

MEETING AGENDA

TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 | 10:00 A.M.
Lynwood Roberts Room | 117 West Duval Street

Call to Order

The Honorable Warren Jones, Co-Chair
Ju'Coby Pittman, Co-Chair

Introductions of Task Force Members

Overview of Task Force Creation and Its Charge

Council President Brosche

Presentation: Ethics and Florida Sunshine Laws

Kirby Oberdorfer
Deputy Director, Office of Ethics

Update: U.S. Civil Rights Trail

Monica Smith, Visit Jacksonville
and Task Force Member

**Presentation: City of Jacksonville Overview
on Civil Rights History**

Joel McEachin
COJ Planning Department

**Work Plan: Structure, Dates,
Approach and Boundaries**

The Honorable Warren Jones, Co-Chair
Ju'Coby Pittman, Co-Chair

Comments from the Public

Adjournment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

Q: Why are we here?

A: The Florida Times-Union Editorial Board published an editorial on January 24, 2018 about the recent creation of a U.S. Civil Rights Trail (www.civilrightstrail.com) expressing their surprise that Florida is not on the trail. "Florida and Jacksonville need to be on the Civil Rights Trail. First, Jacksonville must act with more than just plaques."

Based on this editorial and discussions with numerous community leaders, Council President Anna Lopez Brosche established the Task Force on Civil Rights History to make recommendations to better reflect and educate about our right Civil Rights history.

Q: What will the Task Force on Civil Rights History do?

A: The Task Force on Civil Rights History will use its collective knowledge and resources to define our comprehensive Civil Rights history, and then define how we can best reflect and educate about our history in the community.

Q: What could this effort mean for the City of Jacksonville?

A: There have been formal and informal tours of our Civil Rights history. The U.S. Civil Rights Trail is a collaborative effort to promote tourism and education the nation about significant destinations in the Civil Rights Movement. Jacksonville's right Civil Rights history dictate Jacksonville and Florida should be on that map and we could see increased tourism. In addition to the economic benefits of tourism, many in our own community do not know our rich Civil Rights history and we should educate our own community on the important role Jacksonville played in the Civil Rights Movement.

Q: Who is on the Task Force on Civil Rights History?

A: The Task Force on Civil Rights History is a body of 28 individuals from varied backgrounds demonstrating a strong interest or connection to our Civil Rights history, all of whom have a desire to shine a brighter light on our history.

Q: What is the desired outcome from the Task Force on Civil Rights History?

A: Council President Brosche would like an actionable report/plan that we can use to engage all appropriate parties in the community to ensure we are better reflecting and educating about our Civil Rights history, which may include a comprehensive inventory, historical designations, a marketing plan, and educational recommendations.



ANNA LOPEZ BROSCHE
PRESIDENT
Council Member,
At-Large Group 1
E-Mail: ABrosche@coj.net

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Office (904) 630-1393
TDD (904) 630-1580

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 7, 2018
3:00 p.m.
(Twice AMENDED)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council
FROM: Council President Anna Lopez Brosche
RE: Task Force on Civil Rights History

On January 24, 2018, the Times-Union Editorial Board published an article *Civil Rights Trail Skips Us* citing the creation of a new U.S. Civil Rights Trail which reads:

This editorial page has been commenting in recent months on Jacksonville's proud history involving its African-American residents and its civil rights history. Much of the impetus for this emphasis is based on the lack of attention this history has been given in Jacksonville. A new example of this forgotten history comes in the announcement of a new U.S. Civil Rights Trail. It covers 14 states and more than 100 historic landmarks. Yet Florida is not included, despite all the great history in this state, but especially in the Jacksonville and St. Augustine areas. Where are our civil rights memorials? A Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., the site of sit-ins in 1960, is now a civil rights museum. Jacksonville had sit-ins near Hemming Park. Where's our civil rights museum? The Ritz does a lot but it deserves more funding and support. For instance, plaques are not enough at James Weldon Johnson's homesite in LaVilla or for A. Philip Randolph in the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The shame is that the rest of the nation is unlikely to know that James Weldon and Rosamond Johnson, writers of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," wrote this classic in Jacksonville for Stanton students. Jacksonville is the site of major educational institutions for African-Americans including Edward Waters College, Stanton and Darnell-Cookman schools. Florida and Jacksonville need to be on the Civil Rights Trail. First, Jacksonville must act with more than plaques.

There have been 18 individuals inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame; six of those individuals, one-third of all inducted, are from Jacksonville: Dr. Arnett Elyus Girardeau Jr., Earl M. Johnson, Rutledge Henry Pearson, Sallye Brooks Mathis, James Weldon Johnson, and Asa Philip Randolph. Indeed, Jacksonville has a rich civil rights history that should be more widely known and celebrated, including tourism promotion efforts at the national, state, and local levels.

While I understand that Visit Florida is taking action to rectify Florida's exclusion from the recently created U.S. Civil Rights Trail, my research and discussions leading to such efforts suggests we have an opportunity to leverage these events into a positive outcome for our community. I am hereby establishing a Task Force on Civil Rights History and have asked The Honorable Warren Jones and Ju'Coby Pittman to serve as co-chairs of a 28-member body representing people in the community who have a keen interest in serving and carrying out its mission.

