year in where local government still can't get testing readily available for us. (The Ross school suggested provider turns out is now being criticized by the FDA as inaccurate)
- 2) Ross school can't seem to get our kids educated- while the rest of the country (and other Marin public schools for that matter) have figured it out and have kids at school for much more than our 2 hours a day.
- 3) There's a exodus out of Ross with families moving to greener pastures.

And the Town feels it's pressing to discuss changing the name of a street.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?????

Doug Prezzano
45 SFD

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: SFD Name Change

From: David Peterson <dpeterson307@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:35 AM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Cc: krice@marincounty.org
Subject: SFD Name Change

I understand the question of whether to change the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. as it passes through the Town is on the agenda for this week's Council Meeting. It appears a little more than one hour into the meeting. I doubt very seriously that this item has reached the level of interest on the part of the Ross citizens that will create a representative response to the question. I hope you have been speaking with your constituents to learn what they are thinking.

I have previously communicated my thoughts on the Name Changing Movement. Especially with respect to SFD. Making such a change is a colossal waste of time and money. I hope the Council will lead the way and be the first jurisdiction to reject the change outright and find better ways to encourage racial and social justice. In the alternative, place the question on the next General Election ballot for Ross and the other jurisdictions so that the public will be able to weigh in rather than some "Working Group" that is formed. Such Groups often have a predetermined outcome based on the make up of the Group.

I note that there is already a Working Group looking into the name change for SFD. I fear the "activist minority" will lead the Group to do something after a lot of work... You shouldn't expect them to decide to do nothing.

Drake High School has already decided change its name based on the input from a Working Group without much if any input from the wider Community. I hope we will not fall into this same trap.

I assume you have all read the IJ's coverage of the question of Name Change of SFD as well as other streets, schools and monuments. Below are some links to a brief sampling. The first article raises the issue and if you read between the lines, you might conclude, as I did, that the County SUPs have made up their minds to do something rather than nothing after holding lots of meetings and Listening Sessions....., resulting in changing the name.

The second article by Dick Spotswood articulates, far better than I, the danger of letting an active minority move this and other issues that might tend to fall below the majority's radar. The third article by Spotswood points out Sir Francis Drake likely did less to promote slavery in America than the person for whom the Town of Fairfax is named, Charles Snowden Fairfax. When you start changing the names of things, there is no place to stop until you have named everything after flowers and animals. Yet I'm sure someone would find a reason to object to many of the names in nature as well.

Sunday, 3 January 2021 Page 1.
"3Drake Boulevard could get multiple new name"
Sunday Front Page IJ
Follow the link below to view the article.
<http://marinindependentjournal-ca-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=19794e498>

Sunday, 3 January 2021 Editorial Page
Community involvement best fight against minority rule in Marin
Sunday IJ Spotswood
Follow the link below to view the article.
<http://marinindependentjournal-ca-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=15a44cf04>

Wednesday 6 January 2021 Editorial Page
If Drake lost standing, what about man named Fairfax?

Wednesday IJ Spotswood

Follow the link below to view the article.

<http://marinindependentjournal-ca-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=166de6e46>

There are so many better things to do with all this time and money. Not to mention the inconvenience to the many businesses and individuals that will have to change their address on every credit card, drivers license, utility bill, passport, stationary, etc. If Ross shows some courage and says no to this ridiculous proposal, maybe the other jurisdictions will be less likely to proceed.

David Peterson
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PO Box 1445
Ross, CA 94957
Sent from my iPhone

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: SFD Name Change

From: David Peterson <dpeterson307@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 3:14 PM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Cc: krice@marincounty.org
Subject: SFD Name Change

You should also reread Spotswood's editorial from December 19, 2020.

Slow down the Drake purge and put it to voters

<https://www.marinij.com/2020/12/19/dick-spotswood-slow-down-the-drake-purge-and-put-it-to-voters/>

David Peterson
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Ross, CA 94957
Sent from my iPhone

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: Yale Historian in Support of Retaining Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
Attachments: Letter in Support of Retaining Drake-Colin Hoch.pdf

From: Colin Hoch <colin.hoch@yale.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 10:56 AM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>; mgardner@townoffairfax.org; towncouncil@townofsananselmo.org; kharoff@cityoflarkspur.org; dhillmer@cityoflarkspur.org; scandell@cityoflarkspur.org; gpaulson@cityoflarkspur.org; cway@cityoflarkspur.org; krice@marincounty.org; drodoni@marincounty.org; jarnold@marincounty.org; smoulton-peters@marincounty.org; dconnolly@marincounty.org; Julie McMillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>
Subject: Yale Historian in Support of Retaining Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

To the Marin County Board of Supervisors, the Town Councils of Fairfax, Ross and San Anselmo, and the City Council of Larkspur,

I write as a historian of the period in which Sir Francis Drake lived in order to express my support for retaining his name and memory in Marin County. After meeting with Mayor Julie McMillan of Ross, I drafted a letter detailing Drake's historical context and why, in my professional opinion, despite his intermittent and secondary role in the slave trade, Drake's primary legacy remains that of an explorer, navigator, and military leader worthy of local commemoration. I've attached the letter for your consideration as well as a link to recent historical scholarship which shows Drake to have had a nuanced relationship to race and slavery. In particular, records show that an African named Diego, who Drake helped liberate from Spanish slavery, served as a paid and invaluable member of Drake's crew during his circumnavigation of the globe. Please reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the letter or further historical context that may help you in your deliberations regarding Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Best Wishes,

Colin Hoch

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Colin Hoch, PhD Candidate
Department of History
Renaissance Studies
Yale University
colin.hoch@yale.edu

<https://www.history.com/news/the-untold-story-of-how-an-escaped-slave-helped-sir-francis-drake-circumnavigate-the-globe>

January 8, 2021

To the honorable Marin County Board of Supervisors, Town Councils of Fairfax, Ross and San Anselmo, and City Council of Larkspur, California

I write as a specialist of the period in which Sir Francis Drake made his contributions to history, a period whose politics, values, and culture I research as a doctoral candidate in the History Department of Yale University. Given this expertise, I contend that erasing Drake's name from Marin County would be a profound mistake and a missed opportunity for the community to appreciate how their region played a direct role in the emergence of an interconnected world through its connection to Drake's epochal circumnavigation of the globe. Despite his infrequent and secondary role in the slave trade, Drake's primary legacy remains that of an explorer, navigator, and military leader of both local and global significance. It was Drake's primary legacy that first garnered him commemoration in Marin County, and with proper contextualization, it should be the reason why that commemoration remains.

