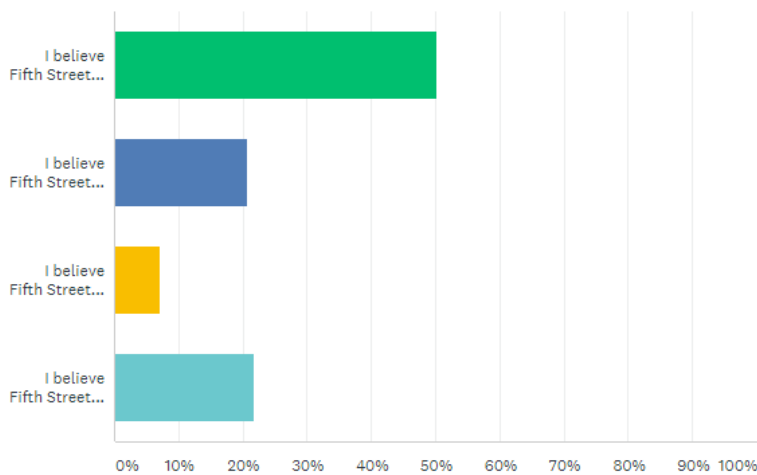


# Comments from MLK/Fifth Street Online survey

## Survey Question 1: Naming Fifth Street

Please select the answer with which you most closely agree.

1. I believe Fifth Street should remain as it is with a Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard overlay only. Currently the MLK, Jr. overlay is "honorary" only and did not change the name of the street.
2. I believe Fifth Street (beginning at the John Lynch Bridge) through Memorial Avenue (ending at Fort Avenue) should be officially renamed Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.
3. I believe Fifth Street (beginning at the John Lynch Bridge) and ending at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge (near Harris Tire) should be named Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.
4. I believe Fifth Street should be renamed after a prominent Lynchburg African American citizen.



Out of 322 responses:

1. 162
2. 67
3. 23
4. 70

### General Comments:

1. Do not rename Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. There should markers identifying who, what and where former black businesses on 5th st. When i walk past a building or lot on 5th st, i often wonder what was this before.
3. "5th St." has it's own heritage! Please honor that history and heritage
4. I am still learning. I feel that local African American history should ABSOLUTELY be recognized in Lynchburg. Renaming this street is a great first step. I think renaming the city itself might also be a great idea.

5. Anne Spencer (who has black, white, and Seminole Indian ancestry) and her son Chauncey E. Spencer (a highly respected Tuskegee pilot) - we should have 5th St. renamed Spencer St. We have a tiny road named Spencer Pl. but that doesn't show all this family has done for Lynchburg.
6. It would be an unfair burden to saddle current Fifth Street business owners with the expense involved with a formal name change. They have been through enough already.
7. Switch to MLK Boulevard with 5th St overlay bridge to bridge. -Recognition of 400 and 500 blocks of 12th Street and lower 9th Street as early African American business areas.
8. renaming bridges in honor of african history is all that should be named and leave the street names as they are.
9. I don't believe 5th should be named after MLK Jr, as his views are dated and do not reflect the struggles of today. His views that people should be judged on content of character and not race do not hold up today, and was likely a result of his internalized white oppression. More info about MLKs calls for "colorblindness," and how that is a racist view, can be found here:  
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-colorblindness-is-act\\_b\\_10886176](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-colorblindness-is-act_b_10886176) Any naming of streets in Lynchburg should not include MLK Jr.
10. I am currently retired two years ago. I was born and raised in Lynchburg Va. My relatives owned and operated businesses on Fifth street for many years during the 60's thru 1980 era and was very successful businesses. My parents and relatives patronized the entertainment businesses. I also became a member of the historical black church, Fifth Street Baptist Church at an early age and still remain a member today. I have fond memories of Fifth Street growing up in Lynchburg and feel strongly the street should continue to carry its historic name of Fifth Street. Please consider this as an honor.
11. Fifth Street can be renamed, but it will take years and another generation for people to forget that it was once Fifth Street. I am not opposed to recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr., but history is history and Fifth Street has a lot of history by those that had and have businesses there. I do not currently live in Lynchburg now, but have in the past and remember dealing with the various businesses along Fifth Street.
12. I think Martin Luther Blvd is most important now. Need to smooth that portion of the street and more presentable. I feel that City of Lynchburg do not do enough to preserve our black heritage. But when traveling around i see Jerry Falwell Hwy and Monocan Bridge area is beautiful. We are proud of MLK and it should be displayed along 5th Street. Make us proud with larger signs and smooth street. It is a disgrace how bumpy 5th street is in some parts, then you get to Fort/Memorial Ave smooth again. Show some care to black citizens we matter too.
13. I would like to see an M. W. Thornhill memorial to commemorate the first African American mayor of Lynchburg.
14. I suggest that a plaque with the names of Black Businesses that were on Fifth Street in past years be placed on the round -a -bout at Fifth and Federal Streets.
15. Research important moments and figures in Black history in our own community or state. A good place to start? Local libraries or museums. Then honor them each month.
16. NONE, all things should be named something neutral like a b c's and numbers. That should not offend anyone
17. My suggestion is "Dr. Martin L. King 5th St. Blvd." It should extend out to Ft. Ave as an expression of his belief in equality and inclusion.

