

Report of the Historic Preservation Section and Advisory Recommendation of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

TO: Council Secretary, Jacksonville City Council

THROUGH: Chairperson and Members
Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Arimus Wells, City Planner Supervisor – Planning Department

RE: **Proposed Naming of 620 Bay St E – Ordinance No. 2025-XXX**

DATE: August 27, 2025

At the request of City Council, legislation will be introduced to propose naming the City-owned building located at 620 Bay Street E as the “Henry Bradley Firefighters Museum.” Consistent with Chapter 122.105 of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code the naming and renaming of public buildings, public facilities and public parks, requires a Report from the Historic Preservation Section and an advisory recommendation on the renaming proposal from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission. The Report is required to address the following criteria:

1. The origin of the existing public building, public facility, or public park name, if applicable;
2. Any historical significance of the existing public building, public facility or public park;
3. Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject property
4. Whether the existing building name, name of public facility, or public park name is part of a common theme of names throughout the community where such building, park or facility is located;
5. The age of the public building, public facility or public park name
6. Whether there are other public buildings, public facilities, or public parks with the same or similar name; and
7. Whether the person (or persons) to whom the public building, public facility or public park is proposed to be named or renamed has contributed to the development of, or is a reminder of the history and/or culture of the City, State, or Nation.

Location: 620 Bay Street E, RE# 073354-0000

Reason for Change: At the request of City Council to honor the life and legacy of Henry J. Bradley, volunteer firefighter for the City of Jacksonville, by naming the City-owned firefighters museum building located at 620 Bay Street E as the Henry Bradley Firefighters

Museum.” Firefighter Bradley was the first City of Jacksonville firefighter to die in the line of duty.

Criteria:

1. The origin of the existing public building, public facility, or public park name, if applicable:

Constructed approximately ten months after the Great Fire of May 3, 1901, the existing City-owned building was originally used as a fire station (“Catherine Street Fire Station #3”) for African American firemen who worked out of the station until 1905. After being saved from demolition in 1972, the Catherine Street Fire Station was later rehabilitated to house the Jacksonville Fire Museum. Due to its large valuable collection of firefighting related artifacts and documents, the Catherine Street Fire Station was designated in 1982 as the official museum of the Florida State Firefighters Association by the Florida State Firemen’s Association. After continued loss of the surrounding historical context and endangered from nearby construction, the Catherine Street Fire Station was moved in 1994 to the Kids Kampus at Metropolitan Park. It was later moved to its present-day location in 2022. The museum is currently closed for renovations in coordination with the proposed Jacksonville Shipyards West Park.

2. Any historical significance of the existing public building, public facility or public park:

The subject building possesses historical significance due to its association with noted Jacksonville Fire Chief, Thomas W. Haney (1860-1939), who served from 1892 until his retirement in 1926. Under Chief Haney’s leadership, the Jacksonville Fire Department evolved from a horse powered apparatus housed in a limited number of small stations to an extensive modern motorized system. Serving for over thirty years until his retirement in 1926, Haney was descended from a family of firefighters in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to having two brothers who were firemen, Chief Haney’s father, Thomas Haney, served as the Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department. Before the age of 18, Haney joined Atlanta’s volunteer fire department, and became a foreman, when a professional department was organized in the Georgia capital in 1892.

3. Whether there are any historical structures or landmarks on the subject property:

The existing firefighters museum is designated as a local landmark by City Council in 2011 via Ordinance 2011-0205 (LM-11-01).

4. Whether the existing building name, name of public facility, or public park name is part of a common theme of names throughout the community where such building, park or facility is located:

The existing museum building does not have a formally designated name and is thereby not part of a common theme of names throughout the community.

5. The age of the public building, public facility or public park name:

The existing museum building does not have a formally designated name.

6. Whether there are other public buildings, public facilities, or public parks with the same or similar name:

There are no other public buildings, public facilities, or public parks with the same or similar name.

7. Whether the person (or persons) to whom the public building, public facility or public park is proposed to be named or renamed has contributed to the development of, or is a reminder of the history and/or culture of the City, State, or Nation:

Henry J. Bradley is recognized as being the first Jacksonville firefighter to die in the line of duty. Mr. Bradley served as a volunteer firefighter for the Duval Fire Engine and Hose Company, one of Jacksonville's organized Black volunteer companies. The company was composed of 22 men. On December 16, 1885, the company joined others to fight a major fire that broke out in S.B. Hubbard's Hardware Store, a four-story warehouse, located on the south side of West Bay Street between North Main Street and North Laura Street. In addition to destroying the hardware store, the fire consumed the McConihe Building, and the Abell Block, a warehouse belonging to C.B. Benedict. While fighting the blaze, part of the front wall of the Abell Block collapsed-injuring three firemen and killing Mr. Bradley.

