



Woollahra Councillors
Woollahra Municipal Council
Via email: governance@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Tuesday 14 June 2022

Dear Woollahra Councillors,

Re: Proposal to rename Fullerton Street to Ukraine Street

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) notes the consultation regarding renaming Fullerton Street to Ukraine Street has now been completed, and Council staff have recommended that the process be stopped. Our comments are listed below.

Symbolic actions count for Ukrainians and the local Ukrainian community

We would like to reiterate to the Councillors that your decision to start the renaming process for Fullerton St was important to Ukraine and the local Australian-Ukrainian community, and one that provided us with emotional and moral support.

We have needed to withstand an illegal and unwarranted attack against our homeland, identity and right to exist. Besides physical support, which is very necessary in relation to financial, humanitarian and military aid, psychological and moral support from other peoples and countries is invaluable to keep morale high. By keeping morale high Ukrainians can continue to muster the personal will and drive to defend Ukraine against Russia's brutal invasion.

The response within our community to your motion was similar to the encouragement which opponents of the apartheid regime in South Africa would have felt in 1984 when Glasgow renamed a central square in its city to Nelson Mandela Place. It didn't bring down the regime – but it was a strong sign of support and backing.

The war is not over - it has gotten worse

Russian troops have taken nearly 20 per cent of Ukrainian territory and are pursuing a scorched earth policy in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions; more than 18,000 civilian infrastructure facilities have been destroyed; nearly 220,000 people have lost their homes; vast areas are mined; looting, torture and wilful killings and abductions are widespread in occupied areas; there are more than 16,000 registered war crimes; almost 12 million Ukrainians have become internally displaced in Ukraine; and more than 5 million (mostly women and children) have left the country.

The unravelling food crisis provoked by Russia's war, the violation of the international rules-based order, and the dangers posed to global security illustrate that Ukraine is fighting not only to defend its own peace and freedom, but that of the global community.

Working together to explore other ways to support Ukraine

Should Councillors decide not to proceed with renaming Fullerton St, we would welcome the opportunity to work together to identify other means by which the Council can continue to support Ukraine.

The Ukrainian community in Australia has engaged in many activities to support Ukraine, including fundraising for the humanitarian relief effort through its charity [Ukraine Crisis Appeal](#), liaising with the Australian Government about financial, military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine, and visa and migration issues related to displaced



Ukrainians; assisting with support services (including temporary accommodation and provision of goods and services) for displaced people once they arrive; and urging the Government and the Australian public to support trade bans, sanctions and diplomatic pressure on Russian entities in Australia.

We note that the Victorian State Parliament has resolved to [fly the Ukrainian flag](#) while the war continues.

Consultation process

We are extremely disappointed the consultation stage has led Council staff to recommend the process to rename Fullerton St be stopped.

We note that Council information about the name change on the website provided very little explanation about any assistance from the Council if the change happened, just a warning that all changes (besides police, ambulance and PO) would need to be managed by the resident. Possibly more than just a cursory nod about the implications of the change would have been helpful for residents.

We also hope Council staff were able to confirm all Fullerton St and nearby residents who lodged submissions/emails were bona-fide residents. We hope Council staff were aware if a submitter who nominated they lived on Fullerton St was from the Russian Consulate. Some of the submissions listed in the appendix of the report included disinformation which is commonly propagated by the Russian Government and propaganda outlets (like *Russia Today*, which has been suspended by Foxtel and SBS in Australia) (see attachment).

We note close to 300 letters and 2 petitions with close to 2,000 signatures were lodged with Woollahra Council prior to 9 May in support of the name change. We also understand the Polish, Lithuanian and Estonian embassies supported the name change.

We thank the Woollahra Councillors for their support and commitment to Ukraine. It has been a source of strength to know that you have been with us, and understand and feel our pain.

Yours sincerely,

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SAMPLE SUBMISSIONS IN RENAMING FULLERTON STREET SURVEY REPORT:

- “Virtue Signalling is exactly what this is and the greater Sydney city residents deserve better. It would be later on council would regret such a name change when war crimes perpetrated by the Ukrainian Azov Battalions finally come to light and genuine research by council now would save embarrassment later. Note: When the US invaded Iraq no council in Sydney renamed streets to Iraq St. Why Not?”
- “Absolute disgrace that Woollahra council would support a Nazi state like Ukraine and disrespect Russian consulate like that! Not to mention that street has been there for 100 years . You have no place to choose for us who to support in the Eastern Europe war. Did you know that Ukraine has renamed its streets to Nazi collaborators like Bandera ? Should we now rename Martin Place where USA consulate located into Taliban Road?! Will be signing a petition for the councils immediate resignation!”
- “Ukraine is not what the mainstream media claims it is”
- “I lived in Woolahra for 20 years. Support a fascist openly neo-nazi puppet regime (use a search engine other than google, and search for "ukraine nazi", just look at the images). Devalues the properties on Fullerton. Causes massive expense to everyone (change of stationery), not only the Russian embassy. Waste of council time & money, failure to do real work. Childish & transparent virtue signalling. Joining other countries in childish virtue signally does not make it less so, it merely categorises Woollahra council. In their stupidity, failure to notice that if renamed, the Russian Embassy will occupy Ukraine St, which is a testament to Russia.”
- “It is not Australian fight. Ukraine is not democratic country and it is run by a president who orders to kill his own people! Shame on Ukraine!”
- “To support the change to Ukraine is the same as supporting Nazis. To change it is to start a petty fight. If you actually know what's going on you would know that Russians have been warning Ukraine to stop attacking donbas for a decade. I don't think you want Russians to with you. Our Anzacs fought with the Russians against the Nazis. Since when is our government such puppets to wrong information....you're a bunch of idiots so go ahead and change it, and watch what happens. It won't make you look smart at all. Joke council”
- BE PART OF A KILLING MACHINE IS NOT GOOD, NATO IS A KILLING MACHINE, ASK SYRIA, AFGANISTAN, LYBIA, IRAQ, SERBIA WAKE UP ! Hide original message STOP The Lies and show case 8 Years of Killing by Ukraine Below are 3 documentaries Showcasing how the War in Ukraine started 8 years ago not 2 months ago It highlights human rights abuses and mass graves and genocide by Ukrainian military and Neo Nazi since 2014. spurred on by Western governments and the Pentagon. Note these documentaries are prepared by French, Finish and Italian journalist's (Not Russian sources) The reality is Western media is currently lying, if you fail to see the truth, then you are officially brain washed. Supporting the Western narrative and the Zelensky by default means you have supported the destruction of a people and race within Ukraine . Thus 8 years of war has accumulated to the current Russian response...