In choosing to retain Drake, you can make a brave stand against the anachronistic moralism that has so contributed to the dangerous polarization of our political climate. As a historian, I know that taking the responsible and nuanced position in this climate is never easy, especially against those who leverage real, ongoing racial disparities in the service of historical erasure. It is all too easy to throw the proverbial baby out with the bathwater when we are faced with historical figures that don't measure up to our ever-evolving ethical standards. Yet, erasing Drake will do nothing to further racial justice in Marin County. Moreover, in my professional opinion, commemoration of Drake is worth retaining because it enables people to better envision how Marin County was, and continues to be, connected to the wider world and the historical processes that shaped it.

You need not agree, nor should you, with every action taken by Drake in his lifetime to reach this conclusion or understand this utility. Drake's critics would also seem to confuse his commemoration, which should acknowledge historical nuance and present a valuable teaching opportunity to the community, with honoring aspects of his career that do not convey contemporary values. Such critics also contend that they are not in fact erasing local history, but rather eliminating honors paid to an unworthy figure. After all, the argument goes, Drake will always have a place in historical scholarship. Yet, as a person responsible for producing historical scholarship, I am under no illusion that my academic work will have the same widespread, beneficial impact on historical consciousness as the arts, media, and public commemoration. In short, Drake's entire career need not convey contemporary values to be of service to contemporary Marin.

Moving forward, you would do well to find precedent in the example of Plymouth, England with regards to the legacy of its native Sir Francis Drake. After considerable deliberation and examination of the historical record, Plymouth responsibly concluded that Drake's primary legacy remained that of an explorer, navigator, and military leader figure worthy of commemoration. Unlike his cousin John Hawkins, under whom Drake served as a young sailor in his twenties, Drake was not an instigator or leader of expeditions whose sole function was the slave trade. Moreover, when Drake came of age and began to lead his own exploratory and military expeditions across the globe, the slave trade played only a marginal role in his overall designs. Ultimately, with regards to his commemoration, Plymouth came to the conclusion that Sir Francis Drake was not his cousin John Hawkins, and that the prominent display of his statue should remain with the addition of sufficient contextualization about the figure and his era.

Before closing, I want to explain some of the historical factors that helped Plymouth come to this responsible and nuanced conclusion, factors I hope will help you in a similar manner. To begin, Drake's relationship with race and slavery was, like most contemporary Europeans, ambiguous and contingent upon other circumstances. For example, unlike Confederate leaders whose statues have recently come down across America, Drake cannot in any historically accurate sense be considered a figure of white supremacy. His commemoration was also never intended, like Jim Crow era monuments, to intimidate people of color. Instead, Drake belonged to an Elizabethan culture that ascribed value to people less by race and more by language, religion, culture, profession, and class. During Drake's era, Europeans in general had yet to develop the pseudo-scientific notions of biological, hierarchical race that underwrote the expanded slave trade and overt white supremacy of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

When Europeans of Drake's era encountered diverse peoples, considerations of race were more often than not secondary to language, religion, culture, profession, and class. For example, the powerful African rulers who sold captives to Europeans were understood as the functional equals of European counterparts. Records also show that a highly skilled African named Diego, whom Drake liberated from Spanish slavery, became a paid and invaluable crewmember during his circumnavigation of the globe. These attitudes also informed the way Drake conducted himself during encounters with Native Americans. For example, when Drake made landfall in what is today Marin County, he readily traded with the friendly Miwok nation and accommodated his behavior to their hierarchy in gestures of mutual respect. In effect, the circumstances in which Sir Francis Drake encountered the diverse peoples of the world mattered in his

ethical behavior. This nuance is obscured, along with his primary legacy as an explorer, navigator, and military leader, when modern critics ascribe anachronistic motivations to Drake and his era. In sum, I hope these historical considerations help you in making the responsible decision to retain public commemoration of Sir Francis Drake for the educational benefit of future generations in Marin County. Please reach out to me via email if you have further questions, and I wish you all the best in your deliberation.

Best Wishes,

Colin G. Hoch
Doctoral Candidate
History and Renaissance Studies
Yale University
colin.hoch@yale.edu

Linda Lopez

From: Philip Pillsbury <ppillsbury@pillsburycoleman.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:41 AM
To: Linda Lopez
Cc: Sharon Pillsbury; Dave Peterson; Ann Kauffman; Jim Kauffman; Robert Mittelstaedt
Subject: Opposition to the renaming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard
Attachments: Letter in Support of Retaining Drake-Colin Hoch.pdf; PastedGraphic-2.tiff

To the Town Council of Ross:

Sharon and I have lived in Ross for more than 30 years. We recently learned from Dave Peterson that the Town of Ross will consider renaming Sir Francis Drake Boulevard as it passes through Ross. We understand that there is a move afoot to reevaluate Sir Francis Drake's stature as an historical figure in light of rather murky suggestions that he engaged in slavery in his past. As it turns out, Drake, as a young man in his 20's, served under his cousin, John Hawkins, who did apparently did engage in slavery in the 16th century in England. However, as Drake matured, he became an explorer, a navigator, and a remarkable individual. To me, these qualities, developed in his maturity, far outweigh any immediate need to rename the Boulevard passing through the Town of Ross.

