



City of Lakewood
Office of the City Clerk
6000 Main St. SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
(253) 589-2489

Application for name/renaming City parks, streets or public facilities.

David N Boyd

NAME OF APPLICANT

253.223.9987

PHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANT

8714 87th Ave SW

LOCATION OF STREET, PARK OR PUBLIC BUILDING FOR PROPOSAL TO NAME/RENAME

Dr. Claudia B. Thomas Park

PROPOSED SITE NAME

8826 Lake Steilacoom Point Rd

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

dnboyd341@comcast.net

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR APPLICANT

Fort Steilacoom Park

CURRENT SITE NAME IF PROPOSING TO RENAME

BACKGROUND/HISTORY SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED NAME

See attached

DEMONSTRATED COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED NAME

See attached

IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED/IMPACTED STAKEHOLDERS

See attached

IF PROPSING TO NAME AN ASSET AFTER AN OUTSTANDING PERSON, DOCUMENTATION OF THAT PERSON'S COMMUNITY OR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY, STATE OR NATION'S HISTORY

See attached

ANY ASSETS OR RESOURCES TO CONTRIBUTE TO COST ASSOCIATED WITH A NAME CHANGE (SIGNS, ADDESS CHANGE, ETC.)

To be determined

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTACH ANY MAPS, OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT RELATES TO THIS REQUEST

DATE: Sept 16, 2021

SIGNATURE: David N Boyd

(PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18 INCLUDED IN PACKET FOR DETAILS AND TIMELINE)

DATE RECEIVED BY CITY OF LAKEWOOD 6/10/2021

RECEIVED BY Mary Dodsworth

AMENDMENT TO REQUEST
Recognition of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas


June 10,2021

1. This amendment is made by David N. Boyd to the request, dated September 19, 2018,
SUBJECT: Naming of a geographical site in recognition of Dr. Claudia B. Thomas.
2. The request is amended as follows: unnumbered paragraph 2, sub paragraph 3.

A. This request is that Fort Steilacoom Park be renamed Dr. Claudia B. Thomas Park. The park with its many venues is definitely a community gathering and interaction location for all citizens. It represents the atmosphere Dr. Thomas spent her life dedicated to creating. The current name has no association with the City of Lakewood. Pierce College changed it's name from Fort Steilacoom Community College many years ago.

B. This request also offers Lakewood City Hall has an appropriate site for memorializing Dr. Thomas' name. It too is a community gathering site for its many boards, commissions and the city council.

C. The request for naming Motor Street development area because of its proposed use as a pedestrian walking an gathering area is withdrawn. The area still has some vehicle traffic and is not well presented as a gathering and walking area.



DAVID N. BOYD
8826 Lake Steilacoom Point Road
Lakewood, Washington 98498
253.223.9987
Dnboyd341@comcast.net

September 19, 2018

SUBJECT: Naming of a geographical site in recognition of Dr. Claudia B Thomas

John Caufield, ICMA-CM
City Manager
City of Lakewood
6000 Main Street SW,
Lakewood, Washington 98499

Dear Mr. Caufield,

In accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8 of City of Lakewood, Resolution NO. 2016-18, I am asking that the City Council accept and approve this request to name a proposed City of Lakewood public area for Dr. Claudia B. Thomas because of her contributions to the city and our entire community.

The following information is submitted as required by Resolution NO. 2016-18 and the communication from the City Manager:

- 1. Name of applicant:** David N. Boyd (not son-in-law)
- 2. Proposed Name for asset:** Claudia B. Thomas Promenade
- 3. Background/support for proposed name:** It is my understanding that the area requested for the naming is to be a community open area with emphasis for walking, gathering and even socializing. (Motor Street)
- 4. Demonstrated community support for proposed name:** There appears to be considerable support for a permanent memorial for Dr. Thomas. Several members of the City Council including the Mayor briefly spoke to the accomplishments of Dr. Thomas during the June 4 Council meeting. I have spoken directly with the following persons/representatives of organizations that are in support of such a memorial for Dr. Thomas:

LTG William Harrison

Andrea Gernon
American Leadership Forum
Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective

I would like to clarify that I have not spoken with the above supporters or anyone one else regarding a specific name for the proposed location. The support was only for the location and the designation of the memorial.

5. **Identification of interest/impact stakeholders:** I am not aware of any negative impact this request would have on any stakeholders or other persons with interest in the area. I am also not aware that the current identification of Motor Street has any attachment to the name of an individual, organization or business. In my opinion this would be the ideal time to name the area since it has not been completely developed as a proposed community promenade or commons.
6. **Description/Map showing location:** A map of the proposed area is attached as a part of this document.
7. **If proposing to name an asset after an outstanding person, documentation of that person's community or financial contribution to the City, State or Nation's history:** In addition to the brief but favorable comments City Council members made regarding Dr. Thomas' many contributions at their June 4, 2018 council meeting, I have attached more detailed information of Dr. Thomas' contribution to the City of Lakewood.
8. **If proposing to re-name a facility, the application should also include background information on the current name and the rationale for requesting a new name:** I am unaware of a name being proposed for the area during this phase of design and development. It is currently known has Motor street.