CHARGE: Make recommendations for how the City of Jacksonville can better reflect and educate about its rich civil rights history.

CHAIRS: The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County School Board, Co-chair
Ju'Coby Pittman, Clara White Mission, Co-Chair

MEMBERS: Tony Allegretti, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville
Dr. Alan Bliss, Jacksonville Historical Society
Dr. Richard Danford, Jacksonville Urban League
Ennis Davis, moderncities.com
Brenda Frinks, Sun City Events & Entertainment
Dr. Tim Gilmore, Florida State College at Jacksonville
Dr. Marvin Grant, Edward Waters College
Chris Hand, Eavenson, Fraser, Lunsford & Ivan
Maria Hane, Museum of Science and History
Rhiley Hodges, Paxon School for Advanced Studies
The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr.
Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins, Jacksonville Black History Calendar
The Honorable Rahman Johnson, Edward Waters College
Timothy H. Johnson, Police and Fire Pension Fund
John Lumpkin
Eric Mann, YMCA
Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr.
Hope McMath, Yellow House
Marsha Phelts
Marcus Pollard, Jacksonville Jaguars
Isaiah Rumlin, Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP
Darnell Smith, Florida Blue
Monica Smith, Visit Jacksonville
Adonnica L. Toler, Ritz Theatre and Museum
Lloyd Washington, Durkeeville Historical Society
Alton Yates

DEADLINE: I look for this body to bring forth a final report of recommendations by June 30, 2018.

I would like to thank The Honorable Warren Jones and Ju'Coby Pittman for agreeing to co-chair this task force and lead us in our work, and I appreciate the willingness of the members to devote the necessary attention to this very important issue for our community as a whole. Collectively, I look forward to the opportunity to shine a brighter light on our right civil rights history.

ALB/js

cc:

Council Members/Staff
Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Carol Owens, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jessica Matthews, Legislative Supervisor
Paula Shoup, Information Systems Administrators
Kyle Billy, Council Auditor
Media Box



ANNA LOPEZ BROSCHE
PRESIDENT
Council Member
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March 2, 2018
9:00 a.m.

MEETING NOTICE

TO: Members of the Task Force on Civil Rights History
FROM: The Honorable Warren Jones, Co-Chair
Ju'Coby Pittman, Co-Chair
THROUGH: Council President Anna Lopez Brosche
RE: Task Force on Civil Rights History Meeting Dates

Notice is hereby given that the meetings for the Task Force on Civil Rights History are scheduled on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, St. James Bldg., 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. The meeting dates are as follows:

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
Wednesday, March 14, 2018	10:00 am
Wednesday, March 28, 2018	10:00 am
Wednesday, April 11, 2018	10:00 am
Wednesday, April 25, 2018	10:00 am
Wednesday, May 9, 2018	10:00 am
Wednesday, May 23, 2018	10:00 am
Wednesday, June 13, 2018	10:00 am

Please mark your calendars accordingly. All interested parties are invited to attend.
Please contact Yvonne Mitchell at (904) 630-1679 for additional information or correspondence.

ALB/js

cc: Council Members/Staff
Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Carol Owens, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Jessica Matthews, Legislative Services, Supervisor
Paula Shoup, Information Systems Administrators
Kyle Billy, Council Auditor
Media Box

The Florida Times-Union
jacksonville.com

Jacksonville looks at civil rights role as tool for tourism, teaching

By Steve Patterson

Posted Feb 16, 2018 at 4:41 PM

Updated Feb 16, 2018 at 8:25 PM

A tourism pitch that bypassed traveler-favorite Florida has sparked the creation of a Jacksonville task force on an overlooked subject: the city's role in civil rights history.

Jacksonville's City Council unanimously approved forming a 27-member task force this week to recommend steps to present the city's civil rights role to residents and tourists.

The tourists were the spark, though, coming to mind after City Council President Anna Brosche read a Times-Union editorial that noted a website promoting a United State Civil Rights Trail with no sites in Florida. A website promoting the trail was chiefly promoted by a coalition of travel offices from other Southern states.

"It was just a wake-up call that we need to do a better job of highlighting that history," said Brosche, who introduced the task force resolution, which the council then cosponsored.

"We should be capitalizing on that rich history in a way that helps people understand who Jacksonville is and why we're great," she said.

Jacksonville has had notable roles in Florida's civil right past and black history generally.

The city attracted ambitious blacks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when big parts of central and southern Florida were thinly populated.

Although African-Americans were pushed out of politics in parts of the state after the Reconstruction era ended in the 1870s, Jacksonville had black officeholders as late as 1907. Blacks worked in medicine, education and filmmaking in Jacksonville in the early 20th century.

James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson, the brothers who created the song “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” first sung in Jacksonville, became emblems of black accomplishment in that time.

But the city also had lynchings, mob violence and the forced segregation that was routine in the first half of the 20th century.

The task force includes people with direct experience in civil rights campaigns, including Rodney Hurst, a leader of 1960 lunch-counter sit-ins downtown that were greeted by mass beatings remembered as Ax Handle Saturday.