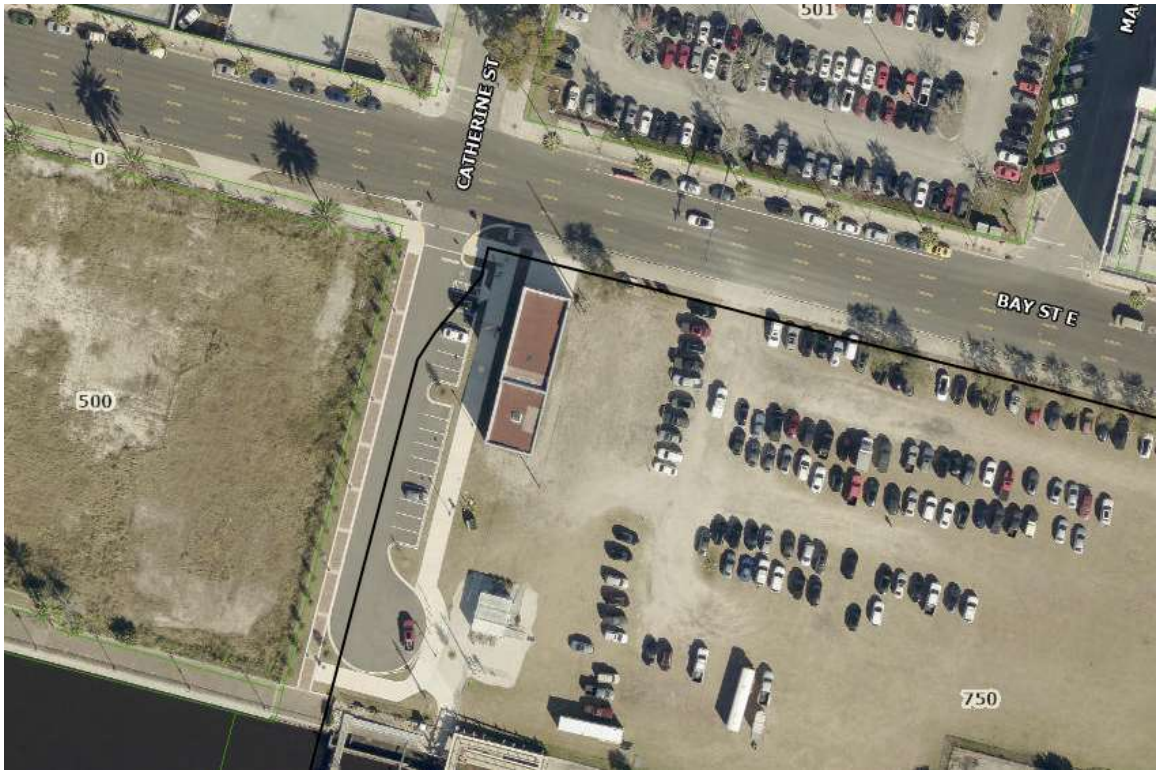
Mr. Bradley's passing and service to the City resulted in several fire insurance companies threatening to withdraw their coverage unless the City established a paid fire department. This demand came to fruition on April 20, 1886 when the Jacksonville City Council passed an ordinance creating a paid fire department.

PDD Recommendation:

