



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

**Date** August 21, 2006

**Agenda Item No.** 26  
**Roll Call No.** 06-  
**Communication No.** 06-521  
**Submitted by:** Larry Hulse, Community  
Development Director

## AGENDA HEADING:

Request by the Mayor of Norwalk and Coppola Enterprises to change the name of a portion of County Line Road west of its intersection with Fleur Drive and continuing into Norwalk as Echo Valley Drive.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to refer this request for the street name change to the Plan and Zoning Commission for a public hearing and a recommendation back to the City Council.

## FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount:

Funding Source:

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Two letters, one from the Mayor of the City of Norwalk and one from Coppola Enterprises, were sent to the Mayor and Council Member Christine Hensley requesting a name change for a portion of County Line Road west of Fleur Drive into Norwalk. The letter was subsequently forwarded to the Community Development Department on June 7, 2006. The Street Naming and Addressing Committee, comprised of City staff, met to discuss the proposal on June 29, 2006. The committee made the following conclusions based on its analysis.

Considerations to support the name change:

1. There still is a portion of County Line Road remaining west of Fleur Drive that runs past the trailer park. The renaming of either street would resolve the problem of having two streets with the same name in about the same location.
2. The street has been somewhat rerouted to accommodate the construction of Highway 5, and a name change would not be that disruptive in the overall street naming scheme in Des Moines.
3. The street names can be signed with arrows to indicate where each street is located with minimal additional cost for the signs.
4. It would be more difficult, disruptive, and confusing to have the street name change once the street crosses the bridge over Highway 5 into Norwalk where there is no intersection. Changing the name of the street at an intersection, as proposed, is a much better option for all involved.

5. Changing the name of the street would be in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, will not negatively impact Des Moines, and will not be in conflict with other street names in Des Moines.
6. The street name, County Line Road is not historically based as there are many streets named "County Line" throughout the State, but it does designate the boundary between Polk and Warren Counties. The distinction between one county and another tends to lose its meaning as the City expands into Warren County and the area becomes more urbanized.

Considerations to oppose the name change:

1. The street will become a major arterial for the area as the area south of County Line Road develops in the future. Continuity of the existing street name will be disrupted. This will create difficulties for people trying to locate the street if there is a change in street name for a particular segment of the street.
2. The street name does not fit the City's street naming convention of not having a two word name because of (a) costs associated with creating the street signs and (b) because the space between the words causes difficulty in finding the street name in a database where similar names are in use. Computer database programs read a space as a character, and the inclusion of such characters in the database may cause increased errors for those entering the data and for those using the database.
3. Changing street names on a through street always causes problems for people trying to find their way to a destination or in giving directions to others.
4. Additional street signage would be required at the intersection to indicate where the streets are located. The additional signage would require greater costs to sign such intersections than would normally be incurred at other intersections where the street name is continuous.

By this action the City Council would formally refer this matter to the Plan and Zoning Commission for review and a recommendation. Since the Street Naming and Addressing Committee has already met and has provided the analysis listed above, their review is not needed again for this proposed street name change. A public hearing before the Plan and Zoning Commission would be scheduled and a recommendation would be made back to Council. A public hearing and action by the Council on the proposed street name change would be scheduled after receiving the recommendation from the Plan and Zoning Commission.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Action on the recommendation received from the Plan and Zoning Commission.