

MEMORANDUM

TO: Savannah - Chatham Historic Sites and Monuments Commission
FROM: Joe Shearouse Jr.
DATE: February 23, 2018
SUBJECT: **Honorary Street Designation Petition**

Street Name: West 38th Street
Honorary Designation: Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way
Location: West 38th, between MLK and Montgomery Street one street block
Applicant: Alizina Wallace McCoy, (912) 313-8276

This memo is a request to add this petition to a meeting agenda for the Sites and Monuments Commission's review and recommendation.

Attachments include:

1. Applicant's petition application
 - a. District Two Alderman Bill Durrence endorsement of petition request
 - b. Property owners support signatures
 - c. Historical contributions of Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken
2. Research Library and Municipal Archives application and historical review
 - a. Historical verification memo



Public Property Naming Application and Guideline

This application allows for the public to propose a name or to rename public property provided all the requirements outlined in Article E. Section 4:1100-1108 are met.

Criteria

All public property names should meet one of the following criteria:

- To honor and commemorate noteworthy persons 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; or
- To recognize native wildlife or natural features.

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; and
- Except as set forth in Section 4-1106, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising.

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; and
- Continuity and stability.

Natural Person Naming Request

Requests should consider following;

- Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree for permanent naming shall be deceased;
- 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; and
- Achievement by a native Savannahian of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah.

St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Aaron E. Cummings, Senior Pastor
418 W. 38th St., Savannah, GA 31401 – (912) 236.7755

February 8, 2018

Mayor & City Council
City of Savannah
Rob Hernandez, City Manager
City of Savannah
P.O. Box 1027
Savannah, GA 31402

Dear Mayor, City Council Aldermen, and City Manager Hernandez,

We the congregation of the St Luke Baptist Church located at 418 West 38th Street would like to request a street recognition name change for one block located on West 38th Street between MLK Blvd and Montgomery St (aerial map enclosed). This change request is in high recognition and sincere dedication to the 50 plus years of service our Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Lexcie E. Aiken and his faithful wife, our First Lady Mary Wallace Aiken has given to the St Luke congregation, the Metropolitan Community, the Carver Village Community and the numerous churches, organizations and civic groups located throughout Savannah and the Southeast region.

Pastor and First Lady Aiken has been a tremendous support system to the residents in the Metropolitan District. They were among the first to start the Wednesday, Feed-A- Meal program at St Luke where a hot meal is served to the people in the community weekly. This program has developed a following and people have been coming from near and far for the past 30 years to receive a fresh cooked meal. Pastor Aiken is a Savannah Civil Rights Pioneer and is highly regarded by his peers in and out of the ministry. Pastor Aiken has been Pastoring more than 50 plus years and 49 of those years has been at St Luke.

He recently announced his retirement plans with the church body and has set February 2017 as his retirement date. Upon his and first lady's retirement the congregation and the community would like to honor their years of service with this recognition and dedication of W. 38th Street between MLK Blvd and Montgomery St as *Rev. & Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way*.

It is our hope the City of Savannah will grant us an opportunity to show our gratitude and appreciation to these two wonderful servants of the church and community at large

Enclosed is a map of the area which highlights the church and its neighbors in each direction. If you have any question I can be reached by phone (912) 313-8276 or by contacting the church at (912) 236-7755

Respectfully Yours,

Alizina Wallace McCoy, MBA
Ministerial Staff
St Luke Missionary Baptist Church
Enclosure: aerial map

cc: Rev. Aaron E. Cummings, Senior Pastor St Luke Baptist Church,

Rev. Aaron E. Cummings, Senior Pastor ~ Rev. Lexcie E. Aiken, Pastor Emeritus
418 W. 38th St., Savannah, GA 31401 – (912) 236.7755

“History Behind us, Destiny before us”

Applicant Information

Name: ST Luke Baptist Church Phone Number: 912 313-8276

Address: 418 W. 38th St Savannah GA 31412

Email: alczina59@gmail.com

Request Type

- Honorary street designation
- Newly acquired or created public property or previously unnamed
- Public property renaming request

Property Type

- Park, playground, trail or recreation space
- Building or facility
- Street or roadway
- Other public property

Property Location

Property address and/ or location description:

West 38th St Between MLK + Montgomery, One block

Aldermanic District: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Present property name: West 38th St

Proposed Name: Rev. + Mrs Lexcie E. Aiken Way

Requirement Checklist for Re-naming Request

(Check each item to verify that all requirements are included along with this application according to requested property type.)

