

**RESOLUTION 24-139**

**A RESOLUTION TO HONORARILY NAME RESERVE BOULEVARD FOR THE LATE  
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CRISTÓBAL MELENDEZ**

**WHEREAS**, the Spring Hill Planning Commission wishes honor the late CSM Cristóbal Melendez for his service to the United States of America and the City of Spring Hill, TN;

**WHEREAS**, CSM Melendez was a long-time resident of Spring Hill and a recipient of the Key to the City of Spring Hill from Mayor Rick Graham in 2016, and;

**WHEREAS**, CSM Melendez was a decorated Korean War veteran who served in the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion known as the “Boriqueneers” who were honored by President Obama and the US Congress in 2016;

**WHEREAS**, CSM Melendez passed away in January of 2021, and;

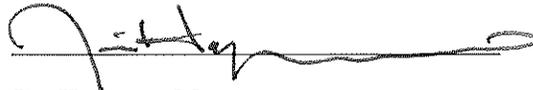
**WHEREAS**, the family of CSM Melendez submitted a honorary street naming request to the city in February of 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Commission favorably recommends approval of this resolution with the full support of the Melendez family.

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission favorably recommended approval of this resolution.

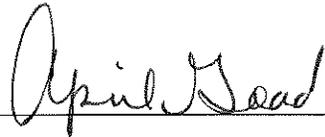
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen hereby honors, recognizes, and celebrates the life and service of Command Sergeant Major Cristóbal Melendez to the United States of America and to the City of Spring Hill by honorarily naming Reserve Boulevard the “CSM Cristóbal Melendez Parkway”.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.



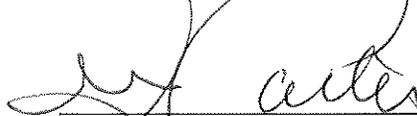
Jim Hagaman, Mayor

ATTEST:



April Goad, City Recorder

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:



Patrick Carter, City Attorney



**REQUEST:** Approval of Resolution 24-139

**SUBMITTED BY:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
Kayce Willams, Director of Parks & Recreation

**DATE:** June 11, 2024

**RE:** Honorary Naming of Reserve Blvd for CSM Cristóbal Melendez

**ATTACHMENTS:** Resolution, Application, Approved Policy, Policy Criteria with markup

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**PURPOSE:**

To honorarily name Reserve Blvd for the late Command Sergeant Major Cristóbal Melendez.

**BACKGROUND:**

CSM Melendez was a long-time resident of Spring Hill. He was a decorated Korean War veteran serving in the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion known as the "Borinqueneers" which was a segregated combat infantry primarily composed of Puerto Rican volunteers. This battalion of brave soldiers fought and died for our country even though many of them did not live in the US nor speak English. The Borinqueneers were honored by President Obama and US Congress in April of 2016 with the full support of our own Senator Marsha Blackburn who attended the ceremonies in Washington D.C. Subsequently, our city honored CSM Melendez the following month when Mayor Rick Graham and BOMA presented him with a key to the city. CSM Melendez passed away in 2021 and the family has requested an honorary street naming for their father. The family would like to unveil the sign on June 28.

An honorary street naming does not change the name of the roadway and it is not a street sign. It is a separate free-standing sign made by our sign department that would display the honorary naming. According to the policy, the honorary name cannot include any part of the original name, so the recommendation is "CSM Cristóbal Melendez Parkway."

The Parks and Recreation Commission favorably recommends approval of this resolution and will be using their funds to offset the cost of the signage. Parks and Recreation Department will also handle all of the details for the unveiling ceremony. In the packet, you will find a copy of the honorary naming policy (Resolution 22-149 adopted by BOMA September 6, 2022) that has been marked-up so you can easily see the sections relevant to this application.

The Planning Commission unanimously voted on June 10<sup>th</sup> to favorably recommend approval of this resolution.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Signage will be paid for by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**ACTION REQUIRED (INCLUDE DEADLINE /PRIORITY):**

Planning Commission recommendation to the BOMA at their June 17 meeting.

**RESOLUTION 22-149**

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A NAMING AND PUBLIC RECOGNITION POLICY FOR THE CITY OF SPRING HILL**

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to formally establish a naming and public recognition policy; and

**WHEREAS**, this Naming and Public Recognition Policy establishes guidelines and procedures for the naming of new public facilities or property, recreation facilities or amenities; to adopt honorary names for the aforementioned as well as existing public facilities, and streets; and

**WHEREAS**, this Naming and Public Recognition Policy also establishes guidelines and procedures for the approval to place dedications, commemorative objects, plaques or markers in City parks, open spaces, or streets to honor notable Spring Hill citizens who have contributed to our community's history and success in a significant way; and

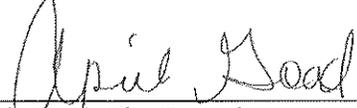
**WHEREAS**, the City of Spring Hill Parks and Recreation Commission favorably recommends the adoption of Resolution 22-149.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen adopts the attached Naming and Public Recognition Policy becoming effective immediately.

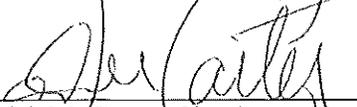
Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Alderman of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

  
Jim Haganian, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
April Goad, City Recorder

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:

  
Patrick M. Carter, City Attorney



REQUEST: Approval of Resolution 22-149

SUBMITTED BY: Kayce Williams, Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: August 10, 2022

RE: Naming and Public Recognition Policy

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 22-149, Policy V4

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**PURPOSE:**

To adopt a naming policy for the City of Spring Hill

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Administrator asked for a naming policy to be established for the City. This is the 4th draft of the policy after input was received from BOMA and the respective commissions. The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed all of the comments and have favorably recommended the revisions shown in the attached "*Naming Policy Content DRAFT V4.docx*" which are highlighted in yellow. Some recent revisions are:

- 1) "Naming and Public Recognition Policy"
- 2) Add language to refer to ordinance 07-01 for historical & cultural context
- 3) Remove "rights of way" from policy – not allowed in public ROW
- 4) Remove section 2 (c) entirely
- 5) Change to 90 days for temporary memorial
- 6) Add honorary street name in sample application
- 7) Refine language in Process
- 8) Refine formatting
- 9) Add resubmittal process if denied

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None

**ACTION REQUIRED (INCLUDE DEADLINE /PRIORITY):**

BOMA approval.

## Naming and Public Recognition Policy

- Process
- Purpose
- Authority
- Definitions
- Policy (Including Application and Evaluation Process)
- Applications

### Process:

- City Administrator (or their designee) reviews the application and determines if the application is complete.
- The acceptable application is forwarded to the relevant City commission, committee, board, task force, or other entity based on the evaluation process outlined in the policy.
- The relevant City Commission will evaluate the request and submit a favorable or unfavorable recommendation to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their review and official vote by resolution.