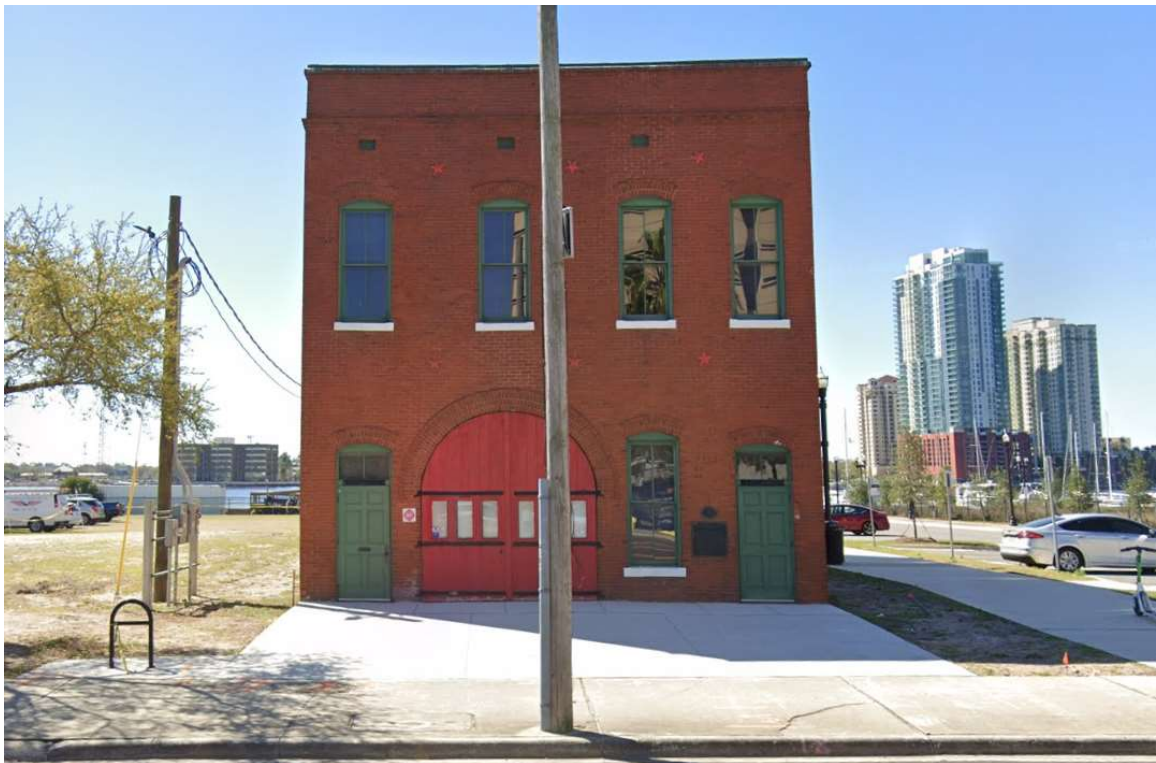
It is the opinion of the Planning Department that the proposed naming of the City-owned firefighters museum building located at 620 Bay Street E as the "Henry Bradley Firefighters Museum" will be named after a person that has made significant contributions to the City of Jacksonville as outlined in Ordinance 2025-XXX.

JHPC Recommendation::

Based on the best evidence available, the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission (JHPC) recommended approval of the proposed naming of the City-owned firefighters museum building located at 620 Bay Street E as the "Henry Bradley Firefighters Museum."



Aerial View of Subject Property



View of the Building's Main Entrance

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING

Proceedings held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025,
commencing at 1:01 p.m., at the Edward Ball Building,
Hearing Room 1002, 214 North Hogan Street, Jacksonville,
Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in
and for the State of Florida at Large.

PRESENT:

ETHAN GREGORY, Chair.
WILLIAM HOFF, Secretary.
JULIA EPSTEIN, Commission Member.
BECKY MORGAN, Commission Member.
THOMAS LOVE, Commission Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

ARIMUS WELLS, Planner Supervisor, Planning Dept.
JERMAINE ANDERSON, Planning Department.
DREW JOHNSON, Planning Department.
CALEB ARSENAULT, Planning Department.
CARLA LOPERA, Office of General Counsel.

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1 COMMISSIONER HOFF: William Hoff,
2 commissioner.
3 COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Becky Morgan,
4 commissioner.
5 COMMISSIONER LOVE: Thomas Love,
6 commissioner.
7 MR. ARSENAULT: Caleb Arsenault, Planning
8 Department.
9 MR. JOHNSON: Drew Johnson, Planning
10 Department.
11 MR. ANDERSON: Jermaine Anderson, Planning
12 Department.
13 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you,
14 everyone.
15 Now can I get an approval for the minutes
16 from the July 23rd, 2025, Jacksonville Historic
17 Preservation Commission meeting?
18 COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the Chair, so
19 moved.
20 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
21 THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
22 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
23 THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
24 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
25 THE CHAIRMAN: By your action, the motion

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1 PROCEEDINGS
2 August 27, 2025 1:01 p.m.
3 THE CHAIRMAN: I hereby call this meeting
4 of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation
5 Commission to order, and welcome to each of you
6 for attending today.
7 Let the record reflect that it is now
8 1:01 p.m.
9 Just a couple of reminders here. If you'd
10 like to speak, make sure you submit a speaker's
11 card up to the front here. It's the cards that
12 are in yellow. Please mark if you are for or
13 against the COA there. We'll take breaks every
14 two hours, at 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m., and two
15 hours afterwards, if needed. Breaks shall be
16 about ten minutes long.
17 And we'll start with some introductions,
18 starting with staff to the left here.
19 MR. WELLS: Arimus Wells, Planning
20 Department.
21 MS. LOPERA: Carla Lopera, Office of
22 General Counsel.
23 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Julia Epstein,
24 commissioner.
25 THE CHAIRMAN: Ethan Gregory, chair.

