

206 E. Gaston St  
Savannah, GA 31401

1 July, 2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** ROSSIE NORRIS <r.norris868@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 2:05 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming Calhoun Sq.; Susie King Taylor Square

Mayor, City Council, Commissioners,

Moving to Savannah almost 20 years ago, I found the city to be aesthetically pleasing with good food, a subtropical climate, and a less expensive to live.

Before the actual move, I knew little about the "Hostess" city and more about Atlanta. But ever curious I wanted to check it out. Going online, I found the landscape; the Squares laid out by Oglethorpe, the Victorian houses downtown representing the antebellum South, the trolley's, City Market and famous River St. of course. I discovered Tybee Island, Savannah State University founded for free enslaved people and Paula Deens restaurant where tourist stood in line for hours waiting to dine on southern cuisine.

What I did not find was anything in the travel brochures that showed pictures or told the story of the History of Slavery that took place in Savannah. Savannah has an African American Population of roughly 52 percent, it was higher 20 years ago. Yet, I saw nothing that let me know that more than half the residents in "the Hostess City" were African Americans. I read the stats, but there was little if any representation in the brochures. Nor was there much listed about their accomplishments, businesses, or neighborhoods. Where were they in those brochures I pondered?

Almost 20 years later, As a retired teacher, my answer would be: **Erased.** Invisible in an odd kind of way. Of course, I see them now since I live here. Yet, in some ways their contributions writ large, presence and power still seems historically vague here. As a taxpayer, I am aware of the stats about income disparities, housing and educational disparities and the current gentrification going on in Savannah only too well. So I won't list them here. But I know they are abysmal.

Just think what renaming the square, **Susie King Taylor Square** could mean to those African American families who feel and are left out in many ways here. Perhaps a sense of pride? dignity? Contribution that someone who looks like them finally has a prominent place in the History of this quiet southern city. Might young Black men who see this new name and who might otherwise be inclined to join a gang, be prompted to believe there might be ancestors who paved a way for him and choose differently?

Adding more police might not reduce crime in our city, but feeling as if one Belongs and has a Place here, will. Browsing online recently, I note there was just ONE African American Tour company listed, I saw few if any other African American businesses mentioned. Twenty years have passed and sadly the Erasure and invisibility of Black progress in Savannah persists.

You have a "golden" opportunity to make historic change in "The Hostess City" by renaming the square in question, **Susie King Taylor Square.** I implore you to do your part, on your watch, to stop the historical erasure of African American history in Savannah with this act. I would love to see this in the brochures going forward.

Thanks for listening,  
Rossie Norris, CURE  
125 Oak Point Trail  
Savannah 31419  
7/2/2023

## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Marty B <martyb871@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 5:14 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] rename square

I support renaming the former Calhoun Square Susie King Taylor Square.

Marty Coolidge  
[martyb871@gmail.com](mailto:martyb871@gmail.com)  
33 Shipwatch Rd.  
Savannah, GA 31410

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** ou <savannahgoob1@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 6:31 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Calhoun/Susie King Taylor Square

My name is Chris Gooby and I live at 2407 Salcedo Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31406. I fully support changing the name of Calhoun Square to Susie King Taylor Square, which would be much fitter for Savannah.

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Tina <ntausting@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 1, 2023 9:45 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming Calhoun square

I vote for susie King Taylor

Tina Austing

7Windlass ct

Savannah ga 31411

July 1,2023

Sent from my iPhone

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** tobyjanemail@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 1, 2023 10:08 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Naming of Square

To Mayor Johnson & Members of City Council

This letter is in support of naming the former Calhoun Square for Susie King Taylor. I believe strongly that Susie King Taylor Square is very appropriate name for the square. and support friends who live on the square in their desire to see it thusly renamed. Although I do not live there, I am regularly going through the square on my way to services and events at Congregation Mickve Israel of which I am an active member. I often park around that square.

No square is named for a woman or a person of color. SKT also deserves this honor because of her bravery during the Civil War. She was born in GA and lived in Savannah during the war. I'm sure you know her

Story and hopefully realize that she is deserving of this honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Toby Hollenberg  
1 Sandy Run Lane  
Savannah, GA 31411

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Bruce <17bcohen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 1, 2023 4:20 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Naming Square the Susie King Taylor Square

Dear Savannah officials,

We read carefully all of the summaries for proposed names for the former Calhoun Square. Thank you for providing such detail to all Savannahians. Indeed, there are many thoughtful suggestions. After reviewing them all, we feel that Susie King Taylor best represents our neighborhood, our community, our region, and our country. Having the first square named for an African American woman highlights Savannah's commitment to understanding our past and moving forward towards our future. Recognizing Susie King Taylor's contributions will be welcomed not only by Savannah by it also serve as a beacon for the many visitors our wonderful city attracts.

Please name this square Susie King Taylor Square.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bruce Cohen and Karen Bluestone  
222 E Waldburg St, Apt A  
Savannah, GA 31401

Sent from my iPad

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** ANN FENSTERMACHER <ttann@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 1, 2023 7:33 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Fwd: Name the square

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** ANN FENSTERMACHER <ttann@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Name the square  
**Date:** July 1, 2023 at 3:00:29 PM EDT  
**To:** squares@savannahga.gov

SUSIE KING TAYLOR!!! Savannah can be a ground breaker...a Deep South city that CHOOSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE the contributions of a Black Woman of note.

Name the square for Savannah's own SUSIE KING TAYLOR, a remarkable woman whose name we all would be familiar with had she been born white like Clara Barton with whom she worked. The coalition that has done so much laudatory work to educate the city about Susie King Taylor, and without whose efforts the city would still suffer from the association with the Calhoun name, should receive a formal acknowledgement of thanks for their dedicated effort.

As the first square named in honor of a woman, the coalition suggested that all the benches in the square could be used to honor other women of historical note - an idea I love. I can foresee Taylor Square being a favorite go-to destination for my friends and family that visit me, so I can show off with pride my city's embrace of remarkable women overlooked by history but none the less extraordinary contributors to the advancement of this countries ideals and honored by Savannah.