18. Use the grass area in the middle of the Fifth Street Round about to erect a memorial with statues, benches and gardens. As well as benches and other items to honor African American History. Would also be nice to have a museum displaying the history.
19. With flower arrangements
20. By having more conversations and action among diversity in the community. Also, by building up African American history in the area so it is not forgotten.
21. I think you should canvas African American neighborhoods and ask these questions. Most citizens that need to be heard might not have access to this site.
22. There should be a MLK Day parade. I have been. To others in other states. I have brought all races together to celebrate his life and legacy.
23. Not being African American probably does not give my answer much credit but 5th St has always been associated with our black and brown city and everyone knows that. Please leave it as is.
24. I think pushing for more black small business owners to have businesses once again along this street. An equal mix of white and black owned businesses, in order to portray the message Dr. King dreamed of years ago.
25. A lot of cities have a Martin Luther King dr, street, avenue or whatever. He spoke here and we should persevere his name. It's only right for a city named Lynchburg
26. I do not believe that there are any other ways for American history to be recognized in Lynchburg.
27. Keep its original name! Fifth street
28. Honoring/Dishonoring "race" is divisive. Honoring/Dishonoring anyone due to their race perpetuates racism. Fifth Street seems like a name that doesn't foment division and perpetuate negativity.
29. I feel 5th Street should remain 5th Street
30. I think other streets should be renamed to honor prominent Black people from Lynchburg (like the cross streets downtown above clay street) but fifth street should stay the same because it's name has cachet and meaning; changing it would damage the name brand. If it were just an anonymous street that people didn't associate with a specific area and businesses, it would be a great idea. Furthermore I think "MLK Jr Blvd" is a really long name for a street and is pretty difficult to say. If anything it should definitely be retained as an overlay name on fifth st, and other streets can be fully renamed to honor other prominent black people from Lynchburg (like Anne spencer) because I think it's really important to honor local history. I also think the school names could be changed to reflect this too (especially heritage since it doesn't currently honor anyone)
31. Question 1 is biased and is missing the option not to change anything. Instead of spending money honoring African American History, let's unite and honor American history.
32. There is nothing wrong with leaving 5th street as a permanent designation. Additionally, the confusion created by a city street rename may cause conflicting addresses that some patrons may be using to look up, write, call, and use gps to find such businesses.
33. Not by renaming a street that is part of history! Name the bee round about that are being put everywhere. The round about on 5th st could be called Martin Luther King Jr Round About with some kind of memorial in the middle
34. Leave it alone ... According to the US Census the current black population in the USA is 13%. That is (current). Even at that percentage what significant contributions warrant the name change in an Historic city like Lynchburg?

35. I really like the idea of honoring a local black community members I like mlk but it sounds kind of as boring as fifth st and I think the Community would enjoy an individual name for the street as individual and diverse as the fifth Street community is
36. Do not change the official name. In trying to honor black citizens of Lynchburg and MLK, I believe black businesses will be hurt in having to reprint business cards and all contact info with a new address all for something as insignificant as a street name. Surely we can honor the black community in a better way. Ask black members of our community how they would best feel honored
37. Spend your time on what is really needed in the city, good paying jobs, more police and EMS & a cleaner city with less crime.
38. Why would we change the name of a road that already honors MLK, when we could rename a different road after Dr. King or a different black American Lynchburg citizen?
39. I live on 5th st and have lived in the area for 30 years. 5th St is and should stay iconic
40. Just honor it like any other local person or group, changing street names isn't very practical.
41. I believe that the names should not be changed on road names. This wastes time and business owners money. I do not believe that African American history is underrepresented in Lynchburg.
42. So will other streets be named after historical Asian, Hispanic, European, Middle Eastern, etc? Leave 5th street as it is with the honorary designation. Continued dividing of our citizens is shameful.
43. Lynchburg has a very rich black history. Including an hbcu. Lynchburg city could highlight this history. One of the first recorded blues artists was from Lynchburg. It would be nice to see some money allocated to restoring some sites and letting the community know about these things
44. Just add it or make it more prominent in other places. Changing the street name is a waste of money when it can go elsewhere like to the black businesses that we do have. And it makes no sense to have all the other streets with numbers and no fifth street. Please don't change the name
45. Leave s\*\*\* alone. If you put labels on people's history by race it creates a divide. Instead of African American history, incorporate it into American history. Period! We are Americans one and all. Taking down white ancestors and replacing them with African Americans is reverse racism and cancel culture at its worse. Stop the division. An old saying goes, if you stir s\*\*\* it stinks.
46. You have all the other numbered streets, its going to be strange going all 3rd, 4th street and then skips 5th and goes to a MLK or something else... Just leave it alone.
47. A monument in the middle of the fifth street roundabout would be better looking than renaming the entire strip.
48. I would be OK with it renaming Fifth St.p after a prominent black person from Lynchburg. But I'd prefer it as Fifth St.
49. Recognize accomplishments of local leaders in the African American community. I also feel if 5 th street is to be renamed it should be after Junis Haskins.
50. MLK 5th ST 5th MLK ST
51. Some type of memorial or other recognition for Anne Spencer and Dr. Johnson in the roundabout on 5th street
52. I grew up in Lynchburg and my father ran a service station on Park Avenue. I think the name should stay as it is now. I spent my youth in this are of town.
53. I dont have an answer for that. All I ask is that you don't let the racist f\*\*\*\*\* in this town sway you from doing this. It's a great idea.

