

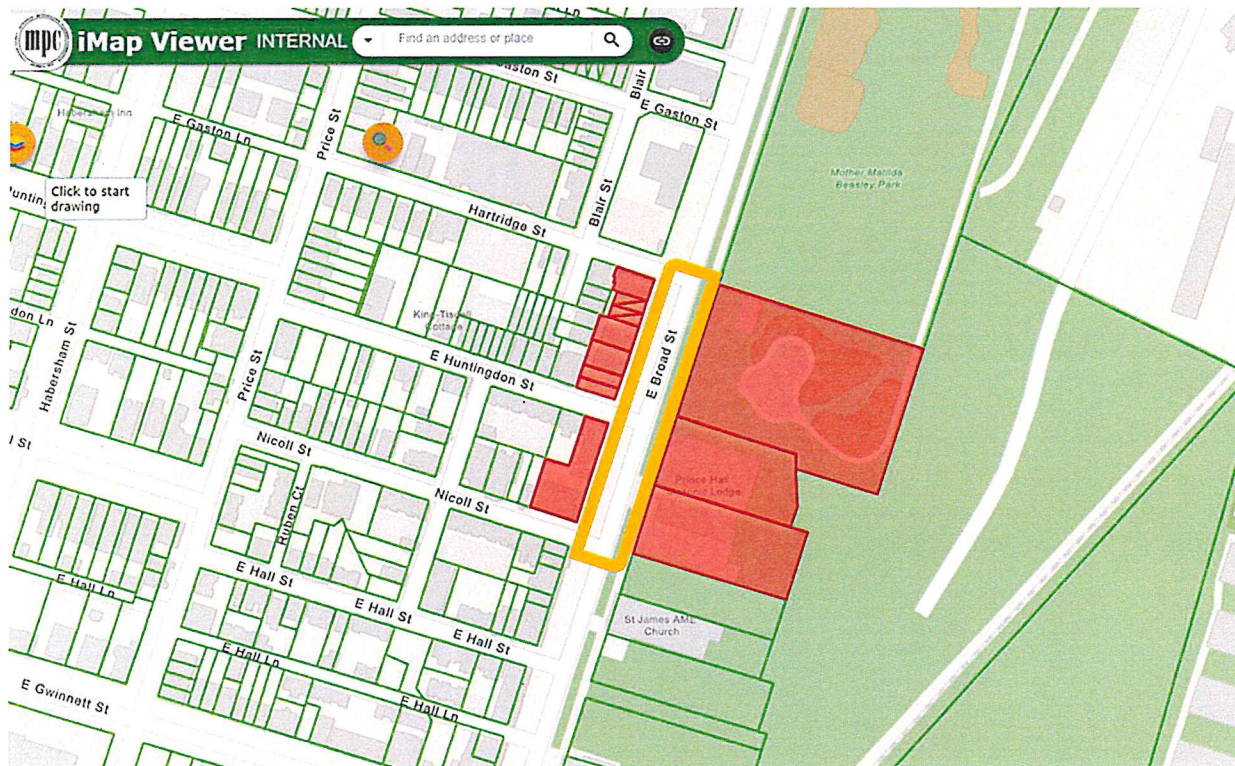
Honorary Street Designation Request- “Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. Way”

