



SUMTER CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

October 26, 2011

SN-11-02, Reedroman Road (County)

Applicant is requesting approval to change the name of a Sumter County road from Radical Road to Reedroman Road.

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SN-11-02, Radical Rd. to Reedroman Rd. (City & County)

I. THE REQUEST

Applicant: Gloria R. Felder

Request: A petition to change the name of a street

Location: Radical Rd. between Plowden Mill Rd. and Mims Rd.

Present Street Name: Radical Rd.

Proposed Street Name: Reedroman Rd.

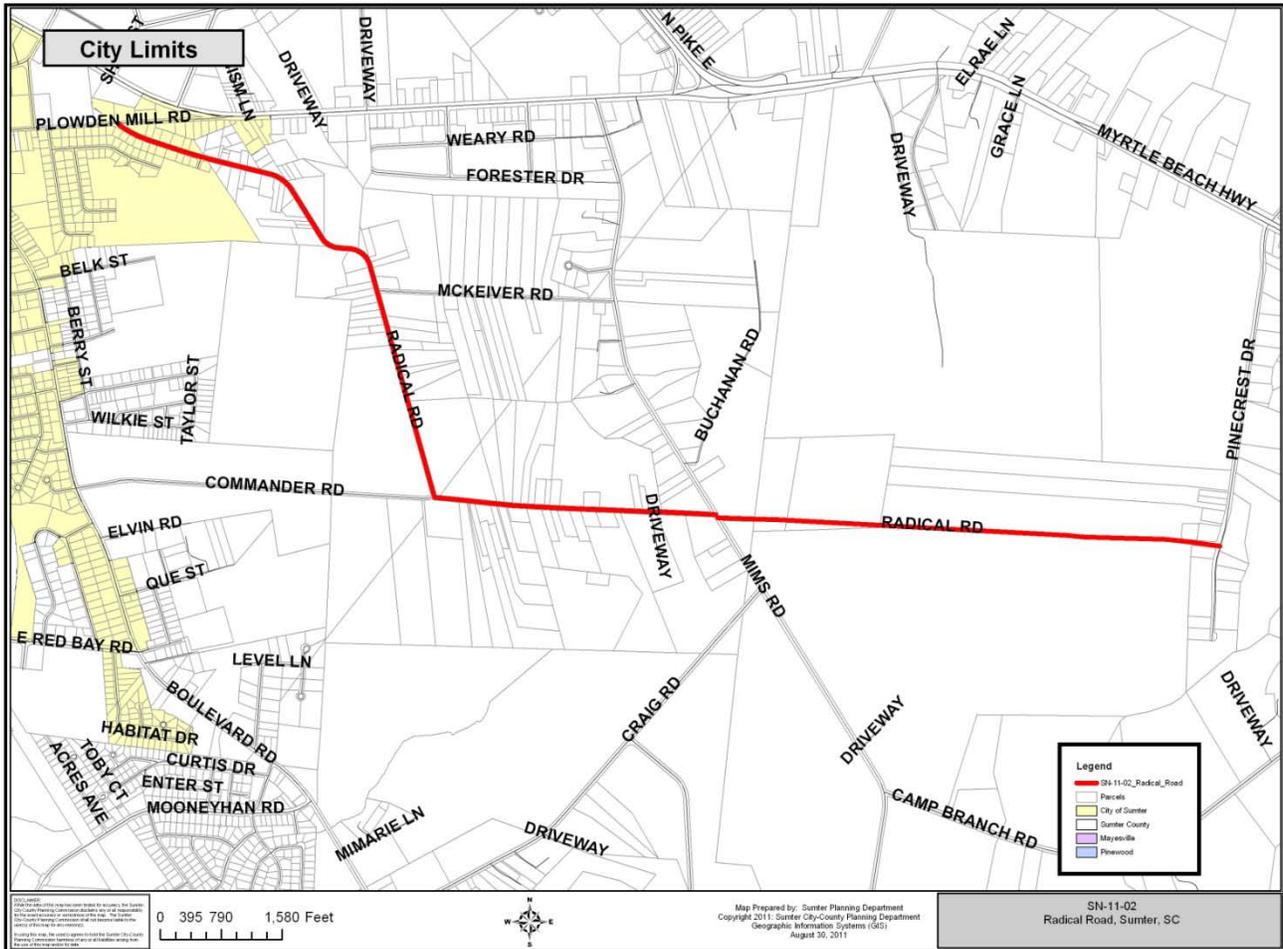
II. BACKGROUND

The applicant, on behalf of the Roman family, has requested to change the name of the street from Radical Rd. to Reedroman Rd. The segment requested is an approximately 10,700 ft. SCDOT paved roadway lying between Plowden Mill Rd. and Mims Rd. There exists an unpaved 3,000 ft. section of Radical Rd. emanating from Pinecrest Rd. that is not subject to this request.

Today, Radical Rd. consists of +-107 parcels, 65 of which appear to be occupied by residential uses. The total number of residents affected by the request is unknown. Radical Rd. is located in both the City and the County. There is evidence that Radical Rd. has been named such for perhaps a half a century or more.

Under Section 8.e.12.c of the City Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance, street names shall be subject to the approval of the Sumter County Auditor's Office and the Planning Commission. In addition, South Carolina State Statute 6-29-12.b. requires that the Planning Commission hold a public hearing prior to approving the renaming of any publicly owned street or road. The Planning Commission is charged with the final approval of any street name change.

The Auditor's office has approved the name according to its naming convention procedures. However, it must be noted that the approval typically is accompanied by concurrence from both the E-911 operations and County Mapping. This is to ensure that public safety recommends the name change, essentially certifying that the name is not duplicative or confusing relative to public safety. The E-911 Coordinator, Kathy Hatfield, believes the name Reedroman should not be used as the street name due to the fact that we have existing streets named Reed and Roman. From the 9-1-1 perspective, she believes the similarity could contribute to confusion or timely error in responding to emergencies. Moreover, the Mapping Department at the County recommends denial of the request citing duplication, confusion, and history of the road name as reasons to oppose the change. The Auditor's form is attached to this report.



III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Planning Staff is troubled by this request.

This street name change is a significant one both in terms of length and the number of parcels/owners affected. On its face, there appears no immediate or compelling public interest to change the name. State Law provides guidance to Planning Commissions for Street Name Changes. Section 6-29-1200 says that a commission may change the name of a street:

- 1) *When there is duplication of names or other conditions which tend to confuse the traveling public or the delivery of mail, orders, or messages;*
- 2) *When it is found that a change may simplify marking or giving of directions to persons seeking to locate addresses or;*
- 3) *Upon any other good and just reason that may appear to the commission*

The County Mapping Office and the E-911 office are on record as opposing this name change. It would appear that a name change would introduce two elements the Zoning Ordinance and State Law hopes to avoid: confusion and complexity. Although we defer to the public hearing process and the opinion of the affected residents, Staff can make no finding at this time which justifies the above criteria. We recommend the street name remain Radical Rd.

IV. PLANNING COMMISSION – OCTOBER 26, 2011 – PUBLIC HEARING

The Sumter City – County Planning Commission at its meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, voted 6 to 1 to deny this request.