Others on the member list range from Rudolph McKissick Sr., former past of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, to Hope McMath, former director of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, who runs the studio Yellow House.

The group is expected to report back to Brosche by June 30, her last day as council president.

“We’ve got our work cut out for us,” said School Board member Warren Jones, who will co-chair the task force with Ju’Coby Pittman, CEO of the Clara White Mission. “The history is there. The question is in chronicling that ... If you can put more heads in beds because we’re on that tour and you bring people to Jacksonville, it’s a win-win.”

Jones said he expects the first meeting, not yet scheduled, will be late this month or in early March, with meetings likely to follow once or twice a month.

Steve Patterson: (904) 359-4263



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voting.

Sixty percent of voters would have to approve the measure for it to become law.

Meade has been fighting for years for this chance.

He had been convicted on drug and firearms charges in 2001 but after serving his time, attended law school. He, however, couldn't even vote for his wife when she ran for the Florida House in 2016.

But for Meade, this fight was for the people "who knew they were so much better than their past said they were," he said. "They deserve to live with dignity and respect."

Florida's law banning ex-felons from voting dates to 1868 when a variety of means like poll taxes were used to restrict votes from African-Americans.

Only four states in the nation bar ex-felons from voting for life — Florida, Iowa, Virginia and Kentucky.

Florida needs to join the larger community and end discriminatory practices.

That's where you come in.

It's up to you and other Florida voters to decide whether the privilege of voting should be extended to a group of individuals who have been forbidden to enter voting booths in this state.

It's time we give former felons the freedom to cast a ballot.

Floridians will have the chance to decide this November whether a felony in effect becomes a lifetime voting ban..

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL SKIPS US

This editorial page has been commenting in recent months on Jacksonville's proud history involving its African-American residents and its civil rights history.

Much of the impetus for this emphasis is based on the lack of attention this history has been given in Jacksonville.

A new example of this forgotten history comes in the announcement of a new U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

It covers 14 states and more than 100 historic landmarks.

Yet Florida is not included, despite all the great history in this state, but especially in the Jacksonville and St. Augustine areas.

Where are our civil rights memorials?

A Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., the site of sit-ins in 1960, is now a civil rights museum.

Jacksonville had sit-ins near Hemming Park. Where's our civil rights museum?

The Ritz does a lot but it deserves more funding and support.

For instance, plaques are not enough at James Weldon Johnson's homesite in LaVilla or for A. Philip Randolph in the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

The shame is that the rest of the nation is unlikely to know that James Weldon and Rosamond Johnson, writers of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," wrote this classic in Jacksonville for Stanton students.

Jacksonville is the site of major educational institutions for African-Americans including Edward Waters College, Stanton and Darnell-Cookman schools.

Florida and Jacksonville need to be on the Civil Rights Trail. First, Jacksonville must act with more than plaques.



SIGN UP FOR DAILY E-MAIL

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Jacksonville City Council President Anna Lopez Brosche wants to establish a task force on local Civil Rights history and she's seeking a vote at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Brosche said it all started with an editorial

(<http://www.jacksonville.com/opinion/editorials/2018-01-24/thursday-s-editorial-new-threats-emerge-local-home-rule>) by The Florida Times-Union pointing out a new U.S. Civil Rights trail (<https://civilrightstrail.com/discover-the-trail/>) with an online interactive map of more than 100 historic landmarks in 14 states, but Florida wasn't included. She said she got a lot of calls about it.

"One of those callers suggested I create a task force, that it was really a travesty and disappointing that we aren't on it," Brosche said.

She met with several African-American city council members Monday to get input and ask for support for a task force, although it wouldn't get Florida on that online trail. Councilman Reggie Brown said he would be co-sponsoring Brosche's bill.

"People have to see themselves in order to feel good about themselves and I think that we've done a poor job representing all the rich history that we have here," Brown said.

The 25-member task force, comprised of historians, activists and educators, would have until the end of June to bring forth recommendations on how Jacksonville can better reflect and educate people about the city's Civil Rights history.


A draft proposal for the task force lays out some of Jacksonville's Civil Rights history, saying a third of the 18 people inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame (<https://flcivilrightshalloffame.com/inductees/>) are from Jacksonville, including Arnett Girardeau, Jr. (<http://news.wjct.org/post/colleagues-late-sen-arnett-girardeau-jacksonville-paved-way-minority-representation>) and Sallye Brooks Mathis (<http://flcivilrightshalloffame.com/bio/sallye-brooks-mathis/>).

