



# WILDWOOD

January 26, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

To: Wildwood Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: Memorial Plaque for Madison Valley (formerly Old Slave Road) (**Ward One**)

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

### BACKGROUND >>>

At its July 29, 2022 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission approved a request by petitioners to change the street name of what was then "Old Slave Road" to "Madison Valley." Additionally, it was recommended by Commissioners that a memorial plaque honoring Elijah Madison also be installed in this general area (on public property). The Administration and Public Works Committee voted to approve the request at its August 2, 2022 meeting, and forwarded the recommendation to install the memorial plaque to City Council.

This matter was then presented to the City Council for approval in November, under Bill #2749; however, the bill was amended to specifically include the requirement for the installation of a historic plaque or marker. The amended bill was presented to the Council in December, as Bill #2749A, for approval. However, Bill #2749A was not approved by the Council, but referred to Committee, as there was confusion regarding the proposed placement of the historic plaque or marker. The historic plaque is to be installed on public space at or near Madison Valley. The plaque is not proposed to be placed on Madison Valley, as it is a private street. Therefore, this matter was reviewed by the Administration and Public Works Committee at their January 3rd meeting, where it was approved but further conditioned on the addition of a deadline to install the historic plaque by the end of 2023. This change was added to the Amended Bill #2749B (see attached), which was approved by City Council at its January 9, 2023 meeting.

Elijah Madison was one (1) of a large group of African Americans that were enslaved by the Coleman and Tyler Families that move to the Wild Horse Creek Area from Virginia in the 1830's. Elijah Madison overcame his deplorable circumstances, serving in the Union Army as a Corporal in the 68<sup>th</sup> Regiment during the Civil War. He returned to the St. Louis County Area, thereafter as a freedman, and owned property in this vicinity for many years. Upon his death, Mr. Madison was laid to rest near Wild Horse Creek Road. It is Mr. Madison's role in overcoming great adversity and contributing to the preservation of the Union that makes his story worthy of memorializing in this area.

#### TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION >>>

With this referral to the Historic Preservation Commission for the project, and a timeline for its completion, the Department recommends this item maintain a presence on the HPC Agenda for the duration of 2023, and has identified the following project steps:

1. Research memorial plaques to determine style and a cost estimate.
2. Determine a safe and appropriate location in the public right-of-way for the plaque to be installed.
3. Develop content for the memorial plaque.
4. Establish a broad review and comment process for the proposed content.
5. Provide ideas for the unveiling ceremony to City Council.

It is further recommended the surrounding community and relevant stakeholders be engaged in this project to ensure a sense of ownership and consensus around its message.

The Department invites Commissioner feedback on these identified steps this evening and will plan to provide its research on memorial plaque types and safe locations for the chosen type at the February HPC meeting. This research can then be thoroughly discussed by the members.

#### IN CLOSING >>>

If any of the Commission Members should have comments or questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. A presentation is planned on these matters at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this information and discussion of the same.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE CURRENT NAME OF OLD SLAVE ROAD, LOCATED ON WILD HORSE CREEK ROAD, TO BE HEREINAFTER RENAMED AND KNOWN AS MADISON VALLEY.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 515 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Wildwood (the “City Code”) establishes procedures for establishing and changing street names; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 515.030 of the City Code, the property owners adjacent to Old Slave Road have filed a petition with the Department of Public Works requesting consideration to change their street name from Old Slave Road to Madison Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, at the request of the Director of Public Works, the Address Coordinator, with the St. Louis County Assessor’s Office, reviewed the name change and is supportive of the petitioned street name; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Planning reviewed the street name request and determined that the petitioned street name was historically significant, and requested a review by the Historic Preservation Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Commission, at their July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting, reviewed the street name request and approved submitting a recommendation of support for the name change to the Administration and Public Works Committee of the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration and Public Works Committee of the City Council reviewed and approved the Department of Public Works recommendation to approve the street name change at their meeting on August 2, 2022 and January 3, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City (the “City Council”) finds and determines that it is to the benefit of the City to allow the street name change in accordance with the property owner petition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section One.** The entirety of Old Slave Road, located north of Wild Horse Creek Road, within the City of Wildwood, Missouri, shall be and is hereby named and known as Madison Valley.

**Section Two.** That, in addition to the placement of appropriate street signs indicating the street name change authorized pursuant to this Ordinance, the City Traffic Engineer is hereby

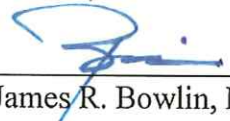
directed to commission, locate and install a plaque in an available public space at or near Madison Valley recognizing Elijah Madison, an important historical figure. The precise content of the plaque shall be subject to the approval of the Historic Preservation Commission. The plaque shall be installed by no later than December 31, 2023.

**Section Three.** Nothing contained herein shall in any manner be deemed or construed to alter, modify, supersede, supplant or otherwise nullify any other Ordinance of the City or the requirements thereof whether or not relating to or in any manner connected with the subject matter hereof, unless expressly set forth herein.

**Section Four.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

This Bill was passed and approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023, by the Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri, after having been read by title or in full two (2) times prior to its passage.

  
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Presiding Officer

  
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James R. Bowlin, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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City Clerk

ATTEST:  
  
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City Clerk