Honorary Street Designation

- The present official name of the street and proposed Honorary Designation
- Identify section of street to receive the designation
- A thorough discussion regarding the history of the street, including all prior names
- A statement of reasons supporting the honorary naming request
- Evidence that such person resided in the City of Savannah for at least five years during his/her lifetime
- Petition, in favor, by 51 percent of abutting property owners
- An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.
- A non-refundable fee of \$150

Street or Roadway

- The present official name of the street and proposed new name
- The specific location of the street or roadway
- A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request
- A thorough discussion regarding the history of the right-of-way, including all prior names
- A supporting petition signed by not less than 75 percent of all property owners abutting the public right-of-way
- An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the right-of-way is located

Park, playground, trail or recreation space

- The present official name of the street and proposed new name
- The specific location of the street or roadway
- A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request
- A thorough discussion regarding the history of the right-of-way, including all prior names
- A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the public right-of-way
- An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the right-of-way is located

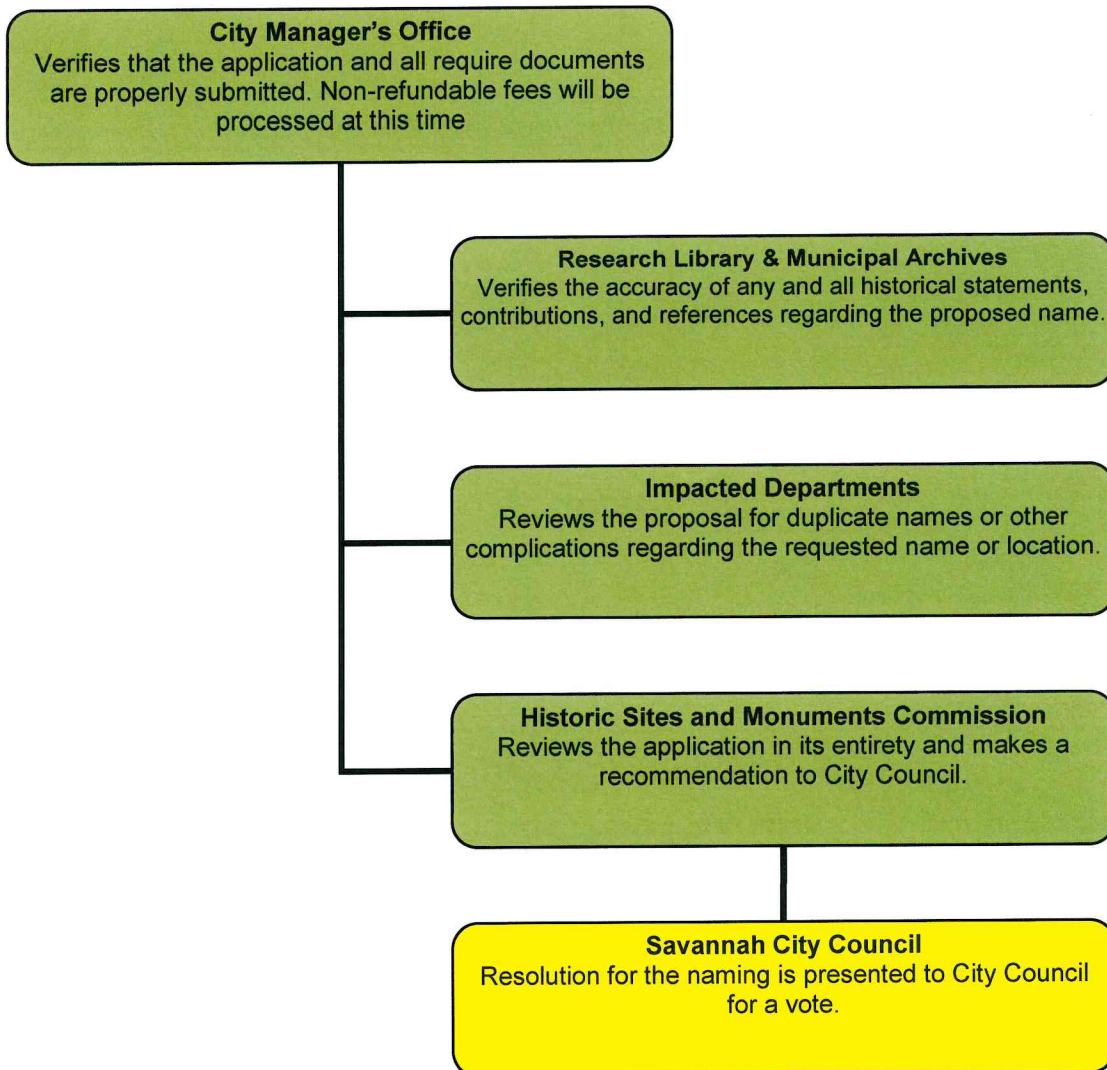
Building or Facility

- The present official name of the building, structure or facility
- The proposed new name
- The specific location of the property;
- A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;
- A thorough discussion regarding the history of the building, structure or facility
- An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the building, structure or facility is located.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES & APPROVAL PROCESS

All requests should be submitted to the City Manager's Office at;

*2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
ATTN: City Manager's Office- Public Property Naming Request*



Questions?
Contact the Office of the City Manager at (912) 651-6415.

**City of Savannah
Name Change Petition Form**

Page ___ of ___.

I (We) plan to request a name change with Savannah's City Council through the City Manager's Office.

I (We) understand that our address will change if a permanent street name request is approved by City Council.

Present Name: 38th St.

Proposed Name: Rev & Mrs Leticia Aiken Way

This is your opportunity to express your opinion about the proposed name change.

Owner

Tenant

ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	Owner		Tenant	
		Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
* 401 W. 37 th St. 2-0073-12-003	<i>A. W. McCreary</i>	✓			
* 423 W. 37 th St. 2-0073-12-001	<i>A. W. McCreary</i>	✓			
* 402 W. 38 th St. 2-0073-12-004	<i>A. W. McCreary</i>	✓			
* 404 W. 38 th St. 2-0073-12-005	<i>A. W. McCreary</i>	✓			
** 418 W. 38 th St. 2-0073-12-008	<i>A. W. McCreary</i>	-			
* 501 W. 38 th St. 2-0073-09-019	<i>A. W. McCreary</i>	✓			

* Properties abutting church owned by church.

** Church.

St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

HISTORY SUMMATION

On Tuesday, we began our 100th Church Anniversary. Each night you heard a portion of our rich history. Look where God has brought us from? Today, I will give you a brief summary of our church's history.

