

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Cynthia Russell, City Clerk
Date: April 30, 2014
Subject: Mayor and Council Nominations for the Gautier Colored School Rehabilitation Project Steering Committee

REQUEST:

The Mayor and Council approval is requested of seven nominated individuals for appointment to a Steering Committee for the Gautier Colored School Rehabilitation Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Gautier Colored School building (also known as the West Pascagoula Colored School) was originally built in 1921 by patrons of the school as a one-room schoolhouse for Gautier's African-American children and was used as a school until 1946. Later, the building was used as a community center and voting place. The building was designated as a *Mississippi Landmark* by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) on October 19, 2012 and was listed as one of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Mississippi for 2013. MDAH has awarded the City \$80,000 in Community Heritage Preservation Grant funding for the first phase of a project which will focus on stabilizing the foundation and adding a new roof. Ultimately the structure will be re-purposed as a Welcome Center/Visitors' Center with an exhibit of a one-room school house. All grant applicants must provide cash matching funds (private, local or federal) in an amount not less than 20% of the total project (or \$20,000). The Gautier City Council plans to appoint a Steering Committee to assist with the planning, vision, and fundraising activities for this project.

DISCUSSION:

At their April 1, 2014 meeting, the Mayor and Council made a motion for each Council Member to nominate an individual to serve on the Gautier Colored School Project Steering Committee. These nominations for City Council approval include: *Nettie Jones, Ellen Malone, James Torrey, Jo Ann Blanks, Paul Caesar, Jermone Blanks and Gwen Wells-Parker.*

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Clerk Department recommends that City Council appoint the seven individuals nominated by the Mayor and Council to serve on the Gautier Colored School Project Steering Committee along with other positions that were filled by the Historic Preservation Commission.

City Council may:

1. approve the appointments of the seven individuals nominated to the Gautier Colored School Project Steering Committee; or
2. disapprove the nominations.

ATTACHMENT(S):

NA