### Section 1. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and procedures for the naming of new public facilities or property, recreation facilities or amenities; to adopt honorary names for the aforementioned as well as existing public facilities and streets; and for the approval to place dedications, commemorative objects, plaques or markers in City parks, open spaces, and parkways to honor notable Spring Hill citizens who have contributed to our community's history and success in a significant way.
- B. This policy has been created to guide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the relevant City Commissions in taking action concerning requests to name, rename, or honorarily name public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, and streets, as well as requests for the placement of plaques, markers, dedications and commemorative objects in parks, or open spaces.
- C. Consideration should be given to the historical, geographical and social/cultural context of the nomination. Public property should be named after its principal function, location, or historical reference; however, significant community events, organizations, or well-known persons with important contributions to the community, state or nation may deserve public recognition, which may occur by way of naming or honorary naming of public properties. Please refer to Ordinance 07-01 of the Spring Hill Municipal Code for additional clarification on historical and cultural content.
- D. Nothing in this policy is intended to create, foster or allow public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets to become a forum for private content speech. By requiring all naming actions and placement of plaques, markers, dedications and commemorative objects to conform to this policy, it is the intent of the City of Spring Hill to exercise full jurisdiction over speech in such forums and to determine that it is consistent with and meets the needs of the community and services a public purpose.
- E. This process does not apply to the naming of new streets which will continue to be processed through the Planning Department and Planning Commission in coordination with the E911 Addressing. Furthermore, this policy does not apply to development projects on private property which are named by the project applicant.

## Section 2: Authority

- A. The policies contained herein are adopted by resolution of the City of Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen and as such may be changed or amended only by formal action.
- B. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall have the final authority to approve naming, renaming, or honorary naming of public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, and streets.
- C. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen may task the City Commissions mentioned above with reviewing requests for the naming or renaming of public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets to ensure compliance with the terms of this policy, and to make recommendations to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval.
- D. If an application is denied by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, a new application may be resubmitted after a period of six (6) months.

## Section 3: Definitions

- A. Public Buildings: Buildings under the control of the City used to conduct City business. Buildings may include, but are not limited to, City Hall, the Spring Hill Public Library, the concessions building at Fischer Park.
- B. Public Property: Tangible property owned or under the control of the City, improved or unimproved, contained within or outside of a public building. Examples may include but are not limited to, tracts of land, exterior fixtures such as flagpoles or benches, interior furniture or fixtures such as chairs or decorative installations.
- C. Recreation Facilities and Amenities: City Owned facilities/amenities that may be located within a park or part of a facility. These include, but are not limited to, athletic fields, meeting rooms, picnic shelters, ball diamonds, tennis and basketball courts and playground equipment.
- D. Streets: Streets, highways, avenues, boulevards, publicly owned roads, bridges, tunnels, public parking areas or other public ways dedicated to public use and maintained for general public travel lying within a municipality's corporate boundaries.
- E. Honorary Name: An additional name assigned to public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, streets or public rights-of-way which supplements but does not replace the official name. The honorary street name is displayed on a different color sign mounted directly below the official street sign.

## Section 4. Policy.

- A. Applications require:
  - 1. The precise location and description of the subject property;

2. The name, address and contact information of the requestor; and
3. Thorough discussion regarding the history of the property or surrounding area, as may be applicable; and
4. An endorsement by the current mayor or a current council member in which the property is located.
5. Exception—Naming and renaming of streets.
  - a) The City Commissions and/or Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall not be involved with the naming of newly created streets or re-naming of existing streets which are named in accordance with the City of Spring Hill Unified Development Code and E911.
  - b) Honorary Naming shall be evaluated by the Planning Commission for uniqueness and appropriate naming convention; and
    - 1) Shall not contain current road type nomenclature (i.e. boulevard, street, way, etc.).
    - 2) Shall not be an exact or phonetic duplication of an existing street or facility within the city or the county.

B. Criteria for consideration of naming requests.

1. Thorough discussion regarding the history of the property or surrounding area, as may be applicable;
2. Naming shall satisfy at least one of the following criteria:
  - a) Honors and commemorates a noteworthy person associated with the city, the county, the state or the United States of America;
  - b) Commemorates local history, places, events or culture;
  - c) Will strengthen neighborhood identity; or
  - d) Recognizes native wildlife or natural geographical features.
3. The following shall not be considered for purposes of naming:
  - a) Persons that resided in the city for less than five years, other than prominent national figures;
  - b) Individual family tributes, commercially concerned and corporate-related recognitions;
  - c) Designations that cause discord within the community;
  - d) Names assigned to existing public property within the city or the county where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion.
4. The committee shall consider:
  - a) The number of residents and businesses directly affected;
  - b) Community diversity;
  - c) The historical significance of preexisting name or location;
  - d) The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area.
  - e) Naming shall reflect the values and character of the community served by the facility;
  - f) The impact on emergency service delivery.
5. Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree shall be deceased for a minimum of 1 year. Approvals for naming a city facility in honor of a living individual require unanimous support from the respective City Commission and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.
6. Requests for naming in honor of a living person should also consider the following:

- a) Whether the proposed namesake made a demonstrable and significant positive impact to local, state, or national affairs. Contributions will have been sustained over an appreciable time period and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;
- b) Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community; and
- c) Achievement by a native Spring Hill citizen of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Spring Hill.

C. Request Process for Placement of Dedications, Commemorative Objects, Plaques or Markers

In addition to the naming opportunities described above, the City may recognize individuals, either deceased or living, or organizations, active or non-active, by the placement of objects (such as public benches, rocks, flagpoles, sculptures, trees etc.), plaques or markers in public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets, provided such recognition is appropriate, consistent with and meets the needs of the community and serves a public purpose. The placement, identification, and proper installation method of these dedications will be at the discretion of city staff unless otherwise directed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in a special circumstance. Approval is subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

1. Dedications, commemorative objects, plaques or markers may not be placed in or on the public right-of-way. Dedications, commemorative objects, plaques or markers may not be placed in or on City facilities without City approval. The location, size and type of these items require approval by the designated City Commission. Upon the receipt of a request for the placement of an object, plaque or marker in a public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets, the relative City Commission will review the request to ensure that it can be accommodated in a way that provides some public purpose, meets the intended use of the proposed location in a manner that does not mar the appearance or function of the requested location or cause or contribute to an overabundance of items in the immediate area.
2. Responsibility for the purchase, installation and maintenance of any recognition object and/or associated plaque or other form of label associated with the object must be borne by the requesting party. Such objects and plaques must not pose a burden on City resources for their maintenance, upkeep, repair or replacement. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen may accept the transfer of responsibility for the purchase, installation and maintenance of recognition items and plaques, provided that sufficient funds for these activities are available. In either case, applicants must enter into a service agreement with the City which specifies:
  - a) The cost of the recognition object and/or plaque, and whether the applicant or the City will purchase the object and/or plaque;
  - b) The costs associated with the installation of the object and/or plaque, and whether the applicant or the City will conduct the installation;
  - c) The costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of the object and/or plaque, and whether the City or the applicant will perform maintenance of the object and plaque;
3. The City will not be responsible for maintenance, upkeep, repair or replacement of any dedication or commemorative object if the placement of the item(s) was not approved by the City. The City may immediately remove any dedication or commemorative object placed without approval by the City.