We believe that Dave and Ann Peterson forwarded to you a letter prepared by a doctoral candidate at Yale describing Drake's background in detail. For your ease of use, We attach a copy of that letter. We find it quite persuasive.

Procedurally, I think it is a mistake for the Ross Town Council to create a "working group" and then to defer to that group's findings. If the Council is serious about changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, I believe the matter should be put on the ballot on the next General Election in Ross so that our entire community in Ross can speak to this important subject.

As it stands now, we oppose the Town taking action on a name change at this time.

Phil and Sharon Pillsbury

PHILIP L. PILLSBURY, JR.

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January 8, 2021

To the honorable Marin County Board of Supervisors, Town Councils of Fairfax, Ross and San Anselmo, and City Council of Larkspur, California

I write as a specialist of the period in which Sir Francis Drake made his contributions to history, a period whose politics, values, and culture I research as a doctoral candidate in the History Department of Yale University. Given this expertise, I contend that erasing Drake's name from Marin County would be a profound mistake and a missed opportunity for the community to appreciate how their region played a direct role in the emergence of an interconnected world through its connection to Drake's epochal circumnavigation of the globe. Despite his infrequent and secondary role in the slave trade, Drake's primary legacy remains that of an explorer, navigator, and military leader of both local and global significance. It was Drake's primary legacy that first garnered him commemoration in Marin County, and with proper contextualization, it should be the reason why that commemoration remains.

In choosing to retain Drake, you can make a brave stand against the anachronistic moralism that has so contributed to the dangerous polarization of our political climate. As a historian, I know that taking the responsible and nuanced position in this climate is never easy, especially against those who leverage real, ongoing racial disparities in the service of historical erasure. It is all too easy to throw the proverbial baby out with the bathwater when we are faced with historical figures that don't measure up to our ever-evolving ethical standards. Yet, erasing Drake will do nothing to further racial justice in Marin County. Moreover, in my professional opinion, commemoration of Drake is worth retaining because it enables people to better envision how Marin County was, and continues to be, connected to the wider world and the historical processes that shaped it.

You need not agree, nor should you, with every action taken by Drake in his lifetime to reach this conclusion or understand this utility. Drake's critics would also seem to confuse his commemoration, which should acknowledge historical nuance and present a valuable teaching opportunity to the community, with honoring aspects of his career that do not convey contemporary values. Such critics also contend that they are not in fact erasing local history, but rather eliminating honors paid to an unworthy figure. After all, the argument goes, Drake will always have a place in historical scholarship. Yet, as a person responsible for producing historical scholarship, I am under no illusion that my academic work will have the same widespread, beneficial impact on historical consciousness as the arts, media, and public commemoration. In short, Drake's entire career need not convey contemporary values to be of service to contemporary Marin.

Moving forward, you would do well to find precedent in the example of Plymouth, England with regards to the legacy of its native Sir Francis Drake. After considerable deliberation and examination of the historical record, Plymouth responsibly concluded that Drake's primary legacy remained that of an explorer, navigator, and military leader figure worthy of commemoration. Unlike his cousin John Hawkins, under whom Drake served as a young sailor in his twenties, Drake was not an instigator or leader of expeditions whose sole function was the slave trade. Moreover, when Drake came of age and began to lead his own exploratory and military expeditions across the globe, the slave trade played only a marginal role in his overall designs. Ultimately, with regards to his commemoration, Plymouth came to the conclusion that Sir Francis Drake was not his cousin John Hawkins, and that the prominent display of his statue should remain with the addition of sufficient contextualization about the figure and his era.

Before closing, I want to explain some of the historical factors that helped Plymouth come to this responsible and nuanced conclusion, factors I hope will help you in a similar manner. To begin, Drake's relationship with race and slavery was, like most contemporary Europeans, ambiguous and contingent upon other circumstances. For example, unlike Confederate leaders whose statues have recently come down across America, Drake cannot in any historically accurate sense be considered a figure of white supremacy. His commemoration was also never intended, like Jim Crow era monuments, to intimidate people of color. Instead, Drake belonged to an Elizabethan culture that ascribed value to people less by race and more by language, religion, culture, profession, and class. During Drake's era, Europeans in general had yet to develop the pseudo-scientific notions of biological, hierarchical race that underwrote the expanded slave trade and overt white supremacy of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

When Europeans of Drake's era encountered diverse peoples, considerations of race were more often than not secondary to language, religion, culture, profession, and class. For example, the powerful African rulers who sold captives to Europeans were understood as the functional equals of European counterparts. Records also show that a highly skilled African named Diego, whom Drake liberated from Spanish slavery, became a paid and invaluable crewmember during his circumnavigation of the globe. These attitudes also informed the way Drake conducted himself during encounters with Native Americans. For example, when Drake made landfall in what is today Marin County, he readily traded with the friendly Miwok nation and accommodated his behavior to their hierarchy in gestures of mutual respect. In effect, the circumstances in which Sir Francis Drake encountered the diverse peoples of the world mattered in his

ethical behavior. This nuance is obscured, along with his primary legacy as an explorer, navigator, and military leader, when modern critics ascribe anachronistic motivations to Drake and his era. In sum, I hope these historical considerations help you in making the responsible decision to retain public commemoration of Sir Francis Drake for the educational benefit of future generations in Marin County. Please reach out to me via email if you have further questions, and I wish you all the best in your deliberation.

Best Wishes,

Colin G. Hoch
Doctoral Candidate
History and Renaissance Studies
Yale University
colin.hoch@yale.edu

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: Comment re Renaming SFD Blvd

From: Nancy McCarthy <maczord@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 11:56 PM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Subject: Comment re Renaming SFD Blvd

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to voice my position on the issue of renaming Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Personally, I oppose a name change after reading all of the information made available recently. It appears clear that if SFD was on slave ships he soon thereafter rejected slavery and he supported the indigenous inhabitants of Marin. [Robert Stupack of Novato, a Drake historian.] It is wrong to reject someone who has reformed and demonstrated in deed that they had acted in accord with that enlightenment. To condemn such person is to reject redemption, and that would give a green light to keeping everyone in prison for their past crimes with no hope of a new life. I refer you to the parable of Jesus in the Bible: the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32 - - he was celebrated.