St. Luke Baptist Church was organized March 12, 1912, under the leadership of Rev. Alfred Wilder. Rev. Wilder started with seven loyal and dedicated members. The early church was located at the corner of West Boundary and Railroad Streets(now Louisville Road). A rapid growth in membership was experienced, and after 4 months from the date of its founding, a larger edifice was needed. The new edifice, a building once used by a Roman Catholic Congregation, was located at the corner of Berrien Street and Lumber Lane.

Our congregation continued to grow, and again in 1944 it was deemed that a larger building was needed. Property was purchased on Berrien Street at the corner of Pendergrass. The new edifice was erected, and on June 1946 it was dedicated to the Glory of God. St. Luke's congregation continued to grow and prosper. In anticipation of needing a larger building, property was purchased at our present site, 418 West 38th Street. The mortgage on this property was burned on the 3rd Sunday in January 1976. Groundbreaking ceremonies for our present edifice took place Thanksgiving Day 1979. Construction began in January 1980. The 3rd Sunday in December 1980, our congregation marched into our present edifice with our Pastor, Rev. Lexcie E. Aiken leading the way. Dedication services were held Sunday, January 25, 1981. In 1998, additional property adjacent to the church on the Montgomery Street side was acquired and paid off by February 2001. In December 2009, the church received a quick claim gift of property located at the corner of MLK and 38th street from a business man who told St. Luke it was a "business decision". And, the blessings don't stop there. In December 2010, God enabled St. Luke to purchase the property at the corner of MLK and 37th (bordering the westside) as well the property at the corner of Montgomery and 37th (bordering the eastside). God is so good. This was long sought after property. At one point, the owner wanted a million dollars for it. As Rev. Aiken often says, "Ain't nobody God but God". Eyes have not seen and ears have not heard what God has in store for those who love Him. Presently we have 17 active auxiliaries, 14 sons and 5 daughters; 13 deacons and 13 deaconess. A ministry most dear to our pastor and to us all is the weekly Feed-A-Meal Ministry. It was started when the feeding of the homeless and those in need in our church community seemed to be an after thought to others, but not to Rev. Aiken. Now, it is more than 19 years old and St. Luke has fed & clothed thousands and continues to do so in Jesus name. God continues to bless our pastor's ministry because he is so mindful to keep his little hand in God's big hand. An additional note woven into St. Luke's history is that our Under Shepherd, Pastor Lexcie E. Aiken, is the first minister from St. Luke to serve as Pastor of the Savannah Baptist Ministers Union. He served for two years. For the first time in the 100 year history of the St. Luke Baptist Church a women conducted/administered Communion in the person of Rev. Alberda Bryant on September 11, 2005. Rev. Aiken asked that this fact be made a permanent record of the church history. Rev. Bryant, a daughter of St. Luke, has preached and lead other worship services here at St. Luke, but never before had she handled Communion Services. At the time, Rev. Aiken and other St. Luke members were in attendance