4. Organizations interested in proposing to place a commemorative plaque, marker or object in any public building or property, recreation facility or amenity, or street must do so in writing. Requests shall be presented to the City Administrator for consideration by the relevant City Commission.
5. At a minimum, the attached form must be completed. The inclusion of additional supporting information (photos, brochures, area map, drawings, etc.) is recommended
6. The relevant City Commission will act on each request made. Upon approval, City staff will coordinate with applicant on the proper installation of the plaque, marker or other object.
7. The City reserves the right to reject any request for a dedication or recognition object placement upon determination that it is part of an organized fund raising effort or commercial venture.
8. The City will make every effort to preserve any dedication plaque or other object placed with the approval of the City. If necessary, due to repair of surrounding areas, construction or redesign of a facility, the plaque or dedication object may be relocated. If the plaque or other recognition object cannot continue to be reasonably maintained or poses a public nuisance or hazard, it may be removed by the City.
9. If the dedication includes the gift of an object (e.g. bench, picnic table, play equipment), the City will provide its regular standard of care and maintenance for the object. If the object is damaged due to vandalism, becomes unusable due to age, wear and tear or is stolen, the City is not obligated to replace or repair the object. Any object that poses a public nuisance or hazard may instead be immediately removed by the City.
10. Plaques and markers must be designed to blend with or complement the existing City park or facility. The wording on plaques or markers must be approved by the City.

#### D. Temporary Memorials and Shrines

In some instances, residents have taken it upon themselves to construct temporary memorials within the public right-of-way to honor deceased family members or friends. These types of installations are subject to different considerations than the City sponsored naming or dedication initiatives previously outlined in this policy. These memorials are not formally recognized by the City, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, or City staff. Since commemorating a loved one is a deeply personal thing, the City desires to accommodate the City's residents, and allow creativity with sensitivity and tact, while maintaining the safety of all residents and the aesthetic integrity of neighborhoods and public spaces. This section pertains only to City maintained medians, parks, and right-of-ways, and not to the use of private property. Under no circumstances may anything be constructed within 100 feet of a blind corner.

##### 1. Safety and Aesthetic Concerns:

- a) Since creation of a shrine is generally done following a loss, the City recognizes the social and community value of such a construction; under all other circumstances, personal or

commercial items, signs, or personal effects are not appropriate and are prohibited within City medians, parks, or rights-of-way.

- b) Accumulation of personal items (for memorials) within public spaces can cause safety and access issues; it can also create debris and litter within the public right-of-way. Without these guidelines and on-going maintenance, these shrines may become visual distractions to motorists, potential visual blight to the immediate neighborhood, and can become a public nuisance.

2. Thirty-Day Courtesy:

The City will permit memorials and shrines to exist in or adjacent to the public right-of-way for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of a significant accident or loss, provided they do not create a safety hazard which will be at the discretion of City Staff. City Staff will not remove personal items from the location for ninety (90) days with the exception of:

- a) Safety hazards
- b) Dead or dying flowers
- c) Dead or dying plants (with or without vases)
- d) Debris and trash
- e) Deflated balloons

- 3. The costs associated with the installation of the object and/or plaque, and whether the applicant or the City will conduct the
- 4. These items may be removed at the discretion of the City at any time. The City is not responsible for maintaining items in the right-of-way. Furthermore, memorials or shrines dedicated to animals will not be permitted.

Sample Application:

REQUEST FOR AN HONORARY STREET NAME OR PLACEMENT OF DEDICATION OR  
COMMEMORATIVE OBJECT, PLAQUE OR MARKER

Please type or print clearly in ink and return to:  
CITY OF SPRING HILL CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
PO BOX 789  
199 TOWN CENTER PARKWAY  
SPRING HILL, TN 37174

Date of Submittal: \_\_\_\_\_

Request Type (Check One):

Honorary Street Name

Placement of a Dedication or Commemorative Object, Plaque or Marker

Nominated Name or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of proposed honorary street name, dedication, memorial, plaque or marker:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of how the individual or organization is to be honored/commemorated. Please include any photos, drawings, historical significance, or specifications of the desired item.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Individual or Organization submitting this request:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*Criteria evaluations are in each pertinent section in BLUE. Updates are in RED. -KW

Naming and Public Recognition Policy  
Resolution 22-149 adopted by BOMA September 6, 2022.

- Process
- Purpose
- Authority
- Definitions
- Policy (Including Application and Evaluation Process)
- Applications

Process:

- City Administrator (or their designee) reviews the application and determines if the application is complete.
- The acceptable application is forwarded to the relevant City commission, committee, board, task force, or other entity based on the evaluation process outlined in the policy.
- The relevant City Commission will evaluate the request and submit a favorable or unfavorable recommendation to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their review and official vote by resolution.

- The City Administrator has sent other naming requests to me, so I am assuming that is why the Mayor sent me this one as well.
- It went to Parks and Rec for a recommendation as the request came to my department. It was on the Planning Commission's agenda for May 28 to get their recommendation before going to BOMA but was pulled prior to the meeting's start. *June 11 update: It went forward to the Planning Commission's June 10<sup>th</sup> voting meeting and received a unanimous favorable recommendation.*
- This item is scheduled to be on the June 17 BOMA meeting
- The process has been followed.

Section 1. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and procedures for the naming of new public facilities or property, recreation facilities or amenities; to adopt honorary names for the aforementioned as well as existing public facilities and streets; to honor notable Spring Hill citizens who have contributed to our community's history and success in a significant way.
- B. This policy has been created to guide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the relevant City Commissions in taking action concerning requests to name, rename, or honorarily name public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, and streets, as well as requests for the placement of plaques, markers, dedications and commemorative objects in parks, or open spaces.
- C. Consideration should be given to the historical, geographical and social/cultural context of the nomination. Public property should be named after its principal function, location, or historical

reference; however, significant community events, organizations, or well-known persons with important contributions to the community, state or nation may deserve public recognition, which may occur by way of naming or honorary naming of public properties. Please refer to Ordinance 07-01 of the Spring Hill Municipal Code for additional clarification on historical and cultural content.

- CSM Melendez was a long-time resident of Spring Hill. He was a decorated Korean War veteran serving in the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion known as the "Borinqueneers" which was a segregated combat infantry primarily composed of Puerto Rican volunteers. This battalion of brave soldiers fought and died for our country even though many of them did not live in the US nor speak English. The Borinqueneers were honored by President Obama and US Congress in April of 2016 with the full support of our own Senator Marsha Blackburn who attended the ceremonies in Washington D.C. Subsequently, our city honored CSM Melendez the following month when Mayor Rick Graham and BOMA presented him with a key to the city. CSM Melendez passed away in 2021 and the family has requested an honorary street naming for their father. Mayor Jim Hagaman has sponsored this application.
- On May 16, 2016, the City of Spring Hill BOMA presented the Key to the City of Spring Hill to CSM Melendez for his service.
- The criteria in this section are met.