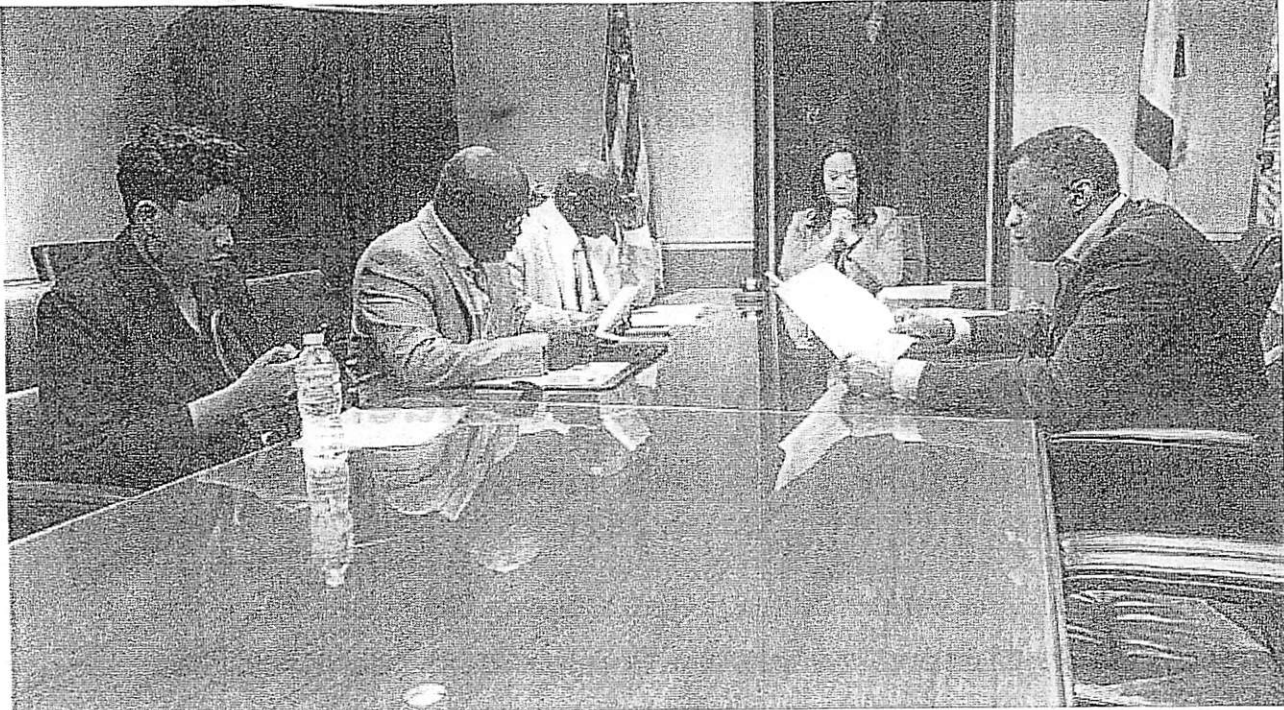
Brosche said she's heard that the state's tourism agency, Visit Florida is working to get the state on the trail.

She said she'll ask for her colleagues to both introduce and pass the bill Tuesday evening in order to start the process as soon as possible.

TAGS: [CITY COUNCIL \(/TERM/CITY-COUNCIL\)](#) [CONFEDERATE \(TERM CONFEDERATE\)](#)

[APP \(/TERM/APP\)](#)

 [Tweet \(http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.j.mp%2F2o3BuiL&text=Jacksonville%20City%20Council%20President%20Looking%20To%20Establish%20Civil%20Rights%20History%20Task%20Force\)](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.j.mp%2F2o3BuiL&text=Jacksonville%20City%20Council%20President%20Looking%20To%20Establish%20Civil%20Rights%20History%20Task%20Force)



(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wjct/files/styles/x_large/public/201802/IMG_0419.jpg)

Council President Anna Lopez Brosche (middle) meets with city council members Katrina Brown (left), Sam Newby, Reggie Gaffney and Reggie Brown (right) Monday.

LINDSEY KILBRIDE / WJCT NEWS



ETHICS IN A NUTSHELL Jan. 2018
Government in the Sunshine:
A Guideline for Boards and Commissions

Carla Miller, Director Ethics, Compliance and Oversight, 630-1476
"ECO" office; email at ethics@coj.net Hotline: 630-1015



All members of Boards and Commissions must know about and follow two important Florida laws: the Sunshine Law and Public Records Law. The purpose of these laws is to give the citizens of our community more transparency and information about their government.

I. SUNSHINE LAW–(Florida Statute 286.011)

There are 3 major requirements of this law:

- 1) Your Board meetings must be open and accessible to the public
- 2) Reasonable advance notice of the meetings must be given
- 3) Written minutes must be taken and open for inspection

****NOTICE MEETINGS; MAKE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; AND TAKE MINUTES!!**

What is considered a “meeting”? A meeting is any time you communicate (phone, mail, email, talking) with another member of your commission and you are talking about subjects that are likely to come up in front of your commission/board. This includes sub-committee meetings. You cannot discuss any public business or matters connected with your board with another member of your board outside of a “noticed meeting”. This includes: casual gatherings, talking in the hall, chance meetings, emails, telephone conversations, and letters or emails that are used to develop a position.

Activities which are OK:

-- talking with other board members about your family or sports;

--having a holiday party with other board members (but you cannot discuss board business at the party)

--speaking with another commission member on a panel at a community forum (but you can't talk back and forth on issues with the other member from your board);

-- **sending out an email on an article you find interesting (but you can't put in the email: "What do you think about this for our Board? Email your comments to me") If you receive an email like this from another board member, do NOT respond to it! In other words, don't start a conversation about it.**

--You can talk to city staff but you can't use the staff to go back and forth with other members to build a consensus (to staff member: Can you go ask the other board members what they think of this and get back to me? That is not OK!)

