

March 29, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager
Subject: Ordinance – naming unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in the Mt. Auburn neighborhood the “Fig Alley Steps”

202300934

Transmitted is an Ordinance captioned:

NAMING the steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in the Mt. Auburn neighborhood the “Fig Alley Steps.”

The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance at its March 17, 2023, meeting.

Summary

In accordance with the City of Cincinnati Committee of Names, Procedure for Processing Proposals for the naming or renaming of City Facilities and streets, as empowered by Resolution 16-2003, a request to name the unnamed steps has been submitted for consideration: The Committee of Names voted in favor in January 2023 to the name these steps “Fig Alley Steps.”

The proposed steps name to “Fig Alley Step” was chosen because fig trees are planted above these steps on Van Lear Street and the applicant would like to plant fig trees along these steps as well.

This name is not being used anywhere in Hamilton County. Both Mt. Auburn and CUF are supportive of the naming and the proposed naming is consistent with Plan Cincinnati (2012). The City Planning Commission recommended the following on March 17, 2023, to City Council:

The City Planning Commission recommended the following on March 17, 2023, to City Council:

APPROVE the naming of unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to “Fig Alley Steps” in Mt. Auburn.

cc: Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director, Department of City Planning and Engagement

March 29, 2023

Cincinnati City Council
Council Chambers, City Hall
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Members of Council:

We are transmitting herewith an Ordinance captioned as follows:

NAMING the steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in the Mt. Auburn neighborhood the "Fig Alley Steps."

The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance at its March 17, 2023 meeting.

Summary:

In accordance with the City of Cincinnati Committee of Names, Procedure for Processing Proposals for the naming or renaming of City Facilities and streets, as empowered by Resolution 16-2003, a request to name the unnamed steps has been submitted for consideration: The Committee of Names voted in favor in January 2023 to the name these steps "Fig Alley Steps."

The proposed steps name to "Fig Alley Steps" was chosen because fig trees are planted above these steps on Van Lear Street and the applicant would like to plant fig trees along these steps as well.

This name is not being used anywhere in Hamilton County. Both Mt. Auburn and CUF are supportive of the naming and the proposed naming is consistent with Plan Cincinnati (2012). The City Planning Commission recommended the following on March 17, 2023, to City Council:

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APPROVE the naming of unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to "Fig Alley Steps" in Mt. Auburn.

Motion to Approve: Mr. Samad

Ayes: Mr. Weber

Seconded: Ms. Kearney

Ms. Beltran

Mr. Samad

Ms. Sesler

Ms. Kearney

Mr. Stallworth

THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION




Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director
Department of City Planning and Engagement



March 22, 2023

To: Sheila Andrews, Office of the Clerk of Council

From: Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director
Department of City Planning and Engagement 

Copies to: Caroline Kellam, Senior City Planner
Department of City Planning and Engagement

Subject: Ordinance – Naming unnamed steps to between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to
“Fig Alley Steps” in Mt. Auburn

The above referenced Ordinance is ready to be scheduled for Council Committee. We are requesting that this item be scheduled for the next available Healthy Neighborhoods Committee meeting. There is no notice requirement for this Ordinance.

Included in this submission are the following items:

- 1) The transmittal letter to the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee;
- 2) A copy of the City Planning Commission staff report dated March 17, 2023; and
- 3) The Ordinance naming the unnamed steps “Fig Alley Steps” in the Mt. Auburn neighborhood previously transmitted by Law.

March 17, 2023

**Honorable City Planning Commission
Cincinnati, Ohio**

SUBJECT: A report and recommendation on a proposed naming of unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to “Fig Alley Steps” in Mt. Auburn.

BACKGROUND:

A request to name an unnamed set of steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in Mt. Auburn, along the CUF border, was received from “Step up to Art” in coordination with “Spring in Our Steps” in early 2023. More specifically, the location is situated approximately at 2023 Vine Street at the steps and approximately at 2020 Ohio Avenue at the steps.

Beyond the naming, the applicant intends for the steps to have a gateway style sign between Mt. Auburn and CUF, which will be designed by the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE). The applicants are also working with DOTE and the Department of Public Services to potentially plant some fig trees along the staircase, which exist on the property above the steps on Van Lear Street. This name has been vetted through DOTE and “Fig Alley Steps” does not exist anywhere in Hamilton County.

COMMITTEE OF NAMES:

In accordance with the City of Cincinnati Committee of Names, Procedure for Processing Proposals for the naming or renaming of City Facilities, as empowered by resolution 16-2003, a request to name the unnamed steps has been submitted for consideration:

1. The naming of the unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue in Mt. Auburn.

The Committee of Names voted unanimously in January 2023 to support the step naming to “Fig Alley Steps.” The Committee of Names is recommending to the Director of City Planning and Engagement to name these unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue.