D. Nothing in this policy is intended to create, foster or allow public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets to become a forum for private content speech. By requiring all naming actions and placement of plaques, markers, dedications and commemorative objects to conform to this policy, it is the intent of the City of Spring Hill to exercise full jurisdiction over speech in such forums and to determine that it is consistent with and meets the needs of the community and services a public purpose.

E. This process does not apply to the naming of new streets which will continue to be processed through the Planning Department and Planning Commission in coordination with the E911 Addressing. Furthermore, this policy does not apply to development projects on private property which are named by the project applicant.

## Section 2: Authority

A. The policies contained herein are adopted by resolution of the City of Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen and as such may be changed or amended only by formal action.

B. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall have the final authority to approve naming, renaming, or honorary naming of public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, and streets.

- This item is scheduled to be on the June 17 BOMA meeting

C. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen may task the City Commissions mentioned above with reviewing requests for the naming or renaming of public buildings or property, recreation

facilities or amenities, or streets to ensure compliance with the terms of this policy, and to make recommendations to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval.

- D. If an application is denied by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, a new application may be resubmitted after a period of six (6) months.

### Section 3: Definitions

- A. Public Buildings: Buildings under the control of the City used to conduct City business. Buildings may include, but are not limited to, City Hall, the Spring Hill Public Library, the concessions building at Fischer Park.
- B. Public Property: Tangible property owned or under the control of the City, improved or unimproved, contained within or outside of a public building. Examples may include but are not limited to, tracts of land, exterior fixtures such as flagpoles or benches, interior furniture or fixtures such as chairs or decorative installations.
- C. Recreation Facilities and Amenities: City Owned facilities/amenities that may be located within a park or part of a facility. These include, but are not limited to, athletic fields, meeting rooms, picnic shelters, ball diamonds, tennis and basketball courts and playground equipment.
- D. Streets: Streets, highways, avenues, boulevards, publicly owned roads, bridges, tunnels, public parking areas or other public ways dedicated to public use and maintained for general public travel lying within a municipality's corporate boundaries.
- E. Honorary Name: An additional name assigned to public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, streets or public rights-of-way which supplements but does not replace the official name. The honorary street name is displayed on a different color sign mounted directly below the official street sign.

### Section 4. Policy.

- A. Applications require:
1. The precise location and description of the subject property;
  2. The name, address and contact information of the requestor; and
  3. Thorough discussion regarding the history of the property or surrounding area, as may be applicable; and
  4. An endorsement by the current mayor or a current council member in which the property is located.
  5. Exception—Naming and renaming of streets.

- a) The City Commissions and/or Board of Mayor and Aldermen shall not be involved with the naming of newly created streets or re-naming of existing streets which are named in accordance with the City of Spring Hill Unified Development Code and E911.
  - b) Honorary Naming shall be evaluated by the Planning Commission for uniqueness and appropriate naming convention; and
    - 1) Shall not contain current road type nomenclature (i.e. boulevard, street, way, etc.).
    - 2) Shall not be an exact or phonetic duplication of an existing street or facility within the city or the county.
- The applicant did not have a preference on a particular road so the Parks and Rec Commission suggested Reserve Boulevard due to the roadway being a local road with good visibility that still has a serene and natural landscape of farmland, large trees, and green space. It also speaks to the Melendez story by blending history with the present with the old silo, family farms, stacked stone entrances, and new development.
  - Mayor Jim Hagaman is sponsoring this application
  - It was on the Planning Commission's agenda for May 28 to get their recommendation before going to BOMA but was pulled prior to the meeting's start. *June 11 update: It went forward to the Planning Commission's June 10<sup>th</sup> voting meeting and received a unanimous favorable recommendation.*
  - The suggestion was made to honorarily name Reserve Blvd as "CSM Cristóbal Melendez Parkway"
  - The criteria in this section are met (outside of the applicant not having listed a specific street.)

**B. Criteria for consideration of naming requests.**

1. Thorough discussion regarding the history of the property or surrounding area, as may be applicable;
2. Naming shall satisfy at least one of the following criteria:
  - a) Honors and commemorates a noteworthy person associated with the city, the county, the state or the United States of America;
  - b) Commemorates local history, places, events or culture;
  - c) Will strengthen neighborhood identity; or
  - d) Recognizes native wildlife or natural geographical features.
3. The following shall not be considered for purposes of naming:
  - a) Persons that resided in the city for less than five years, other than prominent national figures;
  - b) Individual family tributes, commercially concerned and corporate-related recognitions;
  - c) Designations that cause discord within the community;
  - d) Names assigned to existing public property within the city or the county where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion.
4. The committee shall consider:
  - a) The number of residents and businesses directly affected;

- b) Community diversity;
  - c) The historical significance of preexisting name or location;
  - d) The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area.
  - e) Naming shall reflect the values and character of the community served by the facility;
  - f) The impact on emergency service delivery.
5. Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree shall be deceased for a minimum of 1 year. Approvals for naming a city facility in honor of a living individual require unanimous support from the respective City Commission and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.
6. Requests for naming in honor of a living person should also consider the following:
- a) Whether the proposed namesake made a demonstrable and significant positive impact to local, state, or national affairs. Contributions will have been sustained over an appreciable time period and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;
  - b) Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community; and
  - c) Achievement by a native Spring Hill citizen of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Spring Hill.
- CSM Melendez was a long-time resident of Spring Hill. He was a decorated Korean War veteran serving in the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion known as the "Borinqueneers" which was a segregated combat infantry primarily composed of Puerto Rican volunteers. This battalion of brave soldiers fought and died for our country even though many of them did not live in the US nor speak English. The Borinqueneers were honored by President Obama and US Congress in April of 2016 with the full support of our own Senator Marsha Blackburn who attended the ceremonies in Washington D.C. Subsequently, our city honored CSM Melendez the following month when Mayor Rick Graham and BOMA presented him with a key to the city. CSM Melendez passed away in 2021 and the family has requested an honorary street naming for their father. Mayor Jim Hagaman has sponsored this application.
  - On May 16, 2016, the City of Spring Hill BOMA presented the Key to the City of Spring Hill to CSM Melendez for his service.
  - CSM Cristóbal Melendez was a Spring Hill resident for 11years. He lived at 3021 Auld Tatty Drive which is off Campbell's Station Drive near Station 3.
  - CSM Cristóbal Melendez died on January 15, 2021.
  - The criteria in this section are met.