54. The significant women who made Lynchburg what it is today have not been given proportionate recognition for their contributions. One such significant Lynchburg woman is Anne Spencer. She was a mother, librarian, educator, poet, artist, gardener and shero to the African American community here and beyond. Fifth Street should be renamed for her.
55. Keeping the name of 5th Street is a good start to honor local black citizens of this city. A lot of history occurred on that street.
56. I would like to see Fifth Street named after Anne Spencer.
57. I don't think changing 5th Street's name will work - everyone is just going to keep calling it 5th St since it is between 4th and 6th. And naming it for MLK is just glib assignment - again, nobody will pay any attention. Do something real - a park, a museum, a festival, an annual school event, something new that teaches what MLK stood for.
58. How about naming the street Anne Spencer Street.
59. Johnson Memorial Drive
60. If you choose to rename fifth street after MLK, Jr, then perhaps you could name another street after a prominent African American from Lynchburg.
61. Renaming 5th Street after MLK or a local black leader would be great. Hutcherson comes to mind since the family funeral home is right off 5th.
62. It's so cliché frfr. I'd rather a Anne Spencer or someone else black who really made an impact instead of MLK who made one speech in Lynchburg.
63. Why just pick 5th street? I think that it, as a main thoroughfare, should be renamed for MLK, Jr. but I also love the idea of renaming other streets in honor of prominent African Americans from Lynchburg. Could we identify other streets to rename?
64. Statue of MLK JR to replace Jubel Early statue across from Fort Early with a plaque telling the true history of slavery in Lynchburg. Plaques honoring other notable African Americans along the new MLK JR Blvd. and Statues at Park Ave and Fifth and Federal roundabouts. A gateway arch to MLK Blvd on John lynch bridge..
65. Confederate Avenue should be renamed in honor of MLK. Leave 5th street the way it is.

**Survey Question 2: In this section, feel free to share your ideas regarding other ways in which you believe local African American history should be recognized in Lynchburg.**

prominent African American American history Schools person local historic highlight  
 focusing include currently 5th Street Support important home historical want place  
 similar 5th St Put MLK know one prominent plaques heritage  
 African Americans MLK Jr memorial nice buildings Stop made  
 ideas Fifth Street monuments local African American many  
 community recognize museum streets named street  
 historical markers honor need history already city public  
 Lynchburg parts name really think name change  
 African American history Please people  
 Juneteenth renaming year Anne Spencer first also slavery  
 black funding believe created statues way businesses see  
 black history start African Americans Lynchburg Maybe events paying  
 area displayed good feel etc family live leave S look celebrate everyone  
 honor African American lot contributions new garden honor local black businesses  
 Spencer

1. A yearly or biannual collective collaboration event on 5th Street or major venue concerts, vendors, activities for all age groups
2. A statue of Leland Melvin with his dogs.
3. Anne Spencer is a local icon. I feel renaming 5th Street in her honor is a great idea.
4. Anne Spencer
5. Bring Black Liberation Day back to City. Collaborative effort is fair. One or two people's story does not reflect the entire black community. Focus on new faces as well. It is not fair the same people get recognized all of the time. There needs to be a fair collaborative reflection of all as well as young leaders who have stepped into what the older leaders or past leaders are doing. Collaborative focus on women needed not just a select few.

6. At festivals and events centered around African American culture, different people each time select different age groups & women
7. Don't force it onto people or they will forceably turn away, but merely highlight the wonderful contributions of African Americans to Lynchburg.
8. Rename EC Glass high school to BLM High School
9. I think that something artistic and linked in both African American & Lynchburg history would be one of the best ways to celebrate African American history. Murals depicting local heroes, such as Leland Melvin, Anne Spencer, or even Marian Anderson, would inspire pride in both African American and Lynchburg heritage. Wide-scale murals or small ones placed throughout the city would adorn the city, draw admirers, as well as spark an interest in the city's history to all who see it. I also think that adding quotes, poetry, songs, etc. from other prominent black American leaders to the murals would be fitting (such as James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, Booker T. Washington, Thurgood Marshall, Maya Angelou, Henrietta Lacks, Angela Davis, etc). Art makes a city beautiful and African American culture is deeply artistic. Alternatively, small gardens or pockets within gardens can be dedicated to local African American heroes through sign with their poetry/words or statues.
10. Start shooting the n\*\*\*\*\* would be the best way
11. Has anyone thought to ask the Legacy Museum their opinion or what projects they are working on? Their entire objective is to recognize the accomplishments of African American history in Lynchburg and I know no one has reached out to them.
12. Recognize the Lynchburg ASTRONAUT, Leland Melvin, in some manner!
13. Public art Signage
14. Memorials in the local cemeteries like (Presbyterian Cemetery) celebrating the slaves who have been buried in unmarked graves for history to forget.
15. More Murals and paintings on buildings, maybe have a billboard recognizing a black owned business and have it up however long and do this not just downtown but near Candler's Mountain too or all around town even, open a black history museum or have our local museum have a special section for it if they don't already.
16. We have so much local African American history in Lynchburg of prominent national figures- Anne Spencer comes to mind, that we should be honoring their commitment to civil rights too.
17. Continue putting up historical markers, celebrating Juneteenth, add to batteaux festival as many river workers were African American, hold a commemorative ceremony at Point of Honor, celebrate the music!
18. There should be a day every year dedicated to honoring our African American Lynchburg citizens. It could be a one-day celebration paying honor and tribute to our African Americans who have made a difference in the city of Lynchburg. The event can be similar to Get Downtown Lynchburg, where there is music, food vendors, and some sort of contribution for our honorable African American Lynchburg natives.
19. More plaques would be appropriate.
20. Statue in Fifth Street roundabout; sidewalk or other plaques that describe sites of former slave markets
21. A permanent museum exhibit or public art/historical displays around town.