Earnestly,

Ann G. Fenstermacher, 7/1/2023  
12 Priory Rd.  
Savannah, GA 31411

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Lynn Weddle <lweddle5@live.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 2:14 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Square Name Change

**Importance:** High

My husband and I have lived on the square formerly known as Calhoun since May 1, 2017, at 122 E Taylor Street. We submit that our square be named after Susie King Taylor. Renaming this square after SKT meets all criteria and requirements as outlined in the document (Article E. Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets).

Susie King Taylor exemplified bravery and humanity—she was a teacher, the first Black Army nurse during the American Civil War, and the only formerly enslaved woman to publish a memoir of her experiences. She learned to read and write at a time when it was forbidden for the enslaved and then gave back by teaching others to read and write through the school she established while living in Savannah, Georgia. In two short years, she opened and taught formerly enslaved people at least at three schools in Georgia. In 2018, Susie King Taylor was elected to the Georgia Women of Achievement Hall of Fame due to her many significant contributions.

Further, none of the 22 squares in Savannah, Georgia is named after a female or a former enslaved person—enslaved people built this city and *finally* should be honored with a name on our square. And, though they are different “Taylors”, Taylor Square on Taylor Street is easy to remember!

Sincerely,  
Lynn Weddle & Bud Green

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Susan Bernard <susandarisa@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 1:06 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Support for Susie King Taylor Square

To: Mayor Johnson, Members of City Council, Park & Tree commission, Monuments & Sites Committee I strongly support the name of Susie King Taylor for the new name of the former Calhoun Sq.

Born into slavery, she moved to Savannah at the age of 8. She was taught how to read which was forbidden at that time & then taught many slaves to read. She later became a nurse & even wrote a memoir of her life. She should be honored in this way & recognized as the only woman & person of color to be recognized to have this honor.

Please consider naming the square on Abercorn St for SKT.

Susan Bernard  
1322 NE 36th St  
Savannah, 31404  
6/30/23

Sent from my iPhone

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Connie Boole <cboole58@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 8:22 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Fwd: Renaming the former Calhoun Square

Connie Boole  
10995 Williamsburg Rd  
Savannah, GA 31419

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Connie Boole** <cboole58@gmail.com>  
Date: Thu, Jun 29, 2023, 5:33 PM  
Subject: Renaming the former Calhoun Square  
To: <square@savannahga.gov>

To whom it may concern:

As a citizen of Savannah, I wholeheartedly support renaming the square for Susie King Taylor. Her accomplishments as a nurse and teacher make her aptly suited for this honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Connie Boole  
Savannah resident

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Connie Boole <cboole58@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 5:33 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the former Calhoun Square

To whom it may concern:

As a citizen of Savannah, I wholeheartedly support renaming the square for Susie King Taylor. Her accomplishments as a nurse and teacher make her aptly suited for this honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Connie Boole  
Savannah resident

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Lynda DeLoach <ltd46@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 6:26 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Cc:** PATT GUNN; Peggy Hilleary  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Support Letter for SUSIE KING TAYLOR SQUARE

June 29th, 2023

Dear City of Savannah officials/staff:

I support naming the unnamed square (formally Calhoun Square) SUSIE KING TAYLOR SQUARE.

- Taylor Square will be Savannah's first square to honor an African American and a woman.
- Taylor Square—along with the recently named Yamacraw Square—will expand Savannah's historical narrative beyond the legacy of white men and Confederate mythology.
- Taylor Square will be Savannah's first square to invite public scrutiny about slavery in Savannah.
- Taylor Square is the right choice to advance Savannah's social justice objective.

After 158 years, SUSIE KING TAYLOR SQUARE is part of the ongoing process of racial healing in Savannah--a process that benefits ALL Savannah taxpayers, residents and visitors.

Sincerely,  
Lynda DeLoach  
1401 Bel-Aire Drive  
Savannah, Georgia 31415

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Sharon Galin <savseen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 4:19 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Support for Susie King Taylor for name of Square on Abercorn

To: Mayor Johnson & Members of City Council, Park Tree & Sites Committee and Monuments Commission

This letter is in support of naming the former Calhoun Square for Susie King Taylor. We have worked on this renaming for 2 years and still feel strongly that Taylor Square is very appropriate for the square on which we live.

No square is named for a woman or a person of color. SKT also deserves this honor because of her bravery during the Civil War. She was born in GA and lived in Savannah during the war. She taught so many to read, and became a nurse. It is so appropriate also, since she was a teacher, to have her name on the same square as Massie Heritage Center which was one of the oldest schools in GA. She is deserving of this honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon & Murray Galin  
426 Abercorn St.  
Savannah, 31401  
6/29/2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** ROSSIE NORRIS <r.norris868@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 4:29 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Susie King Taylor Square

I am writing in support of the name change to the square: Susie King Taylor Square.

Rossie Norris, CURE  
125 oak pointe Trail  
Savannah 31419  
6/29/2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Amy Kaminsky <kamin001@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 11:55 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] name square for Susie King Taylor

Hello.

This is to reiterate my strong support for naming the square formerly known as Calhoun for Susie King Taylor, whose contribution to Savannah and to the nation deserves to be recognized.

Sincerely,  
Amy Kaminsky  
733 E Henry St B  
Savannah 31401

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** MARK JACKOVICH <jackovich@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the square

Please rename the square for Susie King Taylor.

Mark Jackovich

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** MARGARET CLAY <margaretclay@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] In support of naming Taylor Square

Today, June 29, 2023, I give my full support that the formerly named Calhoun Square be named after Susie King Taylor. The multiple reasons have been given over and over for several years. I support them all.

By honoring the human infrastructure of this city, particularly a powerful, Black, formerly enslaved, educator, nurse, servant, woman who's from Savannah, we take another step towards healing our community and bringing our community together.

Thank you.