--Do with extreme caution: an email or letter sending a report as to what will be discussed at the meeting is OK; do NOT interact with any of the members or talk to them about it or ask for comments. All of the discussion and comments should be at the noticed meeting.

--Do with extreme caution: you can send out a statement of your position or future actions you intend on taking. Although this is OK, make sure you do not ask for comments or feedback or start a conversation with other board members about it. Check with your city liaison if you have any questions before sending something like this out.

--fact finding activity only (but check with your board liaison if any question on this);

Because it can give the appearance to others that business is being discussed, try to avoid talking privately or whispering to another board member in an actual meeting. Don't chat about board matters right before the meeting officially starts or after the meeting has been officially adjourned.

NOTICE of meetings should be sent out at least 24 hours before the meeting, but it is much better to allow for 3 or more days. Your city liaison will send out the notice for you.

MINUTES You are responsible for keeping the minutes of your meetings, but usually this is done for you by a city employee assigned to your board. If no one from the city is there, you must take minutes yourself. (This usually happens in sub-committee meetings.)

PENALTIES Violation of the above laws is a criminal offense with up to 60 days in jail; even if you didn't mean to do it (no intent), you can be fined a civil penalty of up to \$500. You can also be sued in a civil lawsuit if these laws are violated.

II. **PUBLIC RECORDS** (Florida Statute section 119)



Requirements: Documents generated by a commission or board are public records and must be open for public inspection and copying. If you receive any request for the records or documents of your board or commission, immediately forward them to your city liaison so it can be handled correctly and in a timely fashion.

1. What items are covered as “public documents”?

Everything—all documents, papers, emails, letters, books, tapes, photos, software, videos, audio recordings, or other material regardless of how it is kept; if it is made in connection with the official business of your board or commission.

This can even include non-final documents, such as draft documents or notes you take to remember events.

2. What documents are not covered?

Personal notes used to prepare other documents, strictly personal emails or other personal writings; and notes given by you to someone else to type up a final document.

In general, however, you should assume that all of your writings in connection with your board duties may become public records as you write them and that citizens can ask for copies of them.

3. Penalties: up to one year in jail and fines; or a civil fine of \$500 or civil law suits.

Task Force on Civil Rights History Input Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

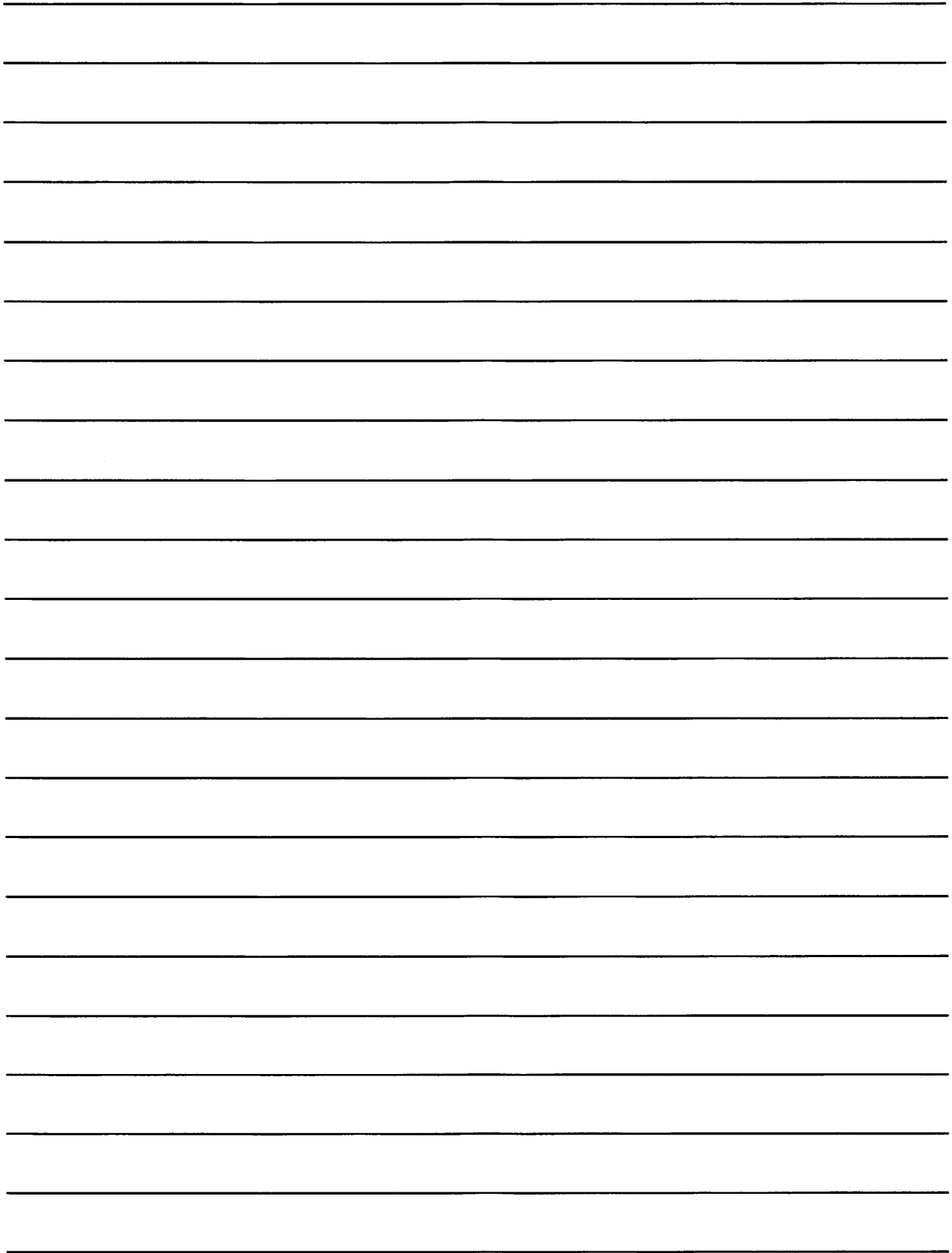
Individual or Site of Significance: _____

