



## Memorandum

**TO:** Jon P. Jennings, City Manager  
**FROM:** Michael Murray, Assistant to the City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Franklin Street  
**DATE:** January 10, 2017

### **OBJECTIVE:**

The objective is to re-name Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The following history of Franklin Street is provided by the "Reclaiming Franklin Street" report of 2009:

Franklin Street began in the 18th century as Essex Street. It ran from Back Street (now known as Congress Street) to Tyng's Wharf which was located at Fore Street. By 1823 a new street named Franklin Street, which more or less aligned with Essex Street, extended from Congress Street (formerly Back Street) toward Back Cove to a point where Oxford Street is now located (at this time the Back Cove area had not yet been filled or extended). In the 1850s Portland Harbor had also been filled and the street was connected to the newly-built Commercial Street and extended out into the harbor on the new Franklin Wharf. The entire street, from Back Cove to the waterfront, was named Franklin Street.

The current Franklin Street has three distinct addresses associated with it:

15 Franklin Street – an office and business address

113 Franklin Street – an 11 to 20 multi-unit building

235 Franklin – City of Portland Pump Station

These distinct addresses should be notified when this item is brought before the City Council in order to provide public comment, should it be desired.

This proposal has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel's Office. Corporation Counsel has determined that City Code allows the City Council to rename streets in the City of Portland:

***Sec. 25-81. Street names established. The several streets and ways, whether public or private, of the city shall continue to be known by the names previously assigned to them unless and until changed by the city council. (Code 1968, § 709.1; Ord. No. 607-82, 5-19-82)***



Additionally, as MDOT has significant exit sign information along the I295 corridor for the current Franklin Street exit (Exit 7), City Manager Jon Jennings has reached out to MDOT for input and received favorable response and support for the proposal.

**OUTCOME:**

The anticipated outcome is re-name the entirety of Franklin Street to honor Martin Luther King Jr. The following are the anticipated steps to achieve this outcome:

1. Favorable recommendation of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee.
2. A one read agenda item with a favorable vote of the Portland City Council.
3. Should steps one and two attain a favorable outcome, the Public Works Department is tasked as the addressing and E911 Office for the City to make appropriate notifications to all area utilities, the U.S. Postal Service, and associated transportation agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.
4. A public dedication ceremony will be scheduled at a date TBA if this proposal is passed by the City Council.