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1 passes.
2 I'm going to go through the whole agenda
3 here, starting with section B, under Deferred
4 Items, there is LM-25-07, located at 913 5th
5 Street west, item 2 is COA-25-32497, located at
6 751 Stockton Avenue; COA-25-32215, located at
7 1635 Hubbard Street.
8 On the consent agenda, item C, at
9 number 1, we have COA-25-32660, located at 1535
10 Ingleside Avenue; COA-25-32414, located at 231
11 Laura Street North; COA-25-32410, located at
12 2934 Forbes Street; COA-25-32523, located at
13 1443 Ingleside Avenue; COA-25-32380, located at
14 1247 Boulevard; COA-25-32554, located at 321
15 10th Street West.
16 Moving on to section B --
17 MS. LOPERA: (Off microphone.)
18 THE CHAIRMAN: Item D is COA-25-31951,
19 located at 1649 Osceola Street; COA-25-32249,
20 located at 1552 Pearl Street North.
21 And then moving on to section G,
22 Certificates of Appropriateness, COA-25-32476,
23 located at 2024 Gilmore Street; COA-25-32532,
24 located at 1130 Market Street North; and
25 COA-25-32673, located at 1272 Edgewood Avenue.

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1 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Can I see it again
2 when you guys are done with it, please?
3 (Brief pause in the proceedings.)
4 COMMISSIONER MORGAN: So after reviewing
5 the detail, I agree with you, Commissioner
6 Epstein. It may just be a clarification from
7 the structural engineer. Are they just stating
8 12 inches as a standard or is there a reason
9 that it couldn't be 18 inches in addition to?
10 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah.
11 COMMISSIONER MORGAN: I agree.
12 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Because all I
13 remember seeing -- and let me just look at it
14 again. It says 12-inch maximum dimension
15 that's kind of within that 4 on top, but I
16 didn't see a reason -- I see that it's signed
17 and sealed, which is nice because that means
18 that (microphone failure), but I know that
19 there -- I do know that there's a way that you
20 can kind of build up with Geofoam, which is a
21 structural foam that does not weigh as much as
22 concrete, to get a higher elevation if we want
23 to make them do that. And that would just be
24 something -- you'd have to go to the structural
25 engineer and ask them to come up with a design,

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1 Just a reminder, the -- since we've been
2 talking quite a bit, this is for approval of
3 MMA-25-32547 for a decrease of the finish floor
4 elevation from 2 feet, 4 inches to 2 feet even.
5 All those in favor?
6 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
7 THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
8 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
9 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no opposition, the
10 motion will pass.
11 And we will take a ten-minute break now,
12 everybody.
13 (Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)
14 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, everybody.
15 We'll reconvene here.
16 We're going to go back to the item that
17 was tabled, COA-25-32249, located at 1552 Pearl
18 Street North.
19 Through talks with the applicant, we will
20 be recommending deferral on this one, unless
21 the applicant would like to come up and speak
22 and provide any other additional information.
23 MS. PRATER: (Off microphone.)
24 No, I just (inaudible) --
25 THE CHAIRMAN: Please come up, actually,

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1 but -- for that, basically.
2 It would look like another stem wall
3 sitting on top of your -- you'd have, like, a
4 little bit of an alcove underneath that the
5 Geofoam would sit in and your rebar would come
6 up and go kind of like around -- it would build
7 around all of that. So we -- we can do that.
8 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm of the opinion that --
9 I mean, and this -- speaking to (sic) me
10 personally, that -- you know, we're talking
11 about 4 inches here, and we're trying to work
12 with this property owner. His slab -- he has a
13 structural engineer that has recommended
14 bringing it up to 2 feet. He has plans,
15 they're sealed, and we're talking about
16 4 inches here. It's a minor modification. I
17 don't see that as a huge deal. I mean, I
18 think --
19 We were talking about consistency across
20 what we do and what we enforce as a COA, but,
21 in this case, I -- I think this is going to
22 be -- the 4 inches is not very much to justify,
23 especially when there's no specific guideline
24 from the Historic department on there, so I say
25 we put this up for a vote.