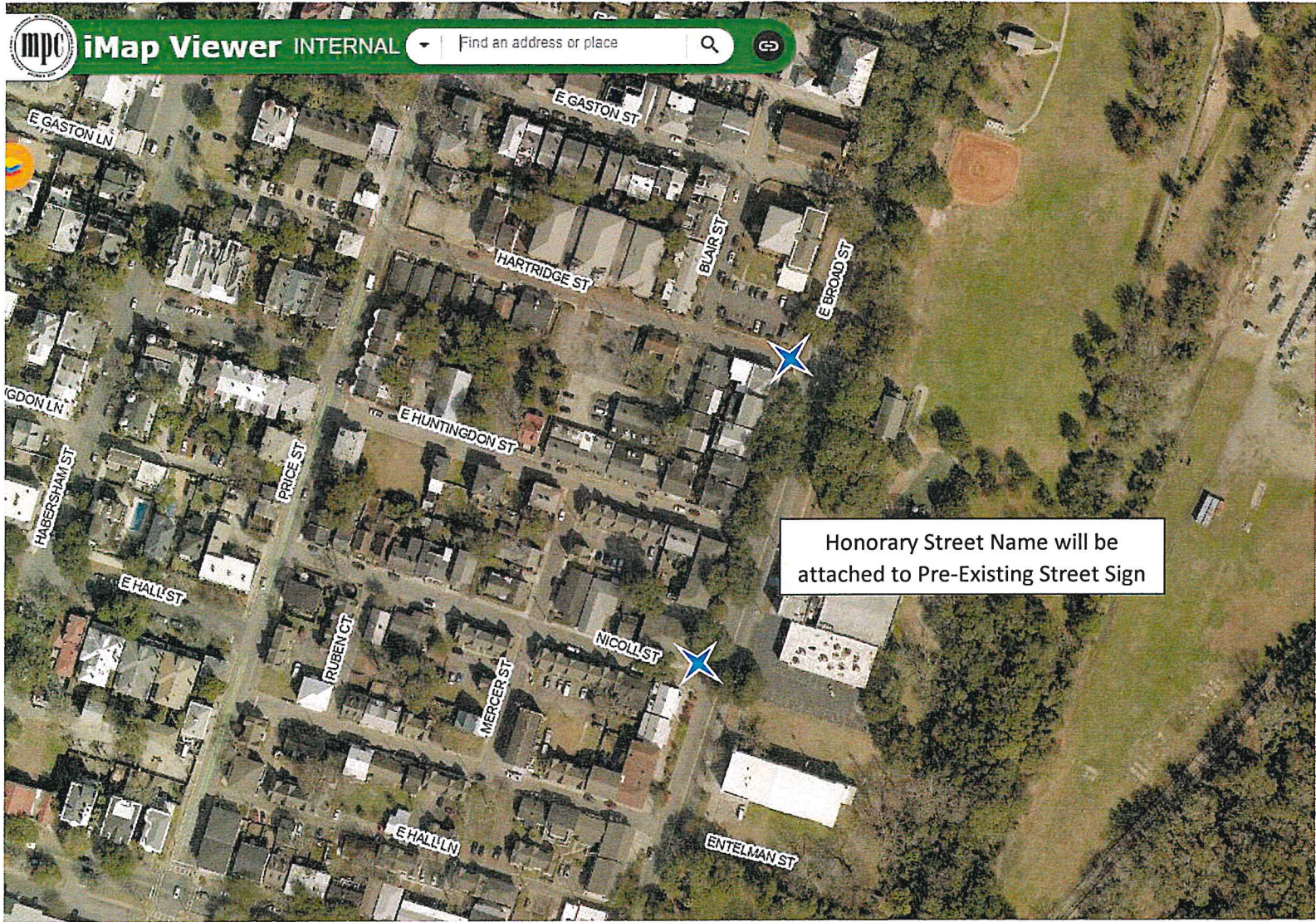
Purpose

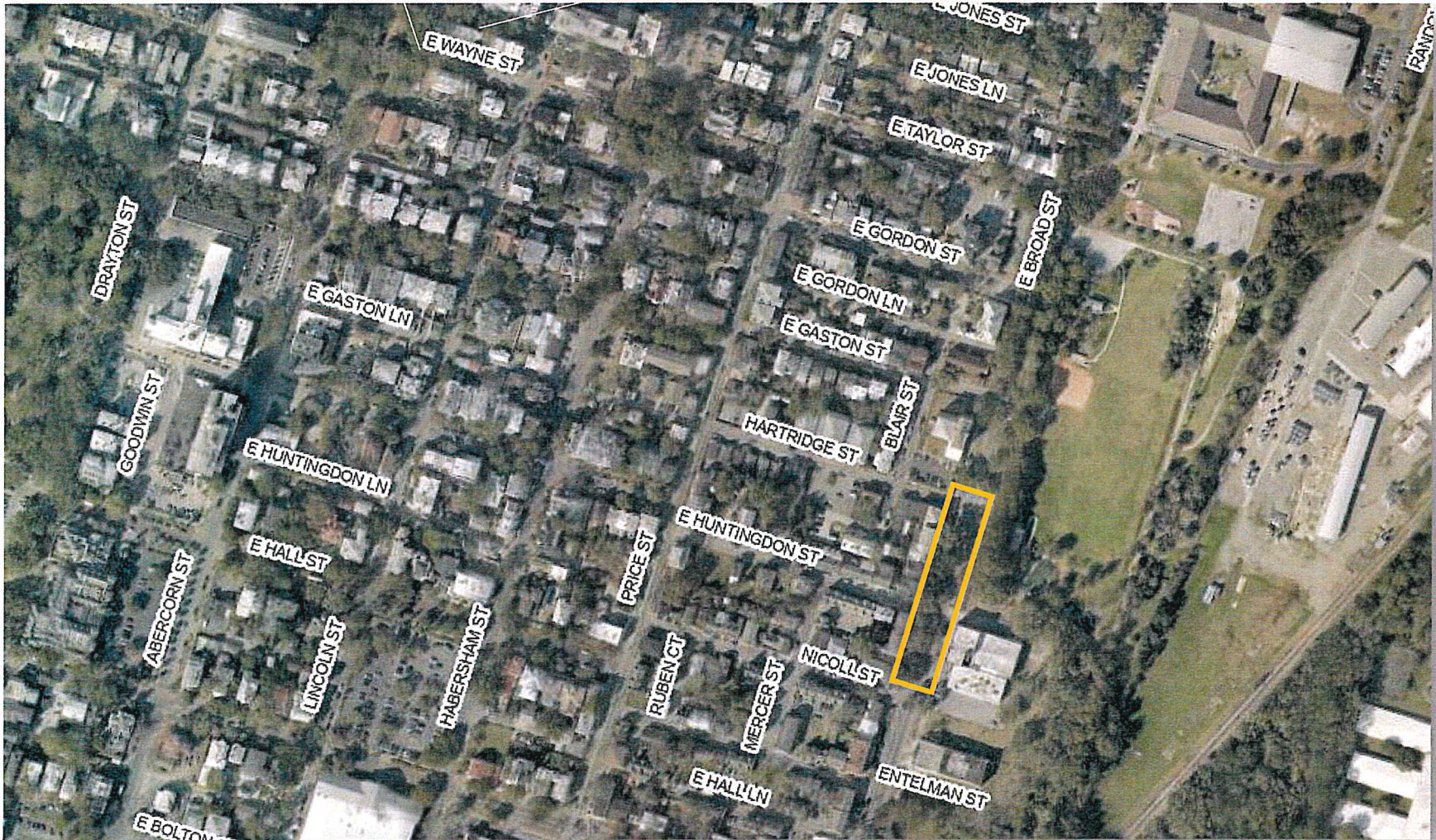
Honorary street name designations are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. The designation is temporary assignment of the honorarium and shall not interfere with the official name of the street. Honorary Street Designations DO NOT change the official name of the street, they are only symbolic.

Proposal

Current Name: East Broad Street
Proposed Honorary Name: “Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. Way”
Location: East Broad- Between Hartridge Street Nicoll Street
Petitioner: Maxine Jones, lyrictwo@gmail.com







Statement of Reason- Community Contribution

“If history is biography, then the history of the Civil Rights Movement in my home town of Savannah, Georgia is the biography of Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.” Former Congressman John Barrow

“For many of us he was father, mentor, confidant, encourager and trailblazer. His branches are too many to count and the loss to our community is enormous. The teacher has left the classroom.” The Honorable Mayor Van Johnson

The life of Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. is exemplified in the quotes printed above and the enormous outpouring of testimonies from people of all walks of life, races and nationalities, who shared similar comments of his inspiration. He was lovingly known as Pastor Brown by his congregation at St. John Baptist Church. He became known as the “Pastors’ Pastor,” Dean of Pastors and as the “Prolific Preacher.” To us he was more than a father, he was Daddy/Dad and to our mother, he was “Mack.”

Rev. Brown was born and educated in Savannah, Georgia. His parents Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Helen R. Brown owned a duplex at 519 and 521 Hartridge Street, where he and his sibling played and spent their youth. No one could have foretold that by divine inspiration, he would become Pastor of St. John (The Mighty Fortress) Missionary Baptist Church, located on Hartridge Street.

Daddy served the community through his ministry with love and concern for its citizens. He served with dignity, respect, demonstrating character and led many to follow Christ. His selfless dedication to others was the hallmark of his life.

