



Subject: Conveyance of Property at 5117 Springdale Drive – Executive Offices

Submitted By: Ricky L. Clark, Jr., City Manager

Date Submitted: August 20, 2024

Work Session Date: September 3, 2024

Council Meeting Date: September 3, 2024

Purpose:

To review and consider the request from the Clayton County Board of Education (BOE) for the conveyance of the City-owned property located at 5117 Springdale Drive, Forest Park, Georgia 30297 (Parcel ID 13078A E008), for the purpose of reconstructing Fountain Elementary School.

Background:

The Clayton County Board of Education has formally requested the Mayor and City Council to convey the property at 5117 Springdale Drive to the BOE. This property is intended for the reconstruction of Fountain Elementary School, which holds significant historical importance as the only historic African American high school in Clayton County.

W. A. Fountain High School was founded in 1953 under the direction of the Clayton County School Board for the education of colored children. A tract of land beside Forest Chapel Church and cemetery was donated by Bishop Fountain for whom the school is named. That church, as well as one and two-room buildings throughout the county, served as schools for colored children until Fountain was completed. White children, on the other hand, were privileged to study in much better facilities. According to alumni Ms. Shirley Nichols, speaking on behalf of the original graduating classes, 1954-1969, Fountain was intended as an alternative to the impending mandate to desegregate schools in the south. Construction of the new consolidated school represented the county's defiant effort to maintain a "separate but equal" educational system

Key Points:

1. Property Details:

- **Location:** 5117 Springdale Drive, Forest Park, Georgia 30297
- **Parcel ID:** 13078A E008
- **Legal Description:** ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying and being in Land Lot 78 of the 13th District of Clayton County, Georgia, containing 4.26 acres, more or less, being the same property as conveyed by Warranty Deed, dated March 4, 2005, recorded in Deed Book 8041, Page 614, Clayton County Records.
- **Size and Description:** 4.26 acres, more or less.

BOE Proposal:

- **Reconstruction of Fountain Elementary School:** The property will be developed to reconstruct Fountain Elementary School, historically known as Fountain High School under the Rosenwald School program.
- **Historical Significance:** Reconstructing this facility will honor the legacy of the original school and preserve its role in the community's educational history and the broader Rosenwald initiative.
- **Educational and Community Impact:** The new facility will improve educational resources, contribute to community pride, and enhance the local area.

Benefits to the Community:

- **Educational Enhancement:** The new school will provide modernized learning environments and resources, leading to improved educational outcomes for students.
- **Preservation of Heritage:** The project will celebrate and maintain the historical significance of Fountain Elementary School and its connection to the Rosenwald Schools.
- **Community Development:** The reconstruction will significantly enhance the area by revitalizing the property, boosting local property values, and attracting new residents and businesses. It will also create a hub of community activity, fostering local engagement and pride.
- **Economic Impact:** The new school will stimulate local economic activity through job creation during construction and potential future growth as a key community asset.

Cost: \$ 0

Budgeted for: _____ Yes _____ No

Financial Impact:

Action Requested from Council:

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the conveyance of the property located at 5117 Springdale Drive, Forest Park, Georgia 30297 (Parcel ID 13078A E008) to the Clayton County Board of Education for the purpose of reconstructing Fountain Elementary School. This action will support the BOE's efforts to preserve a significant historical landmark associated with the Rosenwald Schools, enhance educational opportunities, and significantly improve the local area.