



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 on March 3, 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 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 been erecting 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.

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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 (with allowance of public comment) that the Augusta-Richmond County Commission vote in approval of placing a historic marker in honor of General La Fayette's ceremonial banquet held in its exact location on the Municipal Building grounds. This specific marker would align with the markers designated in other Georgia cities by exhibiting similar marker features (see below).

Fig.1 Style and Format of La Fayette Tour Markers