It almost appears that since there were no statues, institutions or roads named after historical figures now claimed to be continually racist until their death (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Robert E Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson), a small group of people focused on Sir Francis Drake, many from outside Marin. The controversy over a name change for Drake HS has caused a major split and bad feelings between alumni, students, faculty and the general public, particularly following provocative statements and conduct by some school officials/faculty. See related Pacific Sun story.

Dick Spotswood has written about this situation in the IJ, suggesting that voters speak up to stop small groups from demanding whatever they want, despite the unreasonableness or inaccuracy of the claims, and the lack of support by the majority. It appears that many are concerned about being attacked as racist for disagreeing with skewed or unsupported claims by persons who decree certain things "racist." Mr. Spotswood also pointed out that the name of the Town of "Fairfax" may be next in line for cancelation, since apparently Mr. Fairfax had slaves long ago.

Before deciding to make such a significant change, the Council should obtain an advisory vote of the residents of Ross. There are only approximately 2,300 residents of Ross and most adults have their email addresses registered with the Town or on the voter registration rolls at the Registrar of Voters office at the Civic Center. Likely the Town has all mailing addresses for the households. A simple email or mailer can be sent asking only: Do you support changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd, yes or no. Voters should be assured that their vote will be confidential, i.e., sent to the Town's offices and counted and the tally reported to the Town Council, with the responses later destroyed. Voters may look up the historic details about Sir Francis Drake; they should not be led to one conclusion or the other. This process would provide a flavor of the Ross voters' preferences.

You have done surveys on replacing Town buildings and the location of services. Renaming the main street through the Town, which has existed since the 1920s, is not less important.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy McCarthy

Resident since 1987

Question: Dick Spotswood indicated that if the Town were to vote to change the name of SFD Blvd, a petition signed by 168 Ross voters could call into question that decision. Is the Council going to take a formal vote on this issue, and if so, can it be contested as Mr. Spotswood has advised?

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Demands for change of name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd

From: M DAVID MINNICK <m.minnick@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 9:44 PM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Subject: Demands for change of name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd

Dear Ross Town Council members,

I am not a Ross resident but my two daughters went to Ross School. During that time I served on the Ross School Foundation and the Ross School Financial Advisory board. All of which allowed me to get to know many people active in matters involving Ross. The Town Council members that I know are bright thoughtful individuals who evaluate all aspects of the matters brought before them. I expect that the other members are of the same ilk so I am sending this message for your consideration regarding the question of whether to rename Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

We are at a time when our society is focusing more carefully on the discrimination and biases that affect people's lives. The important question is what should come out of this effort? What actions could reduce bias and discrimination going forward? What could improve the lives and futures of those facing racial discrimination in particular? What will draw individual citizens to personally evaluate their views and support actions to remove racial discrimination?

Governments must consider the best use of their resources to achieve the desired goals. Local governments in particular have limited time to address the multitude of issues in their communities. Spending time on some issues reduces or eliminates time to address others

1. Renaming Sir Francis Drake Boulevard is a poor choice to reduce discrimination and improve lives.

At most renaming SFD will recognize that the concerns expressed by some vocal people have been heard and answered. There will be no impact on the future lives of people in the minority community. Consider instead some other matters that provide immediate benefits to minorities struggling in society:

(i) The most critical area for providing opportunities is education of minority youth. Black leaders in Marin County have stated the importance of educational support. Their Marin Voice article in the June 25, 2020 edition of the IJ listed the following organizations in Marin City and San Rafael that support the education of minority youth by aiding students through high school and into higher education: WHAP Scholastic Academy in Marin City, Next Generation Scholars in San Rafael and Bridge the Gap in Marin City. Identifying how Ross residents could support such organizations with time and resources would have immediate direct impact on the future opportunities for minority youth.

(ii) The SF Marin Food Bank has dramatically increased its efforts because of the huge increase in people needing food. It has warehouses of food but needs help with its distribution. That includes funds to pay rent for distribution locations and volunteers to provide distribution during hours when people can come. There is nothing more critical to people in distress worried about feeding their families every day.

(iii) The counselors working in the County's Juvenile Services are dealing with distressed families who need activities and positive experiences for their children. The YMCA offered such a program but the families could not afford the \$40 for their children to participate while their parents were working two jobs. Nor was there transportation to get the children to the program. All segments of the Marin County could provide people and support to address immediate needs such as these. These needs could be publicized to citizens interested in making a positive impact on the underprivileged

These are just some examples where publicity and resources would have an immediate impact on people's lives. Changing a street sign does nothing for them.

2. Focusing on renaming SFD only encourages additional distractions from the more important task of improving the current situation.

If you acquiesce to this demand, you are guaranteeing more demands to follow.

How many other locations, businesses and public assets will face demands to be renamed because of a Drake reference? Is that the best use of time for people who should be focused on improving the lives of current residents? There are serious questions about whether Sir Francis Drake did anything to merit the attacks on his name and legacy. Scholars studying Drake's history have demonstrated many examples of why his name merits positive recognition. Is everyone's time best spent on arguing that issue?

You can see from other examples how far this renaming concept has gone. People destroyed a statue of Ulysses S Grant, the great general who won the Civil War, achieved adoption of the 15th Amendment giving blacks the right to vote and crushed the Ku Klux Klan to advance Reconstruction. In San Francisco people are seeking removal of the names of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, among others, from San Francisco schools. Disputes over such behavior is counterproductive to the important goal of reducing bias and improving lives.