PROCEDURE:

Pursuant to Section III, E of the Committee of Names Procedure for Processing Proposals: The Director of City Planning and Engagement shall consider the Committee of Names’ vote and recommendation and make a recommendation to the City Planning Commission. The Director is not bound by the Committee’s recommendation. The City Planning Commission shall consider the Director’s recommendation and pursuant to its advisory powers under Article VII Section 9 of the City Charter, make a recommendation to City Council, together with any necessary and appropriate legislation.

NOTIFICATION:

Upon receiving the request, the Department of City Planning and Engagement staff sent out notices on March 3, 2023, to neighboring property owners, although there are no properties with addresses on this set of steps. Both the Mt. Auburn Community Council and the neighboring CUF Neighborhood Association were notified. Each Community Council reviewed the proposal at their full meetings and there is no opposition to the step naming. There has been no other opposition to the step naming to-date. Attached is a letter of support from the CUF Neighborhood Association.

CONSISTENCY WITH PLAN CINCINNATI:

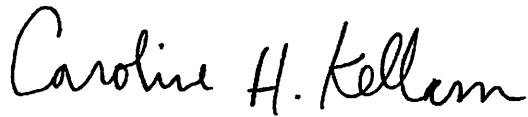
The proposed step naming is consistent with the Connect Initiative Area of *Plan Cincinnati* (2012), “Maintain public stairway and alleyway systems” (page 130).

RECOMMENDATION:

The staff of the Department of City Planning and Engagement, after considering all relevant correspondence and Committee of Names, recommends that the City Planning Commission take the following action:

APPROVE the naming of unnamed steps between Vine Street and Ohio Avenue to “Fig Alley Steps” in Mt. Auburn.

Respectfully submitted:



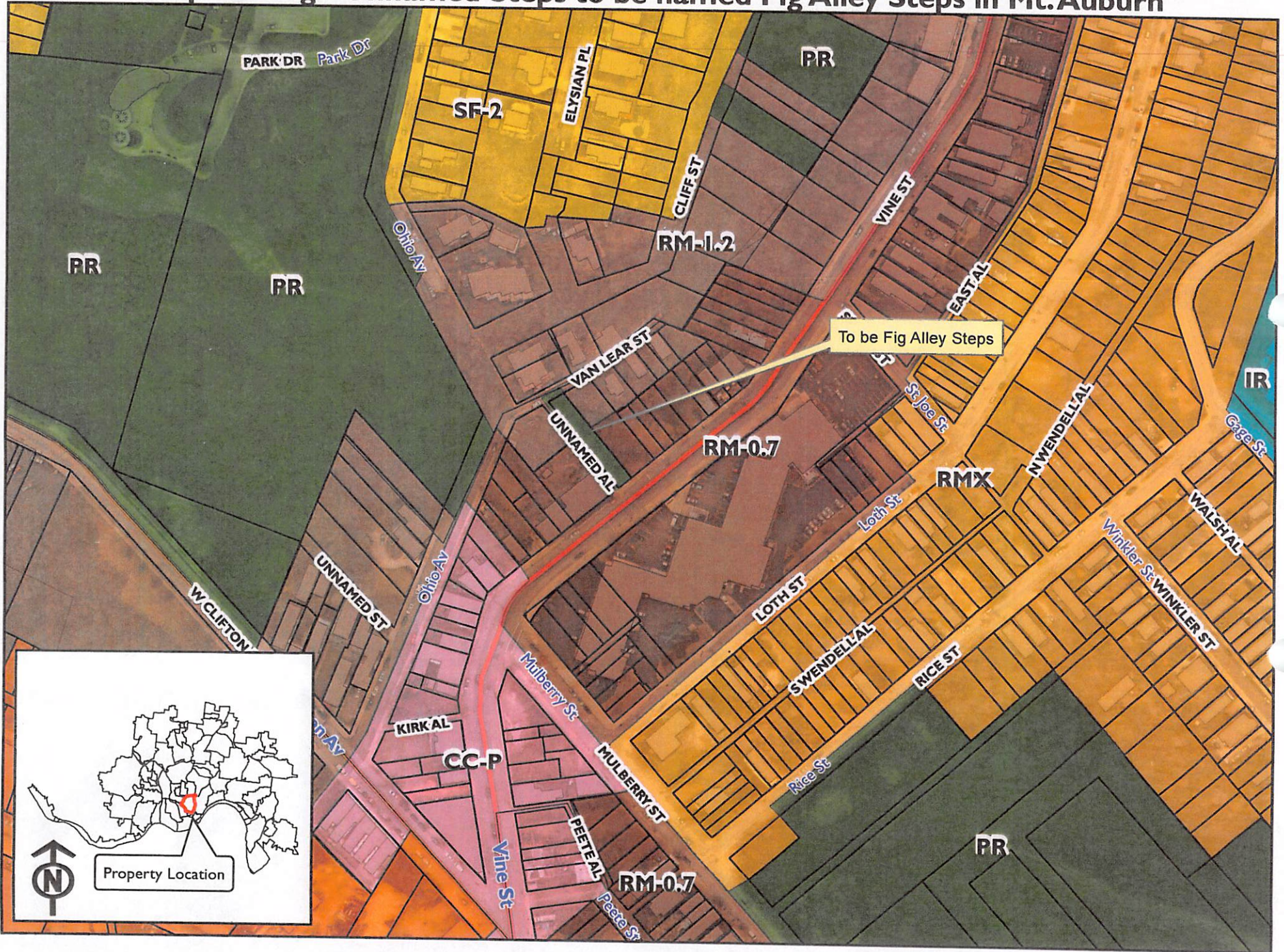
Caroline Hardy Kellam, Senior City Planner
Department of City Planning and Engagement

