

Charleston (S.C.) Post and Courier

Workers prepare to remove the statue of John C. Calhoun from its pedestal on June 24 on Charleston, S.C. Controversy surrounding this statue has led to demands that Calhoun's name be removed from streets, including one in Alameda.

Some Demand Alameda Rename Calhoun Street

Name strikes chord with Black Lives Matter movement across country

Dennis Evanosky

Calls have surfaced in Alameda to rename Calhoun Street. This is part of a nationwide effort to remove street names that honor people tainted with racism.

William Worthington Chipman and Gideon Aughinbaugh established the Town of Alameda in 1854. They named the first three streets from south to north for men that history recalls as the Triumvirate: Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster.

If the city decides to name Calhoun Street for someone else, it would touch on a 19th-century precedent. The Town of Alameda's Webster Street became Fillmore Street, after the City of Alameda was established in 1872. The new city had a more prominent Webster Street on the West End.

Chipman and Aughinbaugh named a second set of streets for eight United States presidents in the order they held office: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren and William Henry Harrison.

Among these presidents, neither John Adams nor his son John Quincy Adams owned slaves. Adams Street recalls both these men. Jefferson was a slaveholder who lost "his street" when the streetcar system absorbed it as part of San Jose Avenue.

The same thing happened to Monroe. The South Pacific Coast Rail Road laid its tracks along Monroe Street, which then morphed into a stretch of Encinal Avenue. President Harrison's street later became part of Central Avenue.

This leaves four streets in the old Town of Alameda named for men who owned Black slaves: Washington, Monroe, Jackson and Van Buren.

Today, people across the country are demanding that cities and towns change street names that honor those who

owned Black slaves. If the city meets these demands, it could move to change the names of these streets.

These changes might also include Clay and Webster streets. Kentuckian Henry Clay also owned slaves. While Daniel Webster did not own slaves, activists remind us that with Calhoun and Clay, Webster espoused the Fugitive Slave Act as part of the compromise that admitted California to the Union.

In allowing the state of California into the Union in 1850, the Triumvirate placed a price on this permission. They insisted that Congress include this act among the five items in legislation called the Compromise of 1850.

The Fugitive Slave Act allowed the federal government to hire bounty hunters to find and return escaped slaves to their owners, even if the slaves had taken refuge in a free state like California. The act also set up courts to "try" escaped slaves. And what of Alameda's Fillmore Street? President Milliard Fillmore signed the Fugitive Slave Act into law.

The movement to change these street names reminds Americans that Black slave labor played a role in the accomplishments of many prominent White men. Some counter that the ownership of slaves does not overshadow their owners' contributions to history. History must not forget these men or their accomplishments. History must, however, acknowledge the roles Black slaves played in the lives of these presidents.

Yet a third group says that Black slaves played no roles in these men's accomplishments. We have no need to remember Black slaves when we speak of these White statesmen.

Why the stronger demand to rename Calhoun Street? People protesting George Floyd's death vandalized Calhoun's monu-

ment. **STREET:** Page 5

AHS Facing Dire Finances

The Alameda County Civil Grand Jury report includes Alameda Health System, which operates local hospital

Ekene Ikeme

The health organization that operates Alameda Hospital is in dire financial health. This according to the Alameda County's 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury report.

In the report, which was released last month, AHS' audited financial statements from June 30, 2019 show AHS having a negative net worth of \$300.6 million. AHS's internal budget documents report AHS having a cash deficit of approximately \$144 million in fiscal year 2020.

AHS's negative net worth and substantial annual cash deficits led to the Civil Grand Jury investigation. The Civil Grand Jury learned that AHS labels its budget as "balanced" because it only factors in "the revenue and expenses needed to operate AHS day to day." It does not factor in AHS' liabilities.

According to the report, AHS borrowed from the Alameda County Consolidated Treasury in the early 2000s that led to an accumulated debt of \$200 million. In 2004, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS) placed a \$200 million limit on borrowing by AHS and established a repayment schedule.

AHS took out another loan from the County in the early 2010s. AHS and the County replaced the existing repayment agreement with the current Permanent Agreement in April 2016. This agreement increased AHS' debt limit from \$70

million to \$145 million and required it to be paid down by \$5 million per year to \$50 million by June 2034.

