

# LINCOLNVILLE NEWS

Keeping you informed of what's  
happening in St. Augustine's  
historic Lincolnville.

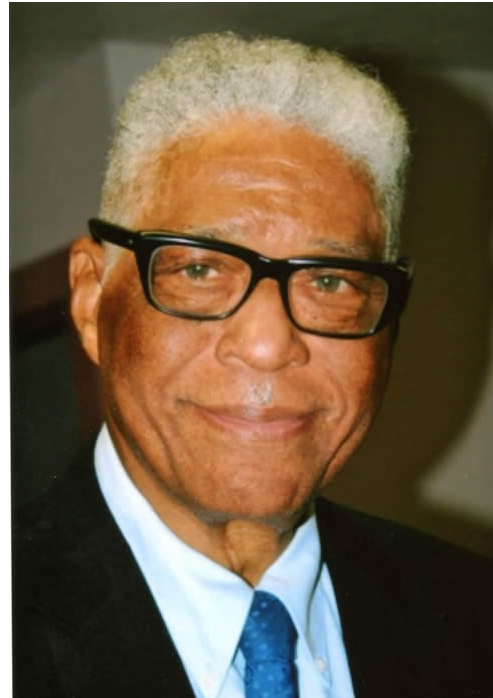
WINTER 2016 • ISSUE 4

## Dr. Robert B. Hayling *"Father of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"* has passed away at the age of 86 at his home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**December 23, 2015, 12:51pm**—Dr. Robert B. Hayling, the dentist who led the civil rights movement in St. Augustine, Florida in the 1960s, passed away at his home in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday, December 20, 2015, according to word received from his sister, Mrs. Yvonne Clarke of Sarasota. He had celebrated his 86th birthday on November 20. A private family service will be held, followed at a later date by a public memorial event in St. Augustine.

A native of Tallahassee, where his father was a longtime teacher at what is now Florida A&M University, Hayling was one of four children, all of whom went on to earn advanced degrees. After graduating from Florida A&M, he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951, serving as a First Lieutenant at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. In 1955 he enrolled in Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, to study dentistry. While there he had a front row seat to the making of history, as the Nashville student sitin movement gave the nation future civil rights leaders like John Lewis (now a congressman from Georgia), Diane Nash (a leader of the Freedom Rides) and Rev. C. T. Vivian (a recent recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom). A Black attorney and city councilman, Z. Alexander Looby, was Hayling's jurisprudence teacher, and when Looby's home was dynamited by segregationists in 1960, the blast shattered windows in Hayling's dormitory across the street. In 1960 Dr. Hayling moved to St. Augustine and opened his practice in the dental office that had been built by the late Dr. Rudolph Gordon (it was the first medical or dental office built in the Ancient City without racially segregated waiting rooms). He was obligated, by the terms of his scholarship, to spend five years in a "medically underserved" area of Florida. He became adviser to the NAACP Youth Council, which organized protests against segregated lunch counters in the Ancient City. St. Augustine was preparing to celebrate its 400th anniversary, as the nation's oldest city, on an all white basis, and Dr. Hayling wrote to federal officials urging them not to support a segregated effort. When then Vice President Lyndon Johnson came to dedicate the first of the restored buildings on St. George Street in 1963, Hayling's efforts led to two tables being set aside at the banquet in the Ponce de Leon Hotel for Black residents.

The reaction was severe. Hayling and three companions (James Hauser, Clyde Jenkins and James Jackson) were beaten at a Ku Klux Klan rally in September 1963. His home was shot up in February 1964, killing his beloved boxer dog and narrowly missing his pregnant wife. A group of Youth Council activists who came to be known as "The St. Augustine Four" spent six months in jail and reform school for asking to be



served at the Woolworth's lunch counter. After protests by Martin Luther King, Jackie Robinson, and others, it took a special meeting of the governor and cabinet of Florida to release them, just as the state prepared to open its pavilion at the New York World's Fair of 1964.

In 1964, Hayling sent an invitation to college students to come to St. Augustine for Spring Break not to go to the beaches, but to take part in civil rights efforts. Four socially prominent Boston women, including Mary Parkman Peabody, the 72 year old mother of the governor of Massachusetts, came with them, and their arrest put the situation in St. Augustine on the front pages of newspapers around the country. Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which Dr. Hayling became the local head came to the Ancient City, which became the stage for a great moral drama enacted before a world audience. The result was the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of the most important pieces of legislation in American history.

The 21st century saw Dr. Hayling go from pariah to most honored citizen. In 2003 the street where his house had once been shot up was renamed "Dr. R. B. Hayling Place," and a banner over the street for the renaming ceremony hailed him as "The Father of the Civil Rights Act of 1964." Succeeding years saw many more honors. He was given St. Augustine's two highest: the de Aviles Award in 2011, and the Order of La Florida in 2013 (still a path breaker, he became the first, and only, Black recipient of that honor). State Senator Tony Hill sponsored the annual "Dr. Robert B. Hayling Award of Valor," which was presented to civil rights heroes.

