



**THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION  
250 Broadway, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10007**

To: All Members  
From: Robert Newman, Legislative Director  
Subject: Standards and Procedure for Street Co-naming  
Date: August 12, 2008

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**Attached please find the Council's Standards and Procedure for Street Co-naming. The new Standards and Procedure were established in consultation with the Speaker's Leadership Team, the Rules Reform Working Group, the Democratic Caucus and Council Member Helen Foster, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. It is anticipated that the first omnibus bill drafted under the new procedure will be introduced and considered by the Council by the end of September. To expedite the process for the first omnibus bill, we will include only those proposed co-names for which Members currently have pending LS requests. We anticipate considering a second bill by December of 2008.**

**Standards for Council Consideration of Street Co-naming**

Subjects Must Be either:

**Individuals** who are:

1. Deceased;
2. New York City residents or natives or individuals of particular importance to New York City;
3. Of enduring or lasting interest to large segments of the City's population or have undertaken an act or acts of enduring or lasting interest to their community; and
4. Whose importance to the City or whose enduring interest is a result of exemplary acts or achievements which reflect positively on the City. Or

**Organizations:**

1. Of particular importance to New York City;

2. Of enduring or lasting interest to large segments of the City's population that have undertaken acts of enduring or lasting interest; and
3. Whose importance to the City or whose enduring interest is a result of exemplary acts or achievements which reflect positively on the City.

### **Process for street co-naming**

Member would submit an LS request for a proposed street co-naming and would be required to submit significant background information regarding the subject of the co-naming, including any negative information of which the member is aware. Members would be strongly urged to have Community Board approval of the proposed co-naming prior to submitting the LS request.

Central Staff would do a background analysis of the candidate that would consist of a review of the submitted information and Lexis/Nexis, Google or other Internet-based searches, as well as consultation with City historians or other experts when necessary. Staff would also confirm the district(s) affected by the proposed street co-naming. Staff would produce a memo outlining the results of the background analysis that would include all positive and negative/problematic information on the proposed co-naming subject and may flag such subject as in need of further consideration. Staff may only flag a proposed co-naming subject for further review if s/he has first consulted the sponsoring member.

The background analysis as well as all relevant vetting information submitted by sponsoring Member would be forwarded to all Council members. Members would have no more than twenty-one days within which to comment on any proposed co-naming.

### **Final Determination regarding proposed subjects for co-namings**

After the Member comment period, those subjects who have not been flagged for further consideration would be included in an omnibus bill. There would be no fewer than two and no more than four such bills introduced and voted on by the Council each year.

Proposed co-namings that are flagged for further consideration would be submitted to the Speaker's Leadership team for final review. In addition, if during the comment period any member raises opposition to a proposed co-naming, that proposed co-naming along with the opposing member's opposition comments would be brought before the Leadership Team for final review. The sponsoring Member may present his/her position to the Leadership team prior to the final review. If the Leadership team determines that such proposed co-naming did not meet the standard for co-naming, then it would not be included in the omnibus bill but would, if the sponsoring Member insisted, be introduced individually in a separate bill.