### C. Request Process for Placement of Dedications, Commemorative Objects, Plaques or Markers

In addition to the naming opportunities described above, the City may recognize individuals, either deceased or living, or organizations, active or non-active, by the placement of objects (such as public benches, rocks, flagpoles, sculptures, trees etc.), plaques or markers in public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets, provided such recognition is appropriate, consistent with and meets the needs of the community and serves a public purpose. The placement, identification, and proper installation method of these dedications will be at the discretion of city staff unless otherwise directed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in a special circumstance. Approval is subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

1. Dedications, commemorative objects, plaques or markers may not be placed in or on the public right-of-way. Dedications, commemorative objects, plaques or markers may not be placed in or on City facilities without City approval. The location, size and type of these items require approval by the designated City Commission. Upon the receipt of a request for the placement of an object, plaque or marker in a public buildings or property, recreation facilities or amenities, or streets, the relative City Commission will review the request to ensure that it can be accommodated in a way that provides some public purpose, meets the intended use of the proposed location in a manner that does not mar the appearance or function of the requested location or cause or contribute to an overabundance of items in the immediate area.
2. Responsibility for the purchase, installation and maintenance of any recognition object and/or associated plaque or other form of label associated with the object must be borne by the requesting party. Such objects and plaques must not pose a burden on City resources for their maintenance, upkeep, repair or replacement. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen may accept the transfer of responsibility for the purchase, installation and maintenance of recognition items and plaques, provided that sufficient funds for these activities are available. In either case, applicants must enter into a service agreement with the City which specifies:
  - a) The cost of the recognition object and/or plaque, and whether the applicant or the City will purchase the object and/or plaque;
  - b) The costs associated with the installation of the object and/or plaque, and whether the applicant or the City will conduct the installation;
  - c) The costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of the object and/or plaque, and whether the City or the applicant will perform maintenance of the object and plaque;
- The Parks and Recreation Commission voted to allot \$300 for the honorary sign supplies that will be used by the city sign department to make the sign. Confirmed price and capability with Public Works Director.
3. The City will not be responsible for maintenance, upkeep, repair or

replacement of any dedication or commemorative object if the placement of the item(s) was not approved by the City. The City may immediately remove any dedication or commemorative object placed without approval by the City.

4. Organizations interested in proposing to place a commemorative plaque, marker or object in any public building or property, recreation facility or amenity, or street must do so in writing. Requests shall be presented to the City Administrator for consideration by the relevant City Commission.
5. At a minimum, the attached form must be completed. The inclusion of additional supporting information (photos, brochures, area map, drawings, etc.) is recommended.
6. The relevant City Commission will act on each request made. Upon approval, City staff will coordinate with applicant on the proper installation of the plaque, marker or other object.
7. The City reserves the right to reject any request for a dedication or recognition object placement upon determination that it is part of an organized fund raising effort or commercial venture.
8. The City will make every effort to preserve any dedication plaque or other object placed with the approval of the City. If necessary, due to repair of surrounding areas, construction or redesign of a facility, the plaque or dedication object may be relocated. If the plaque or other recognition object cannot continue to be reasonably maintained or poses a public nuisance or hazard, it may be removed by the City.
9. If the dedication includes the gift of an object (e.g. bench, picnic table, play equipment), the City will provide its regular standard of care and maintenance for the object. If the object is damaged due to vandalism, becomes unusable due to age, wear and tear or is stolen, the City is not obligated to replace or repair the object. Any object that poses a public nuisance or hazard may instead be immediately removed by the City.
10. Plaques and markers must be designed to blend with or complement the existing City park or facility. The wording on plaques or markers must be approved by the City.

#### D. Temporary Memorials and Shrines

In some instances, residents have taken it upon themselves to construct temporary memorials within the public right-of-way to honor deceased family members or friends. These types of installations are subject to different considerations than the City sponsored naming or dedication initiatives previously outlined in this policy.

These memorials are not formally recognized by the City, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, or City staff. Since commemorating a loved one is a deeply personal thing, the City desires to accommodate the City's residents, and allow creativity with sensitivity and tact, while maintaining the safety of all residents and the aesthetic integrity of neighborhoods and public spaces. This section pertains only to City maintained medians, parks, and right-of-ways, and not to the use of private property. Under no circumstances may anything be constructed within 100 feet of a blind corner.

1. Safety and Aesthetic Concerns:

- a) Since creation of a shrine is generally done following a loss, the City recognizes the social and community value of such a construction; under all other circumstances, personal or commercial items, signs, or personal effects are not appropriate and are prohibited within City medians, parks, or rights-of-way.
- b) Accumulation of personal items (for memorials) within public spaces can cause safety and access issues; it can also create debris and litter within the public right-of-way. Without these guidelines and on-going maintenance, these shrines may become visual distractions to motorists, potential visual blight to the immediate neighborhood, and can become a public nuisance.

2. Thirty-Day Courtesy:

The City will permit memorials and shrines to exist in or adjacent to the public right-of-way for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of a significant accident or loss, provided they do not create a safety hazard which will be at the discretion of City Staff. City Staff will not remove personal items from the location for ninety (90) days with the exception of:

- a) Safety hazards
- b) Dead or dying flowers
- c) Dead or dying plants (with or without vases)
- d) Debris and trash
- e) Deflated balloons

3. The costs associated with the installation of the object and/or plaque, and whether the applicant or the City will conduct the
4. These items may be removed at the discretion of the City at any time. The City is not responsible for maintaining items in the right-of-way. Furthermore, memorials or shrines dedicated to animals will not be permitted.

**Kayce Williams**  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department  
City of Spring Hill, TN  
O: 931-487-0027, x 258  
M: 615-489-0108  
[kwilliams@springhilltn.org](mailto:kwilliams@springhilltn.org)

REQUEST FOR AN HONORARY STREET NAME OR PLACEMENT OF  
DEDICATION OR COMMEMORATIVE OBJECT, PLAQUE OR MARKER

Please type or print clearly in ink and return to:

CITY OF SPRING HILL  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
PO BOX 789  
199 TOWN CENTER PARKWAY  
SPRING HILL, TN 37174

***Date of Submittal:*** 11/17/2023

***Request Type (Check One):***

Honorary Street Name

Placement of a Dedication or Commemorative Object, Plaque, or Marker

***Nominated Name or Organization:***

Cristóbal Melendez, Command Sergeant Major (CSM) (retired)

***Location of proposed honorary street name, dedication, memorial, plaque, or marker:***

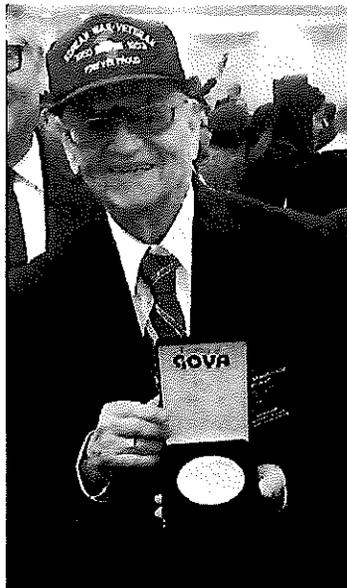
CSM Cristóbal Melendez was a long-time resident of Williamson County in Spring Hill and a recipient of the Key to the City of Spring Hill. It is, therefore, befitting that the street under consideration is located within the Spring Hill city limits.

