



S A V A N N A H - C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Petitioner: Eunorous T. Dixon
File No.: 26-00 37972-HM
Address: 5201 Montgomery Street
PIN: 20111 13001
Staff Reviewer: Alexander Merced
Date: September 3, 2026

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant would like to create an Honorary Street Designation on the section of Montgomery Street in front of Jonesville Baptist Church, to be named "Bishop James G Rodges Interchange". An honorary street sign will be installed below the existing street sign on the same pole, and the designation will run between Staley Avenue on the north and 5207 Montgomery Street on the south.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art apply:

Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets.

Honorary Street Naming Designations.

General. 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 sections, 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.

Application requirements. 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:

Identification of the particular section or block of an existing City street for which the honorary designation is sought;

A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject right-of-way;

The present official name of the right of way;

The proposed honorary designation;

The name address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;

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*A statement of reasons supporting the honorary renaming request, including a discussion of the historical significance, contributions, heroic service or personal sacrifice by the honoree to the City, state or nation;
A thorough discussion regarding the history of the right-of-way, including all prior names associated therewith; and
An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.*

All of the above items have been provided by the applicant. The standards are met.

Circumstances. *Honorary designations may be bestowed under the following non-exclusive circumstances:*

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;

Where the proposed namesake made contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community;

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

Where the proposed namesake resided in Savannah for at least five years.

The proposed namesake has been the pastor of the Jonesville Baptist Church since 1988 and has benefitted the congregation and community in many ways including a yearly Christmas toy drive, a scholarship program, an annual Thanksgiving dinner for a local children's shelter, and a monthly grocery giveaway for senior citizens. Bishop Rodges has also ensured that the Church has remained a polling location for the Tatenville Community. The standard is met.

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

Limitation. *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.*

Review process. *Upon receipt of a request submitted pursuant to this section, the City Manager shall submit the request to the Historic Site and Monument 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.*

Effective period. *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.*

Renewals. *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.*

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Signs. *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 signs(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 sign will be mounted on the same post as the existing street sign. The standard is met.

Fees. *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.*

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RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval to the Savannah City Council for the honorary street renaming at 5201 Montgomery Street as requested, to be docketed on an upcoming City Council agenda because the proposed work meets the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art and within Article E: Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities, or Streets.

Signed by:

Catherine Kostilnik

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**Catherine D. Kostilnik, Chair
Historic Site and Monument Commission**

09/03/2026

Date

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Melanie Wilson

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**Melanie Wilson, Executive Director and CEO
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission**

09/03/2026

Date

DocuSigned by:

Caitlin Chamberlain

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**Caitlin Chamberlain, Director of Historic Preservation
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission**

09/03/2026

Date