at the National Baptist Convention of Georgia. On February 18, 2012 at the Centennial Gala, Mayor Edna Branch Jackson presented to Rev. Aiken and St. Luke Baptist Church a Proclamation in recognition of our 100th Church Anniversary. St. Luke received a double portion of a blessing in that The Honorable Edna Branch Jackson is Savannah's First African American female Mayor. What a time, what a time. St. Luke Baptist Church, from down in the bottom on Lumber Lane to up on the hill on Berrien Street to 38th Street on the Boulevard.

The following is a Chronology of the Pastors Serving St. Luke's Congregation

- Rev. Alfred Wilder 1912 - 1925
- Rev. Marion Wilder 1926 - 1935
- Rev. James S. Murray 1936 - 1942
- Rev. Samuel Archer 1943 - 1945
- Rev. James S. Murray 1946 - 1949
- Rev. William C. Cunningham 1950 - 1957
- Rev. J. J. Ewing 1958 - 1959
- Rev. Bing C. Thomas 1959 - 1967

Rev. Dr. Lexcie E. Aiken 1968 - the Present

Thanks be to God almighty for our growth and prosperity. We know that "God Did Not Bring Us This Far to Leave Us." We will continue to trust Him in all that we say and do. "We'll build our hope and our faith on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. On Christ the Solid Rock we stand, All other Ground is Sinking Sand."

Conclusion:

Rev. Dr. Lexcie E. Aiken served St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

until February 2017 for a total of

49 years



RECEIPT

Received Date: 2/12/18

Received By: Joe Shearouse Jr.

Amount: \$ 150

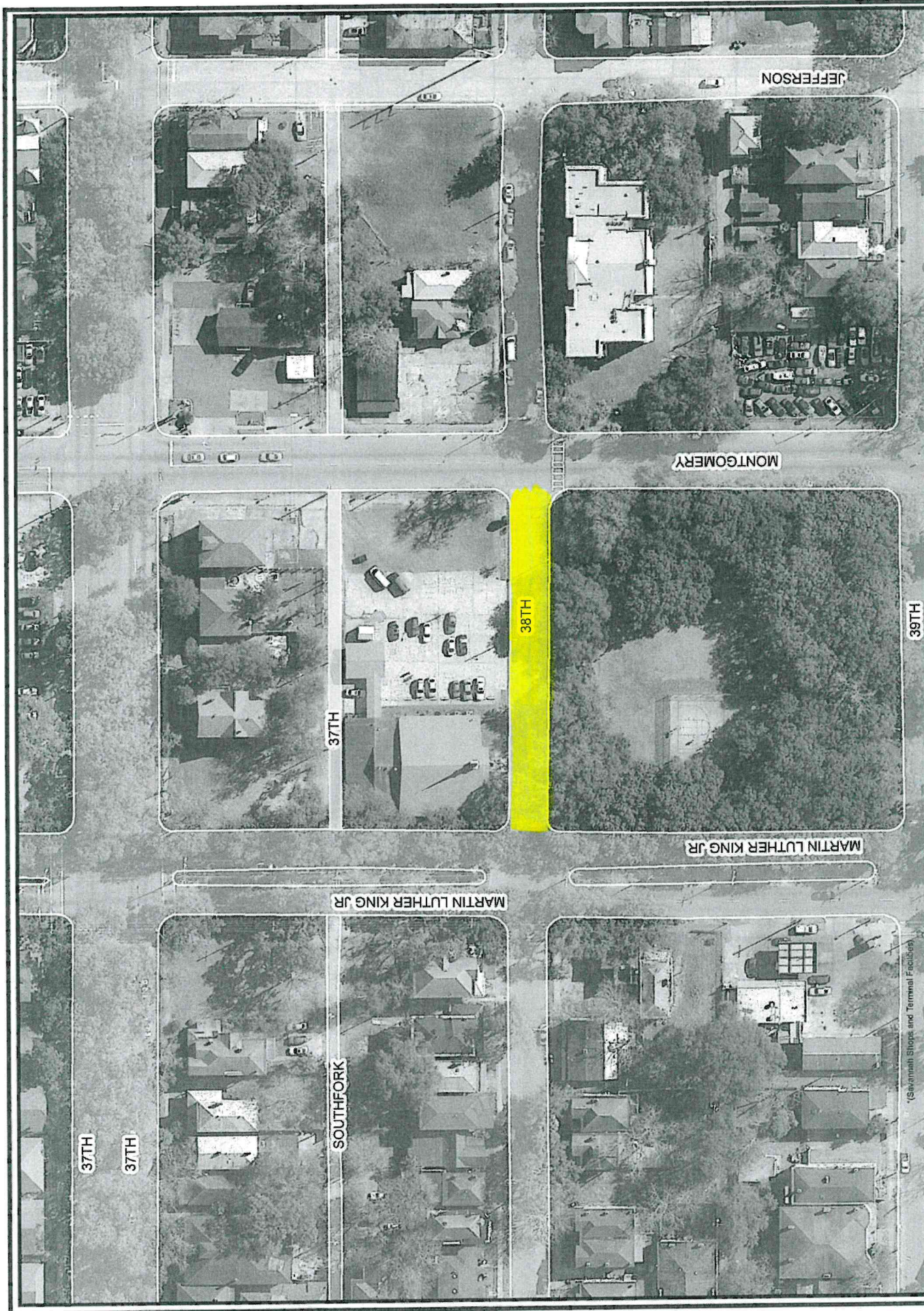
Signature: Joe Shearouse Jr.

