

October 7, 2014

Councilman Marshall Stair  
Chair  
Public Property Naming Committee  
City of Knoxville  
P.O. Box 1631  
Knoxville, TN 37901

Dear Councilman Stair,

I am writing to voice my support in renaming Leinard Lane, off of Neyland Drive, to Joan Cronan Way. Joan served the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with great integrity and enthusiasm for nearly thirty years as Women's Athletics Director. She oversaw and facilitated an athletics program which grew to become one of the most prominent and respected in the nation. She is also considered one of the winningest women's athletics directors in the country, as the Lady Vols earned ten NCAA national championship titles, forty-six top-five NCAA finishes, and twenty-nine Southeastern Conference championships under her leadership.

Her success at the university has allowed her to serve in many distinguished and prominent leadership roles on a national level. In 2010 she was appointed to the NCAA Division I Leadership Council, and in the 2008-2009 academic year she was selected as the president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics by her peers. A trailblazer in many respects, Joan became the first woman in SEC history to oversee both men's and women's athletics programs in the SEC when she stepped in to serve as Vice Chancellor & Director of Athletics in 2011. Cronan was named Women's Athletic Director Emeritus in July 2012, and up until her recent retirement, represented the university and community through speaking appearances in addition to her role as a senior advisor.

Joan epitomizes what it means to be a Tennessee Volunteer through her servant leadership, integrity, and ability to empower others to reach their full potential. This renaming is just another way to commemorate her leadership and legacy.

If I can be of assistance to you or answer any questions that you may have, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jimmy G. Cheek  
Chancellor

cc: The Honorable Madeline Rogero  
Sherri Lee  
Chris Cimino