He became friend, pastor, confidant and community leader while serving as Pastor of St. John. The Hartridge Street area was enhanced because of his keen insight and the work he did in the community.

Community Acquisitions and Properties:

- A facility for the elderly and handicapped “The St. John Villa,” developed under his leadership in collaboration with the Housing and Development Corporation of Savannah, in 1986.
- The “Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. Learning and Resource Center,” completed in 1988.
- The “Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. Education Center” evolved from the purchase of two vacant existing houses, located next door to the church. The Education, Learning and Resource Centers served as meeting and research spaces for the church and community.
- A computer Lab for the church and surrounding community was housed in one of the homes restored by the church on Hartridge Street. All age groups were served.

When the church was destroyed by fire In 1993, dad did not leave the community in blight. He, with the congregation continued momentum, growth and outreach. His mantra “We Will Rebuild,” energized the members of St. John, the community and supporters across the United States.

Dad’s heart for servant leadership extended beyond the walls of the church.

Civic and Outreach Ministries:

- The Boys' Summit, which he organized to encourage boys to aspire to decency, goal setting, developing and enhancing character and self-esteem. Local and state African American politicians, businessmen, attorneys, police officers, correction officers, educators, US military servicemen and men representing in general, the work force served as guest speakers and mentors.
- Groups of boys were taken to Camp John Hope each summer, prior to establishing the Boys' Summit. Boys experienced a variety of learning and outdoor activities.
- Served as coordinator of the One Church, One Child Program for Chatham County and served as Ambassador for the Chatham County Adoption Unit at the One Church, One Child National Conference, held in Chicago. Father John Clements founded One Church, One Child Initiative.
- Served as Chaplain of the Savannah Police Department later becoming Chief Chaplain with the rank of Captain.
- Traveled to Israel, having been selected by the Jewish Council of Savannah.
- Supported the inspiration of the Martins, St. John members who provided meals for the homeless and hungry with the Inner City Night Shelter.
- Saw to the needs of people across the Savannah community who experienced tragedies and life circumstances beyond their control..
- Lead the congregation to be involved in a wide range of charitable projects and contributions.
- Donated a substantial contribution to Savannah State University to provide financial support to students enrolled in a degree program.
- Community Mediator in times of discord.

Organizational Affiliations and Official Posts:

- 250th Savannah Birthday Celebration, appointed by Mayor John Rousakis (deceased,) to serve on his "prestigious" planning committee.
- Berean Association of Savannah, serving as Vice Moderator and later, Moderator.
- Savannah Baptist Ministerial Union and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Savannah.
- Program Chairman of the Ministerial Alliances' Emancipation Proclamation services and activities.
- Opening Session Prayer (15 years,) for the City Government of Savannah, Georgia.
- Served as Chairman (ten years.) of the Savannah Housing Authority.
- Served on the NAACP and Savannah State University National Search Committees
- Served on the Original State-Wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Observation Holiday Committee.
- Lufe-time member of the NAACP.
- Appointed by Judge Alexander Lawrence (1971,) U.S. District Court, to chair a committee to oversee the integration of the Public Schools of Chatham County and bring about a unitary school system.
- Served as Moderator during a two-year labor dispute and strike in the local government's workers' union.

- Joined WSOK Radio Station Program, “Joy In The Morning” to introduce the Savannah and surrounding communities, Morning Meditation Messages from the Lord.
- The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (50+years)
- One of the 2221 African American World War II soldiers selected to fight in Belgium, the Netherlands and the Battle of the Bulge.
- Amongst seven WWII veterans honored and celebrated for bravery in the European Theater. He was celebrated as a “Black Hero and Liberator.”
- Welcomed by U.S. Rep. John Barrow, Georgia Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives as Guest Chaplain.

Dad was no ordinary man. He was not a giant of a man in statue but he was a giant of a man in service to others locally, nationally and internationally. His ninety-nine years solidifies the belief that his calling was a divinely arranged pilgrimage, ordained by God.

He was thinking of others when he penned two books during his nineties. He desired to give hope to the hopeless and encouragement to press forward. The book titles, “The Best of Pastor Matthew Southall Brown, Sr’s Morning Meditations” and “How to Get Through It, Through What? It,” remain in publication.

