

SURVEY ID#

MCA MEMBER REFERENDUM

SHOULD THE MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PURSUE LEGALLY CHANGING THE NAME OF THE COMMUNITY

In 2002, the Community Declaration was signed into effect that established the new community located at the former Stapleton airport site. That document established the name of the community as “STAPLETON”. From that document all the subsequent legal documents carry the reference to the community name from plat maps, to sub-associations to property deeds. Changing the name at this point would **NOT** change those historical documents, but would change the name on all legal documents moving forward. In addition, the MCA would utilize the new name as the official reference to matters related to the community.

- NO – THE NAME “STAPLETON” SHOULD BE RETAINED AS THE LEGAL NAME AS WELL AS THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL NAME OF THE COMMUNITY. THE MCA SHOULD NOT EXPEND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN PURSUIT OF THIS ACTIVITY.**

 - YES – THE NAME “STAPLETON” SHOULD BE LEGALLY REMOVED FROM THE COMMUNITY AND A NEW NAME SHOULD BE USED AS BOTH THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITY. THE MCA SHOULD EXPEND THE RESOURCES TO LEGALLY CHANGE THE NAME AND RE-BRAND THE COMMUNITY UNDER THE NEW NAME.**
-

THIS SURVEY CAN BE RETURNED USING THE ENCLOSED SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE AND POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE, DECEMBER 31, 2018 TO THE ATTENTION MCA NAME SURVEY • C/O JAMES MOORE & ASSOCIATES P.C. ACCOUNTING • 3131 S. VAAUGHN WAY, SUITE 120 • AURORA, CO 8001

8371 Northfield Blvd • Denver CO 80238 • (303) 388-0724
www.stapletoncommunity.com

SURVEY ID#

ARGUMENT FOR CHANGING THE COMMUNITY NAME: (AS WRITTEN AT WWW.RENAMEFORALL.COM)

To some, the name Stapleton does not signify the Ku Klux Klan or Mayor Benjamin Stapleton. It does not mean anything other than the name of the place where they live or work. These people tend to feel that others should stop bringing up this unpleasant problem that reflects poorly on our City and its reputation for being socially and politically liberal. To some it means the name of an airport they remember fondly. They have heard that Benjamin Stapleton may have been a Klansman, but didn't he denounce the KKK eventually, and thus redeem himself?

To others the Stapleton name is an insult to those who fought the KKK and suffered under its rule—whether in 1920s Denver or in other places and times.¹ To them, retaining the name signifies indifference to the suffering of Jewish, Catholic, and African American ancestors and those traces of bigotry that remain today. The name becomes another burden to carry—a symbol that they are forced to face every day outside their front door—a reminder of all the places where their people were made to feel that they did not belong. How do we explain to our children, they ask, who Stapleton was and why a community is known by his name. How can the aspirations of diversity and inclusivity expressed in The Green Book be reconciled with the aspirations of Benjamin Stapleton? What does it say about us if we retain such a community name?

And there are those who are unaware of the controversy, those who are aware but do not care, and those who are concerned with hypothetical and ethical questions or believe we should move more slowly. How will businesses deal with a name change? And will changing the name re-write history? How poor a mayor could Stapleton have been if he was re-elected so many times? And what about the slippery slope? If we rename Stapleton, then shouldn't we also rename Thomas Jefferson and George Washington High Schools—which honor slaveholders? Many ask how this community naming was ever allowed to happen in the first place, expressing the feeling that they might not have bought their houses if they had known the development was named for a KKK mayor.

ARGUMENT FOR KEEPING THE COMMUNITY NAME: (AS WRITTEN IN THE STAPLETON GREEN BOOK)

“Stapleton the Airport served the aviation needs of the Denver community for more than 65 years. The relocation of aviation activities to DIA provided an unprecedented opportunity. The Stapleton site was a community-owned asset whose use would have enormous implications on the future of Denver, the region and Colorado. The goal was to ensure that the reuse program for the seven and one half square mile site addressed important community objectives and could be successfully supported by the marketplace and our community.”

“The development plan as stated in the *“Green Book”* described the conversion of Stapleton over a 30 to 40 year period to a series of vibrant, mixed use communities connected by an extensive system of open space and transportation improvements. The elements of the development plan are united by a commitment to a sustainable form of development. As a result it emphasizes such things as the integration of housing and recreation within a regional employment center, walkable scale communities that promote diversity and reduce the dependability on the automobile, reduced consumption of resources and impacts on the potential of each citizen. Stapleton would be a place of economical, social and environmental innovation that provided a new development model for the region.”

“Stapleton will be part of the legacy left to future generations. It provides a model for addressing the economic and social needs of all people while respecting our natural world; it is a legacy for which we can all be proud. We benefit daily from the beauty and opportunity created by the vision of DeBoer, Speer, Cranmer and so many others over the last century. In their spirit, we must ensure that a century from today Stapleton will be making a similar contribution to the beauty and vitality of this Queen City at the convergence of the mountains and the plains.”

Almost 20 years into the development, Stapleton is on track to achieve these goals. Because of that Stapleton the name will be forever linked to the values of the community that was created out of the airport that once stood in its place.