***Explanation of how the individual or Organization is to be honored/commemorated.  
Please include any photos, drawings, historical significance, or specifications of the  
desired item.***

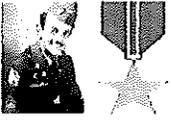
CSM Melendez is a deceased and decorated Korean War veteran who dedicated his adult life to serving our nation. Cristóbal Melendez was a long-time resident of Spring Hill who died on January 15, 2022. He was 97 years old. CSM Melendez served honorably in Korea as a member of the 65th Infantry Battalion. The 65th, nicknamed the "Borinqueneers," was a segregated combat infantry unit comprised primarily of Puerto Rican volunteers. Most of these young soldiers did not speak English and had never been to the United States mainland. Even so, they volunteered to fight and die for a nation that did not recognize them as equals.

On April 13, 2016, the selfless, heroic actions of the Borinqueneers were celebrated by President Obama and members of the US Congress. They were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, making them brothers to others, like the *Tuskegee Airmen*, *Women's Airforce Service Pilots*, and the *Native American Code Talkers*, who served our nation with honor and

distinction. Senator Blackburn and other national leaders and dignitaries participated in celebrating this occasion in Washington, DC.



April 13, 2016, US Capitol.  
CSM Cristobal Melendez, Senator Blackburn, and Alex Melendez

 <p><b>65th Infantry Regiment</b>  <b>Bronze Star Medal</b>  <b>With "V" Device For Heroic Achievement</b></p>  <p><b>HEADQUARTERS</b>  <b>3D INFANTRY DIVISION</b>  <b>GENERAL ORDERS - NUMBER 25 - 29 JANUARY 1951</b></p> <p><b>CITATION</b></p> <p>Corporal Cristobal Melendez Claudio, RA 30434073, Infantry, Company "D", 65th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division, United States Army. On 14 December 1950 at Oryul, Korea, Corporal Melendez Claudio's unit came under heavy enemy attack and forced to withdraw to higher grounds Corporal Melendez Claudio voluntarily went back into enemy held territory to remove a wounded officer. Shortly thereafter friendly artillery and mortar fire started to fall on and near the unit's position. Corporal Melendez Claudio again volunteered to go into enemy held territory to reach a command post and caused the artillery to cease fire, thus he prevented casualties in his unit. His courage, aggressiveness and disregard of his own personal safety reflect great credit upon himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Puerto Rico.</p> <p><small>Source: Record Group 330: General Orders 3rd Infantry Division, Boxes 129 to 131 - National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.</small></p>	 <p><b>65th Infantry Regiment</b>  <b>BRONZE STAR MEDAL (MERITORIOUS)</b>  <b>(FIRST BRONZE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER)</b></p>  <p><b>HEADQUARTERS</b>  <b>3D INFANTRY DIVISION</b>  <b>GENERAL ORDERS - NUMBER 23 - 11 JANUARY 1951</b></p> <p><b>CITATION</b></p> <p>Master Sergeant Cristobal Melendez Claudio, RA 30434073, Infantry, Company "D", 65th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division, United States Army, is cited for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in Korea during the period 23 September 1950 to 2 November 1951. Sergeant Melendez Claudio, serving as a Weapons Platoon Sergeant, performed his duties in a superior manner. In the face of adverse weather and terrain conditions, he constantly supervised the operations of his platoon, checking the positions of the weapons and insuring an adequate supply of ammunition, thereby successfully completing all assigned combat missions. His knowledge of weapons coupled with his exceptional leadership ability immensely contributed to the outstanding performance of his unit. Sergeant Melendez Claudio's tireless devotion to duty reflects great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered the military service from Puerto Rico.</p>
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**Bronze Star Citations**

On May 16, 2016, City of Spring Hill Mayor Graham and other Board of Mayor and Aldermen members presented the *Key to the City of Spring Hill* to CSM Melendez for his service.



May 16, 2016, City Hall, Spring Hill  
 CSM Melendez is presented with a Key to the City



CITY OF SPRING HILL  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016  
6:30 P.M.

Board Members:  
Mayor: Ryan  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:  
Aldermen:

City Clerk  
City Clerk

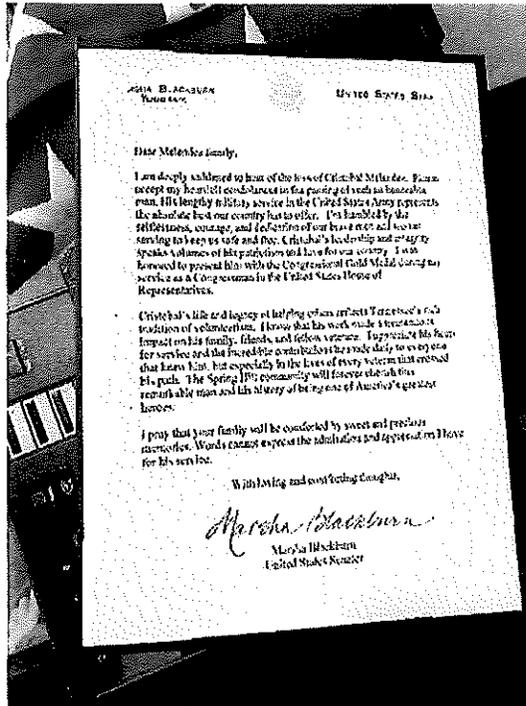
City Clerk  
City Clerk

Presentation of Key to the City



To: Mr. Cristobal Melendez-Claudio  
Recipient of Congressional Gold Medal

Subject: Presentation of Key to the City  
Date: May 16, 2016  
Time: 6:30 P.M.  
Location: City of Spring Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting  
Address: 1000 Spring Hill Blvd, Spring Hill, FL 34464  
Phone: (352) 389-1234  
Fax: (352) 389-1234  
Email: info@springhillfl.com  
Website: www.springhillfl.com



CSM Melendez passed away on January 15th, 2021, two weeks after the passing of his wife of 65 years, Josephine Melendez. He received a 21-gun salute from the Army honor guard and was buried next to Josephine at Williamson Memorial Cemetery.

Because Puerto Ricans make up such a small percentage of the local population, many Spring Hill residents may be unaware of the island's relationship with the United States and the status of Puerto Rican citizens. Puerto Rico is a lush, tropical island situated between the Dominican Republic and the US Virgin Islands in the Caribbean Sea. Historically, Puerto

Rico was a colony of Spain for over 400 years. Following the Spanish-American war, Spain ceded control of the island to the United States. As such, Puerto Ricans, like Tennesseans, are US citizens at birth.

While Spanish is the native language on the island, a large percentage of its residents and businesses also speak fluent English. The island is a territory of the United States, and travel between the US mainland and Puerto Rico is no different than traveling between states. The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, a segregated Puerto Rican regiment of the United States Army, has a rich history of serving in every major conflict since WWI.

In recognizing CSM Melendez's personal sacrifices, the City of Spring Hill also recognizes the contributions of all the 65th Infantry soldiers and the many other brave men and women of all races who served in Korea. I respectfully request that the City of Spring Hill consider this opportunity to continue recognizing the contributions of all cultures to our nation and to our local communities. We hope the City will take action to name a street, bridge, or other infrastructure in his honor.

