



Street Name Change Application

Rev.20180103

1. **Describe the purpose or reason for the proposed street name change. In what way will the public's interest or public safety be served by the name change?**

Given the genocidal atrocities that the US Army inflicted upon the Spokane Tribe, their crops, horses and leaders at the command of George Wright it is fitting to work with the tribe and change the name to something more inspirational to our Native population especially those that travel Fort George Wright Drive to go to SFCC to better themselves with higher education.

2. **What uses are located on the adjacent property and in the vicinity? Describe the character of the street proposed for the name change.**

The drive stretches from Government Way to TJ Meenach Bridge. It is surrounded by the Unitarian Universalist Church, Spokane Falls Community College, Mukogawa Japanese School, Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners, and a couple of apartment complexes including the old Fort George Wright barracks.

3. **Is the proposed change consistent with the policy for naming streets found in Chapter 17.D.050 of the Spokane Municipal Code? If so, how is it consistent?**

Yes, the primary purpose of renaming this roadway (more specifically "drive") is SMC Section 17D.050A.060, subsection B that reads, "Roadway names shall not contain vulgarity or vulgar innuendo, nor insult to any person, group, or class of persons, or institution."

Fort George Wright Drive was named for U.S. Army Colonel George Wright, for whom the fort itself, established in 1895, was also named. Colonel Wright was stationed at Fort Walla Walla in Washington Territory in 1858 during the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and the Yakima, Palouse, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane tribes, triggered in large part by the continued encroachment of white settlers on native land. After the defeat of Colonel Edward Steptoe at the Battle of Tohotonimme (commonly called "Steptoe Butte") near present day Rosalia, Steptoe and his soldiers were forced to retreat to Fort Walla Walla, Col. Wright embarked on a punitive expedition throughout Eastern Washington and into Northern Idaho. Colonel Wright ordered the slaughter of over 600 captured horses near the Idaho border, destroying the tribe's economy, causing great harm to the tribe's culture, and causing food shortages and starvation. In addition, Col. Wright ordered the burning of native crops and food stores and ordered the summary execution by hanging of any native person he suspected of having fought against him. At a camp on Latah Creek (often called "Hangman Creek" based on this episode), Col. Wright allowed some native people to come into camp to make peace, but when they did so, Wright ordered some 16 of them arrested and summarily executed, without trial. We believe that maintaining the name of Fort George Wright Drive is a continual stain on our City by honoring a person who engaged in

genocidal and terroristic actions toward the native people who have always lived here. We also believe that maintaining the existing name of Fort George Wright Drive undermines the intent of the City of Spokane's strategic diversity plan, which has, as one of its goals, that the City of Spokane will "create a compassionate community so that all people can feel safe, empowered, and welcome." This renaming process will give us all the opportunity to not only begin a healing process with the tribes, but have an insightful and deep conversation about the history of racism, violence, and discrimination which have been the hallmarks of the interactions between white settlers and native people in the Spokane area, not to assign blame, but to embark on a new shared future, together.

4. **Does the proposed new street name duplicate a street name already in use within the Spokane Metropolitan Area?**

There is no proposed name yet, we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway.

5. **Is the proposed new street name consistent with the name of adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment?**

Again, there is no proposed name yet, as we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway. We are aware of the guidelines listed out in SMC Section 17D around names and numbering of roadways in conjunction with the adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment.

6. **If the proposed name change is within a Planned Unit Development, will the proposed name of the private street be consistent with the names of surrounding public streets?**

Again, there is no proposed name yet, as we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway. We are aware of the guidelines listed out in SMC Section 17D around names and numbering of roadways in conjunction with the adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment.

7. **Will the proposed street name result in an intersection with the same name (e.g. First Avenue and 1st Avenue) or create more than one intersection with the same name?**

Again, there is no proposed name yet, as we will be working with the tribes to find a more appropriate name for that roadway. We are aware of the guidelines listed out in SMC Section 17D around names and numbering of roadways in conjunction with the adjacent streets and streets with a common alignment.