22. There should be more historical designations, monuments, plaquards, etc that represent local African American history. Incorporate local African American history into the school curriculum. Designate, honor and celebrate specifics contributions and individuals on days outside of black history month.
23. We should be honoring our local African American heroes here.
24. At this time when the majority of city council wants to raise taxes I do not believe spending any extra tax dollars on a name change should be done.
25. City museums should publicize different periods and aspects of local African American history.
26. I think more emphasis should be placed on the history of Black people and enslaved people in Lynchburg, and less energy and resources and attention given to the Confederates. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of Black people during Reconstruction, the lives of enslaved people during slavery, they way they built Lynchburg for free and were not compensated for it (let's go ahead and pay Reparations, too)
27. I think a trail marking the important homes and sites with information at each stop would be appealing. While it probably wouldn't be a walking tour like the Freedom Trail in Boston, a simple map could be provided, or some kind of inexpensive transportation. It could also make a fun and informative school day trip.
28. Put some local history writers to work on recording much of local African American stories
29. Not just African Americans, non-whites like: Italians ,Chinese ,Indian etc
30. Add history of local African Americans to school history classes.
31. More attention must be paid in our schools to local black leaders and historical figures. Most of the information that comes to students comes from community members, not from outside sources - so it's easily missed or poorly remembered.
32. African American History could be celebrated in Lynchburg in a number of ways. It can be celebrated by highlighting the existing organizations that celebrate the African American culture. Events that are already planned can be supported and contributed to by the City. They can also be expanded by offering City support of funding and resources such as larger building spaces or professional support. Partnerships with other municipalities can be formed and transportation offered for LCS or other organizations to attend or even to participate can be offered. During the monthly celebration for the culture, exhibits could be set up to educate the public at large regarding African American history. The African American culture can also be celebrated by honoring various people throughout the City who have contributed to the betterment of the City and the community. The City can also form or collaborate with other cities that seek ways to share and celebrate their local African American history.
33. I believe the City should move forwarding with identifying funding and resources to place a statue at the 5th Street roundabout in honor of it's first black Mayor M.W. Thornhill. I also believe the City should fund the Legacy Museum for African American History equally and as prominently as other museums are funded within the city. This would include the City identifying and preparing a prominent location and building instead of it currently of it's current location which communicates the lack of priority and importance to the city. Lastly, the City's "confederate history" should also reflect the "whole story". Part of the controversy around confederate monuments and history is that it portrays those who served as officers and soldiers in the confederacy as heroes while being totally silent on the atrocity that represents the reality for African Americans. If history is to be told, it should



be accurate and completely tell the entire story...not just a one sided version. The City should also ask the School Board and Leadership to follow the state's lead and take a look at the history curriculum taught to children of LCS. It also is incomplete and inconsiderate of those African Americans contributions (through slavery, Jim crow, reconciliation, etc.) and the role they played in helping Lynchburg, Virginia, USA become what it is today. Once our history should reflect the "Whole story" and not just the parts that make us look or feel good about our ancestry.

34. Support for events and the African American History museum
35. I believe a school or recreational center should be named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
36. Already adequate
37. Points of interest for historical context and modern day interest throughout the city should be focused on. Memorial benches, artwork, historical markers, etc.
38. Local museums can feature prominent African Americans as well as African American historical events (including slavery).
39. First black female officer. Sylvia Hobson should be recognized
40. Through art, monuments, preserving certain neighborhoods, plaques
41. I think we need to address the elephant in the room when it comes to our city name. There must be some way to honor John Lynch and be inclusive of everyone.
42. I believe teaching African American history throughout the school year is important. I believe having more programs, activities and presentations throughout the year would help. And I think if we rethink our hiring practices and include minorities in leadership positions we will show that African-Americans matter.
43. Statues commemorating prominent local and national African American figures should permeate the landscape. Whatever funding was used to incorporate confederate statues and memorials should be used in this effort, along with City revenues. I loved the mention of a library named after Anne Spencer. Also, another view highlighting the true history of slavery, segregation, Jim Crow and ongoing racism in Lynchburg should be brought to light. Local businesses, business owners, educators, etc. who openly supported segregation should be KNOWN to all residents as a part of History, not hate. This would begin to even the educational field of knowledge by telling the TRUTH.
44. Change the name of the actual city
45. I think renaming the city would be a nice touch, since saying I'm from Lynchburg encourages some really awful reactions from people I meet abroad.... but I think the MLK tribute is a great reminder of how black voices have been speaking truth to the US since the beginning.
46. I think it's difficult to take this initiative seriously when we live in a city called LYNCH-burg. Regardless of who it is named after and how anti-slavery he was, you would change the name of a city with the name "Rapesville" because it conjures up trauma in women, regardless if it was named after someone with the last name of Rape. I'm glad this step of formally honoring this street is being considered, but I'm in the hospitality business and it's hard to get outsiders to take our city seriously. Thanks for your consideration!
47. I'd love to see more african american Lynchburg leaders recognized & honored in Lynchburg
48. As the downtown area is being revitalized more and more, perhaps some of our local African American leaders could be recognized in the naming of buildings, specific rooms in important buildings, etc. My father, Dr. Donald Winston Johnson, one of the Black leaders initiating the renaming