Margaret L. Clay, MA, CSC  
IFS-informed Life Coach  
1207 East 52nd Street  
Savannah, GA  
912-508-2805  
Poems and stories: <https://margaretclay.substack.com/>  
Books and art for sale: <http://etsy.com/shop/margaretclay>

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** JIM HILLEARY <hillearyjim@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 10:23 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Susie King Taylor

As a resident of Chatham County, I am offering my support for naming the square in honor of Susie King Taylor. Her connections to Savannah are strong and her contributions to the Civil War and post-war eras are undeniably significant. In addition, a modern Savannah needs to recognize a woman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

J. Hilleary Sent from my iPhone

J. Hilleary

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Cam Mathis <cmathis101@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Rename Square to Susie King Taylor...

I would like to cast my support for the renaming of Calhoun Square to "Susie King Taylor".

Thank you for this opportunity for community input.

Cornelia Ann Mathis  
2038 Grove Point Rd  
Savannah 31419  
June 29, 2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Phil Starks <pstarks129@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:55 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming Square

Hi, my name is Philip Starks and I live at 1615 E Henry St 31404. I am in full support in renaming the square at Abercorn and Taylee street to "Susie King Taylor".

Thank you so much,  
Philip Starks

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Ben Goggins <bengoggins9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:36 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Susie King Taylor

Please name the former Calhoun Square, after the extraordinary local woman, Susie King Taylor.

Ben Goggins  
PO Box 53  
Tybee Island GA 31328  
912-547-3074

Sent from my iPhone

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Carol Solon <carolmanny@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:55 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Support the name Susie King Taylor

Carol Solon, 10 Peaberry Lane, 31419  
215-817-72 58

Sent from my iPhone

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** ekhardnett@outlook.com  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 7:54 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Square naming.

I humbly send my vote in for Susie King Taylor as the name to replace Calhoun square.

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Liz Johnson <lizmjohnson@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Susie King Taylor

I vote for Susie King Taylor because the naming of the square after her would acknowledge an African-American and a woman, both of which need more recognition. I think it particularly appropriate for an African-American's name be used to replace that of Calhoun. Also, her life is extraordinary and the naming of the square after her would encourage people to learn more about her and perhaps read her memoir which would be an inspiration to many.

--

Liz Minkert Johnson

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.lizminkertjohnson.weebly.com&c=E,1,KMNQapmTZ0Yp19nEyz3R0EVFbvdGNdsRviN-DS3lfWxF9aq1qmWl6sBCtXs6UPlcdky-ACmgOYmfMaXQ1A8g1FQz21PQGNqYpvhQXzOyrh\\_sQ3l,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.lizminkertjohnson.weebly.com&c=E,1,KMNQapmTZ0Yp19nEyz3R0EVFbvdGNdsRviN-DS3lfWxF9aq1qmWl6sBCtXs6UPlcdky-ACmgOYmfMaXQ1A8g1FQz21PQGNqYpvhQXzOyrh_sQ3l,&typo=1)  
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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Jennifer Highland <JLHinSAV@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:57 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Name for Square

After reading the names submitted for the square, Susie King Taylor still tops our list. Major public recognition for her historical significance is overdue. Runner-up is Dr. John A. Casey, whom I had not heard of before, and feel his incredible work deserves major recognition of some sort—a public health building or something like that. The others also had great merit and some have received recognition (WW Law for instance). All should be kept in mind for other recognition down the road.

Jennifer and Brett Highland  
424 E Macon St.  
Savannah

Sent from my iPhone

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Amber Marie <chef.amber.esq@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 5:07 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming Feedback

To whom it may concern,

I'm submitting my preference for Susie King Taylor Square. I feel that this is the best choice to honor those buried there - and that such recognition is the most important factor in renaming the square. I believe that this change has great spiritual significance, and this choice most wholly rectifies the issue (read: I won't be surprised if the ghost tours lose interest in the area). I also appreciate having more female leaders acknowledged in general. As a former civil rights attorney and licensed Savannah intuitive, this is extremely important to me, so thank you for allowing a space for me to be heard.

Sincerely,

Amber Plecha

Sent from my iPhone

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Brianna Davis <briannadboyd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 7:53 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Submission Preference

Hope you're doing well

I am so happy to see the square being renamed! It's so sad to think of so many slaves who were buried in that square bearing the name of that man; this is exactly why Mr. Jack White is out of pocket and ignorant with his hope to keep the original name - we can read a history book to learn about the atrocities of John C. Calhoun; our ancestors should not have to lay under a square named after a man who advocated for their enslavement.

I love the suggestions of DeVeaux Square and Susie King Taylor Square.

I'd also like to add that Mrs. Joan Levy is absolutely ridiculous to suggest that the square be named after her family.

Thanks

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Caitlin West <caitlinwest87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 7:48 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Aspasia or Susie King Taylor Square

Women are very underrepresented in the recalling of history in our city. I think it's vital to change that through using a female historical figure to name the square. I like Aspasia, because I hadn't heard her story previously. I also think it would be great to consider naming the square for Virginia Jackson Kiah, the artist, I just read about the local home/museum she occupied and she has a fascinating story/contribution to local history. Susie King Taylor would be my runner up choice, as she does already have a local school named for her, and she is more well known. Let's build upon Juliette Gordon Lowe and Susie King Taylor, so that the children of today grow up knowing the importance of equality and little girls can see themselves represented in local history and as pioneers and leaders.

Thank you,

Caitlin

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Dear City Council:

We, the individuals of Wilshire Area Neighborhood Association, give our signatures below in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. We believe that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the city and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Naming the square honors Susie King Taylor's bravery, strength, and determination.

1. She spent much of her childhood in Savannah with her grandmother, and learned to read as well as her teachers under threat and danger in clandestine schools with other enslaved individuals.
2. When the Civil War broke out, Susie King Taylor at the age of 14 escaped with her uncle and his family to St. Simon's Island and served in the 33rd U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment.
3. She served in many capacities with this regiment: she became a teacher for the children and adults in the camp, a laundress when needed, the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, and a Civil War veteran who started schools for African American children in Savannah after the war.
4. Susie King-Taylor is one of the few established authors who wrote about the African American experience in that era. "Taylor wrote one such narrative in 1902. Titled *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp*, the 83-page memoir depicts her life as a slave, a freed woman, an educator, a nurse, [a Civil War veteran], and a Black woman living in the post Civil War South."