Other Witness: Alyzma W. McCoy

Signature: Alyzma W. McCoy

COPY OF CHECK

ST LUKES BAPTIST CHURCH INC		3855
418 W 38TH ST SAVANNAH GA 31401-8806		64-5/610 GA 15214
DATE <u>2-11-18</u>		
PAY TO THE ORDER OF <u>City of Savannah</u>	\$ <u>150.00</u>	
<u>One Hundred + Fifty/00</u>	DOLLARS	
Bank of America		
ACH R/T 061000052		
FOR <u>Street Renaming</u>	<u>Shepard King</u>	
⑈003855⑈ ⑆061000052⑆ 334038909016⑈		



CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
 110 E. STATE ST. SAVANNAH, GA 31412-8246 PHONE 912-851-1440



1 inch = 100 feet



Date: 12/5/2016

THIS MAP IS A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND SCALES. IN MOST CASES THE INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN FIELD VERIFIED. **USE THIS MAP FOR GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.**



CITY OF SAVANNAH-CITY COUNCIL

Bill Durrence
Alderman, District 2

February 21, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this as my endorsement of the honorary designation of West 38th Street as Rev. and Mrs. Lexie E. Aiken Way to commemorate the years of service this couple has contributed to our community.

Bill Durrence

ARTICLE E. – NAMING AND RENAMING OF PUBLIC PROPERTY, FACILITIES AND STREETS.

Section 4-1100. - General policy.

As a general policy, the Mayor and Aldermen find that public property should be named after its principal function, location, or historical reference; however, significant community events, organizations or well-known persons with important contributions to the community, state or nation may deserve public recognition, which may occur by way of naming or renaming public rights-of-way or facilities.


Section 4-1101- Naming criteria and requirements.

- (a) Naming or renaming of a public right-of-way or facility shall occur only when the proposed naming or renaming satisfied at least one of the following criteria:
 - (1) It honors and commemorates a noteworthy person associated with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, the State of Georgia or the United States of America;
 - (2) It commemorates local history, places, events or culture;
 - (3) It will strengthen neighborhood identity; or
 - (4) It recognizes native wildlife or natural geographical features.

- (b) The following shall not be considered for purposes of naming or renaming:
 - (1) Persons that resided in the City of Savannah for less than 5 years, other than prominent national figures;
 - (2) Names assigned to existing public property within the City or unincorporated Chatham County where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion; and
 - (3) Except as set forth in Section 4-1106 of this Article, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising.