***Individual or Organization submitting this request:***

***Name:*** Alex Melendez

***Address:*** 3101 Marshall Springs, Spring Hill, TN 37174

***Phone:*** 615 500-8626

***Email:*** [alex.melendez@comcast.net](mailto:alex.melendez@comcast.net)

Respectfully,

Alex Melendez.

**From:** Kayce Williams kwilliams@springhilltn.org  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Honorary Naming Request  
**Date:** December 6, 2023 at 11:31 AM  
**To:** Alex Melendez alex.melendez@comcast.net  
**Cc:** Irma Eichner i.eichner@att.net, catmelendez21@outlook.com



Thank you Alex. The format you submitted is fine.

In your application, you did not list a specific location or street to be considered. The committee might struggle a bit to figure out what would be pleasing to the family so is there any direction you can provide on a possible area or street?

At your service,

**Kayce Williams**  
Parks and Recreation Director

City of Spring Hill, TN  
4237 Port Royal Road  
Spring Hill, TN 37174

O: 931-487-0027, x 258  
M: 615-489-0108  
[kwilliams@springhilltn.org](mailto:kwilliams@springhilltn.org)



On Dec 4, 2023, at 2:31 PM, Alex Melendez <alex.melendez@comcast.net> wrote:

Hello, Ms. Williams,

Thank you for following up with me on naming a street in honor of my father, Cristobal Melendez. I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding. I have been overwhelmed with my teaching functions at Columbia State, the professional mentoring I provide, and the completion of my doctoral dissertation. I'm sure you understand how our hectic lives can become hurdles to getting things done.

I have attached a completed Public Recognition application for your review and consideration in keeping with Spring Hill's Public Recognition Policy requirements. I have included photos, links, and a couple of documents that speak to my father's character and devotion to serving our nation and the recognition he received in the process. I also converted the form to a PDF format to facilitate sharing and review. If you prefer, I would gladly provide the application in an MS Word format, or I can print it and take it to your office. I am also available to meet in person to clarify any questions you or the others may have.

Our family sincerely appreciates your help, and we look forward to your response.

<image003.png>

**Alex Melendez, MBA, PMP**  
Doctoral Candidate

Adjunct Professor & Project Mgmt  
Consultant

**Mobile:** 615-500-8626

**Email:** [Alex.Melendez@comcast.net](mailto:Alex.Melendez@comcast.net)

<image001.png>

**From:** Kayce Williams <[kwilliams@springhilltn.org](mailto:kwilliams@springhilltn.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 10:18 AM

**To:** [alex.melendez@comcast.net](mailto:alex.melendez@comcast.net)

**Cc:** [leichner@att.net](mailto:leichner@att.net); [catmelendez21@gmail.com](mailto:catmelendez21@gmail.com); Pam Caskie

<[pcaskie@springhilltn.org](mailto:pcaskie@springhilltn.org)>; Tony Tolstedt <[ttolstedt@springhilltn.org](mailto:ttolstedt@springhilltn.org)>; Trent Linville

<[tlinville@springhilltn.org](mailto:tlinville@springhilltn.org)>; Vincent Fuqua <[vfquaa@springhilltn.org](mailto:vfquaa@springhilltn.org)>; Brent Murray

<[bmurray@springhilltn.org](mailto:bmurray@springhilltn.org)>; Jim Hagaman <[jhagaman@springhilltn.org](mailto:jhagaman@springhilltn.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Honorary Naming Request

Good morning Mr. Melendez,

Thank you for your reaching out to us about your request. Below you will find an attachment containing the city's Naming and Public Recognition Policy which includes an application on the last page. If you will, please review the policy, fill out the application, and return it to me at your convenience. The City Administrator will review the request and forward it to the appropriate committee or commission pertinent to the request. That group will review the application at their monthly meeting and will then forward a recommendation to BOMA.

Again, thank you for your email and for your desire to submit this request. We will stay in touch with you throughout the process and are always available for any questions you may have.

At your service,

**Kayce Williams**

Parks and Recreation Director

City of Spring Hill, TN  
4237 Port Royal Road  
Spring Hill, TN 37174

O: 931-487-0027, x 258

M: 615-489-0108

[kwilliams@springhilltn.org](mailto:kwilliams@springhilltn.org)

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

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

From: Jim Hagaman

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:22 AM

To: Alex Melendez <[alex.melendez@comcast.net](mailto:alex.melendez@comcast.net)>; Pam Caskie

<[pcaskie@springhilltn.org](mailto:pcaskie@springhilltn.org)>

Cc: 'Irma Eichner' <[i.eichner@att.net](mailto:i.eichner@att.net)>; 'Cathy Melendez' <[catmelendez21@gmail.com](mailto:catmelendez21@gmail.com)>;

Trent Linville <[tlinville@springhilltn.org](mailto:tlinville@springhilltn.org)>; Vincent Fuqua <[vfquqa@springhilltn.org](mailto:vfquqa@springhilltn.org)>

Subject: RE: [External] FW: Paying respect

Good morning Mr. Melendez:

Thank you for reaching out. As a retired disabled military Veteran myself, I am always encouraged to see any level of government to recognize the efforts and sacrifices that military personnel have made. Impressive to hear of your father's rise to the rank of Command Sergeant Major. To compare the Borinqueneers to the likes of the Tuskegee Airmen, Women's Airforce Service Pilots, and the Native American Code Talkers is spot on.

I am pleased to learn that the City of Spring Hill did honor your father by awarding him the Key to the City in 2016. That award is significant for us to present.

There is a lot that goes into naming a street or bridge in honor of someone. I am not sure what all that encompasses, but I will look into it. If it is allowable in accordance with our Charter and Codes, I will pursue this request.

Thank you for the example of being proud of your dad. Rightly so!

Jim Hagaman, Mayor

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

From: Alex Melendez <[alex.melendez@comcast.net](mailto:alex.melendez@comcast.net)>

Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 2:40 PM

To: Pam Caskie <[pcaskie@springhilltn.org](mailto:pcaskie@springhilltn.org)>

Cc: 'Irma Eichner' <[i.eichner@att.net](mailto:i.eichner@att.net)>; 'Cathy Melendez' <[catmelendez21@gmail.com](mailto:catmelendez21@gmail.com)>;

Jim Hagaman <[jhagaman@springhilltn.org](mailto:jhagaman@springhilltn.org)>; Trent Linville <[tlinville@springhilltn.org](mailto:tlinville@springhilltn.org)>;

Vincent Fuqua <[vfquqa@springhilltn.org](mailto:vfquqa@springhilltn.org)>

Subject: [External] FW: Paying respect

Dear Ms. Caskie, as the email thread below supports, over the past 30 days I have attempted to contact Aldermen Fuqua and Linville to address a matter of importance to me and my family. The lack of response from the Aldermen has prompted this message to you. In a nutshell, I am asking the City of Spring Hill to consider naming a street or bridge in my father's honor.

