

## Cozzie, Paul A

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**From:** Bert Valery <bertv@valeryagency.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:52 PM  
**To:** Burton, Barry; Blanton, Whit  
**Cc:** Cozzie, Paul A  
**Subject:** Fwd: PINELLAS County Naming Proceedures / PINELLAS TRAIL Naming  
**Attachments:** HISTORY OF PINELLAS TRAIL.pdf; Neighborhood\_News-Dec2015.pdf; Honorary-Naming-Rights-policy.pdf

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Mr Burton , The purpose of this letter is to start the process of naming a section of our PINELLAS TRAIL or Overpass , etc , after my son , Albert L ( Bert ) Valery , 3rd . I contacted past Commissioner Karen Seel , who sent me the attachment outlining the process for Naming any County property . It seems to begin with a request to the Co Administrator , so consider this my request and please forward any County forms that might be needed . Between Karen info and the Co Guide it seemed I should cc both Forward Pinelles ( Whit Blanton ) & Parks Dept ( Paul Cozzie ) of my request , so am including them in this notice .

Barry , I do not know you & you do not know me , so I can not assume you know the History of our Bicycle Advisory Committee ( BPAC ) or our Pinellas Trail , so I am including two Trail history articles for you . ..... As brief as I can make it , back in 1983 my 17 yr old son Bert , was killed on the Belleair Causeway while biking home from work . In my effort to make something good come from Bert s death , I got the County to form a Bicycle Advisory Committee ( under the Co MPO ) which I Chaired for several yrs and still participate in 40 yrs later . My goal was to create a safer environment for our residents to bike . ( In 1983 Pinellas Co led the Nation in bicycle fatalities ) .....After several YEARS of work and presentations to the County Commissioners , I reduced my options for a safe "Linear Park" to the Co drainage & the Fla Power easements , plus the abandoned RR corridor . All of these were rejected by the County for various reasons , but we got a huge break when the State of Fla notified the County that they had 6 mos to come up with a use for the RR corridor or the land would revert to the adjacent property owners . At this point even Fred Marquis agreed it was a "use it or lose it " situation and proposed a 7 mile trial liner park . It was an immediate success , becoming the most popular Park in our Co , if not our Nation .

Now for my concern . As a naive private citizen , I just assumed that with Bert s death being the reason I got the BAC formed and worked for years to champion the Trail concept , then finally getting the Trail built , if it was named after anyone , it would be named after him . Instead the naming was used as a surprise tribute to our outgoing Co Administrator ( The

BOCC discussed this secretly , without regard to our Sunshine Laws that prohibit such secret meetings , so it would be a surprise to Fred ). After a lot of public outcry the BOCC did have public input , but the decision was left with no punishment to the Board re the Sunshine Rules .

At this point , I am not asking to change the name , but I am asking the County to Honor Bert and memorialize him properly on the Trail . After reading the Co rules for "naming " , it seems clear Bert qualify s in all aspects ( he was a Citizen , he has been dead for over 5 yrs & he was the whole reason for both the Co BPAC & Pinellas Trail ) . It would be nice to have a section of the Trail named after Bert , but I do not want to offend Fred or diminish his role . So , the Naming rules mention "bridges" , therefore I was thinking about the Trail Overpass on West Bay Dr in Largo . This location is just a short way from where Bert was killed on the Belleair Causeway , the western extension of West Bay Dr . This "Overpass" could be named ...The Albert (Bert ) Valery , 3rd P T Overpass , with the name on both sides plus a Historical marker at each end explaining the History .

At this point the Rules seem to be that you appoint a committee (Parks or Forward Pinellas ) to look into this and report back you & the BOCC .

Thank you for taking the time to deal with this . Albert L Valery , Jr .....2113 Gulf blvd , Indian Rocks Beach , Fl 33785

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**PINELLAS TRAIL ARTICLES

**Date:**Mon, 4 Mar 2024 12:31:38 -0500

**From:**Trista Mayes <[clerical@valeryagency.com](mailto:clerical@valeryagency.com)>

**To:**Bert Valery <[bertv@valeryagency.com](mailto:bertv@valeryagency.com)>

ATTACHED

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