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## Dr. Robert B. Hayling, Continued:

A mural in the window of the Wells Fargo Bank overlooking the plaza includes a photo of Dr. Hayling. The bank is located in the old Woolworth's, where the first sit in of the local movement took place in 1960. He helped dedicate his old dental office at 79 Bridge Street, which became the first civil rights museum in the state of Florida on July 2, 2014 the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Awards were not only local. He was there in 2010 when the governor and cabinet apologized to those who had been arrested in the civil rights movement and expunged the records that had made it difficult for some of them to get jobs for many decades afterwards. In 2014 Hayling was inducted, along with James Weldon Johnson and A. Philip Randolph, into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Anyone who goes to see the governor today first walks by a bronze plaque in the lobby of the Capitol honoring Dr. Hayling. At the ceremony for the award, Hayling remarked that as a youngster he had mowed the lawn in front of the Capitol building. In 2015 he was honored by the Florida Dental Association at its annual convention, and his picture was on the front page of the American Dental Association News on August 17.

He was a regular visitor to St. Augustine, getting together with old (and new) friends, attending the annual ACCORD Freedom Trail luncheons (there are Freedom Trail markers on the two houses where he lived, as well as his old office), speaking to local schools and organizations (most recently the tourism group of the Chamber of Commerce), taking part in the dedication of the Foot Soldiers Monument in the Plaza, and going to funerals for old civil rights colleagues like James and Hattie Lee White and Clyde Jenkins. He was often asked for his autograph, and invariably wrote his name along with "Never Give Up!"

He would remark, when he spoke here, how nice it was to be able to drive up from Fort Lauderdale and be able to stop along the way to get a bite to eat or use the bathroom—something that was not possible before the battle he led in the 1960s. Delores Miller Parks, one of the young activists from the 1960s who went on to a career in banking, wrote in 2012: "His sacrifices, dedication and commitment paid off. He fought a good fight and lived to witness and enjoy the rewards of his victories."

Audrey Nell Edwards, one of the St. Augustine Four, said: "He motivated us. He made us feel like we were doing something right, and he backed us up a hundred percent in that."

*By: David Nolan, Historian on behalf of ACCORD, Inc.*



Hayling (right) with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (center) and Rev. Andrew Young (left) during a press conference at the Elks Rest on Washington St. during the 1964 Civil Rights Movement actions in St. Augustine (photo by Frank Murray).

## ◆ ◆ ◆ LETTER FROM THE LCRA STEERING COMMITTEE ◆ ◆ ◆

### What does it mean to serve on the LCRA Steering Committee?

*By: Brian Thompson*

*LCRA Steering Committee*

*Vice-Chair*

I was hesitant when former City Commissioner Don Crichlow asked if I would take a seat on the Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Area's Steering Committee two years ago. It seemed like a daunting project to launch, and I had never been involved in any kind of governmental organization.

If I said "yes," what would I be getting myself into?

Looking back on it, I'm so glad I accepted the position. It's been hard work, and I've learned things never move as quickly as we all like. You don't always get everything you want, and compromise is essential for success.

But as my two-year term comes to a close, I also know that the hard work done by the LCRA has begun making a difference in this wonderful and historic neighborhood. We launched the Fix-It-Up Program with the St. Johns Housing Partnership to help families make needed repairs on their homes. We began this community newsletter — a wonderful communication tool for Lincolnville — and we listened to residents on important issues such as whether to expand commercial zoning in residential neighborhoods. This year we've begun funding sidewalk additions and repairs to make Lincolnville safer and more pedestrian-friendly.

Maybe most importantly, we've become a forum for the discussion of ideas and issues critical to Lincolnville, as well as where we're going as a community.

There will be even more accomplishments in the future thanks to a great chairwoman, increasing LCRA funds and a new board. And that's where you come in: Answering that call to serve. Picking up where we left off.

There are three open seats on the board this year, and anyone can apply. There's information in this newsletter on how to do it. Lincolnville is filled with dedicated, caring, intelligent, and passionate individuals who want to make a difference. Here's a great opportunity to do just that.

I have no doubt that the next board will carry-on the important work we began and accomplish amazing things. Those who serve will find it to be an incredibly worthwhile experience, and will play a major role in making Lincolnville a better place for all of us to live.

