



**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT
COMMISSION
HISTORICAL MARKER RECOMMENDATION**

PETITIONER: Alizina Wallace McCoy
St. Luke Baptist Church
418 West 38th Street
Savannah, GA 31401

FILE No.: 18-001181-COA

LOCATION: West 38th Street Between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and
Montgomery Street

DATE: April 5, 2018

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval for an honorary street designation. The block of West 38th Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Montgomery Street is proposed to be named Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way.

FINDINGS:

The standards in Article E. Section 4:1100-1108, which was adopted by City Council on October 26, 2017, apply to the honorary naming of the street:

Criteria:

- *All public property names should meet one of the following criteria:*
- *To honor and commemorate noteworthy person associated with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, State of Georgia, or the United States of America;*
- *To commemorate local history, places, events, or culture;*
- *To strengthen neighborhood identity;*
- *To recognize native wildlife or natural features*

The standards are met. The street is proposed to be named after Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken. The Rev. Dr. Lexcie E. Aiken and his wife First Lady Mary Wallace Aiken are proposed to be honored by the St. Luke Baptist Church, which is located at 418 West 38th Street. They have been at the church for 49 years and have served the community, particularly Carver Village. They founded the Feed-A-Meal program that serves people weekly and has been going on for 30 years. This designation will honor their impending retirement.

Restrictions:

- *Persons that resided in the City of Savannah for less than 5 years, other than prominent national figures;*
- *Names assigned to existing public property within the City or unincorporated Chatham County where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion;*
- *Except as set forth in Section 4-1106, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising*

The standards are met. None of these restrictions apply.

Considerations:

- *Naming requests shall take into account:*
- *The number of residents and businesses directly affected;*
- *Community diversity;*
- *The historical significance of preexisting name or location;*
- *The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area;*
- *The impact on emergency service delivery;*
- *Continuity and stability*

The standards are met. An honorary name on the block will not significantly impact businesses or residences and reflects the community in the area. The name is appropriate as this block is the location of the St. Luke Baptist Church. A petition was also provided with several hundred signatures supporting the naming.

Natural Person Name Request:

Requests should consider the following:

Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree for the permanent naming shall be deceased;

The standard does not apply. Honorary Street namings are temporary.

Whether the proposed namesake made a sustained contribution over an appreciable time period, exerted efforts of benefit or significance to local, state, or national affairs, and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;

Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community;

Achievement by a native Savannahian of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah

The standards are met. The Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken have contributed to the overall community and specifically to St. Luke's Church as well as the meal program run by the church. The Reverence also took part in Savannah's Civil Rights movement, including sit-ins, marches, and attending Savannah Barber College.

Honorary Street Designation Criteria:

- *The proposed namesake resided in the City for at least 5 years*

The standard is met. The Reverend has been serving the church since 1968.

- *Individual family tributes, commercially concerned, or corporate-related recognitions shall not be eligible for honorary designation*

The proposed honorary designation does not fall into these restrictions.

- *Roadways under the control of the Federal Highway Administration, GA Department of Transportation, or Chatham County are not subject to honorary naming*

The applicant must confirm that the road does not fall under the control of these organizations.

- *Honorary designations shall be limited to one approved designation per City Council member per calendar year. Requests will be reviewed and evaluated in the order in which they are received*

The designation is supported by Alderman Bill Durrence.

- *Recommendation of the HSMC are subject to approval by City Council*
- *Honorary signs may be mounted on the same post as the existing street sign or mounted free standing on a separate post. The City will maintain the sign after installation. Installation of the honorary sign(s) shall be within a reasonable time but no later than 45 days from the date of approval. The City shall replace signs stolen or damaged during the five-year approval period.*

The applicant must install the sign with 45 days of approval.

Public Notice: As required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property. A


sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received from the public.

RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL:

Approval for the honorary designation of the block of West 38th Street bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Montgomery Street as Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way with the following conditions:

1. The road is not under the control of the Federal Highway Administration, GA Department of Transportation, or Chatham County;
2. The street sign is installed within 45 days of City Council approval;


Because otherwise the standards are met.



Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chairman
Historic Site and Monument Commission
Date 4/13/18



Melony West, Interim Executive Director
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
Date 4-11-18



Ellen I. Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission
Date 4/11/18

EIH: sef