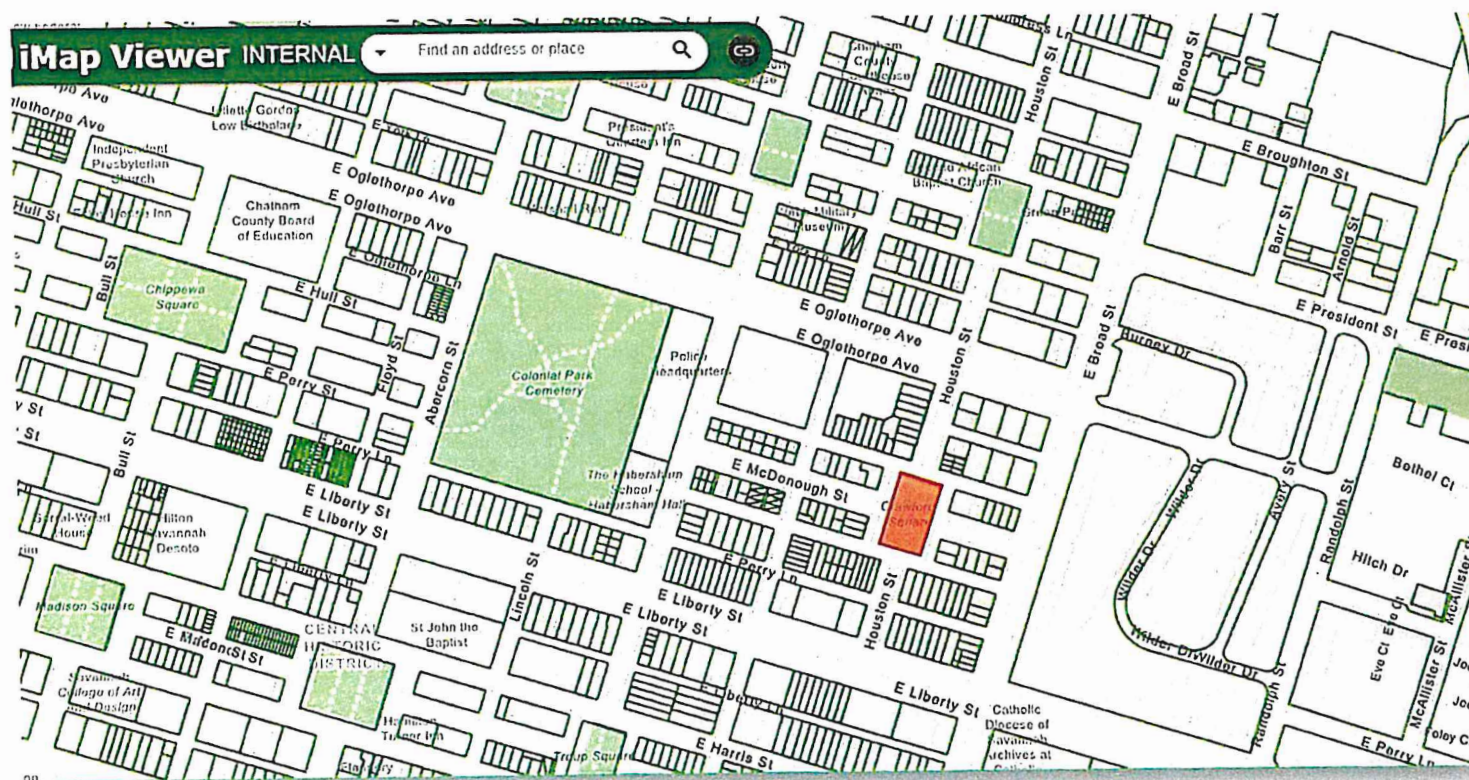




Public Property Naming Request- "Gator Rivers Court"

Proposal

Current Name: Unnamed
Proposed Honorary Name: "Gator Rivers Court"
Location: Basketball Court located within Crawford Square on Houston and McDonough Street
Petitioner: Alderwoman Linda Wilder Bryan





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STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION

Larry "Gator" Rivers

Former Harlem Globetrotter Legend. Larry "Gator" Rivers was a distinguished basketball player, coach, and community leader whose legacy continues to inspire.

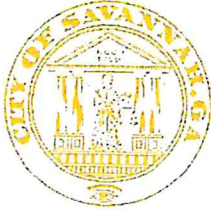
Born on May 6, 1949, in Savannah, Georgia, Rivers faced early challenges but found his path through basketball. At 14, he left school to manage a pool hall but was persuaded by coach Russell Ellington to return to Alfred E. Beach High School. Under Ellington's mentorship, Rivers excelled, leading Beach High to three state championships and earning all-city, all-region, and all-state honors. He continued his basketball journey at Moberly Junior College and later at Missouri Western State University, where he became an all-conference guard and set a single-game record with 16 assists—a record that still stands.

In 1973, Rivers achieved his dream by joining the Harlem Globetrotters, where he played and coached for 16 years. Renowned for his exceptional dribbling skills, he performed globally, including at iconic venues like Madison Square Garden and TV shows.

After retiring from the Globetrotters, Rivers returned to St. Joseph, Missouri, and founded the GatorBall Academy. This initiative focused on teaching basketball skills to children aged 9 to 14, emphasizing discipline, teamwork, and personal development. The academy is now led by Gator's wife, Mrs. A. Jean Brown-Rivers with the help of their son and boards of directors.

In 2008, Rivers returned to Savannah, where he continued his commitment to youth development and community service. In 2020, he was elected to the Chatham County Commission, representing District 2. As a commissioner, he focused on food security and improving the quality of life for residents.

Larry "Gator" Rivers passed away on April 29, 2023, at the age of 73. His life journey—from a young boy inspired by the Harlem Globetrotters to becoming a member, and later a community leader—serves as a testament to his dedication to basketball and public service. His contributions continue to influence and inspire future generations.



CITY OF SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL

**Alderman
Detric Leggett
1st District**

July 29, 2025

City Hall
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Re: Naming Request Endorsement for Consideration- Gator Rivers Court

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Alderman Detric Leggett, officially endorse the naming request for consideration to name the unnamed public basketball court located within Crawford Square 'Gator Rivers Court' in accordance with City Ordinance and the process outlined within 'Article E. Naming of Public Property, Facilities, and Streets'.

I look forward to this application advancing within the process as required by City Code.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Detric Leggett", is written over the printed name.

Alderman Detric Leggett
City of Savannah, Georgia
District 2