- of Fifth Street, instilled in me the importance of remembering and lifting up the memories of African Americans in our city and surrounding areas.
49. Prominent African Americans should be recognized more in the city and the surrounding areas.
  50. Call it the "Black Heritage Area".
  51. There should be more historical portraits of African American displayed in Lynchburg
  52. start with Lynchburg role on slavery. name the slavers and the institutions that funded and supported it explain Jubal Early's role in fighting for slavery and the black codes. take down all statutes and markers that supported the insurrection and put them in a museum. honor families that fought slavery including the black church. make Juneteenth a city holiday
  53. African American History is American History and thus should get the same acknowledgment and funding as all other historical markers.
  54. I think Lynchburg should do what Evansville, Illinois did. They should pay Black residents \$25,000 if they had relatives living there from 1919-1969. I think that all of Virginia should do that. Every place in Virginia should do that.
  55. History for one local culture without history for all local cultures is just not a good look. Where is the support for local Hispanic business and families? Where is the support for local Asian businesses and families? Where is the support for local Native American businesses and families? Where is the support for white businesses and families? All of these make great and equal contributions and should not be looked over. We should move forward with the "whole" community and solve problems and make solutions for "all". Putting people into divided groups is unacceptable in 2021.
  56. I think it would be nice if we could find a nice place for a park to walk dogs and where our children could play.
  57. Remove any & all remaining references to the losers of the American Civil War.
  58. Historic monuments in various city locales
  59. There are still some monuments standing that honor terrorists and pro-slavery enthusiasts in our city. Namely- Jubal Early and Fort Early. This is a disgrace.
  60. Renaming of library, curriculum for schools about local AA leaders, more participation by city in Juneteenth celebration
  61. How to best honor African Americans in Lynchburg? Easy. Tear down the Confederate Statue next to the Circuit Court Building at the top of the steps. It's a monument to slaveowners and the brazenly racist Confederate ideology. Alexander Stephens (the Vice President of the Confederacy) openly talked about "the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition". The fact that such a statue exists at all is strongly objectionable. The fact that it exists at the entrance to a courthouse is deplorable. It suggests that Yankees and Negroes will get a fair trial inside, followed by a First Class hanging. For that matter, get rid of the judge who proudly hangs an enormous portrait of his Confederate ancestor in his chambers.
  62. There could be street names changed if someone lived on that street there could be like stone signs marking and eyeliner of the person background and roots in Lynchburg there could be a one special place where all of this is set up with old pictures of the person home family where they lived in Lynchburg etc.. a museum would be a great idea or a garden that can be walked through etc., that would also bring revenue .. where are the black slave graveyards located etc...find the black history in Lynchburg and present it to the community

63. Rename prominent city buildings
64. Through the people that actually live here
65. Rename Lynchburg, we don't want to be associated with Lynching
66. A special section in the museum, downtown?
67. promote the black/brown history of Lynchburg, to include but not limited to Annie Spencer House, Black History Museum, Diamond Hill Church
68. There are plenty of opportunities that honor the African American leaders and members of our community such as events focusing on recognition and honor that actually influence the region instead of a meaningless name change of a street.
69. Support the African American History Museum financially and in advertisements. Expand and relocate to a more prominent site. Create walking tours with brochures to highlight important people and locations such as but not limited to Annie Spenser's home, Dr Thompson's tennis court, etc.
70. Place a statue - like the "Rumors of War" statue in Richmond by artist Kehinde Wiley - in the traffic circle at 5th and federal st
71. Use the roundabouts / traffic circles with markings and/or statues to honor local African Americans.
72. Mayor TD Thornhill
73. They taking away all the confederate statues how u gonna name a st after a black man. That's offisive . Just name it what it was originally.
74. Finish the statue for the second African American mayor, Murrell Thornhill and place in roundabout or Miller Park. 2. Honor other African American Trailblazers like Junius Haskins, Haywood Robinson, Chauncey spencer, Anne Spencer, Doris Waller, etc. 3. Incorporate Local African American history in schools. 4. Erect murals in and about Lynchburg showcasing African Americans. 5. Name a street after a historical African American. 6. Utilize on an on-going basis one room in the Old Court House and Museum just for African American history. 7. Recognize Tinbridge Hill as a historical Landmark in local African American history. 8. Work to build a Civic Center or Amphitheater inviting African American stars. 9. Invite more stores and African American themed attractions to Lynchburg. 10. Work with Centra to name a ward in Lynchburg General Hospital after Dr. Robert Johnson. 11. Post the black history ( State marker ) of the Old Hospital on Federal St. 12. Fifth St. needs a black business between Jackson & Polk, search to advertise for one to move here. 13. Recognize Frankie Anderson and name a day after her. She was the Principal of Yoder School. 14. Teach the Customer Service people at the LCS Admin about Yoder School. When i inquired, the yung lady thought I was asking about Armstrong Adult .
75. Everyone no matter race should be honored and held equally
76. I am surprised at how well history is being replaced by what some want to see and remember versus actual events and people.
77. Rename the public library for Anne Spencer
78. Statues, a museum, other streets named.
79. I believe you shouldn't focus on African American history only! When did it become a crime to be white? This is very offensive!
80. I would love to see more public history programs like the Lynchburg Museum System's "A Point in History: Following the Food from Hearth to Table" that was offered in November 2019. The immersive storytelling from a local enslaved African American's perspective was incredibly engaging.

