

**MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
LAND USE CONTROL BOARD STAFF REPORT #3**

**CASE NUMBER:** SNC 12-801

**L.U.C.B. MEETING:** April 12, 2012

**PROPOSED STREET NAME:** Dr. M.L. King Jr. Ave.

**LOCATION:** Existing Linden Avenue beginning on the east side of Danny Thomas Blvd. and extending +/- 5700 feet to a point where Linden Avenue becomes Somerville Street and then extending +/- 1300 feet to the north side of EH Crump Blvd.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 6

**SUPER DISTRICT:** 8

**APPLICANT:** City of Memphis

**REPRESENTATIVE:** John Cameron, City Engineer and Josh Whitehead, Planning Director

**REQUEST:** Street Name Change from Linden Avenue and Somerville Street to Dr. M.L. King Ave.

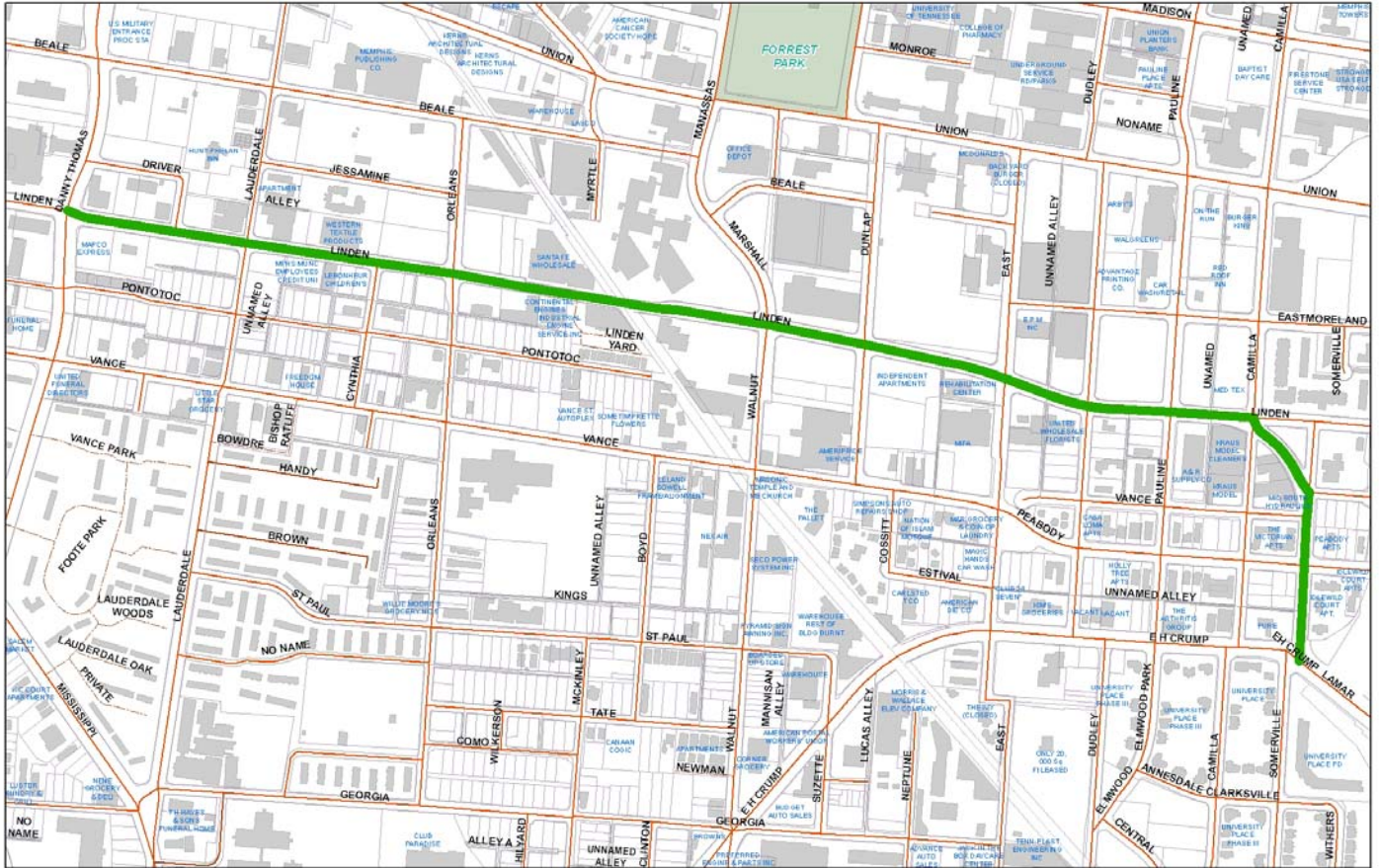
**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

*Approval*

**Conclusions**

1. This street name change request is the result of City Council, which by resolution dated February 21, 2012, requested that the City Engineer submit an application to the Land Use Control Board.
2. This Street Name Change is effectively Phase II of the change from the section of Linden Avenue from Wagner Place to Danny Thomas Blvd, which was approved by the Land Use Control Board on January 12, 2012.
3. On April 4, 2012, signage for Phase I of this project was revealed to the public during a ceremony marking the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Overview Map



## STAFF ANALYSIS

The requested street name change is the result of a resolution approved by the Memphis City Council on February 21, 2012. This follows a similar resolution approved by Council on December 20, 2011, requesting that the City Engineer file a street name change application with the Land Use Control Board for the stretch between Wagner Place and Danny Thomas Blvd. Under the Unified Development Code (Chapter 9.10), the Land Use Control Board has the authority to change the name of a street, but the City Council may initiate such applications (Section 9.3.3). On January 12, 2012, the Land use Control Board voted to approve the street name change for the area between Wagner Place and Danny Thomas. Staff mailed out letters to those who spoke against this application to notify them of their right to appeal this decision to City Council, but none of them chose to appeal.

The February 21, 2012, City Council resolution (attached) recommended changing the section of Linden Avenue and Somerville Street Danny Thomas Blvd. to E.H. Crump Blvd. This is effectively “Phase II” of the Linden Avenue renaming, which came as a result of property owners east of Danny Thomas wishing to be part of the name change to Dr. M.L. King Jr. Ave. In total, this proposal will affect about 7000 feet of City right-of-way and 15 intersections.

The actual name that is the subject of this street name change has gone through two iterations. The original City Council resolution contained the name "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue." However, City Engineering expressed a concern that this name was too long and necessitated street blade signs and overhead signs of exceptional length. During the Land Use Control Board meeting on January 12, 2012, the sponsor agreed to change the name to "Dr. M.L. King Jr. Ave." The February 21, 2012, City Council resolution for Phase II includes this name.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of the street name change.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Planning District:** Downtown/Medical Center

**Zoning Atlas Page:** 2025/2030

## DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

The following comments were provided by agencies to which this application was referred:

<b>City Engineer:</b>	No objections to this request.
<b>City/County Health Department:</b>	No comments by the Water Quality Branch & Septic Tank Program.
<b>City Board of Education:</b>	No comment.
<b>AT&amp;T/Bell South:</b>	We will need to know when this street name change request is approved or not so that we can update our databases.