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1 yesh, just for -- just so it's on the record.
2 (Ms. Prater approaches the podium.)
3 THE CHAIRMAN: We are going to recommend
4 deferral for one cycle. I just want to make
5 sure that is okay with you.
6 MS. PRATER: Yes, sir.
7 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. And you
8 work with commissioners and staff and --
9 MS. PRATER: Thank you. Thank you. Okay.
10 Have a good day.
11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
12 MS. LOPERA: So that will be deferred to
13 September 24th, 2025.
14 THE CHAIRMAN: Great. Thank you.
15 All right. Next, moving on to Section L,
16 Item Number 1, under building naming, Henry
17 Bradley Firefighters Museum. We'll open up the
18 public hearing and turn it over for a staff
19 report.
20 MR. WELLS: Thank you.
21 So this is a proposed naming of a
22 firefighter museum located at 620 Bay Street --
23 East Bay Street. So the -- in accordance with
24 Chapter 122.105 of the Ordinance Code, the
25 naming and renaming of public buildings, public

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1 facilities, and parks requires a report from
2 the staff and then an advisory recommendation
3 from the Commission, so --

4 We evaluated the report in accordance with
5 seven criteria noted in the Ordinance Code.
6 This request stems from City Council. They
7 would like to honor the life and legacy of
8 Henry J. Bradley. He was a volunteer
9 firefighter for the City of Jacksonville.
10 Again, they want to rename the City-owned
11 firefighters museum as the Henry Bradley
12 Firefighters Museum. Firefighter Bradley was
13 the first City of Jacksonville firefighter to
14 die in the line of duty.

15 So overall we found that it was
16 appropriate to rename this building. Just some
17 additional context here: Henry J. Bradley is,
18 again, recognized as being the first
19 Jacksonville firefighter to die in the line of
20 duty. He served as a volunteer firefighter for
21 the Duval Fire Engine & Hose Company, which was
22 one of Jacksonville's organized black volunteer
23 companies.

24 On June -- December 16th, 1885, the
25 company joined other companies to fight a major

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1 there any information on that?

2 MR. WELLS: To the Chair, I'm not aware of
3 that. They did not specify in the renaming,
4 but I imagine -- because it is going to be
5 included within the overall Shipyards West
6 project, so I imagine they're going to do some
7 type of signaling [sic] and signage at some
8 point, but I'll get the details if you need it.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

10 Okay. And the applicant was the City
11 here, right?

12 MR. WELLS: Yes.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else here
14 to speak on this building naming?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)

16 THE CHAIRMAN: With that, we'll close the
17 public hearing and entertain a motion.

18 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: (Off microphone.)

19 Motion to approve building naming -- or
20 renaming (inaudible) --

21 (Reporter inquiry.)

22 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Is it naming or
23 renaming?

24 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to
25 Commissioner Epstein, this one's a naming

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1 fire that broke out in a major hardware store
2 located on West Bay Street. During that fire,
3 part of the front wall of the building
4 collapsed, injured three men, and killed
5 Mr. Bradley.

6 Mr. Bradley's passing in service to the
7 City resulted in several fire insurance
8 companies threatening to withdraw their
9 coverage unless the City established a paid
10 fire department. This demand came to fruition
11 on April 20th of 1886 when the Jacksonville
12 City Council passed an ordinance creating a
13 paid fire department.

14 It is the opinion of the Department that
15 the proposed naming of the City-owned
16 firefighters museum being renamed as Henry
17 Bradley Firefighters [sic] will be named as a
18 person that has made significant contributions
19 to the city of Jacksonville.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions for
21 staff on this?

22 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

23 THE CHAIRMAN: The only question is, will
24 there be, like, a sign put up or anything; or
25 is it going to go, like, above the door; or is

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1 because it doesn't have an actual name right
2 now.

3 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. Just wanted
4 to make sure.

5 Motion to approve building naming, Henry
6 Bradley Firefighters Museum.

7 COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Second.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Any discussion?

9 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, we'll put it
11 to a vote.

12 All those in favor?

13 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

15 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, your motion
17 passes.

18 All right. Next we will turn it over to
19 Section M on -- demolition delay report. Is
20 this just an update from the chair of the
21 demolition delay --

22 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: No. This is --

23 THE CHAIRMAN: No, excuse me. Sorry.

24 This is the report that staff put

25 together. Excuse me. Sorry. Sorry to put you

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