81. Memorials for prominent African American people from Lynchburg. Both historically and more recently. Maybe a mural on fifth street of past to present African American leaders, writers, doctors, astronauts, scientists, business owners, etc
82. It would be nice to have more African American women recognized in our naming conventions.
83. Maybe a parade unless you want to start re naming streets for the gays,asains, trans, and more minorities if not keep it the same and give them a parade
84. Maybe memorials or museums
85. I think to single out black american people is to encourage segregation.
86. A museum just like other Lynchburg history is recognized
87. Museums, books, seminars reflecting the ways and lives of the African American citizens of Lynchburg, festivals when the pandemic dies down.
88. Add prominent, contextual historical markers in areas of significance that recognize the City's actions positive and negative.
89. Listen to the Black community for their ideas.
90. They already are, stop trying to make every about race it's patronizing to the black community.
91. I believe building and museums would be appropriate for honoring the names of any prominent or impactful citizen of Lynchburg.
92. N/A leave Lynchburg's history alone
93. Could a community park or gathering center be created along Fifth Street to honor the African American history that built the culture of Fifth Street?
94. Old City Cemetery has done a lot of research into historical Lynchburg African Americans and their contributions to the community. I'm sure Jones Memorial has done similar research. I am not sure how to better honor their history but I do not think the renaming of 5th street (or any street) creates meaningful change. I think it creates unnecessary expense and confusion. I immediately thought of statues in public spaces like the traffic circle, but statues are just in bad taste these days it seems like. Maybe allocate funds to more educational community events at a visible venue - maybe the Academy? I envision a place like Central Park that has a long stretch of statues and information plaques. Again, I'm unsure about statues in general these days. I imagine they are also expensive...maybe murals somewhere...just writing thoughts as they come...
95. Support their business and stop raiding city taxes after the year everyone has had
96. Historical landmark Placards similar to Those found around the city.
97. Please create funding programs to boost small black owned businesses
98. Possibly initiating grants in local African American history makers names for African-Americans & other POC who would like to start businesses in that area. In a sense keeping their legacies alive.
99. Do nothing.
100. What about the white American history in Lynchburg
101. In leu of "other ways" to recognize African Americans from Lynchburg I first would honor them by renaming 5th Str in honor of those that came "from" Lynchburg. Spencer family, (Anne and Chauncy) Pickney, or Dr Johnson. Please research the wealth of Lynchburg African Americans for a more suitable renaming of 5th!! \*Note: I no longer live in Lynchburg however I grew up there and study/love her history!

102. There should be permanent post markings you can stop and read of African Americans through history describing how they made change in Lynchburg. In the form of pillars or fountains.
103. I think all heritages should be recognized, to show united togetherness between all ethnic groups.
104. Naming new parks, schools, and similar public places after notable African Americans (and other ethnicities) who are from or significantly tied to Lynchburg
105. I think Lburg already does that with historic designations.
106. I believe plaques of the many African Americans from our Lynchburg communities who made important contributions to our city should be made. These plaques should each highlight a different person & their accomplishments & be posted Prominently in EVERY public park in our city. The plaques should Also include a reference to the other plaques throughout the city so the public can go search them out.
107. Historical Markers Building named after an African American
108. Stop focusing on black history. We are all people and color should be invisible. Slavery was a long time ago and none of us should feel guilty for something we didn't do.
109. There are many buildings, streets, communities, etc that can be named or renamed to honor African Americans whose lives impacted Lynchburg and/or our nation.
110. a brochure for an Af Am history trail that would include, among others, the Legacy Museum, the Ann Spencer home and garden, Old City Cemetery, VUL, Court St. Baptist Church; Jackson St Methodist Church, and Diamond Hill as well as the historic markers dedicated to African Americans.
111. I believe it is racist to honor people based solely on their skin color
112. Digging out the filled-in swimming pool in Rivermont Park. Renaming Lynch Bridge. Renaming the town Lynnburg.
113. City help sponsor events that promote and encourage the knowledge of black history. Juneteenth and black history month. Black history taught in schools. Knowledge is key and perpetual. Signs are often overlooked.
114. Named Anne Spencer after a woman who contributed so much to Lynchburg Virginia.
115. Anne Spencer
116. Maybe a small museum specifically for that? I'd rather see initiatives directly helping the African American community
117. The reason a person gets commemorated should not be on the basis of their skin color. It should be on the basis of their merits and their contributions to society in a manner that glorifies God
118. Anne Spencer
119. Have Juneteenth events at the revamped riverside park pool once it's done. Work with all elementary schools in the area for field trips to the Lynchburg museum.
120. Monuments or statues should be around the city honoring them
121. Continue to provide ways to highlight the contributions of local African Americans through various platforms. Make sure the same people are not always being highlighted. There are many people who have made contributions which include people of other races.
122. I like the memorial wall idea, and historical plaques commemorating people of note with a self guided tour that directs people to the Spencer House and Gardens, Legacy Museum and other notable locations. Also renewed support for the Conversations project and significant steps to handle institutional racism in the city and high level of poverty.

