



July 28, 2025

Dontae Payne, Mayor

Yến Huỳnh, Mayor Pro-tem

Councilmembers Dani Madrone, Clark Gilman, Kelly Green, Robert Vanderpool, Jim Cooper
City of Olympia

citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us

Dear Mayor Payne, Mayor Pro-tem Huỳnh and Councilmembers Madrone, Gilman, Green, Vanderpool and Cooper:

On behalf of the South Capitol Neighborhood Association (SCNA) Board, I am writing to support the proposed renaming effort of Stevens Field, which was brought to our attention by a group of Lincoln Elementary fifth graders during the May 23rd city council meeting.

We appreciate the students' courageous advocacy and agree with the students that historical context matters. Governor Isaac Stevens' documented policies of forced relocation and the execution of Chief Leschi make this name inappropriate for our shared public space. We would like to thank the students for reminding us of the original stewards of this land, including the Squaxin Island, Nisqually, and Chehalis Tribes. These sovereign nations are not only part of our region's history, but are also thriving, active contributors to the civic, cultural, and economic life of Olympia today.

The SCNA Board supports the renaming of Stevens Field and believes the process must be inclusive of the voices of those who use and benefit from the field today. A new name and inclusive process offers Olympians a chance to reflect our current community values: inclusiveness, integrity, service, and justice. The SCNA believes the renaming process must be thoughtful, inclusive, and transparent. Specifically, we support:

- **A community-driven process** that includes meaningful participation from a diverse group of people including students, local youth sports teams, and community members with varying backgrounds;
- **A values-based approach** to selecting honorees or ideals that reflect Olympia's evolving commitment to equity, inclusion, collaboration, resiliency, and public service;
- **A formal background review** of any individual honoree to ensure their legacy aligns with our shared goals and values.

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Thank you again for your consideration. We hope to see this renaming effort in uplifting experiences and stories that inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

Morgan R Montes, Treasurer
South Capitol Neighborhood Association Board

cc: Olympia School District