3. Renaming creates divisions that undermine support for the goal of improving lives.

By renaming SFD you would mandate changes in the addresses of all residents and businesses on that street. Residents would need to change the addresses on the driver's licenses and passports. They would incur costs and disruption to notify their contacts, replace their materials containing the old SFD reference, and face other disruptions such as delayed or missed mail from the U.S. Postal Service. That is not going to win the hearts and minds of people that should be supporting the important racial bias issues in society. It will alienate them over the waste of their time and money because of the unnecessary burden imposed on them.

I am sure you know from experience that governmental representatives hear from people about their concerns and frustrations. Having done that you are not required to accede to their wishes. Your time and resources are not unlimited. Choices need to be made.

4. Conclusion

Discrimination and bias are serious issues. They are rightfully getting attention now. As leaders in our government you need to focus that attention in constructive ways that offer immediate improvement for society.

Most people are busy dealing with work, families, and the many worries of everyday life. They assume that their elected officials will keep their interests in mind by exercising reasonable judgments of the benefits and burdens of the actions that government takes. They cannot take the time to participate in the political discussions of many topics.

The fact that a number of people are motivated for whatever reasons to demand actions that affect a multitude of people does not mean that those demands should be met. You are the sounding board of reasonableness that balances the interests of the entire community even if others are not there to personally raise their concerns. There may be some personal gratification for those making demands to get their demands met. That is not enough to justify actions that affect many more in the community and distract from more important goals.

Please take the lead in promoting constructive programs that implement society's desire to be better. Most of all do things that will immediately improve the lives of our residents facing the most difficulties. Show them that there are paths for them to live a better life right now. Do something more than force the change of new street signs.

I appreciate you considering the above. If you would like to discuss any aspects of my e-mail, please feel free to contact me.

Dave Minnick

415-601-0407
3 Madrone Ave
Kentfield CA 94904

Linda Lopez

From: David Peterson <dpeterson307@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:00 PM
To: ppillsbury@pillsburycoleman.com; Linda Lopez
Cc: szpillsbury@gmail.com; annkauffman@comcast.net; jamesgkauffman@icloud.com; ramittelstaedt1010@gmail.com; krice@marincounty.org; apeterson307@aol.com
Subject: Re: Opposition to the renaming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

Thanks Phil. I have yet to meet a single Ross resident that thinks changing the name is a good idea as a first reaction. The more people look into the issue and become informed, the more they become opposed to the change.

Think of the thousands of Marin residents business owners that would need to change their address records of everyone they deal with from vendors, utilities, aunts and uncles, Christmas Card lists, drivers licenses, credit cards and passports. What an imposition to put on so many because of some active minority.

I hope our Council will not follow the lead of the County Supervisors and take a stand for reasonableness.

David Peterson
dpeterson307@aol.com
(415) 596-7124 Cell
PO Box 1445
Ross, CA 94957
Sent from my iPhone

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

From: Philip Pillsbury <ppillsbury@pillsburycoleman.com>
To: llopez@townofross.org
Cc: Sharon Pillsbury <szpillsbury@gmail.com>; Dave Peterson <dpeterson307@aol.com>; Ann Kauffman <annkauffman@comcast.net>; Jim Kauffman <jamesgkauffman@icloud.com>; Robert Mittelstaedt <ramittelstaedt1010@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue, Jan 12, 2021 11:41 am
Subject: Opposition to the renaming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

To the Town Council of Ross:

Sharon and I have lived in Ross for more than 30 years. We recently learned from Dave Peterson that the Town of Ross will consider renaming Sir Francis Drake Boulevard as it passes through Ross. We understand that there is a move afoot to reevaluate Sir Francis Drake's stature as an historical figure in light of rather murky suggestions that he engaged in slavery in his past. As it turns out, Drake, as a young man in his 20's, served under his cousin, John Hawkins, who did apparently did engage in slavery in the 16th century in England. However, as Drake matured, he became an explorer, a navigator, and a remarkable individual. To me, these qualities, developed in his maturity, far outweigh any immediate need to rename the Boulevard passing through the Town of Ross.

We believe that Dave and Ann Peterson forwarded to you a letter prepared by a doctoral candidate at Yale describing Drake's background in detail. For your ease of use, We attach a copy of that letter. We find it quite persuasive.

Procedurally, I think it is a mistake for the Ross Town Council to create a "working group" and then to defer to that group's findings. If the Council is serious about changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, I believe the matter should be put on the ballot on the next General Election in Ross so that our entire community in Ross can speak to this important subject.

As it stands now, we oppose the Town taking action on a name change at this time.

Phil and Sharon Pillsbury

PHILIP L. PILLSBURY, JR.

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Linda Lopez

From: Elizabeth Valone <lizvalone@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Town Council Comments

Dear Ms. Lopez,

I hope this email finds you well. In response to the written notification on the upcoming Ross town council meeting, I would like to submit the below comments.

- I oppose town spending on items that are not deemed essential, which includes any costs associated with renaming of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. I find this matter a waste of time and resources and suggest that any available funds be allocated to critical items that support the wellbeing of our town, such as the fire/police station rehabilitation.

Best,

Elizabeth Valone
73 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wayne Holter <wayne.holter001@gmail.com>
Date: January 12, 2021 at 1:30:34 PM PST
To: beach kuhl <beachkuhl35@gmail.com>
Subject: Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Dear Beach, (Please forward to all members of the Town Council),

I am writing in opposition to the changing of any portion of the name "Sir Francis Drake Blvd," which ties our county together from the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge to the lighthouse in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

It is obvious to many Americans today that there were wrongful acts in the past to people of color, whether Blacks, Browns, or Native Americans, for centuries. However, what we know to be wrong today was not considered wrong years ago. Regarding Sir Francis Drake, my understanding is that he was not a cruel man, worked on two voyages in a minor capacity on a slave ship, then freed slaves and employed freed Blacks on his voyage landing in Drakes Estero in 1579, an amazing undertaking.

I am not in favor of revisionist history. Where will it stop? Will we include Jesus, a bastard of an unwed mother, as stated by the Pope in December? Will we throw the baby out with the bathwater?