I have attempted to be concise and brief, but complete with this request. I anticipate that there will be additional opportunities to clarify or further develop this proposal after staff reviews and presentation to the community for input.

Thank you for your accepting this request and I look forward to meeting with you and continuing my efforts to gain city council approval for such a commendable action.

Respectfully,

David N. Boyd, Maj, USA, Ret

Attach: Contribution letter
City of Lakewood Proclamation
Map of proposed memorial site

September 19, 2018

REFERENCE: Attachment to proposal to re-name Motor Street, Dr. Claudia B. Thomas promenade.

Dr. Claudia B. Thomas' contribution to the Lakewood, Washington community

There have been numerous newspaper and social media accolades regarding Dr. Claudia Thomas since her passing. Without a doubt they have highlighted the fact that she was the first African American female elected to the city council of Lakewood, Washington and became the first African American female to serve as mayor of a city in the State of Washington. The media has also addressed the importance of her involvement in many activities that have made Lakewood the wonderful community it is today. However, I believe very few people, including council members, are aware that she did all those commendable things for a community that in the past, was unwelcoming to her and other African Americans.

When Claudia, a military spouse and her family arrived in the unincorporated community of Lakewood, there were barriers for African Americans to become participating members of the community. Housing developers throughout Lakewood, some just ten years before her arrival, had included language in their county file covenants that denied people of color the opportunity to purchase, lease or otherwise live in any unit or house that was a part of their development. Although unenforceable, those covenants remain on record today. The school district where her children would attend, denied her employment although she was extremely qualified and had just returned from teaching in Okinawa, Japan. Unincorporated Lakewood was definitely not a community of brotherly love....at least for residents of color.

Claudia never dwelled on the negative. She never expressed bitterness about the past or was unforgiving. She was a positive person and focused her energy on those things she could be a part of that would change Lakewood into a community accepting of all its residents. Claudia believed if you wanted change, you had to be part of the solution not the problem. Things that have been said about her are evidence that she was a significant part of the solution that brought Lakewood into the twenty first century caring about its citizens, especially seniors, young adults and school age children. Dr. Claudia Thomas must be remembered and championed for her love, dedication and the contributions she made as a council member, as our Mayor and most importantly as a proud citizen.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 19, 1995, Claudia Thomas was elected to the Lakewood City Council and took office on October 11, 1995 and served for sixteen years through December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 1995, Claudia Thomas served as Lakewood's first Deputy Mayor for eight years through December 31, 2003, and as Mayor from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas' performance of her duties as Lakewood's first Deputy Mayor, the State of Washington's first African American female Mayor and as a member of the City Council was defined by excellence and led to significant positive contributions to municipal government; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas' years of service was marked by exemplary leadership in working constantly to improve the quality of life for the citizenry of Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas' was a strong advocate for youth and education and was instrumental in appointing two Youth Advisors to the City Council which today is now the Lakewood Youth Council with 22 members; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas initiated the City's practice of dedicating 1 percent of its General Fund for social and human services programs; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas created Lakewood's Promise, which is active today and focuses on helping children become successful adults. As a result of her work, the city was recognized nationally by America's Promise as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in 2006-2008 and again in 2010-2012; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Thomas represented the City of Lakewood on numerous Boards and Committees that included the Human Services Collaboration, Lakewood's Promise Executive Board, Sound Transit Board, Pierce Transit Board, Clover Park School District Citizens' Committee for Schools, Tacoma-Pierce County Commission on Children Youth and Their Families, Regional Transportation Authority Technical Committee, Pierce County Joint Determining Authority, Association of Washington Cities Large Cities Committee, Lakewood Gardens Board of Directors, Lake Steilacoom Association, numerous task forces and ad hoc committees; and

WHEREAS, throughout Claudia Thomas' service, she earned the respect of her colleagues, peers, and civic leaders and the affection of a host of area residents who were proud to call her "friend."

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Lakewood City Council, and on behalf of the citizens of Lakewood, tribute is hereby paid to the legacy of

CLAUDIA THOMAS

in recognition of her dedication and service to Lakewood and the greater community and urge all citizens to join us in expressing our eternal gratitude for her contributions and knowing that Claudia Thomas' legacy lives on in Lakewood through the policies she crafted, programs she supported and the countless lives she touched while leading this city.

PROCLAIMED this 2nd day of June, 2018

Don Anderson, Mayor