

**BILL NO. BL2018-1113** (HURT, O'CONNELL, & OTHERS) – This ordinance would amend the official Geographic Information Systems Street and Alley Centerline Layer by changing the name of a portion of Charlotte Avenue to "Dr. M L King Jr. Boulevard".

If adopted, the change would apply to the portion of Charlotte Avenue running from its terminus at Third Avenue North to the overpass at Interstate 40 / George L. Davis Boulevard – a portion less than one (1) mile in length. The name change would not apply to the remainder of Charlotte Avenue or Charlotte Pike, a state route which continues approximately 12 miles to Highway 70.

This has been approved by the Planning Commission and the Emergency Communications Board. A recommendation from both is required prior to third reading under Section 13.08.015.D of the Metro Code of Laws (MCL). Additionally, subsection 13.08.015.B requires the Metropolitan Historical Commission to provide a report to the Council stating the historical significance, if any, associated with the existing street name. Such report was provided to Council members on March 27, 2018.

State law provides that no memorial regarding a historic figure may be renamed or otherwise altered. A memorial is defined to include any street named or dedicated "in honor of" any historic figure. The March 27, 2018 Historical Commission report reveals no indication that this portion of Charlotte Avenue – originally named "Cedar Street" – was named "in honor of" Charlotte Robertson (wife of General James Robertson). Rather, the re-naming appears to have resulted from efforts to eliminate mismatched street names. Beginning in 1910, city planners engaged in concerted efforts to establish consistent street names. These efforts culminated in 1941 when "Cedar Street" was renamed "Charlotte Avenue" to provide continuity to Charlotte Road/Pike/Turnpike which lay further to the west. None of the resulting ordinances adopting "Charlotte Avenue" appear to mention Charlotte Robertson nor any intent to honor her.

If adopted, this ordinance would not become effective until November 7, 2018 (thereby coinciding with anticipated letterhead changes required by a new gubernatorial administration).