

# Honor for coach may turn into street fight

Green Bay mayor's proposal to name road for McCarthy draws mixed reaction from aldermen

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Despite their appreciation for the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers, Green Bay aldermen are divided over whether to rename a street in honor of coach Mike McCarthy.

Some aldermen support Mayor Jim Schmitt's proposal to put up a permanent tribute to the coach whose team beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 in Super Bowl XLV.

But others oppose the street name change as needlessly difficult and expensive — and quite possibly, they say, a political ploy during a hard-fought campaign season.

At least one alderman thinks the tribute should be put on hold until after the city's mayoral election in April.



Schmitt

The debate erupted Wednesday — a day after Schmitt appeared at a Super Bowl rally at Lambeau Field with a McCarthy's Way street sign — with some aldermen decrying the issue as a political football.

Schmitt faces six challengers in his bid for re-election.

Alderman Jerry Wiezbiskie advocated postponing a decision until after the election.

"I think it's time that we put a lid on it — I really do,"

Wiezbiskie said.

On Wednesday, Schmitt said he had not decided which street, although he ruled out Oneida Street and Military Avenue. He said he would consider Ashland Avenue, Ridge Road and a smaller downtown street near the City Deck attraction.

The process could take several months, Schmitt added, saying that he would consult aldermen, property owners and possibly neighboring municipalities.

Renaming the street will require approval from the City Council and possibly support from neighboring municipalities.

Schmitt said he had no firm estimates on city costs for renaming a street. But he put the cost of each street sign at \$50 and said money should not be an issue.

Asked about the political overtones, he said: "This is an odd time of service. It's so politicized. Everything I do gets criticized."

► See Street, A-2