Address of Site of Significance: _____

Condition of the Site (vacant, structure, etc.): _____

Why is the individual or site significant? _____

Definitions for Consideration: The "Civil Rights Movement" refers to efforts toward achieving true equality for African Americans in all facets of society. Civil rights are an expansive and significant set of rights that are designed to protect individuals from unfair treatment; they are the rights of individuals to receive equal treatment (and to be free from unfair treatment or discrimination) in a number of settings -- including education, employment, housing, public accommodations, and more -- and based on certain legally-protected characteristics.



Civil Rights Trail (<https://civilrightstrail.com>)

The fight for American civil rights spanned decades, cities and states – from Topeka, Kansas, to Memphis, Tennessee, from Atlanta, Georgia, to Selma and Birmingham, and all the way to Washington, D.C. Chart the course of the Civil Rights Movement through the Civil Rights Trail that begins with the site of school integration and takes you to the scene of Bloody Sunday and finally the Supreme Court of the United States.

This website allows you to explore the destinations important to the Civil Rights Movement, as well as plan your journey to cities along the trail. On this site, you'll find places to see and things to do at each destination. Plus, you'll find in-depth explorations crafted to allow you to experience the destination or event in a more comprehensive way. Discover the trail. Discover the fight for civil rights. And make sure the true stories that changed history are never lost.

ALL DESTINATIONS

Alabama

Anniston
Birmingham
Monroeville
Montgomery
Scottsboro
Selma
Tuscaloosa
Tuskegee

Arkansas

Little Rock

Delaware

Wilmington

District of Columbia

Washington

Georgia

Albany
Atlanta
Midway

Kansas

Topeka

Kentucky

Berea
Louisville
Simpsonville

Louisiana

Baton Rouge
New Orleans

Mississippi

Canton
Glendora
Jackson
Money
Oxford
Philadelphia
Ruleville
Sumner

Missouri

Independence
St. Louis

North Carolina

Durham
Greensboro
Raleigh

South Carolina

Charleston
Columbia
Greenville
Greenwood
Orangeburg
Rock Hill
St. Helena Island
Summerton

Tennessee

Clinton
Memphis
Nashville

Virginia

Farmville
Richmond

West Virginia

Charleston
Harpers Ferry
Huntington

Explore our partner sites:

Sweet Home
Alabama

Arkansas
THE NATURAL STATE

Georgia
On My Mind

There's no place like
Kansas

Kentucky
UNBROKEN SPIRIT

LOUISIANA
Pick your Passion
LouisianaTravel.com

VISIT
MISSISSIPPI

MISSOURI
enjoy the show

NORTH CAROLINA

South Carolina
Just right.

THE SOUNDTRACK OF AMERICA
MADE IN
TENNESSEE

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS

WASHINGTON
DC

WILD, WONDERFUL
WEST VIRGINIA

TRAVEL SOUTH USA

TIME LINE – MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN JACKSONVILLE

Please Note: This time line does not represent a comprehensive list of the sites, events and people associated with the modern Civil Rights movement in Jacksonville.

