



Administrative Services Committee

Meeting Date: August 13, 2024

General La Fayette Historical Marker

- Department:** Central Services Department
- Presenter:** Ron Lampkin, Director and Charles Jackson, Deputy Administrator
- Caption:** Receive as information the Office of the Administrator’s Update and Findings regarding a proposed Marquis de La Fayette Historical Marker on Municipal Grounds
- Background:** During the June 4,, 2024 Commission meeting, the Office of the Administrator was tasked with performing due diligence regarding the placement of a historical marker along the Augusta Municipal Building grounds (facing Greene Street). The marker would commemorate General Lafayette’s historic visit to Augusta in March of 1825. Specifically speaking, historical records indicate that a much-publicized banquet in honor of General Lafayette was held on the current Municipal Building Grounds. Historical accounts indicate that hundreds attended the event.
- Analysis:** The “Friends of La Fayette” is requesting to place a historical marker on the Municipal Building grounds commemorating the banquet held in General La Fayette’s honor. There will be no fiscal cost to Augusta-Richmond County Government if markers are erected on the Municipal Building grounds. The marker will be funded by The Friends of La Fayette and other supporters. Maintenance of the marker requires minimum maintenance. Lastly Augusta-Richmond County will not be liable for damages to the marker. The marker shall read:

LA FAYETTE’S TOUR

FROM MARCH 23 TO MARCH 2, 1825

GENERAL LA FAYETTE WAS HOSED IN AUGUSTA

HE WAS HONORED AT A BANQUET HELD HERE

AT THE CITY HALL, AND ENTERTAINED AT

A GRAND BALL AT THE PLANTERS HOTEL

WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2025

Note: A perpetual maintenance agreement between Augusta and the “Friends of La Fayette” would be required to complete/execute this request.

Financial Impact: No financial impact for marker, pole and shipping.

Alternatives: Do not receive as information the Office of the Administrator's Update and Findings regarding Marquis de La Fayette Historical Marker on Municipal Grounds.

Recommendation: Receive as information the Office of the Administrator's Update and Findings regarding a proposed Marquis de La Fayette Historical Marker on Municipal Grounds

Funds are available in the following accounts: N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY: Takiyah Douse, Interim Administrator.



Takiyah A. Douse
Interim Administrator

TO: Takiyah Douse, Administrator
FROM: Charles Jackson, Deputy Administrator
DATE: August 2, 2024
SUBJECT: Marquis de La Fayette Historical Marker

Background

During the June 4,, 2024 Commission meeting, the Office of the Administrator was tasked with performing due diligence regarding the placement of a historical marker along the Augusta Municipal Building grounds (facing Greene Street). The marker would commemorate General Lafayette’s historic visit to Augusta in March of 1825. Specifically speaking, historical records indicate that a highly publicized banquet in honor of General Lafayette was held on the current Municipal Building Grounds. Historical accounts indicate that hundreds attended the event.

Historical Markers Nationwide (“The La Fayette Trail”)

General La Fayette’s contributions have been commemorated throughout the United States, heralding his indelible contributions relating to the American Revolution. To date, about 140 markers have already been erected, mostly in the northeastern states. A dedicated group known as “The Friends of Lafayette” and other supporting groups have erected historical markers creating what is affectionately known as the “Lafayette Trail”.

A Georgia committee is currently planning to place markers along Lafayette’s 1825 route in this state. The towns include:

1. Augusta
2. Macon
3. Savannah
4. Sparta
5. Warrenton
6. Milledgeville
7. Roberta

Request of “The Friends of La Fayette”

The Friends of La Fayette is requesting to place a historical marker on the Municipal Building grounds commemorating the banquet held in La Fayette’s honor. There will be no fiscal cost (marker, pole and shipping) to Augusta-Richmond County Government if markers are erected on the Municipal Building grounds. The marker will be funded by The Friends of La Fayette and other supporters. Maintenance of the marker requires minimum maintenance. Lastly Augusta-Richmond County will not be liable for damages to the marker.

Engineering Department Role/Duties related to Marker Installation

After the historical marker is made, the various components are shipped to the Traffic Engineering Sign Shop located at 1815 Marvin Griffin Road. AED Traffic Engineering will contact owner and schedule installation. The only portion of the process that Traffic Engineering assists with is the installation of the new historical marker.

Next Steps

I recommend that the Augusta-Richmond County Commission receive this report and its findings as an update regarding placing a historic marker in honor of General La Fayette's ceremonial banquet held on the Municipal Building grounds. The proposed marker would align with the markers designated in other Georgia cities by exhibiting similar marker features (see Figure 1 below).

Lastly, I also recommend that an opportunity for public comment be allowed as a measure of additional due diligence. This would allow the public to provide further information into the Commission's final decision.

Figure.1 Style and Format of La Fayette Tour Markers