123. Name it after the Spencer family. Their history is so strong here and the entire family should be an inspiration to all. Dr King and W.E.B. DuBois came here to visit Lynchburg because of her influence. Even visiting the garden house Ed built and Anne.
124. I think we should honor our ancestors by ensuring the lives of their descendants will be better than theirs. Instead of spending the money on superficial change, give us the money we are owed and honor the promise that America broke.
125. Just like all other with a plaque in an appropriate spot!!
126. Remove the Jubal Early monument and replace it with one recognizing local African American history.
127. Rename Fort Ave. The Fort is named after a violent white supremacist.
128. I'd like to see commemoration of Anne Spencer's and the many important figures she hosted at her salons. I'd like to see a celebration of Lynchburg's own astronaut. I'd like to see some honest signage about the history of the Riverside Park pool.
129. We don't need black history recognized anymore. There is plenty already.
130. I don't know enough about Lynchburg's past prominent citizens and this suggestion should be made by a group from the Black community.
131. Put up a lot more markers around the historical parts with some sort of introduction sign about the person or its history (like we have in some parts already).
132. When could we have print outs at all of the parks. Either a pamphlet or a poster with information on local AA history.
133. There are numerous state signs (the large iron ones) around the area recognizing a variety of residents of all races, faiths, etc. Let residents continue that effort. If people want to recognize they should put their money where their mouth is.
134. Contextualization of Confederate monuments to avoid glorifying ideals of the Confederacy and Jim Crow era.
135. In the same fashion, white history is recognized. Rename important streets and buildings after prominent African American citizens. A memorial to the enslaved similar to Monument Terrace. Plaques throughout downtown showcasing where enslaved and freed African Americans worked to send tobacco and other crops up the James River.
136. Lynchburg's African American community is an amazing and highly accomplished community. The history should be taught as an elective course in both middle and high schools. There are many innovative ways it could be taught and it is not a black-only course. The achievements in the face of southern resistance are amazing. Be creative!
137. more events
138. Increase funding to the Anne Spencer house. Host events there. Invite poets & scholars. Create a poetry contest / scholarship in her name. Commission a play based on her life to show at the Academy.
139. Publications sponsored by city.
140. renaming Lynchburg after a prominent African American citizen from the area
141. Quit worrying about color. If it is someone who has done great deeds then honor them with a street, room or plaque. Stop looking for color then any good deeds. This type of promotion is racist and counter productive.

142. There should be a weekly salute to an African American (AA) born or raised in Lynchburg, and other AA contributors to Lynchburg life. This should not be limited to the month of February, but continue for at least a year.
143. Statues or historical markers
144. How do we recognize our white American history answer that than we do the same for African American history
145. I have no ideas.
146. Name roundabouts after local African Americans wiith a plaque in the middle stating their achievements.
147. Historical Markers
148. With city council most likely voting to raise real estate prices to increase taxes I personally do not think anything new should be done at the tax payers expense. There are to many people suffering through this Covid pandemic at this time to be raising taxes or adding ANY extra expenditures. City council needs to do a better job of managing tax payers money and not wast funds on a street name change. Stop making us the tax payers pay for city council to live above the city's means. My city real estate and property taxes are to high as it is, I do not have sewage or sidewalks yet my water bill continues to increase to pay for sewer and storm water upgrades. City - make do with what you have!
149. I currently have no ideas
150. Maybe some people feel this is too tangential but it does seem like the city name is relatively distressing. Changing the name of the city is a big deal I am sure but having the name of lynch seems worth at least giving some serious consideration and clarification.
151. Should be part of the curriculum for Lynchburg City Schools and the local colleges.
152. I do not believe statues should be built to honor anyone. A garden can honor people and put names only on a large wall and people then can sit and reflect the history of Lynchburg.
153. Plaques on the grounds of each school highlighting these persons.
154. Remove statues commemorating leaders of the Civil War, restore the pool at Riverside Park - or at least acknowledge why it was filled in.
155. Possibly change a street or major local park or feature after Anne Spencer, or possibly start some kind of community garden or botanical garden and name her. I am particularly amazed by her story and her life, connections and achievements and wish more people knew about her.
156. Statues and historical markers
157. Museum?

