



## HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION

**ADDRESS:** Concordia Avenue from Griggs Street to Kellogg Boulevard  
**DATE:** November 20, 2023

**Memorializing the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission's November 20, 2023, decision concurring with the renaming of Concordia Avenue from Griggs Street North to Kellogg Boulevard West to Rondo Avenue.**

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is authorized by Chapter 73 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code to review and comment on any proposed name change for a city street which has had its current name for fifty (50) years or more prior to action on the name change by the city council; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilmember Russel Balenger has requested the HPC review a proposal to rename the portion of Concordia Avenue from Griggs Street to Kellogg Boulevard; and

**WHEREAS**, Concordia Avenue has held its name for more than 50 years and therefore requires review and comment by the HPC prior to City Council consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the following is the citation in the City's Legislative Code concerning HPC review of street name changes:

*Chapter 73.04 (10) Street name changes. The commission shall review and comment on any proposed name change for a city street which has had its current name for fifty (50) years or more prior to action on the name change by the city council. In their review of and recommendations on such street name changes, the commission shall utilize guidelines and criteria as adopted by the commission on March 22, 2018.*

*The Policy and Procedure dated March 22, 2018, states the following:  
Statement of Policy*

- 1. The relationship and appropriateness of both the existing and proposed names to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history; and*
- 2. The significance of both the existing and proposed names and their relationship to the location and prominence of the place, building or object that is the subject of the proposed renaming; and*
- 3. The representation of both the existing and proposed names in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in Saint Paul; and*
- 4. Once a renaming is recommended by the HPC, any possible future renaming of that particular place, building or object shall also be considered by the HPC.*

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, based upon the evidence presented at the November 20, 2023, meeting, made the following comments concerning the proposed street name changes:

**1. The relationship of both the existing and proposed names to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history.**

By the mid-1900's, the Rondo neighborhood was the thriving center of African American life in Minnesota. This neighborhood was home to important historical St. Paul commerce and culture. In the 1960's, with the construction of Interstate 94, hundreds of homes and businesses along Rondo Avenue were destroyed. In January of 1964, a resolution was introduced to rename the southern frontage road of the newly constructed interstate to Concordia Avenue. And after no public discussion, the resolution passed. The once-thriving community that was destroyed by the interstate was now erased in name too. Now, in 2023, with the public conversations around the I-94 corridor, the Mayor's Inheritance Fund for descendants of Rondo, and with the newly established Reparations Commission, we believe it is time to reclaim the street for the community in the spirit of reparations.



**2. The significance of both the existing and proposed names and their relationship to the location and prominence of the street; and**

Currently, Concordia Avenue ends at Kellogg Boulevard just before downtown St. Paul. Prior to 1964, Concordia Avenue ended at Griggs Street, and Rondo Avenue began. Currently, the entire street is named for the Concordia University. The proposed change would not affect the portion of the street that the University occupies, which is west of Griggs. To change the name east of Griggs would better reflect the cultural history of the community, as well as the designated Cultural Destination Area, the Rondo Commemorative Plaza, and the Historic Rondo Neighborhood.

**3. The representation of both the existing and proposed names in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in St. Paul.**

The current name is represented in the Concordia University and would continue to be represented west of Griggs. Rondo Avenue is represented in co-named signage beneath Concordia Ave. signage, in the Rondo Commemorative Plaza, and in the Cultural Destination Area.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, based on the above findings, the Heritage Preservation Commission finds the proposed renaming will generally not have a negative impact on the city’s cultural, social, economic, and political history in Saint Paul; now

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, based on the above findings, the Heritage Preservation Commission recommends approval of renaming Concordia Avenue from Griggs Street North to Kellogg Blvd. West to Rondo Avenue.

<b>MOVED BY</b>	<b>George</b>
<b>SECONDED BY</b>	<b>Ellis</b>
<b>IN FAVOR</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>0</b>