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DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE EAST POINT LIBRARY TO MAYOR PATSY JO HILLIARD LIBRARY?

At the October 2, 2023, Council Meeting, CM Joshua Butler made a motion for the Council to pass a Resolution requesting/in support of the Fulton County Board of Commission renaming The East Point Library to Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard to commemorate her as East Point's first Black and Woman Mayor. Mayor Holiday Ingraham was correct in saying the process for the call of the Resolution was not in place and that a Resolution needed to be presented at the upcoming Work Session.

CM Butler also stated that he had spoken with some of the Fulton County Commissioners who supported the "Resolution". During Public Comment, I reminded the Mayor and Council that before Mayor Hilliard was elected as the first Black Mayor that I was appointed by Mayor Walter Ponder as the first Black to The East Point Library Board of Trustees, and later elected as the first Black President.

I also stated that I had no desire to have the Library named after me nor did I have any desire to take the name of the City off the Library. I suggested that a Committee be set up to get input from the residents as how to commemorate Mayor Hilliard's election. I would love to serve on either one.

It is my personal belief that being the first to be elected or appointed to a position is not enough to be worthy of commemoration. Mayor Hilliard deserves to be commemorated for the achievement of the largest economic impact on the City of East Point since the City lost its status as the sixth largest industrial City in the State. The creation of the first TAD and the building of the infrastructure at Camp Creek Market Place is more than a shopping area, it is a financial boom that did not cost the taxpayers any money. It also heralded the extension of the City's boundaries and further stabilized East Point's housing market beyond Washinton Road. This is indeed a great accomplishment for any Mayor's administration.

My suggestion is to erect a tall metal marker with a rectangular top that is large enough to contain her facial image alone with proper wording to be placed at the intersections of Washinton Road and Camp Creek Parkway uniting East Point proper with East Point moving forward. I don't believe that many people understand the significance of the gamble that the Mayor and her administration took on at the time. People with more expert experience in the field of designing and building should be able to provide some drawings/sketches that appeal to all involved.

However, since City funds cannot be used the Committee would be responsible for collecting donations and contributions. I would make a sizeable donation. I am sure her many admirers and those whom she has helped politically will gladly donate. This is just my suggestion and others may want to add it to the list.