

Council to vote on MLK street Monday

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sites and make a recommendation as to which to rename and the cost of such a move.

Mitchell said Independence and Stonewall are ideal because of their visibility and less impact on property owners and businesses. Stonewall, the site Mitchell prefers, runs through the heart of the former Brooklyn community, a

former all-black neighborhood razed in the 1960s to make room for urban renewal. Stonewall is part of a bustling uptown district that includes Bank of America Stadium and proposed sites for a NASCAR Hall of Fame and Afro-American Cultural Center.

"Stonewall is becoming a tourist attraction," Mitchell said. "All that plays into the

visibility I was looking for."

Naming a street in King's honor would be acknowledgement of the civil rights giant's contributions to America, said Willie Ratchford, executive director of the Community Relations Committee.

"America has a tradition of honoring heroes, including statues and naming streets and schools after them," he

said. "Martin Luther King is one of America's best-known heroes, and a contemporary hero at that."

Previous attempts to name a Charlotte street have been unsuccessful. A drive to rename Beatties Ford Road failed 10 years ago after residents complained that changing the name would produce hardships from amending drivers' licenses to

creating new stationary that would reflect address changes.

"We're one of the last cities in North Carolina to have a street named after Dr. King," Mitchell said. "Wilmington, Ahoskie, Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Brevard has them. The question has always been why not the largest city?"

Said Ratchford: "It gives us

an opportunity on a daily basis to consider his role in helping the nation during a critical time in its history. I don't see him as a black hero. I see him as an American hero."

Mitchell said city council can set the tone with Monday's vote.

"I don't want a majority," he said. "I want it to be unanimous."

North Carolina Lottery approves statewide list of retail outlets

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM — The North Carolina Lottery Commission is closer to putting together a network of ticket retailers after approving a proposed contract with about 30 guidelines for stores.

A statewide database already has provided a list of 10,000 potential retailers, lottery executive director Tom Shaheen said. State law does not cap the number of places that will qualify to sell

lottery tickets, and it is unclear how many retailers will qualify to sell them.

Shaheen wants instant-win tickets on sale by April 5, followed by Powerball in July and other number games in the fall.

Some store owners already are figuring out their marketing plans.

"My plan is to put little top-pers out on the pumps and put a big sign on the road: 'Lottery tickets being sold,'" said Ben Dhillon, the owner

of Pit Stop Food & Beverage in Winston-Salem.

Dhillon said that between 500 and 600 people come to his store each day, and he expects that most of them would buy tickets.

"I wish we could start it tomorrow," he said.

The contract approved last week requires retailers to "make every effort" to display outside signs though local ordinances may block that from happening. Retailers also will be barred

from living in the same household as lottery employees and giving lottery employees large gifts.

They will have to undergo background checks, offer all available scratch tickets and pay a \$15 weekly fee for each location to help defray the costs of equipment. Retailers will keep 7 percent of their lottery sales and any bonuses that lottery officials award.

The profit margin is smaller than on many items in a

convenience store but retailers hope they will come out ahead if the lottery brings more people into the store.

"I think they would buy stuff in the store when they come to buy lottery tickets, and I think that would help the store," said Wilma Hall, the owner of Mimi's Mini Mart near High Rock Lake. "This would really be good for the fishermen and the hunters."

The contract allows tickets to be bought with cash,

checks, debit cards and gift cards but not with credit cards. They also cannot be bought with food stamps. Retailers will not be allowed to be "engaged exclusively" in lottery sales.

The lottery is expected to generate \$425 million in proceeds a year. Half is to go to hire elementary-school teachers and expand a pre-kindergarten program, 40 percent would go to help counties build schools and 10 percent would go to college scholarships.

France aims to put an end to arranged marriages

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According to official estimates, up to 100,000 young French women, mostly adolescents from families of immigrant origin, risk marriages forced by their families, regardless of the girls' feelings.

The French parliament unanimously passed a new law this month forbidding marriage of girls under 18 years of age. It provided for a probation period of two years after the marriage ceremony to allow spouses to demand annulment of a marriage.

The law provides for counseling, proof of consent, education in schools against such marriages, and for protection for women fleeing forced marriages.

"With this text we want to

improve the measures preventing violence in the family as well as the violation of women's rights," minister for justice Pascal Clement said during the parliament debate. But not everyone is convinced that the new law can end such practices.

"We are satisfied with the law itself," Clotilde Lepetit, law counselor for the women's rights groups 'Ni putes ni soumises' ('Neither whores nor slaves') said. "But now we wait for the results."

Khadija Aram, president of the association 'Women from Trappes and from Elsewhere' based in Trappes city on the outskirts of southern Paris says it will take mothers, not the law to stop forced marriages.

"Either elder women in the

families realize that forcing a girl to marry a man she does not love is wrong, or the law will remain dead letter," she said.

Aram said forcing girls into marriage arranged by the families is traditional in the Maghrib countries, but also in other societies in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia.

"Our mothers and grandmothers were forced by their own families to marry men they hardly had met before, and despite the sometimes unpleasant experiences they had to go through in such marriages, many women still believe that such a tradition is suitable for their own daughters and granddaughters," she said.

"Many of them still believe that love will come with the

daily routine of living with someone."

But despite such prevailing views, a growing number of the elderly women are coming to realize that the tradition is mistaken, Aram said.

"At our meetings, many women tell their own stories, and admit how dreadful such forced marriages were for them. And then they say, no, I do not want my daughters going through the same fate."

According to the ministry of social affairs, one French woman dies every four days as a result of violence within the family.

One out of 10 women, and one in three being treated in hospital emergencies claims to have been a victim of domestic violence.

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