

City Council Workshop

Agenda Item #1

July 10, 2017

Acton Street to McLaughlin Way

The McLaughlin Family has requested changing the name of Acton Street to McLaughlin Way. Mr. Ronald McLaughlin built this home in 1953 and has resided in the home since that time.

Under Chapter 23, "Streets and Sidewalks", The City Council designates street names. The major questions regarding this request are: 1) are there other addressees which will be impacted by such a change, and 2) are there existing streets of the same or similar name which could cause confusion and potential delay for public safety response personnel. As there are no other houses on this street and no other streets by this name, it appears that there would be a minimal impact if this change were to be enacted.

Both Chief Wilson and Chief Googins will be present to discuss any further considerations they may have regarding this matter.



City Manager

Steven McLaughlin Jr.

16 Acton Street
South Portland, ME 04106
(713) 409-5951
brokenfence@gmail.com

5th of July 2017

Linda Cohen & Council

South Portland City Council
4 Tamarack Drive
South Portland, Maine 04106

Dear Linda Cohen & Council,

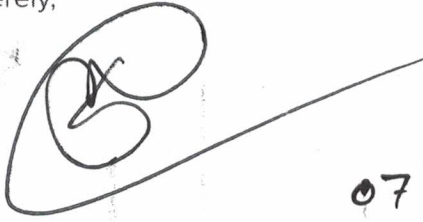
I know your time is valuable and have more important matters to talk about but wanted to write you to see about a request for a Street name change. My grandfather, Ronald McLaughlin whom resides at 16 Acton Street has lived at this address for most of his life. The story of this address is rather fascinating and is pure truth of the existence of hard work and determination. The property was purchased as he worked at a box factory, 40 hours a week on I believe 40-50 dollars a week income. I could be wrong about the purchase year but I believe it was purchased in the 50-60's.

The property was a one room building at the time and was purchased on loan. Each night after work, my grandfather would go to the property to work on it so they could eventually move from their apartment in Portland. He spent countless hours in addition to his normal work week adding to the property so that my father, Steven McLaughlin Sr and his siblings would have a bigger place and a kitchen my grandmother would be proud of. It took years for him to save the money to life the house and put in a basement and years to add a second floor. My grandfather is now 91 and still going strong. Three years ago on the day after Christmas we lost my grandmother and her service was at Hobbs in South Portland. The house has been willed to my father and my father will sell his house in Buxton to move down to the family house when that time comes.

There is only one house on the street of Acton which is ours and there is no room to expand it in the future. We would like to see if this street could be changed over to McLaughlin Way with a house number of 1 in tribute of the amazing life my grandparents have lived and the countless generations of McLaughlin family who will live in this house as the years go on.

We appreciate your time and help with this and thank you all for everything you do to make South Portland a fantastic home for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

07/05/2017

Steven McLaughlin Jr.