- (c) Naming requests shall consider:
 - (1) The number of residents and businesses directly affected;
 - (2) Community diversity;
 - (3) The historical significance of preexisting name or location;
 - (4) The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area;
 - (5) The impact on emergency service delivery; and
 - (6) Continuity and stability.

- (d) Requests to name a public right-of-way or facility in honor of a natural person should also consider the following:
 - (1) Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree shall be deceased;
 - (2) 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;
 - (3) Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community; and
 - (4) Achievement by a native Savannahian of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah.

Section 4-1102. - Naming new facilities or public property.

- (a) All requests to name newly acquired, created or previously unnamed public property shall be made in writing and directed to the attention of the City Manager. Such requests shall include:
 - (1) The precise location and description of the subject property;
 - (2) A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property or surrounding area, as may be applicable;
 - (3) The name, address and contact information of the requestor; and
 - (4) An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.
- (b) Upon receipt of a property naming request submitted pursuant to this section, the City Manager shall submit the request to the Historic Sites and Monuments Commission. The Commission shall consider the requirements of this Article and submit a recommendation to the City Manager for presentation to the Mayor and Aldermen no later than 120 days after receipt of the request. Recommendations are subject to approval by City Council.

Section 4-1103 – Renaming of public property, facilities or streets.

- (a) All requests to rename public property shall be made in writing and directed to the attention of the City Manager. Such requests shall include:
 - (1) In the instance of a street or roadway:
 - (A) A supporting petition signed by not less than 75 percent of all property owners abutting the public right-of-way;
 - (B) The present official name of the street;
 - (C) The proposed new name;
 - (D) The specific location of the street or roadway;
 - (E) The name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;
 - (F) A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;
 - (G) A thorough discussion regarding the history of the right-of-way, including all prior names associated therewith; and
 - (H) An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the right-of-way is located.
 - (2) In the instance of a park, playground, trail, recreational area or space:

- (A) A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject property;
 - (B) The present official name of the property;
 - (C) The proposed new name;
 - (D) The specific location of the property;
 - (E) The name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;
 - (F) A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;
 - (G) A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property, including all prior names associated therewith; and
 - (H) An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.
- (3) In the instance of a building, structure or facility:
- (A) The present official name of the building, structure or facility;
 - (B) The proposed new name;
 - (C) The specific location of the property;
 - (D) The name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;
 - (E) A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;
 - (F) A thorough discussion regarding the history of the building, structure or facility, including all prior names associated therewith; and
 - (G) An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the building, structure or facility is located.
- (4) In the instance of all other public property:
- (A) The present official name of the property;
 - (B) The proposed new name;
 - (C) The specific location of the property;
 - (D) The name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;
 - (E) A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;
 - (F) A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property, including all prior names associated therewith; and
 - (G) An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.

Section 4-1104 – Honorary Street Naming Designations.

- (a) Honorary street name designations are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the City. Where deemed consistent with the objectives of this section, the designation will be a temporary assignment of the honorarium and shall be in addition to the official name of an existing right-of-way.

- (b) Requests to affix an honorary designation to a public right-of-way shall be made in writing and directed to the attention of the City Manager. Submissions shall include:
 - (1) Identification of the particular section or block of an existing City street for which the honorary designation is sought.
 - (2) A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject right-of-way;
 - (3) The present official name of the right-of-way;
 - (4) The proposed honorary designation;
 - (5) The name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;
 - (6) A statement of reasons supporting the honorary naming request, including a discussion of the historical significance, contributions, heroic service or personal sacrifice by the honoree to the City, state or nation;
 - (7) A discussion regarding the history of the property, including all prior names associated therewith; and
 - (8) An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.


- (c) Honorary designations may be bestowed under the following non-exclusive circumstances:
 - (1) Where 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;
 - (2) Where the proposed namesake made contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community;
 - (3) Where the proposed namesake is a native Savannahian whom achieved national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah; or
 - (4) Where the proposed namesake resided in the City for at least 5 years.

- (d) Individual family tributes, commercially concerned and corporate-related recognitions shall not be eligible for honorary designation.

- (e) Roadways under the control of the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation or Chatham County are not subject to honorary naming.

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

- (g) Upon receipt of a request submitted pursuant to this section, the City Manager shall submit the request to the Historic Sites and Monuments Commission. The Commission shall consider the requirements of this section and submit a recommendation to the City Manager for presentation to the Mayor and Aldermen no later than 120 days after receipt of the request. Recommendations are subject to approval by City Council.

