

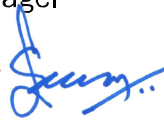


MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Land Use and Environmental Services Agency

TO: Dena Diorio, County Manager

THROUGH Dr. Leslie Johnson, Deputy County Manager

FROM: Ebenezer S. Gujjarlapudi, P.E., Director 

DATE: June 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Rename the LUESA – Suttle Ave building as the
RUSSELL S. ROZZELLE OFFICE BUILDING

This is to inform you that LUESA is initiating the process of renaming the LUESA – Suttle Ave building as the **RUSSELL S. ROZZELLE OFFICE BUILDING**, in honor of the long-time dedicated and accomplished employee of Mecklenburg County LUESA, Rusty Rozzelle, who passed away unexpectedly on May 13, 2025, before he was able to retire from county employment.

LUESA will work with the Human Resources Department to complete all necessary paperwork prior to submitting the application to the Board of County Commissioners for public hearings and approval, after review by the County Managers office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me at ebenezer.gujjarlapudi@mecklenburgcountync.gov or at 980-314-3629.

cc: BOCC, Mecklenburg County
Michael Bryant, Incoming County Manager
Joanette Freeman, HR Director



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 23, 2025

Dear Ebenezer,

As the Chair of the Environmental Stewardship Committee for Mecklenburg County and as someone who knew Rusty Rozzelle as a water quality professional for more than thirty years, I am writing to offer my full support to formally rename the Suttle Avenue LUESA building after him.

I first learned about Rusty's good work with respect to water quality when I worked in healthcare, before I met him in-person. I was there when Rusty was honored with an **Environmental Hero** award from the Blumenthal Foundation in the early nineties. I believe he spent every day for the rest of his life proving that he was a hero for the environment.

For the past 35 years, I attended meetings and worked with Rusty in many different group settings. I think it's important to provide a short list of some of them to show the breadth of his connectedness and impact.

The first that come to mind are:

- Post-Construction Stormwater ordinance development with our six towns and the City of Charlotte
- Catawba Riverkeeper
- Stormwater Advisory Council (SWAC)
- Catawba Wateree Water Management Group
- Citizens Water Academy
- Lake Wylie, Lake Norman and Mountain Island Lake Marine Commissions
- Centralina- Connect Our Future
- Livable Meck- Healthy Environment
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Elected officials workshops
- River District
- Palisades
- City of Creeks UNCC
- Brown's Cove, Beaverdam Creek
- Duke Power
- Real Estate & Building Industry Coalition (REBIC)



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Catawba Area Plan stakeholder group
- Many community meetings addressing concerns about buffers, stormwater management, sedimentation, flooding, fuel/chemical/sewer spills impacting our waterways, water degradation, erosion control measures, cyanobacteria and invasive species on our lakes, etc.

In the hundreds of meetings where I was present, Rusty was reliably consistent. He was a gifted storyteller, a consensus builder, a highly respected expert, an educator who could explain things at every level to help people understand, an exceptional human being, dedicated to protecting our natural resources, and a real-life hero to me.

Rusty Rozzelle was one of the best people and most committed professionals I have ever known. He was a Mecklenburg County treasure. This is who we should name a building after...after an honorable person like Rusty. He was a lifelong dedicated public servant, who woke up every day for 45 years to face the never-ending challenges of environmental stewardship and a person who did everything that he could to make a positive difference.

We are all beneficiaries of his work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine M. Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elaine Powell
Mecklenburg County Commissioner, District 1
Environmental Stewardship Committee, Chair

Notice of Public Hearing by The Board of County Commissioners of Mecklenburg County on The Request to Name the LUESA Suttle Avenue Facility located at 2145 Suttle Ave, Charlotte, NC 28208, the **“RUSSELL S. ROZZELLE OFFICE BUILDING”**.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners on September 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the item is reached on the agenda, for the request to Name the LUESA Suttle Avenue Facility located at 2145 Suttle Ave, Charlotte, NC 28208, the **“RUSSELL S. ROZZELLE OFFICE BUILDING”**.

Parties of interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard and may obtain information on the requested facility naming from Mecklenburg County Asset and Facility Management, 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 6000, Charlotte, North Carolina or call 980-314-2520.

Members of the public can address the Board of County Commissioners. Persons desiring to speak can sign up online at <https://mecknc.seamlessdocs.com/f/clerk> or call 980-314-2939. The deadline to register is 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Each speaker will receive up to three (3) minutes to speak.

Members of the public may also view the meeting on the Government Channel, or online watch.mecknc.gov.

If this information is needed in an alternative format because of a disability, contact the Clerk to the Board. The Clerk is located at 600 East Fourth Street, in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 11th floor, (980-314-2939), fax (704-336-5887) or e-mail: clerk@mecknc.gov.

We request at least 72-hour notice prior to the meeting to make the appropriate arrangements.

Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



Mecklenburg County
Human Resources
Policy and Compliance Division

To: Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, Director of LUESA

From: Latisha Russell, Policy and Compliance Manager

Date: June 23, 2025

RE: Background Clearance Russell "Rusty" Rozelle

The purpose of this memo is to provide the status of the background check that was completed on Russell "Rusty" Rozelle. On June 4, 2025, a background check was initiated for Russell Rozelle, confirmation of full clearance was received on June 4, 2025.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me via phone at (980) 314-2788 or via email at latisha.russell@mecknc.gov.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 6, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, elected by the people of District 2, the most powerful district of Mecklenburg County. It gives me great pleasure to recommend the renaming of the LUESA's Suttle Avenue building after Russell "Rusty" Rozzelle.