- 1941 -** Jacksonville teacher, Mary White Blocker, was the third client in Florida to file suit for equal salaries for black and white teachers. A teacher at the Davis Street School, (Isaiah Blocker Jr. High School) and later Darnell Cookman, Mary Blocker was forced to retire, but Duval County Negro Teacher's Association paid her salary until her death in 1965. She is also credited with starting the first black PTA in Duval County.
- 1946 –** With the encouragement of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP, Reverend Dallas Graham went to the Duval County Courthouse on March 13 where he attempted to register as a Democrat. He was informed by the register that the Democratic Party in Jacksonville only accepted whites. The action to refuse registering Reverend Graham as a Democrat was legally challenged by black attorney D.W. Perkins and on March 16, 1945, U.S. Circuit Judge Bayard B. Shields ruled that the county's register had to allow him to register as a Democrat. An appeal was made by the Democratic Party, but the decision was upheld by Judge Mites W. Lewis.
- 1946 -** City officials refused to allow the Montreal Royals, a farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers, to play at Durkee Field (James P. Small Stadium) due to the presence of Jackie Robinson on the roster, who broke into the majors a year later.
- 1948 –** Jacksonville native and mason by trade, Wilson Armstrong ran in 1948 to represent the majority black 5th ward in the city council. Unknown and having no political experience, most of Armstrong's qualifying fees were discovered to have been paid by the Jacksonville Chapter of the National Negro Congress, which was recognized as being affiliated with the communist party. As a result, Armstrong did not receive wide support from the established black leadership and lost to the white incumbent, Claude Smith.
- 1951 -** After an earlier unsuccessful attempt by Wilson Armstrong to win a City Council seat representing Ward Five, Porcher Taylor joined with Lucas Elee in 1951 to enter the City Council race against three white candidates. Since ward elections were done on an at-large basis, the two black candidates had to obtain some of the white votes in order to win. Although the black community was more united and organized than in the previous election with a black candidate, Porcher and Lucas were not successful, but did increase their political prestige in black Jacksonville while establishing a solid foundation for future candidates.

- 1952 -** Porcher Taylor's attempt to be elected as a Justice of Peace in 1952 was thwarted, but was part of a political strategy to seek more minor offices that would receive less attention from whites and thus hopefully prevail in black majority wards. In the 1955 election, Taylor ran again for a seat on the City Council representing Ward Five. Taylor and his two black opponents, Isadore Singleton and Ernest Jackson, lost due to not obtaining enough white votes required by the at-large voting system.
- 1953 -** The Jacksonville Braves along with the Savannah team were the first teams in the Class A - South Atlantic League to break the color line when new team owner, Samuel Wolfson, hired three African American players, Henry "Hank" Aaron, Horace Garner, and Felix Mantilla. The attendance at games skyrocketed as the presence of these three players drew the curious as well as many African American fans to Durkee Field. Although withstanding a full season of verbal abuse generated by racial hatred, as well as forced to seek accommodations in private homes, nineteen-year old Aaron went on to have a successful season hitting twenty-two homeruns and achieving a batting average of .362. After being named the Most Valuable Player in the League and leading the Braves in winning a pennant, Aaron was promoted to the Milwaukee Braves in 1954.
- 1960 -** Thirty-five African Americans, mostly from the Youth Council of the NAACP under the leadership of popular history teacher, Rutledge Pearson began staging demonstrations in Downtown Jacksonville seeking access to "whites only" lunch counters at F.W. Woolworth, T.G. Grant, Kress, and Cohen Brothers. On August 27, 1960, they were met by over 200 white men, some from out-of-state, carrying axe handles and baseball bats that were used to intimidate and injure many of the demonstrators. Nationally publicized, this event, known "Ax Handle Saturday", was a turning point in Jacksonville's civil rights movement. The next day, representatives of the local and national NAACP, along with members of the Youth Council, met and decided to hold a mass meeting at St. Paul's A.M.E. Presided over by Rodney Hurst, President of the Youth Council, the large crowd in attendance heard comments by Alton Yates and Marjorie Meeks, Vice President and Secretary of the Youth Council along with speeches by Rutledge Pearson and by NAACP legal counsel, Earl Johnson. Mrs. Ruby Hurley and Bob Saunders from the regional and national offices of the NAACP also spoke. Those present overwhelmingly approved a resolution by the Youth Council that no further demonstrations would occur for the next two weeks giving the local white power structure the opportunity to respond to other demands, particularly that Mayor Haydon Burns establish a broadly represented biracial committee to address a multitude of issues.
- 1960 -** Following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka Kansas* that overturned the "separate but equal" principle, local NAACP attorney, Earl Johnson, working with Eddie Mae Stewart,

president of the Jacksonville NAACP and mortician Wendell Holmes chair of the NAACP's Education Committee to desegregate local schools, filed a suit on behalf of seven black parents and fourteen children, charging the Duval County School Board of operating a system of racially segregated schools. Holmes went on to become the first African-American to be elected to a school board in Florida, and later served as Chair of the Duval County School Board.