Savannah attracts many visitors nationally and from around the world. Naming our square Taylor Square honors our city's name as The Hostess City of the South.

Signature

Printed Name

Address (include zip code)

Date

5/11/2023

Rafael Salas Rafael Salas 205 San Fernando Blvd

Howard Healey Howard Healey 11605 Largo Dr May

Teresa Graham Teresa Graham 201 W Montgomery Trds Sav'h 31406

MARIO LANG MARIO LANG 38 BROOKHAVEN DR 31407

Betty Cofield Betty Cofield 701 S. Williamsburg Rd 31419

Deloris Arkwright Deloris Arkwright 24 Monica Blvd; Sav'h; 31419

Brenda L. Roberts Brenda L. Roberts 114 Montclair Blvd 31419 5/10/23







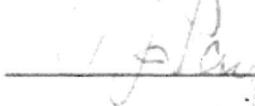
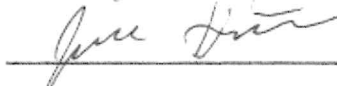
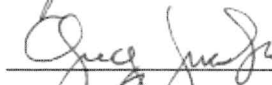
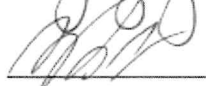
Dear City Council:

We, the individuals of Wilshire Area Neighborhood Association, give our signatures below in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. We believe that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the city and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Naming the square honors Susie King Taylor's bravery, strength, and determination.

1. She spent much of her childhood in Savannah with her grandmother, and learned to read as well as her teachers under threat and danger in clandestine schools with other enslaved individuals.
2. When the Civil War broke out, Susie King Taylor at the age of 14 escaped with her uncle and his family to St. Simon's Island and served in the 33rd U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment.
3. She served in many capacities with this regiment: she became a teacher for the children and adults in the camp, a laundress when needed, the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, and a Civil War veteran who started schools for African American children in Savannah after the war.
4. Susie King-Taylor is one of the few established authors who wrote about the African American experience in that era. "Taylor wrote one such narrative in 1902. Titled *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp*, the 83-page memoir depicts her life as a slave, a freed woman, an educator, a nurse, [a Civil War veteran], and a Black woman living in the post Civil War South."

Savannah attracts many visitors nationally and from around the world. Naming our square Taylor Square honors our city's name as The Hostess City of the South.

| Signature   | Printed Name     | Address (include zip code)               | Date    |
|---|------------------|--|---------|
|    | Randal Robinson  | 511 San Anton Dr. 31419                  | 5/17/23 |
|  | Gloria Francis   |  | 5/17/23 |
|  | Jessica Pepin    | 1308 Grace Dr 31406                      | 5/17/23 |
|  | David Holmes     |  | 5/17/23 |
|  | Albert Payne     | 413 Willow Oak Ln<br>Hinesville GA 31313 |         |
|  | Jake Heintzelman |  | 5/17/23 |
|  | Greg Jacobs      | 730 Maxie Ball Rd.<br>Pembroke GA 31321  | 5/17/23 |
|  | Mire Thompson    |  | 5/11/23 |
|   |                  |  |         |
|   |                  |  |         |
|   |                  |  |         |

Dear Mayor and City Council, ,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, our city, our state.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or of our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community's and our nation's complicated past. Fourth, our community attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie King Taylor Square, it will become a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a wonderful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie Baker King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature of Support: Carol Solon

Printed Name: Carol Solon

Address: 10 Peaberry Ln, Savannah, GA 31419

Date: May 17, 2023

Dear Mayor and City Council, ,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, our city, our state.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or of our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community's and our nation's complicated past. Fourth, our community attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie King Taylor Square, it will become a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a wonderful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie Baker King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature of Support: Marc Henley

Printed Name: Marc Henley

Address: 10 Peaberry Ln, Savannah, GA 31419

Date: May 15, 2023

## Luciana Spracher

---

**From:** VALERIA REYNOLDS DARBY <vmarierd@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 11:08 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] New Square Name

Susie King Taylor

Sent from the iPhone of  
Valeria Reynolds Darby

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Jason Combs <jasonlesliecombs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 4:06 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Support for TAYLOR Square

Mr. Shearouse,

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name "Susie King Taylor" to the Square formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

- Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.
- Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.
- Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community and our nation's complicated past.
- Our community attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie Baker King Taylor Square, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor "Susie Baker King Taylor".

I appreciate your consideration,  
Signature of Support: electronic signature, JLC  
Printed Name: Jason L. Combs, TSNA President  
Address: 320 E 40th Street  
Date: May 15th, 2023

--  
Jason L. Combs  
M.C.R.P. & M.S.Arch, Georgia Institute of Technology

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Dear Mayor and City Council, ,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, our city, our state.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or of our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community's and our nation's complicated past. Fourth, our community attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie King Taylor Square, it will become a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a wonderful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie Baker King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature of Support: Marc Henley

Printed Name: Marc Henley

Address: 10 Peaberry Ln, Savannah, GA 31419

Date: May 15, 2023



Dear City Official,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to [give the] name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. I believe that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the city and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, Taylor established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our nation's history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of Savannah's African American residents or of its incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing its history and demonstrate the city's leadership focusing on our nation's complicated past. Fourth, Savannah attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance the city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature of Support: 

Printed Name: Matthew Caws

Address: 26 Parsonage Street, Cambridge CB5 8DN, UK

Date: May 15th, 2023

Please Email the above to: [square@savannahga.gov](mailto:square@savannahga.gov)

## Luciana Spracher

---

**From:** Erin Clarkson <erin@savannahfirsttimer.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 14, 2023 11:59 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Say Her Name: Susie King Taylor

Dear Mr. Shearouse,

Below is my digital signature in support of the submitted application to give the name "Susie King Taylor" to the square formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a full-time resident of Savannah, I fully support this plan.

Susie King Taylor was born into slavery, became the first Black nurse in America, and went on to establish schools to educate freed families after the Civil War ended. She is a hero to many in this city, including myself.