This makes no sense. Nor does it make sense to tear down statues or roads named for Drake, Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and scores of others.

We know things of the past continue to adversely affect many people today. Let's spend our time and money on ways to make the lives of Blacks, Browns, Native Americans, even Whites, better in today's Country and in our County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nancy Holter

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:10 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: SFD Name Change

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

From: P. Beritzhoff <beritzhoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:39 PM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Subject: SFD Name Change

To: Ross Town Council

We are writing to show our support for keeping the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard — one of the very first roads in Marin County, traversing from where Drake landed in the west to the eastern county line. There is tremendous local and California history here, and it is not all about slave ownership. Drake scholars have much to say about the good that he did and his ultimate remorse about and position against slavery, and it seems ridiculous to attempt to deny or erase the true history by spending time and money on an unnecessary name change.

As parents of 6th generation Northern Californians, we have taught our children the importance of history, tolerance, fairness, equality, fiscal responsibility and much more. Growing up in Marin, they have learned about Drake, the Miwoks, and many other aspects of our local history. Though young adults now, they are wise enough to realize that rewriting history is not only impossible, but a futile waste of time.

To ensure the decision on this matter truly represents the community rather than a vocal minority, and before any decisions are made by the council, we believe a vote would be both wise and democratic.

Finally, to make a genuine difference in the lives of people who are marginalized, discriminated against and otherwise suffer as a result of the injustices of racial inequality, let's spend the time and money on real change. Perhaps some of the town's successful residents could step and mentor, provide homework help, and financially support various Marin County non-profits in such a way that there could meaningful change — instead of the token change of a street name.

We look forward to the Council's discussion Thursday evening.

Paula & John Beritzhoff

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: SFD

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

From: Steve Lauck <steve.lauck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:09 PM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Subject: SFD

Dear Town Council,

As a long time resident of Ross, I am concerned priorities of the Town Council are not reflecting our citizens' views. While I support efforts to be inclusive and help those less fortunate, I do not think changing names of streets based on an analysis of times hundreds of years ago is a productive use of time and money. One has to ask...where does it stop? For instance, I am impressed that our forefathers were so insightful to write such a durable document as our Constitution, yet most owned slaves...common at that time. So, let's appreciate the positives these leaders gave us rather than their faults, particularly under the microscope of today's mores. I think we should spend our precious resources of time and money looking forward, focusing on how to make things better for everyone.

Sincerely,
Steve Lauck

Sent from my iPhone

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: Renaming Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

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

From: kc lauck <kclauck@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:32 AM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Subject: Renaming Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

>
>
> Dear Town Council, Really, enough is enough! This movement in the nation of renaming every street, school and statue named after a person has gotten quite out of hand! I'm sure if we did some digging, we could find some dirt on John Ross and Albert Kent and probably anyone else a street, school or town (or park, etc.) was named after. Actions that are offensive to us now, may have been acceptable in their time.
> Save time and money! We're going to need them! Thank you, KC Lauck
>

Linda Lopez

From: Jack Krawczyk <jacek.krawczyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Comment for 1/14 Town Council Meeting: Sir Francis Drake Blvd

Hello,

I am a resident at 46 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. I understand that the town is considering the renaming of the road, most likely in an effort to show support for racial justice.

Please put me as being on the record for saying that this is nothing more than performative allyship and nothing else.

I am fully supportive of the town taking commitments toward building a more equitable society but changing the name of a road does not solve that issue. Our town is represented, according to the latest US Census, to be 93.8% White.

If we would like to make our town truly equitable to a wider diversity, we must solve that by lowering the bar for lower socio-economic parties to become residents of our town. For that reason, I request that if we are to change the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, we also require a provision that guarantees the establishment of low income, public housing in our town.

I am truly committed to growing racial equality in our community and ask that our fellow town residents put their money where their mouth is based on this movement.

Simply renaming a street with no associated action exacerbates the narrative that relatively wealthy communities like ours are out of touch with the true issues that cause racial injustice.

Many thanks for the consideration of these comments and I look forward to working with the town on how we can truly improve racial tensions in and around our community.

Best,
Jack Krawczyk

--
Jack Krawczyk
[@jackk](mailto:jackk)

Linda Lopez

From: Kathleen Hoertkorn <khoertkorn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:18 PM
To: CouncilAll; Linda Lopez
Cc: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Subject: Ross Firehouse/Sir Francis Drake

Dear Town Council members,

I hope you can allow Rich and I to give you our feedback on two key issues in front of you this week.

The first issue is rebuilding the firehouse. Since I was the Chair of the Finance Committee and on the board for the JVA, it is a subject that was often discussed due to the poor condition of our Fire House, as well as its outdated condition, size of doors, etc. It was always my position that it did not make sense to rebuild as we were so close to both San Anselmo and Kentfield fire houses, adding only minutes to response time. In addition we have had very few fires in the last thirty years. The Fire Department has primarily become an EMR unit. When all of these towns were first established, the fire trucks were pulled by horses, so a firehouse per small community made sense. However, now what probably makes the most sense is a county wide solution like the East Bay. In lieu of that large solution, these smaller consolidations are the most logical. When we did the original merger with RVFD, the whole idea was to get efficiencies of scale. But because we kept the physical space as well as the same number of firemen, who resided in Ross, the only true efficiency was one fire chief. When I came on Council, I objected how much Ross was paying, i.e. the same as Fairfax, a much larger community, and double the cost of Sleepy Hollow, the same size as Ross. Roger Meagor, the Fire Chief at the time of the merger and the one who negotiated the merger, told me that if we were willing to close down the Ross building, we could have reduced our costs. I know that changing the JVA will result in renegotiations, but the costs of rebuilding seem so significant, and the need no longer critical as it once was at the turn of the century,

The second issue is renaming Sir Francis Drake Avenue. I realize we are only a very small part of the equation, and this ship may have already sailed so to speak. The slave trade was absolutely horrible, and a terrible blot on us and the United States. But having read the letter from the Yale historian, it does not seem that Francis Drake had little to do with the slave trade, and, primarily, was an explorer. Can we truly judge all historical by today's standards when those incidents were peripheral ones?

