

Luciana Spracher

From: Jack White <blangus1784@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:11 PM
To: Squares
Subject: [Caution - External Email] Calhoun Square Name Change

TO Whom It May Concern:

By this letter I would like to propose and request consideration to replace Calhoun Square with the name: ASPASIA CRUVELLIER MIRALT, 1800-1857 and have a support letter provided by a city council member. I would like to recommend, for accurate historic purposes, that Squares that go thru a name change be provided a historic plaque indicating who requested the name change along with their background information and reason for change.

Brief History of Ms.Mirault (1800-1857): She came to Savannah with her family. She grew up in Savannah with numerous family members being successful in business. She became an owner of numerous businesses in Savannah as well. She owned property in Savannah. She was a person of color and used her entrepreneurial skills and assets available to her to be successful. The Mirault family contributed valuably to Savannah architecture, provided pastry shops, barber shops and clothing needs. She did use slave labor at the time as well as others starting with Anthony Johnson (1600-1670) and other prominent people of color.

The name proposal is being submitted by Jack White. My address is: 1784 Sims Road, Pembroke Ga. 31322. Cell number: 912-660-0898. I originally am from Atlanta and lived in Savannah from 1977 until 2001.

Should you need additional information for Ms. Mirault to be seriously considered please contact me.

Sincerely,
JackWhite

Note: I have to say my first desire would be to maintain the original square's name: John C Calhoun and put more emphasis on educating All people about all aspects of his life and why he was so well respected during THAT time. I have an educators background so just being informed of true facts is far more important than placing a current 2023 racial litmus test on all our ancestors.

That said, considering the obvious 'thumb' City Council has put on the scale to insure that the subject square be named after a person of color, notably: Susie King Taylor generates concern in itself. My skepticism was triggered by my great great uncle Harvey Burel, who lived during the Civil War, when he told me "...Not to believe those yankee books!". I'll admit I've only done searches about Ms. Taylor on-line which is not nearly enough to add or reject her nomination. However knowing that the Mirault family stayed during the Civil War while Ms. Taylor fled and aided the North was simply treason, considering time and place. Knowing that Northern Black soldiers were paid far less than white soldiers and were punished up too and including death if they complained makes her generous 'free' RN services very skeptical. Many black soldiers who died of mostly illness in Beaufort during the Civil War were buried on Foley Island in unmarked graves while white soldiers were buried with honors at the Beaufort National Cemetery. She most likely was wise not to complain and accepted being a servant in Boston, while the Miraults impact us still today.

Again lets just keep Calhoun Square and educate ourselves. Frustrating to me as my family, at the request of his mom and dad, asked my great grandfather to take in a young black boy, Sant Collins. In short, he was a loved family member. In 1966 the Atlanta Journal interviewed him and rewrote his life's story to make it appear that 'slavery' still existed. I still recall Sant crying over the lie. Therefore on behalf of Sant Collins I urge that the square's name not be changed, or altered to reflect someone's desire to change history as they would like it to be to satisfy themselves. Lets just live and learn from history rather than changing history. I bet whoever is promoting this change has not a clue

about the Barbary Slave Trade or that the most feared city from Martin L King's perspective was Chicago, August, 1966.

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Office of the Mayor Savannah, Georgia

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

May 31, 2023

City Hall
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Re: Naming Request Endorsement for Consideration- 'Mirault Square'

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Mayor Van Johnson, officially endorse the naming request for consideration to name the public square located on Abercorn and East Wayne Streets, to 'Mirault Square' 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,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Van R. Johnson II", is written over the printed name below it.

Mayor Van Johnson