Naming the square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the naming ordinance criteria:

- It honors a noteworthy person associated with Savannah.
- It commemorates local history.
- It will also help to honor the achievements of the city's many African American residents and accomplished females.
- This recognition will highlight Savannah's continued commitment towards recognizing our nation's complicated past and not glossing over regrettable parts of the city's history.
- Savannah attracts visitors from around the world, and naming the square after Susie King Taylor will enhance the city's reputation as a welcoming community for all.

I urge the City of Savannah to rename the square at Abercorn and E Wayne to honor Susie Baker King Taylor.

I also urge you to recognize the coalition that made this happen. That coalition, led by Patt "Sistah Patt" Gunn, worked diligently for many years to see this goal come to fruition.

Respectfully,  
*Erin Clarkson*  
Erin Clarkson  
1305 Barnard Street PMB 59  
Signed, May 14, 2023

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Erin Clarkson  
[Savannah First-Timer's Guide](#)  
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Connie Boole <cboole58@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 14, 2023 10:48 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming of former Calhoun Square

Dear City Council,

We, a faith group called the **Justice Team** of Trinity United Methodist Church, give our Signature of Support for renaming the former square named Calhoun to **Susie King Taylor**. Our group works to bring justice issues to the forefront and see how we can change the inequities in our community.

Naming this square for **Susie King Taylor** clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. She spent her formative years in Savannah where she learned to read and write, even though it was against the law for slaves to do so. She later served as a nurse in the Civil War, taught reading and writing to soldiers & to the women and children in the military camps. After the war she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

We urge our City Council to name this square for **Susie King Taylor**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Representative for the Justice Team: Connie Boole

Address: Trinity United Methodist Church  
225 West President Street, Savannah, GA 31401

May 14, 2023

[cboole58@gmail.com](mailto:cboole58@gmail.com)

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Dear Mayor and City Council, ,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, our city, our state.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or of our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community's and our nation's complicated past. Fourth, our community attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie King Taylor Square, it will become a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a wonderful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie Baker King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature of Support: *Margaret L. Clay*

Printed Name: Margaret L. Clay

Address: 1207 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Savannah, GA 31404

Date: May 14, 2023

Please Email the above to: [square@savannahga.gov](mailto:square@savannahga.gov)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I heartily support the renaming of the Savannah square formally named Calhoun Square in honor of Susie King Taylor.

And may this be only the first in a series of re-dedications and reconfigurations of historical places and place names, for starters, in Savannah and elsewhere in order to reflect the participation of under-represented individuals and groups.

Please feel free to add me to your mailing lists and to let me know how I can further support this initiative.

Best regards,

Signature of Support: *John Angell*

Printed Name: John Angell

Address: 17 rue Geneviève de Gaulle Anthonioz, 93100 Montreuil, France

Date: May 14, 2023

Please Email the above to: [square@savannahga.gov](mailto:square@savannahga.gov)

## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Phil Starks <pstarks129@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 14, 2023 10:13 AM  
**To:** Kesha Gibson-Carter; Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the Square at Abercorn and East Wayne Streets for Susie Baker King Taylor.

Dear Kesha Gibson-Carter, City Council, Alderwoman-At-Large, Savannah, Georgia, at

kgcarter@savannahga.gov

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name “Susie King Taylor” to the Square formerly known as *Calhoun Square*. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

- Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.
- Savannah’s squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.
- Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah’s commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city’s leadership focusing on our community and our nation’s complicated past.
- Our community attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city’s reputation as the **Hostess City**—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the **Susie Baker King Taylor Square**, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor “Susie Baker King Taylor”.



I appreciate your consideration,

Signature of Support: *Philip W. Starks*

Printed Name: Philip W. Starks

Address: 1615-1/2 East Henry Street, Savannah, GA 31404

Date: May 7, 2023

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Phil Starks <pstarks129@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 13, 2023 10:33 PM  
**To:** Kesha Gibson-Carter; Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the square at Abercorn and East Wayne Streets for Susie Baker King Taylor

---

Dear Kesha Gibson-Carter, City Council, Alderwoman-At-Large, Savannah, Georgia, at

kgcarter@savannahga.gov

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name "Susie King Taylor" to the Square formerly known as *Calhoun Square*. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

- Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.
- Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.
- Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community and our nation's complicated past.
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When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the **Susie Baker King Taylor Square**, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor "Susie Baker King Taylor".

I appreciate your consideration,

Signature of Support: *Philip W. Starks*

Printed Name: Philip W. Starks

Address: 1615-1/2 East Henry Street, Savannah, GA 31404

Date: May 7, 2023

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## Luciana Spracher

---

**From:** naekeisha jones <artofnaekeishajones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 13, 2023 6:26 PM  
**To:** Kesha Gibson-Carter; Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the Square at Abercorn and East Wayne Streets for Susie Baker King Taylor

Dear Kesha Gibson-Carter, City Council, Alderwoman-At-Large, Savannah, Georgia, at [kgcarter@savannahga.gov](mailto:kgcarter@savannahga.gov)

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name "Susie King Taylor" to the Square formerly known as *Calhoun Square*. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

- Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.
- Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.
- Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community and our nation's complicated past.
- Our community attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the **Hostess City**—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the **Susie Baker King Taylor Square**, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor "Susie Baker King Taylor".

I appreciate your consideration,

Signature of Support: Philip W. Starks

Printed Name: Philip W. Starks

Address: 1615-1/2 East Henry Street, Savannah, GA 31404

Date: May 7, 2023

--

Best,  
Nae'Keisha Jones

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** B. W. <briwoo183@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 13, 2023 5:51 AM  
**To:** Kesha Gibson-Carter; Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the Square at Abercorn and East Wayne Streets for Susie Baker King Taylor

Dear Kesha Gibson-Carter, City Council, Alderwoman-At-Large, Savannah, Georgia, at [kgcarter@savannahga.gov](mailto:kgcarter@savannahga.gov)

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name “Susie King Taylor” to the Square formerly known as *Calhoun Square*. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

- Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.
- Savannah’s squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.
- Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah’s commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city’s leadership focusing on our community and our nation’s complicated past.
- Our community attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city’s reputation as the **Hostess City**—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the **Susie Baker King Taylor Square**, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor “Susie Baker King Taylor”.