As a former council member, I truly appreciate the work and thought it takes to make such controversial decisions.

Sincerely,

Rich and Katie Hoertkorn

Kathleen Hoertkorn
khoertkorn@gmail.com
415.407.3390, cell
415.453.2647, home

Linda Lopez

From: Ken Petrilla <kenpetrilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: SFD Name Change

Attention: Ross Town Council

I am writing to express my opinion that I am not in favor of changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. I do not believe in cancel culture. I believe history is what it is, both the good and the bad, and that we should learn from it, not dismiss it. Drake's personal history is one of growth, maturation and change. This is to be admired not condemned. If we were all to be negatively judged for how we thought and what we did early in life, there would be very few of us eligible for any commendations. The time, effort, cost and heartburn going into this initiative is laughable. Surely, there are many other projects more worthy of our attention and expense. Lastly, I would ask the council members to ask yourselves, who benefits from this costly exercise and where does it stop?

Respectfully submitted.

Ken Petrilla
45 Wellington Ave.
P.O. Box 1724
Ross, CA 94957
415 308 8233
kenpetrilla@gmail.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Linda Lopez

From: Edward Wynne <EWynne@wynnelawfirm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: SFD Name Change

Dear Council Members: Thank you for reaching out to the community on this topic. I am **STRONGLY AGAINST** any name change to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. This proposal is fundamentally flawed on a number of levels. As an opinion submitted by a San Anselmo resident stated in the IJ, under this reasoning, all Spanish names should be replaced as well. It is beyond dispute that the Spanish subjugated the native Indians and engaged in acts that – *under today's standards* – would be deemed outrageous. Of course, replacing all Spanish names in Marin County would wipe-out a significant portion of our street, city, school, and park names to identify but a few examples. While the San Anselmo writer was correct, he did not follow the reasoning to its logical conclusion. Not only should Spanish names be summarily wiped out, but the names of Washington and Jefferson and countless other of our Country's founding fathers should likewise be erased because they were slave owners or had some connection to slavery. Because no historical figure is without some flaw, this task would not end until all of our public spaces were replaced with letters and numbers (assuming, of course, using the Arabic numeral system is not somehow deemed racist). Clearly, the logic underpinning this proposal is absurd on its face.

Secondly, the naming of SFD Blvd. and the statue in Larkspur, commemorates a significant event in our history as the artist who created the statue stated. Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe, stopping in Northern California, some five hundred years ago. Putting this in perspective, it is a feat that would be the functional equivalent of going to Mars today with the astronaut and/or event having some connection to Marin. Clearly, such a feat would warrant public recognition and, indeed, pride. As for the man himself, while Sir Francis Drake was involved in the slave trade for a short period of time – as a teenager serving as deckhand on someone else's boat -- I am not aware of him actually owning any slaves (unlike many signers of the Declaration of Independence). Drake himself was a self-made man, not even the first son of a tenant farmer, which was so remarkable that the term did not even exist at the time. He spent most of his naval career as a privateer whose principle task was to attack the Spanish. In fact, he freed slaves that the Spanish owned and helped to engender an independence movement. It is not unreasonable to conclude that his efforts checked Spanish expansion into North America and therefore curbed the excesses the Spanish routinely engaged in. Furthermore, as for the Miwok community is concerned, I am not aware of any allegation, much less any evidence, that Sir Francis Drake enslaved or oppressed anyone from that community. Indeed, I am not aware of Sir Francis Drake having any interaction with the Miwoks.

Third, I am of the view that if a symbol and statue's singular purpose is to send a message of oppression, like the Nazi swastika or the Confederate flag, then it has no place in our society. For instance, I applaud the renaming of the Dixie School District. However, if the name, statue or symbol's purpose is not designed to communicate oppression, then it should not be removed even if some people want to read that message into it. Clearly, the naming of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. was never intended to be interpreted as a message of oppression. It was and is intended to commemorate a significant feat in our history and Western Civilization generally.

Fourth, the cost of a name change is also a significant issue. Spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, simply cannot be justified under any circumstances and certainly not today when many people are out of work and business are going under. Those same monies are better spent on projects that will actually help people rather than on changing street signs. While the impetus behind this proposal is certainly laudable, i.e., ending racism, it is not advanced by it. Changing the name of a street sign does not change history nor does it end racism. Changing the name of a street sign would, in reality, denigrate the harms that have been suffered. Does a name change somehow "make good" past racism? Stated another way, would the change of a name on a street sign be a fair trade for racism and slavery? To ask

the question is to answer it. Spending precious time and resources on a project that has no appreciable benefit is not a sound use of public funds by any measure.

Last, as a life-long Ross resident, I take offense to the current whims of, what I perceive, other people who are perhaps new to our community and do not share the same roots, legacy and experiences of growing up here. While they may come and go with each passing economic wave, we will still be here. We can take the long view on all such proposals just as Sir Francis Drake did when he set out on his historic voyage.

Thank you for your consideration of these opinions.

Regards,

Ed Wynne

Edward J. Wynne LLP
Wynne Law Firm
Wood Island
80 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ste. 3-G
Larkspur, CA 94939
Tel. 415-461-6400
Mobile. 415-577-1521
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Thank you.

Linda Lopez

From: lookonceortwice@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Linda Lopez; krice@marincounty.org
Subject: NO NAME CHANGE on Sir Francis Drake!

We own our house on Sir Francis Drake BLVD in Ross. To change the name will be a MAJOR financial hardship, requiring massive amounts of time & money to change all the paperwork. Shouldn't people, especially children, be educated about the accomplishments of Sir Francis Drake & the horror's of slavery as I learned in Marin schools? Wouldn't this be a better way for Marin County and the town of Ross to spend our tax money? Failure to educate, but rather deny history, generally results in history repeating itself. What could be more racist & tragic?