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- (h) Requests approved by the Mayor and Aldermen shall be effective for five years from the date of such approval. The City may remove the sign at the end of the five-year period. If requested, the sign may be given to the applicant, honoree, or a family member of the honoree.
 - (i) Renewal requests may be submitted; provided, however that they are transmitted no less than 60 days before the termination of the effective period. Renewal requests will not be given priority over pending honorary designation requests, if any.
 - (j) 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.
 - (k) Along with any application submitted, the applicant shall include payment of a non-refundable fee to defray the costs associated with the review, design, fabrication, installation and maintenance of the sign. The fee shall be charged as set forth in the City's annual Revenue Ordinance. All fees will be deposited in the City's General Fund upon receipt. Fees and costs shall not be waived unless the honorary designation is initiated by City Council.

Section 4-1105. – Naming Dedication Ceremony

An applicant may request a dedication ceremony at the time application is made to the City Manager. The City Manager, or his designee, shall be responsible for scheduling such ceremony.

Section 4-1106. – Donations and Gifts

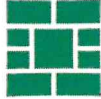
A donation or gift of land, goods, funding, equipment or other items may constitute a basis upon which to name or rename public property. The donation or gift shall be documented and recorded by the Clerk of Council.

Section 4-1107. - Notification of street name changes; publishing and posting of notices.

When the name of a street permanently has been changed pursuant to this Article, the public works administrator shall notify utility companies and interested state and local agencies of the street name change. Notifications may encompass more than one renaming event and may be provided by publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Section 4-1108. - Discontinuance.

The City retains the right to reject, discontinue or abandon any naming that occurred pursuant to this Article when deemed in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of its residents and visitors.



memo

To: Joseph Shearouse, Jr.
From: Luciana Spracher, Municipal Records & Archives Director *LMS*
Date: February 22, 2018
Re: Honorary Street Designation Request: Rev. & Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way

The Municipal Records & Archives Division "Verifies the accuracy of any and all historical statements, contributions, and references regarding the proposed name."

Current Name: West 38th Street (400 block)

Proposed Name: Rev. & Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way

Location: 400 block of West 38th Street, between Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Montgomery Street

Applicant: St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 418 W. 38th Street, Savannah, GA 31401, contact Alizina McCoy, (912) 313-8276, alizina59@gmail.com

Requirement Checklist for Honorary Street Designation

- ⊗ The present official name of the street and proposed Honorary Designation;
- ⊗ Identify section of street to receive designation;
- A thorough discussion regarding the history of the street, including all prior names;
- ⊗ A statement of reasons supporting the honorary naming request;
- ⊗ Evidence that such person resided in the City of Savannah for at least five years during his/her lifetime;
- ⊗ Petition, in favor, by 51 percent of abutting property owners;
- ⊗ An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located;
- ⊗ A non-refundable fee of \$150.

Comments/Recommendations:

1. The application lacks a discussion of the history of 38th Street and prior names, but Municipal Records and Archives staff does not feel that is of great significance since this is an Honorary Street Naming Designation which will be in addition to the 38th Street name (not a renaming).

Criteria

All public property names should meet one of the following criteria:

- To honor and commemorate noteworthy persons 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; or
- To recognize native wildlife or natural features.

Comments/Recommendations:

1. The application states "Pastor Aiken is a Savannah Civil Rights Pioneer and is highly regarded by his peers in and out of the ministry. Pastor Aiken has been Pastoring more than 50 plus years and 49 of those years has been at St. Luke." The Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association, Inc., a 501c3 organization that has operated continuously in Savannah since 1985, recognized Rev. Dr. Lexcie E. Aiken as one of their MLK 2014 Civil Rights Activists honorees. In their short biography of Rev. Aiken they highlighted his service as a Baptist pastor, as well as participation in the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah (see attachment). Rev. Aiken was active in protest marches spearheaded by the Savannah Branch NAACP and Hosea Williams, including sit-ins at local cafeterias, marches to the Chatham County Jail, Court House, and down West Broad Street. They also noted Rev. Aiken's integration of the Savannah Barber College and that he was the first black Shipping Clerk at the Savannah Sugar Refinery.

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; and
- Except as set forth in Section 4-1106, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising.

Comments/Recommendations:

1. Not applicable

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; and
- Continuity and stability.

Comments/Recommendations:

1. The 400 block of West 38th Street is completely bounded on the north side by property owned by St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church (the applicant), and on the south side by Wells Square, owned by the City of Savannah.