Approved:

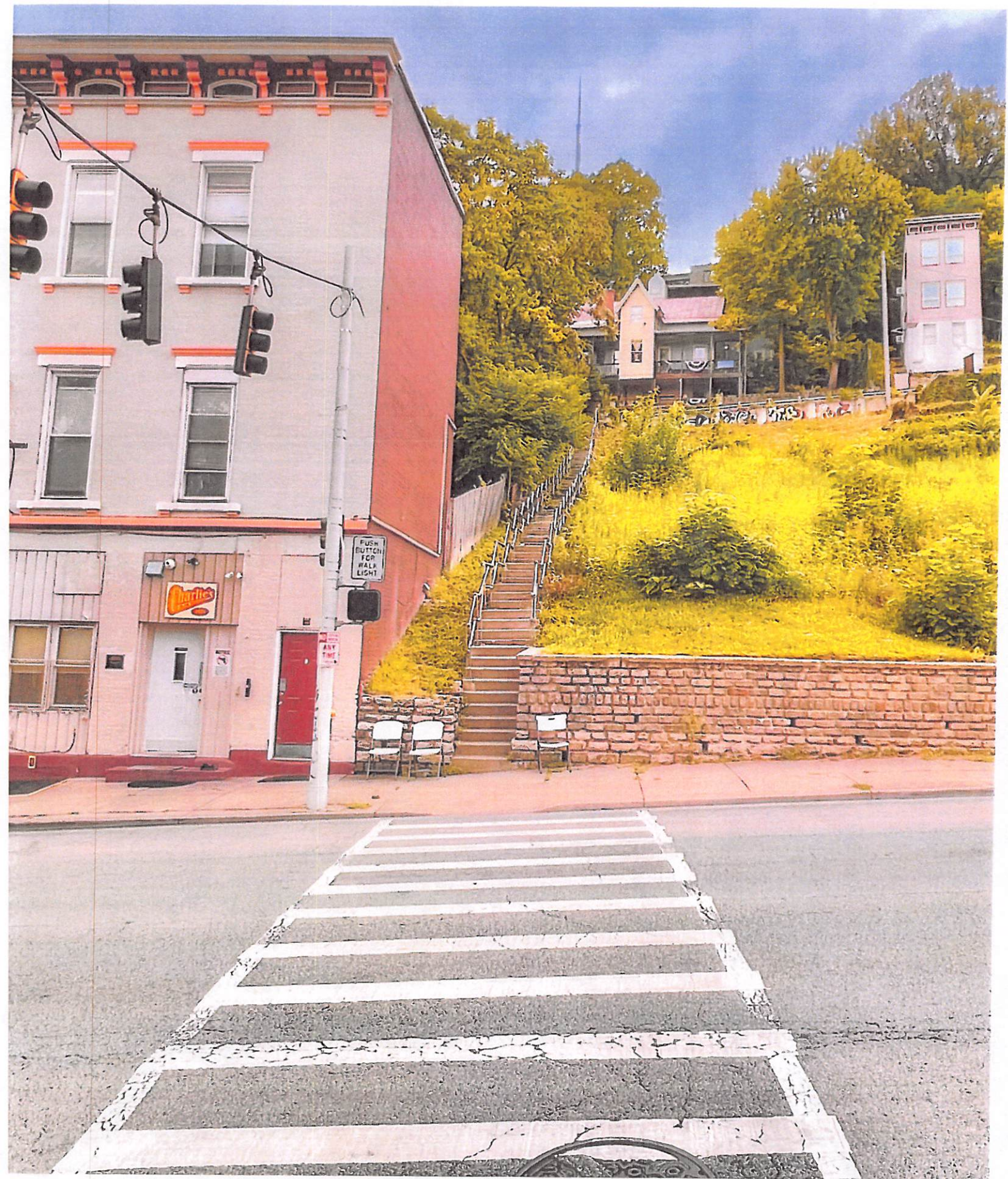


Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director
Department of City Planning and Engagement

Step naming - Unnamed Steps to be named Fig Alley Steps in Mt. Auburn









NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

representing Clifton Heights | University Heights | Fairview

26 February 2023

Re: Fig Alley Steps

To Whom It May Concern:

The Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview (CUF) Neighborhood Association Board of Trustees voted to support the renaming of Unnamed Alley, between Vine Street and Van Lear Street, in Over the Rhine, to Fig Alley Steps.

Sincerely,

Jack Martin

President

CUF Neighborhood Association