I appreciate your consideration,

Signature of Support: **Brian A. Woods**

Printed Name: Brian A. Woods

Address: Oakland Court, Savannah, GA 31401

Date: May 13, 2023



## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Angel King <AKing@SavageLawFirm.Net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2023 11:56 AM  
**To:** Squares; Mayor Johnson  
**Cc:** 'christiana turner'; bturner@savagelawfirm.net; 'Christiana Turner'  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming of Square at Abercorn & East Wayne

Dear Mayor Johnson,

My wife and I have lived on the square formerly known as Calhoun since April of 2018, at 115 E. Gordon Street. We submit that our square be named after Susie King Taylor.

Susie King Taylor exemplified bravery and humanity—she was a teacher, the first Black Army nurse during the American Civil War, and the only formerly enslaved woman to publish a memoir of her experiences. She learned to read and write at a time when it was forbidden for the enslaved and then gave back by teaching others to read and write through the school she established while living in Savannah, Georgia. In two short years, she opened and taught formerly enslaved people at least at three schools in Georgia. In 2018, Susie King Taylor was elected to the Georgia Women of Achievement Hall of Fame due to her many significant contributions.

Further, none of the 22 squares in Savannah, Georgia is named after a female or a former enslaved person—enslaved people built this city and *finally* should be honored with a name on our square.

Mayor Johnson, as a resident of Savannah, I would like to ask you and members City Counsel to support the proposed name change of Susie King Taylor (Taylor Square).

Sincerely,

***Robert Bartley Turner***

Attorney at Law  
115 E. Gordon Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

**Savage, Turner, Pinckney, Savage & Sprouse**  
**102 East Liberty Street, Eighth Floor (31401)**  
**PO Box 10600**  
**Savannah, GA 31412**  
**(912) 231-1140 - Office Phone**  
**(912) 231-9157- Fax**



## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** christiana turner <turner00@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2023 12:32 PM  
**To:** Squares; Mayor Johnson; Mark Massey; Detric Leggett; Jay Melder; Joseph Shearouse  
**Cc:** Bart Turner  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Please Honor SUSIE KING TAYLOR

Dear Community Leaders,

I would like to this opportunity to, again, thank the Mayor and City Council for their courageous and unanimous vote to remove the name John C. Calhoun from the square on Abercorn Street. I would also like to thank City Manager Jay Melder and Director of Policy and External Affairs Joe Shearhouse for their assistance in that effort.

As many of you know my husband and I own a home facing the Square and I have been actively working with Sister Patt Gunn and her committee for the past three years. As we were all working together to remove Calhoun's name, we were also considering many notable names in Savannah's history.

In the end, we all agreed it is time for a Savannah Square to be named to honor the work of an accomplished former enslaved woman. With those priorities set, we considered names that fit that criteria.

Everyone involved agreed SUSIE KING TAYLOR exemplified the bravery and humanity required for such a great honor. Additionally, I appreciate the message that would be sent removing Calhoun's name and giving the honor to a formerly enslaved woman.

Although I have heard several interesting proposed names floated throughout the community, I do hope you will consider voting for Susie King Taylor. We would be honored to live on Taylor Square.

Sincerely,

Christiana Randall Turner  
115 East Gordon Street  
Savannah, Georgia. 31401  
912.308.0102

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** L. Brown <lindabrown409@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Cc:** Linda Brown; saltwatagirl@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Nurse Susie King Taylor - Name Change Proposed for Renaming Public Square

To: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II

Greetings Major Johnson,

I am a resident of Savannah Georgia and also an applicant proposing the name **Susie King Taylor**, as a contender for renaming the public square. In accordance with Article E. Section 4-1101-1102, published at [Square@Savannah.gov](mailto:Square@Savannah.gov). **Susie King Taylor**, is qualified for consideration based on verifiable qualifications listed below.

### Application Criteria and Requirements

- King was born Susie Baker on August 6, 1848, in Midway (Liberty County), Georgia. And died : October 6, 1912
- Known for : Being the first Black nurse during the American Civil War, beginning in 1861 at age 14, Baker joined 1st South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment (no pay involved) teaching first, then nursing soldiers back to good health until 1866, when Colored Troop Mustered out of service. Credited with writing a 84-page memoir in 1902, from a personal journal detailing her service during the war.
- King was also known by other titles-Educator, Author, domestic servant and also for her role as Social Justice Advocate.
- Susie King Taylor Community School is a K-8 charter school currently serving the Chatham County community. Established in 3/30/2017, in honor of its namesake-who is also credited with being the 1st Black Teacher to teach, openly. , Susie King Taylor, herself in 1866, opened a school for African American children in Savannah.
- Susie King Taylor was bestowed the honor of being The First Colored Author in Boston, MA where she moved and lived until her death in 1912 (Kings burial place).

Renaming the public square in honor of a woman is a step moving Savannah forward regarding "Gender Equality. " It is remarkable that a city who many have proclaimed as, "The Queen of the South," the oldest city in the South-Est. 1733, yet, of the 23-historic squares located in the city today, NONE bear the name of a woman. And, the question that city leaders and residents must ask is: How is this even possible in the 21st century?

Finally, it's certainly time for a change, and one that can move us in the right direction, Please consider a name that embraces "Inclusion," representing who we are NOW-a city that can inspire all of its citizens. Let's begin by renaming the public square for the first time in Savannah's 290-year history, to honor a woman who deserves it. Thank you in advance for lending your support in this very important manner.