Natural Person Naming Request

Requests should consider following:

- ⊗ Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree for permanent naming shall be deceased;
- ⊗ 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; and
- Achievement by a native Savannahian of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah.

Comments/Recommendations:

1. Rev. Aiken is still alive. However, this is an Honorary Street Naming request which is not a permanent name change.
2. Based on the documented contributions of Rev. Aiken to Savannah's Civil Rights Movement, Municipal Records and Archives staff believes he has demonstrated significant leadership at the local level.

Municipal Records & Archives Recommendations

1. Recommend approval of Honorary Street Naming Designation of 400 Block of West 38th Street, between Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Montgomery Street, to Rev. & Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way.

Attachments:

"MLK 2014 Civil Rights Activists: Rev. Dr. Lexcie Aiken," MLK Jr. Observance Day Association, Inc. (available online at: http://mlkingsavannah.com/Bio_LexcieAikens2.pdf, last accessed 22 February 2018).



MLK 2014 CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS REV. DR. LEXCIE AIKEN

Regarding "Faith and Religion" the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "A religion true to its nature must also be concerned about man's social conditions. Religion deals with both earth and heaven, both time and eternity. Religion operates not only on the vertical plane but also in the horizontal. It seeks not only to integrate men with God but to integrate men with men and each man with himself." Rev. Dr. Lexcie E. Aiken, being the son of a Black Baptist Preacher and a former United States Army Airborne Trooper operated on both these planes. He was a foot soldier in both instances.

As a young man in his twenties, Rev. Aiken saw the need and was compelled to take part in the Civil Rights struggle during the turbulent sixties, from 1962 to 1965. During the early sixties, he took part in protest marches spearheaded by the NAACP and Hosea Williams. Rev. L. E. Aiken, Ulysses Cook, LeDemus Roberts and Ben in a group of about 200 to 300 young people took part in a "Sit-In to integrate Morrison Cafeteria" then located at Bull and Congress Street (1964-65). Many were arrested over the years, Morrison Cafeteria's name was changed to Piccadilly and it moved from downtown Savannah to Oglethorpe Mall. During the sit-in, one of the protest chants was, "We came to integrate and not mess up. The last one hired and the first one fired."

Rev. Aiken also took part in a protest march to the jail located at Habersham and Oglethorpe Street (which is now the SPD Head Quarters). This was a group of about 600 marching to protest the jailing of other marchers who had been arrested and were still in jail (1962-63). In yet another March, headed by Hosea Williams, Rev. Aiken and about 30 guys from Union Camp and Savannah Sugar Refinery took part in a March for "Equality and Justice" (1964). He also participated in a Mass Meeting Protest March down West Broad Street (now MLK Blvd.). Some churches along the March route were afraid to open their doors to a Mass Meeting. On this occasion, First Union Baptist Church in Frogtown was not afraid. The Mass Meeting was held there. The protest chant for this Mass Meeting March was, "Who side your on boy" (1964). On a family note, Rev. Aiken's older brother, Rev. Charles W. Aiken, permitted Mass Meetings to be held at his church, Fairlawn Baptist Church in Garden City.

Rev. Aiken not only participated in the Civil Rights struggle in Mass Protests or Marches, he also continued the fight on a personal level. In 1963, Savannah Barber College (which was affiliated with Savannah Tech) was not allowing Blacks to attend or

register. Rev. Aiken wrote to the VA (Veterans Administration) making arrangements to attend school there. After receiving his VA paper work, he and a friend went to Savannah Barber College to register for classes. With his VA papers in hand and the possible closure of the school for their failure to accept a veteran, he was able to register. Therefore, Rev. Aiken has both Barbering and Baptizing skills. Rev. Aiken has other personal experiences in the struggle. Ask him and he might tell you about a story of a young man in the late 50's on a bus with a live chicken, or a lunch counter incident as a young husband visiting his wife (Mrs. Mary Aiken) who worked at Kress (1961-62).

In 1968, after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the looming concern that the Civil Rights Movement would not continue because the people might lose heart, Rev. Aiken took part in a "Solidarity March" down to the old Court House. The intent of the March was to show that the Civil Rights Movement would continue. It would not stop.

In a final personal note, Rev. Aiken was the first Black Shipping Clerk at Savannah Sugar/Savannah Sugar Refinery, from 1968 to his retirement in 1990.