My father's name is Cristóbal Melendez. He was a long-time resident of Spring Hill who died on January 15, 2022. He was 97 years old when he died. My father was a career Army Command Sergeant Major who served honorably in Korea as a member of the 65th Infantry Battalion. The 65th, nicknamed the "Borinqueneers," was a segregated combat infantry unit comprised primarily of Puerto Rican volunteers. Most of these young soldiers did not speak English and had never been to the United States mainland. Even so, they

volunteered to fight and die for a nation that did not even recognize them as equals.

On April 13, 2016, the selfless, heroic actions of the Borinqueneers were celebrated by President Obama and members of the US Congress. They were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, making them brothers to others, like the Tuskegee Airmen, Women's Airforce Service Pilots, and the Native American Code Talkers, who contributed significantly to our nation. Congresswoman Marcia Blackburn and other national leaders and dignitaries celebrated my father's honor in Washington, DC. In May 2016, the City of Spring Hill BOMA awarded him a Key to the City of Spring Hill at city hall (partial BOMA minutes attached).

Yet, despite these honors and recognition, the city of which he was a proud member chose not to attend his funeral despite a request from Congresswoman Blackburn's office. My father was laid to rest next to his wife of 65 years at Williamson Memorial Cemetery with a 21-gun salute from the Army honor guard. As the National Hispanic American Heritage Month comes to a close, I can see no finer tribute to the current and future local Hispanic community than to recognize one who devoted his life to the service of our nation. I respectfully request that you and the other City officials consider this opportunity to continue recognizing the contributions of all cultures to our nation and the City of Spring Hill.

Respectfully,  
Alex Melendez  
(615) 500-8626

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

From: Alex Melendez <[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\\_alex.melendez-40comcast.net&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A\\_CdpnVfiiMM&r=9lgP09nnn61qa3vgWLVGKoovMn7AgFWNPik6u\\_Quces&m=oeFUXNXFIQ35RuJ\\_kzLGce3T242ZW5-m1c6xej8ixlpJT47n6E9Y16yE8JB840a2&s=UVI9m\\_tjAeR9UvK1gUuKfAnY9ogMkfzxLYy7aorqSjs&e=>](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_alex.melendez-40comcast.net&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=9lgP09nnn61qa3vgWLVGKoovMn7AgFWNPik6u_Quces&m=oeFUXNXFIQ35RuJ_kzLGce3T242ZW5-m1c6xej8ixlpJT47n6E9Y16yE8JB840a2&s=UVI9m_tjAeR9UvK1gUuKfAnY9ogMkfzxLYy7aorqSjs&e=>)>

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 12:59 PM

To: 'vfuqua@springhilltn.org' <[vfuqua@springhilltn.org](mailto:vfuqua@springhilltn.org)>; 'linville@springhilltn.org' <[linville@springhilltn.org](mailto:linville@springhilltn.org)>

Cc: 'Irma Eichner' <[i.eichner@att.net](mailto:i.eichner@att.net)>; 'Cathy Melendez' <[catmelendez21@outlook.com](mailto:catmelendez21@outlook.com)>

Subject: RE: Paying respect

Dear Alderman Fuqua and Linville, I understand how busy your roles must keep you every day, and I do not want to be an interruption. However, I hope you've read my previous email (below) and have given some thought to this request. I failed to say in my earlier message that my wife and I have been residents of the Southern Springs community off Kedron Road in Spring Hill for the past two years, having moved here from Franklin. My father, who is referenced in the message below, lived in the Highlands off Campbell Station for numerous years prior to his passing.

I realize that decision-making takes time in the public sector; however, I would appreciate an acknowledgment of receipt of this email message along with an indication of any action that may be taken to accommodate this request. I would be glad to pursue a different course if you feel it is more appropriate, including contacting the mayor, City Manager, or city planner's offices.

Respectfully,  
Alex Melendez

(615) 500-8626

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

From: Comcast <[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\\_alex.melendez-40comcast.net&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A\\_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=9lgP09nnn61qa3vgWLVGKoovMn7AgFWNPlk6u\\_Quces&m=oeFU\\_NXNFIQ35RuJ\\_kzLGce3T242ZW5-m1c6xej8jxlpJT47n6E9Yt6yE8JB840a2&s=UVi9m\\_tjAeR9UvK1gUuKfAnY9ogMkfzxLYy7\\_aorqSjs&e=>](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_alex.melendez-40comcast.net&d=DwIFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=9lgP09nnn61qa3vgWLVGKoovMn7AgFWNPlk6u_Quces&m=oeFU_NXNFIQ35RuJ_kzLGce3T242ZW5-m1c6xej8jxlpJT47n6E9Yt6yE8JB840a2&s=UVi9m_tjAeR9UvK1gUuKfAnY9ogMkfzxLYy7_aorqSjs&e=>)>

Sent: Saturday, September 9, 2023 11:42 AM

To: [vfuqua@springhilltn.org](mailto:vfuqua@springhilltn.org); [tlinville@springhilltn.org](mailto:tlinville@springhilltn.org)

Cc: Irma Eichner <[i.eichner@att.net](mailto:i.eichner@att.net)>; Cathy Melendez <[catmelendez21@outlook.com](mailto:catmelendez21@outlook.com)>

Subject: Paying respect

Dear Aldermen, thank you for your service to our community and for dedicating so much of your time to ensuring our community continues to thrive and grow. As a part of that growth, our infrastructure will continue to develop and names will need to be given to our streets and other structures. That said, I would like to ask that the city consider honoring my father by using his name for one of these.

My father's name is Cristóbal Melendez. He was a long time resident of Spring Hill who died on January 15th, 2022. He was 97 years old when he died. My father was a career Army Command Sergeant Major who served honorably in Korea as a member of the 65th Infantry Battalion. The 65th, nicknamed the "Borinqueneers," was a segregated combat infantry unit comprised primarily of Puerto Rican volunteers. Most of these young soldiers did not speak English and had never been to the United States mainland. Even so, they chose to volunteer to fight and die for a nation that did not even recognize them as equals.

The Borinqueneers were celebrated by President Obama and awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, making them brothers to others, like the Tuskegee Airmen and the Native American Code Talkers, who contributed greatly to our nation. Congresswoman Marcia Blackburn celebrated my father's honor in Washington, D.C. along with a host of other national leaders and dignitaries. Subsequent to this, my father was awarded a Key to the City of Spring Hill at city hall.

Yet, despite these honors and recognition, the city of which he was a proud member, did not feel compelled to honor him at his funeral despite a request from Congresswoman Blackburn's office. My father was laid to rest next to his wife of 65 years at Williamson Memorial Cemetery with a 21-gun salute from the Army honor guard.

The purpose of this letter is to request that the City consider honoring my father's contributions by naming a street or bridge in his honor. My father was proud to have served our nation and displayed his Key to the City proudly among his most cherished moments. Today, as a resident of Spring Hill, I am reminded of his unassuming nature, his strength of character, and his love for this city and this nation.

It is my sincere hope that you will recognize the contribution he made to us all and find the opportunity to recognize him in this simple way. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully yours,  
Alex Melendez  
(615) 500-8626

| <Resolution 22-149 Final Adopt a naming and public recognition policy\_2.pdf>