Rusty worked for Mecklenburg County for over 45 years as a Program Manager of Mecklenburg County Water Quality. He was an integral part of the Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) and served his community well in this role. Rusty met and assisted people in the community as well as appearing as spokesperson for county water quality. He was always a pleasure to converse with and an enthusiastic supporter of the environmental health of Mecklenburg County.

I was happy to work with Rusty while on the School Board and the County Board. Rusty always had a smile on his face and a kind word to give to everyone. His dedication to improving local streams, creeks, lakes, and rivers, and his steady, stable presence was honorable.

It is my honor to recommend and support that the LUESA's Suttle Avenue building be renamed after Russell "Rusty" Rozzelle. This will be an excellent legacy to leave in his honor and for years to come.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vilma D. Leake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "L".

Vilma Leake
Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

Facility Naming Policy Supporting Documentation for

Rusty Rozzelle

With over 45 years of service in local government as the Water Quality Program Manager for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, Rusty Rozzelle has spent his career dedicated to the mission of preserving and restoring our local surface water resources. His career has included many significant achievements that have set the foundation for water resource management on a local, regional, and state level.

If you've ever enjoyed a stream by a greenway, gone fishing in a local pond, or enjoyed a day on Lake Norman, you've been impacted by the work of Rusty Rozzelle. He was an outstanding team member, mentor, confidant and servant leader, who exemplified dedication and commitment to the community," said LUESA Director Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi. "He was a consummate professional who lived out his calling to protect our natural resources and his legacy will continue because of his great work."

Rusty's greatest strength and contribution to the community is was his ability to bring groups (with oftentimes different goals/needs) together and leading them to consensus on initiatives that balance growth in the area with protection and preservation of water resources, which has made Mecklenburg County an attractive place to live. Rusty's passion for water quality and collaboration enabled Mecklenburg County, the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville, Central Piedmont Community College and Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System to obtain the first joint National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in the State of NC, which provided provides for good/efficient government and consistent water quality protection throughout the County.

Rusty ensured the ultimate protection of local lakes and streams through the development, adoption, and implementation of multiple protective ordinances for Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, and the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville. Beginning in 1993, he developed the Water Supply Watershed Buffers to help protect the public water supplies in Lake Norman, Mountain Island Lake, and Lake Wylie. In 1999 and 2000, the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Buffer Ordinance was adopted to help protect our water quality by filtering out pollutants in stormwater runoff. Rusty worked with the Town of Huntersville in the adoption (2003) of a Low-Impact-Development (LID) Ordinance which has been a significant measure to balance water quality impacts from the tremendous amount of development that has occurred within this community.

In 2008, he played a pivotal role in navigating a group of stakeholders to agree on common goals for Mecklenburg County and reaching consensus to adopt a Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinance which is aimed at managing stormwater runoff after construction is complete to improve water quality and protect our stream systems. This effort involved weekly after-hours meetings that lasted 18 months. Included in the Post-Construction ordinances were provisions that provided protection of the Carolina heelsplitter, which is a federally-endangered species of freshwater mussel. Rusty has been a champion in improving and protecting surface waters for all residents of Mecklenburg County as well as throughout the State of NC and the southeast. Rusty has an eloquent way of using history (starting in the late 1700's when his family operated Rozzelles Ferry, one of the first

ferry's across the Catawba River), story-telling, and environmental science to educate people on the importance of preserving waters of the State and was often called upon to give talks and presentation to elected officials, historical societies, and environmental groups throughout NC.

Naming/Renaming Steps

Step 1

- We are made aware of an intent to apply for a naming/renaming

Step 2

- Letter goes from the Director to the County Manager/BOCC to notify them of an upcoming application for naming/renaming

Step 3

- The application, petition, background check and letters of support are completed and input is solicited from the BOCC of that district.

Step 4

- Application is presented at 3 public meetings

Step 5

- Complete application and request for public hearing goes on the BOCC agenda. Notification is posted by the Clerk to the Board in the local paper 10 days in advance of the hearing.

Step 6

- Complete application and request to open the public hearing goes on the BOCC agenda for approval.

EXHIBIT 2

MECKLENBURG COUNTY FACILITIES NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY APPLICATION

I. **General Policy Statement**

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) shall be responsible for approving all names of facilities in Mecklenburg County Government consistent with the Mecklenburg County Facilities Naming Policy.

II. **Applicant's Information**

Name of Individual/Group Making Application:

Address: LUESA, 2145 Suttle Ave, Charlotte, NC 28208

Telephone: Home: 980-314-3629 Business: 704-534-6588

Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email: ebenezer.gujjarlapudi@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Site of Naming/Renaming to be Considered: Suttle Ave/ LUESA Building

III. **Recommendation and Supporting Information**

Recommended Name: RUSSELL S. ROZZELLE OFFICE BUILDING

The recommended name is a reference to (check one of the following):

☐ a living person

☒ a deceased person

☐ other reference (please explain): _____

(If none of the above, please skip all remaining questions and provide a one-page rationale to support recommended name)

IV. **Background Check**

If the request is to name a facility after a person, living or deceased, please provide the following information about that person. This information will be used only to conduct a background check on the person for whom the naming is being requested and will be held confidential.

Current Address (if living): 1214 Rainbow Dr, Mount Holly, NC 28120

Date of Birth: September 13, 1956

Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

V. Name of civic/community activities, position of leadership and dates of involvement:

[see attached document](#)

VI. Organizations and positions held: [see attached document](#)

VII. Awards and honors: [see attached document](#)

VIII. Additional comments: [see attached document](#)