All best,

Dr. Linda Brown  
32 Chatauchee Crossing  
Savannah, GA 31411  
(404) 441-3470- Mobile



## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Cheryl Cohen <lakiegal@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:10 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Susie King Taylor Square

Dear City Officials,

Please accept this letter of support for the submitted application of the Coalition to Name Susie King Taylor Square to the area formerly known as Calhoun Square. I believe that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the city and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, Taylor established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our nation's history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of Savannah's African American residents or those of its incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing its history and demonstrate the city's leadership focusing on our nation's complicated past. Fourth, Savannah attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance the city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cheryl Cohen  
7 Alexis Drive  
Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002  
5/11/2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** G Glover <gglovercos@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:28 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Susie King Taylor Support  
**Attachments:** SKT\_23Sigs.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached is a 2-page PDF document with the names and signatures of 23 individuals supporting the Coalition to name Susie King Taylor Square. Please inform Alderman Detrick Leggett at [dleggett@savannahga.gov](mailto:dleggett@savannahga.gov) that you have received said signatures.

As a member of the Coalition, I am submitting these names. My name is Gwendolyn Glover, and if you or your staff have any questions, please contact me.

Best regards,

Gwendolyn Glover, CCG Co-Founder

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Imagine Peace. Make It Ordinary.

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Kimberly Kimberly <dobsonkimberly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:46 AM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming of Square

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name "Susie King Taylor" to the Square formerly known as *Calhoun Square*. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

- Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.
- Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.
- Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community and our nation's complicated past.
- Our community attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the **Hostess City**—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the **Susie Baker King Taylor Square**, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor "Susie Baker King Taylor".

I appreciate your consideration,

Signature of Support: Kimberly M. Dobson\_\_

Printed Name: Kimberly M. Dobson

Address: 930 West 41st Street, Savannah, GA 31415

Date: May 10, 2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Calvin Thomas <woodum469@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:51 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming the Square at Abercorn and East Wayne Streets for Susie Baker King Taylor!

Dear Kesha Gibson-Carter, City Council, Alderwoman-At-Large, Savannah, Georgia, at

kgcarter@savannahga.gov

Below is my signature in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name “Susie King Taylor” to the Square formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, city, and state.

Susie Baker King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was born into slavery and became an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, but she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the Georgia military camps. After the war ended, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie Baker King Taylor clearly meets the Naming Ordinance Article E criteria:

Honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.

Savannah’s squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie Baker King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.

Providing this recognition will highlight Savannah’s commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city’s leadership focusing on our community and our nation’s complicated past.

Our community attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city’s reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie Baker King Taylor Square, it will be a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a beautiful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor “Susie Baker King Taylor”.

I appreciate your consideration,

Signature of Support: Calvin Thomas  
Printed Name: Calvin Thomas  
Address: 202 West 39th Street  
APT B  
Savannah, GA 31401  
Date: May 9, 2023

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Beth Orford <beth\_orford@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:05 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Change the name of Calhoun Square to Susie King Taylor Square

Dear City Official,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to give the name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. I believe that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the city and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, Taylor established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our nation's history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of Savannah's African American residents or of its incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing its history and demonstrate the city's leadership focusing on our nation's complicated past. Fourth, Savannah attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance the city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elisabeth G Orford  
350 Berryville Rd  
Springfield GA 31329  
May 9, 2023

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Carol Pine <pineandpartners@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Please choose Suzie King Taylor for the unnamed square

My name is Carol Pine and I've been living in Savannah for the past 13 years. It is now my full time home.

After learning of Ms Taylor's story, I can think of no better name for the former Calhoun square.

Ms Taylor was a pioneer in every facet of her life: taking nurses training when blacks were not welcomed to the halls of education; she nursed both union and confederate soldiers demonstrating her boundless care for the suffering—regardless of whose side they were on.

In addition, she was an effective and innovative educator, as well as an excellent writer, having captured her life story in a riveting memoir

Ms Taylor was a pioneer, humanitarian and proved to be a fearless and courageous woman in the worst of times in the South.

Carol Pine

PO Box 1957

Tybee Island GA 31328

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Trevor Walker <trvrwlkr19@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email]

I support the proposal to name the unnamed square (in Savannah) Susie Taylor King.

Trevor Walker

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To Savannah City Council:

Today, May 9, 2023, we, the individuals of the **Victorian Neighborhoods Association**, give our signatures below in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to name *Susie King Taylor Square*. We agree that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the City and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Naming the square honors Susie King Taylor's bravery, strength, and determination.

- 1) She spent much of her childhood in Savannah with her grandmother and learned to read, as well as her teachers under threat and danger in clandestine schools with other enslaved individuals.
- 2) When the Civil War broke out, Susie King Taylor, at the age of 14, escaped with her uncle and his family to St. Simon's Island and served in the 33rd U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment.
- 3) She served in many capacities with this regiment: she became a teacher for the children and adults in the camp, a laundress when needed, the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, and a Civil War veteran who started schools for African American children in Savannah after the war..
- 4) Susie King-Taylor is one of the few established authors who wrote about the African American experience in that era. "Taylor wrote one such narrative in 1902. Titled *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp*, the 83-page memoir depicts her life as a slave, a freedwoman, an educator, a nurse, [a Civil War veteran], and a Black woman living in the post Civil War Southo."

Savannah annually attracts millions of visitors from around the nation and the world. Naming this Square "Taylor Square" honors our city's name "The Hostess City of the South".

| No. | Printed Name        | Signature           | Address                                       |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1   | Thomas G. Hollis    | Thomas G. Hollis    | 31401 (2 IP)<br>811 Whitaker St<br>Sav. 31401 |
| 2   | Elizabeth T. Hollis | Elizabeth T. Hollis | 811 Whitaker St Sav. 31401                    |
| 3   | Ashley Desplat      | Ashley Desplat      | 224 East Duffy St Savannah (31401)            |
| 4   | Tom Oxnard          | Tom Oxnard          | 224 E Duffy St 31401                          |
| 5   | ROBERT LAMBERT      | Robert Lambert      | 225 E BULTON                                  |
| 6   | ARONIS Ciambra      | Aronis Ciambra      | — 11 —  |
| 7   | Nancy Beskar        | Nancy Beskar        | 918 Abercorn St                               |
| 8   | Jason Combs         | Jason Combs         | 320 E 40th St.                                |
| 9   | Jason Whipple       | Jason Whipple       | 2100 Montgomery St.                           |
| 10  | Brad Baugh          | Brad Baugh          | 213 W. Bolton                                 |
| 11  | Jennifer Shearer    | Jennifer Shearer    | 909 Whitaker St.                              |
| 12  | Nancy Main          | Nancy Main          | 224 W Waldbury St                             |
| 13  | Peggy Harts         | Peggy Harts         | 110 E Duffy                                   |