# Community Bulletin Board

## TREE PLANTING AT RIBERIA POINTE



*City crews install new trees at Riberia Pointe!*

Progress continues on the City's development of a 10+ acre passive park at Riberia Pointe (RP). As part of the City's tree replacement program, 4 Live Oaks, 2 Sycamores, 3 Red Maples and 2 Blanchard Magnolias were

planted by the City at RP on Friday, December 18,

as part of the Phase 1 passive park improvements. Phase 1 includes officially opening the land to the public, tree plantings to create a buffer with the adjacent wastewater treatment plant, reseeding and stabilizing RP, installing a safe path connecting Eddie Vickers Park with the southern tip of RP, installing a dedicated project bulletin board to post updates on the RP project, relocating the current entrance to the City's solid waste facility and recycling containers to create a safer access into RP. Keep Riberia Pointe Green (KRPBG), a resident-based volunteer group, has been working with the City on the project and continues to post project update at [www.facebook.com/ProtectRiberiaPointe](http://www.facebook.com/ProtectRiberiaPointe). KRPBG is an community initiative that is open to all City residents wanting to participate in helping the City with the creation of a passive park at Riberia Pointe. One of the founding members of KRPBG, Blake Souder, says *"It is a privilege working in tandem with other citizens and their government to successfully bring a vision to fruition, for which I am thrilled and highly encouraged we will improve the quality of life for residents in the entire local community."*

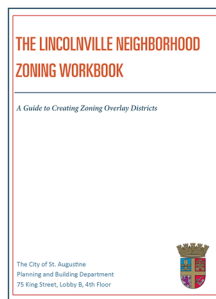
## THE CORNER MARKET – BEET RECIPIES

Nyk-ol Smith of the Corner Store has crafted seasonal gourmet beet products and recipes. These include Cranberry Beet Preserves and Cranberry Beet D'Lite, as well as beet relishes, pies, cakes candies, and much more! Most of the dessert products are not shelved at the Corner Market, but are available for special order. Visit [www.RoyalBeets.com](http://www.RoyalBeets.com) or the Corner Store at 97 MLK Avenue to find out more!



*Ny-kol's Winter Recipe is Beet Waldorf Salad embraced in butter lettuce!*

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING WORKBOOK



The Planning and Building Department has developed a "Neighborhood Zoning Workbook" for each neighborhood in the City, including Lincolnville. The workbook is an educational resource regarding zoning, zoning overlay districts, and overlay adoption procedures. Neighborhoods may use the workbook as a toolbox to reflect on their unique character, current concerns or desires, and design a zoning overlay that addresses their specific needs. If you are interested in viewing the Lincolnville Neighborhood Zoning Workbook, visit the Planning and Building Department at 75 King Street, Lobby B, 4th Floor.

## NOTICE OF VACANCIES ON THE LCRA STEERING COMMITTEE

There will soon be 3 seats opening up on the LCRA Steering Committee Board. These are 3-year term positions, with terms starting on March 1, 2016. The LCRA Steering Committee is an advisory board that meets once a month in a public setting at the Galimore Center, and makes recommendations to the City Commission on how to best implement redevelopment projects and programs in Lincolnville. If you are interested in applying to be on the LCRA Steering Committee, submit an application and separate cover letter detailing your connection to Lincolnville to the City Clerk **no later than February 5, 2016**. LCRA Steering Committee applications may be found on the City's website or a paper copy may be picked up at the City Clerk's office at 75 King Street, Lobby B, 2nd Floor.

## Lincolnville CRA Information

### THE LINCOLNVILLE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Lincolnville Redevelopment Plan guides the actions of the Community Redevelopment Agency, as it outlines the overall goals for the neighborhood's improvement, as well as the specific redevelopment projects and programs. You can find the Lincolnville CRA Plan online at the City of St. Augustine's website: [www.staugustinegovernment.com](http://www.staugustinegovernment.com), under "My Government", "City Boards", and then "Lincolnville CRA Steering Committee"

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Theresa Segal (Chair)  
Brian Thompson (V-Chair)  
Tony Smith  
Clyde Taylor  
Nicholas Noloboff

### MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and take place on the **first Monday of every month at 7pm** at the Willie Galimore Center, 399 Riberia Street

### CONTACT US

To contact the Lincolnville CRA, please call or email Erin Minnigan at: 904-209-4283 or [eminnigan@citystaug.com](mailto:eminnigan@citystaug.com)

City of St. Augustine  
Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Area

## FIX-IT-UP & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The City of St. Augustine Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has designated two home repair programs to help residents in the Lincolnville Area with essential home repairs. The Fix-it-Up Program provides up to \$7,000 for minor repairs, and the Emergency Assistance Program provides funding up to \$10,000 for immediate emergency repairs. The program is funded by the CRA for eligible households. Eligibility review and construction services are provided by the St. Johns County Housing Partnership, Inc.

### PROGRAM BASICS

Both programs are intended to assist low-income, owner-occupied households with essential home repairs. The home must be within the boundaries of the Lincolnville CRA. Applicants will have to meet all eligibility requirements administered by St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. Available funds will be prioritized for life and safety essential repairs.

### APPLICANTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CITY BEFORE ANY PROJECT IS STARTED.

St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. will evaluate the application after inspection of the home, prioritize the repairs needed and perform the work as an independent contractor. Existing materials will be replaced with similar materials to preserve the architectural integrity of the structure whenever possible.

For application information, call St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc. at (904) 824-0902



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