Dad embraced the support, knowledge, skills and talents of others. He graciously acknowledged and shared the achievements of others.

He deserves the recognition and distinction of having his name placed atop the Hartridge Street signs at Hartridge and Price and Hartridge and East Broad streets. The legacy of Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. speaks.

Your generous considerations are appreciated.

Respectfully Yours,

Maxine Brown-Jones

Leonard Alvin Brown

Rev. Matthew Southall Brown Jr.

Requirements for Honorary Street Naming Designations. (Sec.4-1104)

Purpose

- ✓ Honorary street name designations are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the City. The designation will be a temporary assignment of the honorarium and shall not interfere with the official name of the street.

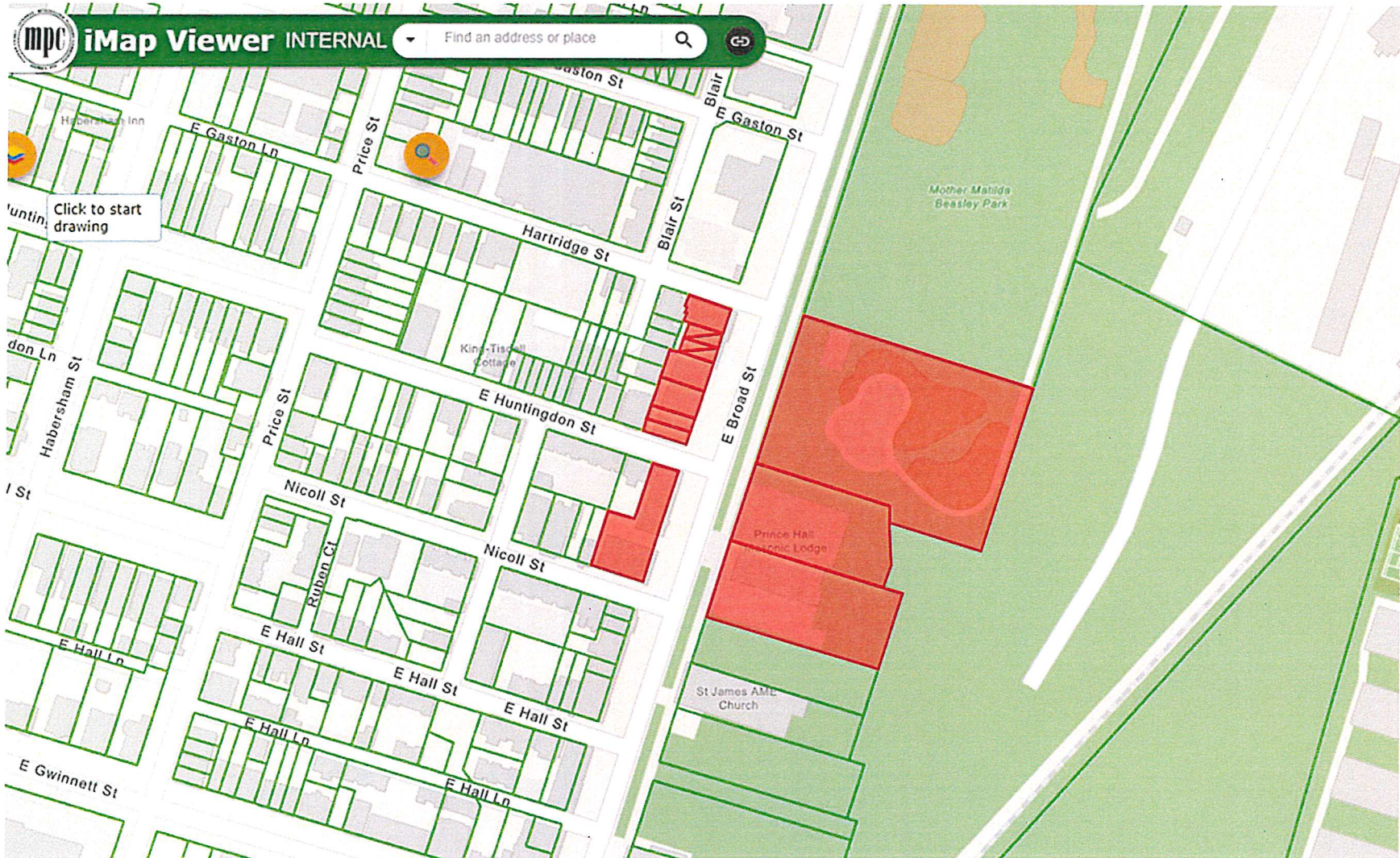
Restrictions

- ✓ Roadways under the control of the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Department of Transportation or Chatham County are not subject to honorary naming.
- ✓ Honorary designations shall be limited to one approved designation per City Council member per calendar year.
- ✓ Individual family tributes, commercially concerned and corporate-related recognitions shall not be eligible for honorary designation.

Requirements

- ✓ The proposed namesake made a sustained contribution over an appreciable time period, exerted efforts of benefit or significance to local, state or national affairs and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;
- ✓ The proposed namesake made contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community;
- ✓ The proposed namesake resided in the City for at least 5 years.
- ✓ A statement of reasons supporting the honorary naming request, including a discussion of the historical significance, contributions, heroic service or personal sacrifice by the honoree to the City, state or nation;
- ✓ Identification of the particular section or block of an existing City street for which the honorary designation is sought.
- ✓ A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject right-of-way
- ✓ An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.
- ✓ A check for \$150 made to the City of Savannah

Owner	Mailing_Address	Mailing State	Mailing Zip	Prop Address	Prop Street Name	Address	APPROVAL
