

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2021-0064

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Members Salem, Pittman, Newby, and Gaffney

**Date of Introduction:** February 9, 2021

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU

**Date of Analysis:** February 9, 2021

**Type of Action:** Naming of City-owned recreational property

**Bill Summary:** This bill names the field at J. P. Small Memorial Park Stadium, located at 1701 Myrtle Avenue in Council District 8, in honor of Henry L. Aaron. The field will be known as the “Henry L. Aaron Field at J. P. Small Memorial Stadium”.

**Background Information:** J. P. Small Memorial Stadium in the Durkeeville community of northwest Jacksonville was the first municipal recreation field in the city of Jacksonville. The stadium was first created as a recreational field used by local teams, including the Jacksonville Tars and the African American ball team, the Jacksonville Athletics, a team on which James Weldon Johnson played. Major League Baseball teams, including the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers played at the field in the early decades of the twentieth century and Jacksonville’s only Negro League team, the Jacksonville Red Caps, made up of employees of the East Coast Railroad, played against Negro League greats, including Satchel Paige. In 1953 the field became part of history when it became the location of the first games played by the newly integrated Jacksonville Braves (a farm team of the Milwaukee Braves), which included three Black players, one of which was Henry L. “Hank” Aaron. The Jacksonville Braves won the league championship that same year and Aaron led the league in runs (115), hits (208), 14 doubles (36), RBIs (125), total bases (338) and batting average (.362), and won the league’s Most Valuable Player Award.

**Policy Impact Area:** Public recreation and entertainment, Parks and Recreation

**Fiscal Impact:** Minimal fiscal impact for name changing expenses, including signage, branded materials, and related labor.

**Analyst:** Baltiero