## Email Responses

These responses were emailed to staff in the Communications & Public Engagement department that handled registration for the Zoom Town Hall. Some came before the Town Hall and some afterwards.

1. I learned a lot about the history of Fifth St to include photos I had never seen. My in-laws in Staunton, VA. would talk about Fifth Street around the kitchen table when I would visit with them. The photos brought their stories to life. I wish we had been given more insight into the survey results of the businesses and people who will be impacted. IF they change the street name from the overlay, I'm not sure of the economic impact it will have on businesses to change logos, checks, invoices, postal changes (Fed X, UPS, USPS), letterheads etc. Paper and printing has become very expensive. I'm not sure if there will be much change as far as visual impact if the street(s) are actually named Martin Luther King Jr. because the overlay signs have been prominent for some time and are a part of the fabric of the city. Plus I feel those who have been a part of Lynchburg for many years will always relate to Fifth Street as Fifth Street. I do like the option of keeping the overlay but embellishing and naming the bridge. Just naming the bridge is not enough. The bridge would need to be embellished, updated, and have signage worthy of MLK. This would bring an emphasis to the overlay and pay homage to this great national leader. Since this major issue has come up again, I do feel an honorable decision is necessary. To do nothing, would not be a good decision. People are requesting they we pay greater homage to MLK. I do hope the names of streets other than Fifth Street will be changed for local people who were contributors and for people who fought for all nationalities and diversity. This should be an important continuation of this discussion once this major decision is made by City Council.
2. It was an excellent presentation. I learned a lot about the history of 5th Street that I did not know.
3. I would like to say that I thought 5th Street was already named Martin Luther King Boulevard. 5th Street it's just the street I grew up in that area. When there were many black businesses. They have now since close there's a lot of regentrification going on in the neighborhood. It was said it should remain 5th Street. I hope that is not the reason it remains 5th Street. I would love and be proud to know that the area that I grew up in was named after a prominent black African American. It seems that the original idea of naming 5th Street Martin Luther King Boulevard was lost somehow. I remember Council having a discussion about changing the small signs that were put up on the road from James River Bridge to Memorial Avenue pass Oakley Fort Avenue. But when asked to replace the sign Council denied saying there were no funds for it so Anonymous donor made the signs bigger now they're peeling aging, and should be replaced. But with this meeting we'll see what will happen and I'm hoping that a change will come and it would be named MLK. Boulevard. Thank you.
4. The meeting was very informative. I think the name 5th street should remain. The history is enough for keeping it. The "overlay" with Martin Luther King is sufficient. I have noticed in my travels that the streets named in MLK's honor are located in disadvantaged areas, so how does that bring people together? "If it is not broken, don't try to fix it".
5. I for one think that 5th street with its Long African American History should stay as it is :5th street. Our Maternal Family has Roots in Tinbridge Hill to the 1800s (119 Polk Street)5th street has been a part of My Childhood, I'm 57 this month. For the most part Our Heritage is left in Stories of the Past...its great to have a Street name attached to such great Stories!



6. My thoughts on how to best honor the citizens of Lynchburg that have made major contributions is to honor them. However, Dr. King was a huge part of the rights movement and can never be replaced. I feel that people on a local level who take up the torch and make a difference should distinguish having Fifth Street named in their honor. It means more to the local community and the differences and values they have brought to Lynchburg. Perhaps a vote on whom to name it after based on all the relevant contributors. There are many MLK Blvds, but there are also people who live next door that have done their part. I feel that this should be one of our citizens that this street is renamed after, if it is to be changed.
7. Thank you. The meeting was very informative...Positive Changes for Lynchburg...L♥VE.

## Chat Responses During Virtual Town Hall

1. I've lived in the City of Lynchburg for 18 years. I fully support renaming the Fifth street corridor, or any other local asset our Black community feels is best, in honor of Dr. King. In fact, I don't understand why this hasn't already happened. There are cities and towns across this country, that Dr. King hasn't even ever visited, that have streets named after him. Whereas here in Lynchburg, a city Dr. King DID visit in 1962, we still don't have a street or another asset named after him to honor his legacy. Not only did Dr. King visit Lynchburg, but he actually spent a couple of days here, in local places like of course E.C. Glass High School, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah & Church of the Covenant, Diamond Hill Baptist Church, Court Street Baptist Church, and the Anne Spencer House – and those are just the places I am aware of. On the second question, of how best to honor the contributions of Lynchburg's African American community, I defer to them and support them in their chosen place.
2. Dr. King was not only a national figure, he was in the tradition of the Old Testament prophets such as Amos who proclaimed, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. To rename the street will not only honor a great American, but also a modern prophet and it will help show that Lynchburg supports that vision. I support the renaming of the street. Let us set up a fund to help those who incur costs in the change of the name. Would it be that much money? Surely, we can do it if we have the will.
3. Study reveals that neighborhoods with MLK street are poorer than national average and highly still segregated. I can't see where this is increasing diversity but telling African Americans that this is where we belong.
4. The murals are beautiful contributions and improvements to the beauty of spaces.
5. It would be cool to see some in the parks where all people spend leisure time and would be open to reading the tablets and stories as they relax... a true learning opportunity.