1. MILLER REAL ESTATE HOLDING COMPANY LLC	4 CATTESHALL LANE	GA	31322	519	BROAD	519 E BROAD ST	Y
2. MAYOR & ALDERMEN OF SAVANNAH	PO BOX 1027	GA	31402		BROAD	E BROAD ST	Y
3. LARRY HUFFSTUTLER AND CECILIA HUFFSTUTLE	2831 ASCOT DRIVE	CA	94583	523	BROAD	523 E BROAD ST #1	
4. KATHLEEN BRACKEEN-PUTNAM AND PERRY PUTNA	525/ 527 E BROAD ST	GA	31401	525	BROAD	525 E BROAD ST	
5. WHITSELL LISA	7596 EXCITEMENT DRIVE	FL	34747	521	BROAD	521 E BROAD ST #2	
6. FRANKLIN & ZAMANOFF DARRYL JOHNATHON & B	1181 TENNYSON ST	CA	90266	535	BROAD	535 E BROAD ST	Y
7. MASONIC BLDG ASSOC THE	PO BOX 1103	GA	31402	602	BROAD	602 E BROAD ST	Y
8. ANDRES ROBERT O & RACHEL	20 GULF RD	MA	1002	523	BROAD	523 E BROAD ST #2	Y
9. STOVALL DONALD WAYNE	521 E BROAD ST APT #1	GA	31401	521	BROAD	521 E BROAD ST #1	
10. KRATTENMAKER KENNETH T.	529 E. BROAD STREET	GA	31401	529	BROAD	529 E BROAD ST	
11. NW HABERSHAM HOLDING LLC	C/O BOUHAN/FALLIGANT	GA	31401	601	BROAD	601 E BROAD ST	
12. BUONFORTE MARK	390 HURON AVENUE	MA	2138	533	BROAD	533 E BROAD ST	Y
13. ST JAMES AFRICAN METHODIST	632 E BROAD ST	GA	31401	612	BROAD	612 E BROAD ST	Y





Office of the Mayor Savannah, Georgia

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

May 8, 2024

Dear Savannah Neighbor:

Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. was beloved and revered in Savannah and worldwide.

Known as "Savannah's Pastor", Pastor Brown served our country during World War II, being one of the first African Americans to fight in the war and helping to liberate Belgium, the Netherlands, and Central Europe during the Battle of The Bulge.

Pastor Brown was born and raised at 519-521 Hartridge Street and served 35 years as the Pastor of St. John's Baptist Church on Hartridge Street. After a lifetime of love and service, he passed away in November 2021 at the age of 99.

His family desires to celebrate his life with an honorary street designation in the community where he was born, lived, and served. I wholeheartedly and without reservation support the naming request for a portion of East Broad Street to be named in honor of Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. It should be noted that, if approved, this would be an honorary street designation and will not affect your permanent address or mail delivery.