- 1960 -** Local black business owner, Frank Hampton, successfully filed numerous suits requiring the City of Jacksonville to desegregate all municipally owed facilities including golf courses, the Gator Bowl, Civic Auditorium, Wolfson Park, the Jacksonville Zoo and swimming pools along with other parks and playgrounds. The initial response by the City was to close down or sell these facilities to private parties. Another suit was filed requiring desegregation of the Duval County Courthouse, Duval Hospital, beaches and county jail and prison farm. To avoid the lawsuit, the County Commissioners agreed to the desegregation of those facilities.
- 1962 -** Federal Judge Bryan Simpson ruled that the Duval County School Board must develop a plan for ending total segregation of local public schools. The School Board plan approved by Judge Simpson allowed for the integration of first and second grades in 1963 with a different grade level added each year until in full compliance with the court order.
- 1963 -** Because of residential segregation, only thirteen black students enrolled in five white schools in September of 1963. The schools included Fishweir, Hyde Grove, Oak Hill, Lackawanna and Venetia.
- 1963 -** On December 1, 1963 at the ½ mile dirt track of Jacksonville's Speedway Park, Wendell Scott was the first African American to win on NASCAR's highest level. Unfortunately, his win was not recognized until almost two hours after the race had ended with Buck Baker previously flagged as the winner. The decision not to declare Scott the winner was to avoid having the 5,000 white fans seeing a black man in victory lane with the trophy and performing the ritual of kissing the white beauty queen. Since Scott had never received the trophy, the Jacksonville Stock Car Hall of Fame had one replicated and presented to his family in 2010. In 2015, Wendell Scott was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.
- 1964 -** First grader, Donal Godfrey, started attending the white Lackawanna Elementary School near his home. He and his mother, Iona Godfrey King were heckled and threaten by white demonstrators while walking to school which was also being picketed each day by a group of white women. The threats got so severe that Donal was escorted to school by police detectives. In February of 1964, a bomb ripped through the Godfrey home located near the intersection of Gilmore Street and Owen Avenue. The explosion did not cause any injuries since it was placed under the house opposite the side containing the bedrooms. Two months later, William Rosecrans, a member of the KKK in Indiana, along

with five local Klan members, was charged with placing the bomb. Rosecrans was sentenced to seven years, however, one of the five local Klan members was acquitted and other four released due to a mistrial. Donal transferred to a black school, but returned to Lackawanna for the 5th grade.

1964 - Frustrated with the School Board's slow pace in following the desegregation order, the NAACP requested all black students to not attend school during a three day period starting on December 7, 1964. On the first day 17,000 black students did not attend school. Within a three day period, the absent of 34,000 students caused the School Board a loss of \$75,000.

1964 - Johnnie Mae Chappell, a mother of 10, was killed as she walked along New Kings trying to find a lost wallet. Her killers were four white men looking for a black person to shoot following a day of racial unrest. Of the four men in the car, only one, J.W. Rich, was ever charged. He was sentenced for ten years on manslaughter charges, but served only three years. In 2000, Johnnie Mae Chappell was recognized as a Civil Rights Martyr and was added to the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.

1964 - As part of their American tour, the Beatles were scheduled to perform at the Gator Bowl on September 11. Being a City owned facility; the Gator Bowl was by municipal ordinance segregated. Five days before the concert, the Beatles released a statement that they would not play unless blacks could attend and sit anywhere. John Lennon stated, "I'd sooner lose our appearance money" than play to a segregated audience. Because of the fear of bad publicity and severe financial loses, the City relented and allowed the show to be open to all.

1967 - Attorney Earl Johnson, Sallye Mathis, Mary Singleton and Oscar Taylor were the first African Americans to be elected to the Jacksonville City Council since 1907. Sallye Mathis and Mary Singleton were also the first women ever elected to the City Council. Charles E. Simmons, Jr. was elected to the City Civil Service Board after having been appointed to the position in 1966.

1969 - While parked on Florida Avenue, a white cigarette salesman shot at a group of black youth trying to break into his delivery truck. With one member of the group being shot in the leg, a large angry crowd formed upon hearing of the shooting. Several smaller groups began to riot along eight blocks of Florida Avenue. In response to the Halloween Riot of 1969, Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau, Chairman of the Community Urban Development Council requested Mayor Hans Tanzler to have the Jacksonville Community Relations Commission to investigate the cause of the riot and actions by local police officers. A special committee was formed that had five subcommittees to investigate various aspects of the event. Although containing many sound suggestions, the report produced by the special committee was never seriously implemented.

- 1971 -** Implementation of the desegregation case was transferred to U.S. District Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat to re-work the plan. Because of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision determining that the use of busing was an appropriate action for achieving desegregation, Judge Tjoflat ordered mass busing to integrate Duval County schools which proved to be a burden more on black students.
- 1971 -** In June of 1971, a police officer shot and killed a black teenager, Donnie Ray Hall, on suspicion of being part of a group that had stolen an automobile. 300 black demonstrators under the local NAACP chapter picketed the Duval County Court House. After the demonstrators dispersed, small groups started looting and burning buildings along Florida Avenue that continued for several days and escalated to other parts of the city. The Community Urban Development Council under Dr. Girardeau began documenting cases of police brutality and harassment and provided this information to Governor Reuben Askew. After a police officer was shot and killed with another one wounded, a grand jury investigated the recent incidents concluding that the actions by the Sheriff's Office demonstrated proper restraint, but recommended better communication between the police and the black communities.
- 1971 -** City Council member Sallye Mathis and Dr. Andrew Robinson with the University of North Florida successful convinced respected business and community leader, J.J. Daniel to bring together fifteen white and fifteen black community leaders that met at Shiloh Baptist Church. From that meeting the Council of Leadership for Community Advancement (CLCA) was formed under the joint supervision of J.J. Daniel and Dr. Andrew Robinson. The Council formed five task forces that met to address education, employment, housing, media and law enforcement. With the momentum of the CLCA slowing down in 1972, the recommendations of the task forces were never significantly implemented. As a result the decade ended with the same racial issues confronting the city as reflected in the annual *Status of Blacks in Jacksonville, 1979*, produced by the Urban League under President, Clanzel Brown.