Thanks for reading my opinion.

Greg

Linda Lopez

From: jhgam@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Changing name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

We support the comments and ideas in the letter submitted to the Ross Town Council by Paula and John Beritzhoff. We are NOT in favor of changing the name.

We will be interested in hearing the discussion Thursday evening.

Jane and Lee Gammill

Linda Lopez

From: nztessq@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:04 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Do not change the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Dear Town Council,

Herb and I are opposed to changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd.. Our objection is to be putting time and expense into doing this by the Town of Ross when money could be well spent in other areas. Even removing "Sir" could be a thought, but that probably would entail the same amount of time and money and why do it? Seminars could be held (much less expensive) and/or money given to non profits that would work in the area of diversity, inclusion, etc.. Just changing the name of a street won't change peoples attitudes. Town Council of Ross, perhaps you should take a vote of the community to see where the majority of your citizens stand on this issue. My guess, most of our residents would say this is a waste of money and such an inconvenience to so many businesses and people who have a residence on Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Again, we are not in favor of any name change for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. by the town council.

Herb and Nancy Tully
180 Lagunitas Rd.
Ross, CA

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:04 AM
To: Linda Lopez; Patrick Streeter
Subject: FW: Feedback on Fire Station Proposal and Renaming of SFD
Attachments: Town Council Letter.pdf

From: Sally Shekou <sally.shekou@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:41 AM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Cc: Robert Herbst <rherbst@jhsproperties.net>
Subject: Feedback on Fire Station Proposal and Renaming of SFD

Dear Toss Town Council,

Please see attached letter regarding the fire station. In addition, we are opposed to the renaming of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The people of this county who are trying to rewrite history with their "woke" movement do not represent the majority of citizens in Marin. It is movements like this and stories like the San Francisco school district wanting to delete the name of Lincoln from schools that is adding more fuel to the terrible things we see happening with right wing extremism in this country. The past is meant to be a teaching moment for future generations - "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." There is no way to learn from the past if you try to erase it. Changing the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. will do nothing other than result in a tremendous cost for businesses along the boulevard, many who are suffering already from the pandemic, like Marin Art and Garden Center, and result in a huge inconvenience for those who live along the boulevard and will be forced to change their address. There are so many more meaningful ways to address the serious problem of racial inequality in Marin County, and the resources should be spent on other things that would actually have a meaningful impact. At a minimum, this is simply the wrong time to be considering such an action. Again, as with the fire station, this decision requires robust discussion from town residents, which is something that is made more difficult during the pandemic. We ask that you either reject the proposal to rename SFD or at least postpone it to a post-pandemic time (hopefully coming soon) when Ross residents can have their voices heard.

Sincerely,

Sally Shekou and Bob Herbst

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 10:52 AM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: Sir Francis Drake

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kelley Kristine <kristine.a.kelley@comcast.net>
Subject: Sir Francis Drake
Date: January 13, 2021 at 7:43:30 PM PST
To: Julie McMillan <juliemcmillan@comcast.net>, beach.kuhl@sedgwicklaw.com, Elizabeth Robbins <eliz.robbins@gmail.com>, Elizabeth Brekhus <elizabethb@brekhus.com>, cwkmisc@gmail.com

Dear Council Members,

My husband and I think it would be a huge mistake to change the name of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. I grew up in the Bay Area and spent much of my childhood visiting my aunt and uncle who had a summer house in Fairfax. I always loved that Drake Boulevard was named for an explorer that I was learning about in school. Knowing about Drake and his significance to Marin County brought all the explorers to life in a way the textbooks couldn't. I am a lifelong Democrat who thinks that the Confederate symbols in the South should be removed because not only do they offend people but they were traitors to our country. Drake on the other hand, died in 1596 long before the birth of our country so he had nothing to do with the Confederacy. He wasn't perfect by our standards but who was? The cost and inconvenience would be enormous and for what? Who else should we erase because they don't live up to our standards? I would hate to see some of our great artists, musicians, or authors erased. We are the losers by doing this. I hope we retain our history and keep Sir Francis Drake Blvd's name.

Thank you, Kristine Kelley & Jim Martling

Linda Lopez

From: Joe Chinn - Town Manager
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: FW: Drake Boulevard

From: Nicholson Home <nicholsonhome@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:24 AM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofross.org>
Subject: Drake Boulevard

Please do not change the name of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Drake is an historic character although he may not be perfect by today's desires. On balance he did a multitude of good. Although I do not own property on Drake Boulevard, I note that a change would cause issues and expense for those that do.

William Nicholson
19 Garden Road
Ross

Linda Lopez

From: Susan Nielsen <SusanHwh@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: Please give this to all Ross Town Council members - For the Name change of Sir Francis Drake Blvd at meeting tonight!

Dear Council Member,

We have lived at 50 Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Ross for nearly 30 years. I am writing to urge you not to change the street name within our town.

For my husband and myself, as well as our neighbors, changing the name of our street will cause much difficulty. We are senior citizens, and this change would cause much confusion for our visitors, delivery services and medical helpers. If the street name varies as one drives through each city, town and area, much confusion will surely occur. We would need to explain these numerous street name changes to everyone needing directions to our home. Deliveries would be more difficult and needed services would become less dependable.

Please consider the hardships which homeowners who actually live on Sir Francis Drake will be subject to if this ill-advised plan is approved.

Thank You,
Susan Nielsen and Kenneth Frankel
50 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Ross
415-453-5644

Linda Lopez

From: Kathy Nunan <kathy.c.nunan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Linda Lopez
Subject: SFD name change

To Ross town council,

Bill and I think the idea of changing the name of SFD is a terrible decision. I wont go into all the reasons as Im sure you have heard them. We thinks its a ridiculous idea and hope the name stays the same for a million reasons.

Thank you for all that you do,

Kathy and Bill Nunan