I ask for your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Van R. Johnson, II". The signature is stylized and includes a large, circular flourish at the end.

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor

PETITION TO ADD THE NAME OF
REV. MATTHEW Southall Brown, Sr
TO THE EAST BROAD STREET MARKER
April 26, 2024

"For many of us Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr. was father, mentor, confidant, encourager and trailblazer. His branches are too many to count and the loss to our community is enormous. The teacher has left the building."
The Honorable Mayor Van Johnson (dad's funeral November 2021.)

Rev. Brown was born and educated in Savannah, Georgia. His parents Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Helen R. Brown owned a duplex at 519-21 Hartridge Street where he and his siblings, played and spent their youth. He attended East Broad Street School and later pastored St. John "The Mighty Fortress" Baptist Church on Hartridge Street.

An effort to add dad's name to the East Broad Street markers within a two or three block area, is under consideration. We (his children,) are asking for your support. The addition of dad's name to the street marker will **not affect your address or mail.**

A few involvements and improvements that served the people of this community under dad's leadership are listed below:

- The Saint John Villa, a facility for elderly and handicapped citizens.
- The MSB, Sr. Learning & Resource Center, for church and community use.
- The MSB, Sr. Education Center, provided meeting and resource spaces for church and community.
- A Computer Lab for church and community use.
- Beautification of the church, its properties, and the area, in conjunction with the city.

Dad had many civic involvements, outreach ministries, official posts, and organizational affiliations. He breathed new life through his altruistic outreach and support of many. He enhanced the dignity and honor of Savannah "The Hostess City," when he was invited to serve as Guest Chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives. He brought National and International recognition to Savannah when he was honored in Belgium and the Netherlands as a "Black Liberator," due to heroic efforts during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

The distinction of having dad's name, Rev. Matthew S. Brown, Sr. added to the designated East Broad Street markers, will be a full circle moment that honors his legacy. We invite you to support this effort by signing the petition. Please return the petition in the enclosed, addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you.

District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus
Joseph J. Hynes Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

ADDRESS:

215 West 46th St. Savannah, GA 31405
602 East Broad St.
Savannah, Ga.

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Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family

Rev. Matthew S. Brown, Sr. 6/4/24
SIGNATURE: DATE:
632 EAST BROAD ST. (ST. JAMES AME CHURCH)
ADDRESS:

Steward P. Jones, Steward P. Jones 6/6/2024

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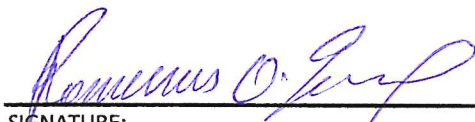
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Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family

September 12, 2024



SIGNATURE: St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church
556 E Gordon Street Savannah, GA 31401

ADDRESS:

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Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family


SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 5.28.24

535 E. Broad St Savannah GA 31405
ADDRESS: _____

*Please return on or before June 1st,
or shortly thereafter*

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April 26, 2024

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Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family



SIGNATURE:

6 July 2024

DATE:

533 E. Broad St. Savannah GA 31401

ADDRESS:

Please return on or before
Friday June 14th or shortly
there-after.

Thank you.

We are sorry for the loss of
Rev. Matthew Brown, Sr., but
happy to honor his legacy in
our neighborhood.

Respectfully,

Mark + Elizabeth Buonforte

PETITION TO ADD THE NAME OF
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Rachel Andrews 5/29/2024
Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family

Robert O. Andrews 5/29/24
SIGNATURE: DATE:

~~200~~ 523 E. Broad St. #2
ADDRESS: SAVANNAH, GA 31401

*Please return on or before
June 14th or shortly thereafter.*

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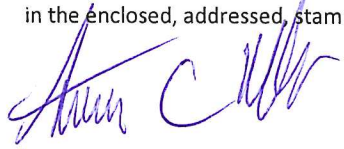
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Sincerely,

The Brown-Jones Family

AARON MILLER FOR Miller Real Estate Realty Co

6/1/24

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

4 Catherhall Ln, Rocky GA 31522

ADDRESS:

Please return on or before June 14th or shortly-after.

Thank You.

I am the owner of
517-520 E BROAD ST and
Lolly support.
Best-Aaron