To Savannah City Council:

Today, May 9, 2023, we, the individuals of the **Victorian Neighborhoods Association**, give our signatures below in support of the submitted application of the Coalition to name *Susie King Taylor Square*. We agree that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the City and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

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- 1) She spent much of her childhood in Savannah with her grandmother and learned to read, as well as her teachers under threat and danger in clandestine schools with other enslaved individuals.
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- 3) She served in many capacities with this regiment: she became a teacher for the children and adults in the camp, a laundress when needed, the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, and a Civil War veteran who started schools for African American children in Savannah after the war..
- 4) Susie King-Taylor is one of the few established authors who wrote about the African American experience in that era. "Taylor wrote one such narrative in 1902. Titled *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp*, the 83-page memoir depicts her life as a slave, a freedwoman, an educator, a nurse,[ a Civil War veteran], and a Black woman living in the post Civil War Southo."

Savannah annually attracts millions of visitors from around the nation and the world. Naming this Square "Taylor Square" honors our city's name "The Hostess City of the South".

| No. | Printed Name    | Signature       | Address Zip 31401 |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1   | Kate Tierney    | Kate Tierney    | 307 W. Waldburg   |
| 2   | Kara Powell     | Kara Powell     | 307 W. Waldburg   |
| 3   | Diana Padgett   | Diana Padgett   | 917 Lincoln St    |
| 4   | TRANS PADGETT   |                 | 917 Lincoln St    |
| 5   | Gary Guthrie    | Gary Guthrie    | 110 E Bolton St   |
| 6   | Trudy Herod     | Trudy Herod     | 605 Pike St,      |
| 7   | Walter Zepherus | Walter Zepherus | 207 W Duffly St   |
| 8   | Jim Hunsucker   |                 | 208 E Gwinnett St |
| 9   | SIOBHAN LEAHY   | SM Leahy        | 911 Whitaker St   |
| 10  | DYLAN WILIAM    |                 | 911 Whitaker St   |
| 11  |                 |                 |                   |
| 12  |                 |                 |                   |
| 13  |                 |                 |                   |



Dear City Officials,

Please accept this letter of support for the submitted application of the Coalition to Name Susie King Taylor Square to the area formerly known as Calhoun Square. I believe that naming the square for this extraordinary daughter of Savannah would be an excellent choice for the city and, indeed, for all of Georgia.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, Taylor established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our nation's history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of Savannah's African American residents or those of its incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals. Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing its history and demonstrate the city's leadership focusing on our nation's complicated past. Fourth, Savannah attracts many visitors from around the country and the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance the city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Name: Robert Haas

Address: 127 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Savannah, GA 31405

Date: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Please Email the above to: [square@savannahga.gov](mailto:square@savannahga.gov)

## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Connie Boole <cboole58@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 7:12 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Renaming of the former Calhoun Square

Dear City Council

We, a faith group named **CURE** (Connecting & Understanding Race and Equality), give our Signature of Support for renaming the former square named Calhoun to **Susie King Taylor**. Our group has met together for the last 5 years bringing diverse people together to find ways to discuss how we can change the racial inequities in our community. As residents of Savannah we believe our city is more than ready to honor an African American and a woman.

Naming this square for **Susie King Taylor** clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history. She spent her formative years in Savannah where she learned to read and write, even though it was against the law for slaves to do so. She later served as a nurse in the Civil War, taught reading and writing to soldiers and to the women & children in the military camps. After the war she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

We urge our City Council to name this square for **Susie King Taylor**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Representative for CURE: Connie Boole

Address: Connexions Church  
5411 Skidaway, Savannah, GA 31406

May 8, 2023

[cboole58@gmail.com](mailto:cboole58@gmail.com)

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Ardra Hartz <ardra.kh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 1:33 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] NAMING OF FORMER CALHOUN SQUARE

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Below is my Signature of Support for the submitted application of the Coalition to [give the] name Susie King Taylor to the Square that was formerly known as Calhoun Square. As a resident of Savannah, I believe this will be an excellent decision for our neighborhood, our city, our state.

Susie King Taylor, who spent much of her childhood in Savannah, was an American hero. Not only was she the first African American nurse to serve in the Civil War, she also taught reading and writing to soldiers and the women and children in the military camps. After the war, she established schools for newly freed African American children and adults.

Naming this square after Susie King Taylor clearly meets the criteria of the Naming Ordinance Article E: honoring a noteworthy person associated with Savannah and commemorating local history.

Second, Savannah's squares honor many worthy people in our history, but there are no squares dedicated to the achievements of our African American residents or of our incredibly accomplished women. Naming this square for Susie King Taylor will continue the process of addressing these goals.

Third, providing this recognition will highlight Savannah's commitment to addressing our history and demonstrate our city's leadership focusing on our community's and our nation's complicated past. Fourth, our community attracts many visitors from around the country and around the world. Naming this square after Susie King Taylor will enhance our city's reputation as the Hostess City—a welcoming community for all.

When the square at Abercorn and East Wayne becomes the Susie King Taylor Square, it will become a proud destination for us to share with our friends and visitors as a wonderful example of how our community honors its heroes.

I urge Savannah to name this square to honor Susie Baker King Taylor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature of Support: **Ardra Hartz**

Printed Name: Ardra Hartzx

Address: 15 Rialto Court, Pooler, GA 31322

Date: 5-8-2023

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**Ardra Hartz**

Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention !

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## Luciana Spracher

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**From:** Juanita Tucker <juanitasavannah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 1:48 PM  
**To:** Squares  
**Subject:** [Caution - External Email] Support of Susie King Taylor

I am in complete support of the name change to Susie King Taylor. I am a resident of Savannah GA, Juanita D Tucker, and a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, 1201 Abercorn St.

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