

Spotsylvania County Road and Subdivision Naming Policy

(Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2.2019, authorizing localities to name streets, roads, and alleys.)

Adopted 2001.01.23 Amended 2005.12.13

Prerequisites to County requirement and recognition of an Official Road Name:

- Road must have at minimum three addressable structures, or some combination of existing addressable structures and valid building permits for additional addressable structures to equal three or more. Upon establishment of the third addressable structure or permit, the GIS office shall contact all eligible property owners to begin determination of the new road name.
- Road must be a platted and recorded right-of-way or easement, or an acceptable form of proof must be submitted in writing by the landowner(s) that such permanent ingress/egress easement exists.

Standards for selecting suitable and “Public Safety Agencies Compliant” Road and Subdivision Names:

1. Duplicate names of existing roads with different suffixes shall not be permitted, except when the duplicates occur within the same subdivision and intersect.
2. Sound-alike names, including similar sounding names, shall not be permitted, at the discretion of the Information Services Department, FRES, or the Sheriff's Department.
3. Continuous roads should carry the same name throughout their length. Exceptions should occur only at major intersections, such as signalized intersections of major highways where a cross street could change names, or where opposing entrances to different subdivisions would make differing road names necessary.
4. Standard directionals (N, S, E, W etc.) or suffixes (Street, Lane, Avenue, etc.) shall not be permitted as part of the root road name.
5. Road names should not be named for businesses, with rare exception.
6. Road names should not be named for individuals, except where it can be demonstrated that a particular name carries significant and appropriate historical context.
7. The main portion of any road name, exclusive of any suffix or directionals, shall not exceed 24 characters.
8. Punctuation, including hyphens, apostrophes, or symbols, shall not be permitted.
9. At minimum, two-thirds written consent of all affected property owners must be achieved prior to approval of newly established road names. Approval authority shall rest with the County Administrator or his designee for new road naming in cases where two-thirds consent is reached.

If, after two rounds of property owner notification, a two-thirds approval is not reached, the County Administrator shall forward the issue with recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for resolution.

10. At a minimum, unanimous written consent of all affected residents must be achieved for consideration of a change to an existing road name. Approval authority shall rest with the County Administrator or his designee for road name changes when such unanimous consent is reached.
11. Subdivision and road names approved by the County Administrator's designee as a part of standards and availability review or development application review, but not properly recorded on a subdivision, right-of-way dedication, or easement plat, shall be held in reserve for only one year.
12. Road names shall not take the same name of any existing subdivision, nor shall any subdivision take the same name as any existing road, unless such road is within the subdivision of the same name.