Also, in March 2019, AHS was informed that California intended to request reimbursement of \$99.6 million by December 2020 for overpayments the state made to AHS on Medi-Cal waiver claims from 2008 to 2015.

AHS ability to lower operating costs was being hampered by several factors including late or erroneous patient billings and delayed or late collection efforts; service claims declined by Alameda County and/or the state of California; and labor costs, which account for about 78 percent of AHS' total operating expenses.

The Civil Grand Jury also reported that Alameda County has added to AHS' inability to control costs. The County incorporated Alameda and San Leandro hospitals into AHS even though both hospitals were labeled "loss leaders." AHS also spends more in rent annually after leasing a more expensive office space previously leased by the County. The County also reclaimed its non-federal share of Medi-Cal supplemental reimbursements to AHS.

Also, the County's political pressure has caused AHS to take on issues that increased costs. AHS chose to approve a \$20 million seismic upgrade to Alameda Hospital after initially voting against it after

a BOS member expressed their support for the project. Also, the Civil Grand Jury said a County supervisor appeared at a hearing concerning a contentious AHS labor negotiation dressed in the uniform of the involved labor union.

These events have led to a poor relationship between AHS administration and the County, according to the report. AHS wanted to include the \$99.6 Medi-Cal reimbursement payment to California as part of its 2019-2020 fiscal-year budget. But to do so would likely exceed AHS' debt limit per the 2016 Permanent Agreement. AHS notified the County of this development. The County responded by expressing contempt with AHS for its lack of transparency and retained an independent consultants to evaluate AHS' fiscal condition.

AHS chief executive officer responded in a letter to AHS employees calling for more aid from the County.

The two sides have been in an ongoing fight for years. The Civil Grand Jury believes the lack of peace has contributed to AHS' financial situation.

AHS is operated by the AHS administration, which reports to the AHS trustees. The Alameda County BOS controls the AHS bylaws and appoints the AHS trustees.

Part two, which will include the Civil Grand Jury's recommendations, will be published next week.

City Hires Independent Investigator

Inquiry set to investigate arrest of dancing resident

Sun Staff Reports

The City of Alameda has hired attorney Alfonso Estrada to conduct an independent investigation of the May 23 arrest of Mali Watkins for allegedly resisting, delaying or obstructing police officers. Witnesses report that Watkins was dancing and exercising in front of his own house when police arrived and arrested him. Watkins was cited and released by officers.

The incident led the media and locals to question the use of excessive action by Alameda police officers and resulted in protests

in Alameda, concurrent with the national Black Lives Matter protests.

Estrada has significant experience in conducting outside independent administrative investigations pertaining to police officer activities, which include use-of-force incidents. He has conducted investigations for the Beverly Hills police and fire departments; Anaheim, Alhambra and Colton police departments; and Loma Linda and Fresno fire departments.

Estrada is a law partner with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo. His interest in justice and

fairness reaches back to his days attending UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, where he worked as an unpaid intern for Pretrial Services at the courthouse in downtown Oakland. In his previous experience as a prosecutor, Estrada worked in the criminal courts in Los Angeles.

The two principal responding officers, Harris Smiler and Anthony Buck, have been assigned to administrative leave for the duration of the investigation. The investigation, and any report generated from the investigation, remain confidential by California State law.

Celebrating a Different Fourth



Maurice Ramirez

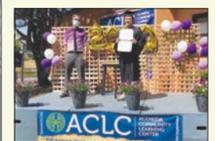
The Carnegie Library building serves as a backdrop for the youth of Alameda who chose to celebrate this year's Fourth of July by voicing their support for the Black Lives Matter movement with a march from Washington Park to City Hall.

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Betty Young

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	5:55	20:33
July 10	5:56	20:33
July 11	5:57	20:33
July 12	5:57	20:32
July 13	5:58	20:32
July 14	5:59	20:31
July 15	5:59	20:31

U.S.S. Hornet Welcomes New Citizens



Bob Baker

As it does every year, around the Fourth of July, U.S.S. Hornet played host to the swearing in of new citizens of the United States. This year, COVID-19 interfered and the ceremony was held without families present and with everyone taking the oath with the proper social distancing between them.

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