



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Commission Chamber

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

1:15 PM

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- 1.** Approve assigning the honorary name designation of Luvenia Pearson Way to a portion of Thirteenth Street.
- 2.** Motion to **approve** the minutes of the August 11, 2026 Public Safety Committee Meeting.



## Public Safety Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Approve honorary name designation of Luvenia Pearson Way to a portion of Thirteenth St

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|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Department:</b>                                    | Information Technology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Presenter:</b>                                     | Evelyn Chanti, Information Technology GIS Manager                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Caption:</b>                                       | Approve assigning the honorary name designation of Luvenia Pearson Way to a portion of Thirteenth Street.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Background:</b>                                    | Augusta Commissioner Jordan Johnson, on behalf of The Augusta African American Historical Society, initiated a request for an honorary road name designation for a portion of Thirteenth St, between Laney-Walker Boulevard and D'Antignac Street, to honor Luvenia Pearson.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Analysis:</b>                                      | Ms. Luvenia Pearson was a trailblazer in Augusta. From 1942 to 1964, she operated the Luvenia Pearson School of Beauty and Cosmetology, the first of its kind for African American women in Augusta. It later became Luvenia's Beauty Salon. She taught Cosmetology in Richmond County for fifteen years, later becoming an instructor at Augusta Tech. She loved her community and was a member of CME church. Her former home on Thirteenth Street is now operated by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The Laney Museum will be highlighting Ms. Pearson at an exhibition in October of 2026. Living status: deceased. |
| <b>Financial Impact:</b>                              | One road sign to be placed at the intersection of Laney-Walker Blvd and Thirteenth St and one at the intersection of Thirteenth St and D'Antignac St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Alternatives:</b>                                  | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Recommendation:</b>                                | Approve assigning the honorary designation of Luvenia Pearson to a portion of Thirteenth St.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Funds are available in the following accounts:</b> | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u></b>               | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

July 9, 2026

To: Commissioner Jordan Johnson  
From: The Augusta African American Historical Society  
**RE:** Luvenia Pearson Street Naming

Luvenia Pearson was the Madam C.J. Walker of Augusta. From 1942 to 1964 she operated the Luvenia Pearson School of Beauty and Cosmetology, the first of its kind for African American women in Augusta. When it closed it was converted into Luvenia's Beauty Salon. She taught cosmetology in the Richmond County School System for 15 years. She later became an instructor of Cosmetology at Augusta Tech. She was an entrepreneur, educator, a member of the CME church, and someone who loved her community dearly.

The Augusta African American Historical Society, established by the Honorable Edward M. McIntyre in 2000, is tasked with preserving the history and telling the stories of Augusta through monuments, street naming, and historical lectures.

It is with this in mind that we petition the Augusta Commission for the stretch of 13<sup>th</sup> Street between Laney-Walker Boulevard and D'Antignac Street be named in her honor. We chose this part of 13<sup>th</sup> because her home, now operated by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, sits at the corner of Laney-Walker and 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Laney Museum will be featuring an exhibition this October that will highlight Luvenia Pearson, so if we can include the street naming as a part of the exhibition that would be great.

For any questions you can reach me at 706-495-6903 or [ocur761@gmail.com](mailto:ocur761@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Rogers', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Corey Rogers, President

# The Augusta Chronicle

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## NEWS

# Augusta cosmetology teacher dies at 102

**Gracie Shepherd**

Feb. 2, 2012, 3:35 p.m. ET

Luvenia Pearson died Saturday at age 102, after spending more than 60 years educating cosmetology students across the Augusta area.

“She was something special,” said Henry James, a student from the 1970s.

James said Pearson was an energetic teacher who took time with every student who came her way.

“She was the one that encouraged everybody,” he said. “She would work with anybody to help them succeed.”

Pearson attended Poro Beauty School in Virginia and received an instructor’s license in 1942. When she came home to Augusta, she founded Luvenia’s School of Cosmetology and operated it until 1964.

In a 1991 *Augusta Chronicle* article, Pearson said she loved the independence that cosmetology offered to people, as a way to make a good living while helping other people feel good.

“The best feeling in the world is making people feel beautiful,” she said.

Pearson closed her school in 1964 because it could not compete with the new Augusta Technical College, which offered cosmetology at a lower price. She turned the school into a salon where she rented booths out to operators.

“They really are their own bosses,” she said.

Lola Richardson was a longtime friend of Pearson who said Pearson's faith was what motivated her to invest so much in her students' lives.

"She was a definite Christian woman who loved God and attended church every Sunday, even up until a few weeks before her death," Richardson said. "She was very gracious and graceful."

She said Pearson loved drinking coffee, watching Tiger Woods play golf and listening to President Obama's speeches.

"She was a very wonderful woman," she said.

Pearson was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Benjamin Franklin Pearson.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. today at Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Jeffrey Thomas will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

# Thirteenth Street - Honorary Name Sign



Augusta, GA Disclaimer: The data represented on this map has been compiled by the best methods available. Accuracy is contingent upon the source information as compiled by various agencies and departments both internal and external to the consolidated government of Augusta, GA. Augusta, GA and the companies contracted to develop these data assume no legal responsibilities for the information or accuracy contained on this map. It is strictly forbidden to sell or reproduce these maps or data for any reason without the written consent of the Augusta-Richmond County Commission.

**Public Safety Committee**

August 25, 2026

**Minutes**

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|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Department:</b>                                    | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Presenter:</b>                                     | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Caption:</b>                                       | Motion to <b>approve</b> the minutes of the August 11, 2026 Public Safety Committee Meeting. |
| <b>Background:</b>                                    | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Analysis:</b>                                      | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Financial Impact:</b>                              | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Alternatives:</b>                                  | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Recommendation:</b>                                | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b>Funds are available in the following accounts:</b> | N/A                                                                                          |
| <b><u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u></b>               | N/A                                                                                          |