

**Resolution 2021 - 06**

**Resolution of Support for St. Agatha's Episcopal Church in its quest for a Florida Division of Historical Resources Special Category Grant for the Preservation and Restoration of The Charles E. Murray House**

*WHEREAS*, St. Agatha's Episcopal Church, founded in 1890, has played an important role in historic preservation for the City of DeFuniak Springs;

*WHEREAS*, The church building itself is the oldest in continuous use and the only remaining church from the Chautauqua era within the city; and

*WHEREAS*, The State of Florida has seen fit, in the past, to provide grant funds to the church to ensure its physical survival through the present century; and

*WHEREAS*, Both the Church and its two companion properties (Morris House, the Parish House and Murray House, the School for Ministry) are local landmarks and are contributing sites in the city's historic district which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

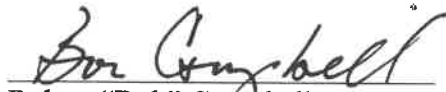
*WHEREAS*, Work is now required to preserve and restore the Charles E. Murray House that is also used for educational, cultural, civic, and tourism purposes to benefit the region, the surrounding community, as well as for the city; and

*WHEREAS*, Charles E. Murray, represents an important businessman of this city and of the Chautauqua era, who supplied much needed recreation via his theater and outdoor recreational activities that included a Ferris wheel and carrousel for many years;

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED*, That the DeFuniak Springs City Council endorses and supports St. Agatha's Episcopal Church in its quest for a Florida Division of Historical Resources special category grant for the preservation and restoration of The Charles E. Murray House, a significant historic structure, and that the members of St. Agatha's Episcopal Church be applauded for their consistent productive efforts to preserve the structures, traditions and ambience of our historic city by offering tours and enhancing the rich historic cultural of the City of DeFuniak Springs.

*ADOPTED* by the DeFuniak Springs City Council this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

ADOPTED:

  
Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk





April 13, 2021

**City Hall Location**

71 U.S. Highway 90 West  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

**Mailing Address**

Post Office Box 685  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435  
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**Mayor**

*Bob Campbell*

**City Council**

*Todd Bierbaum*  
Council Member, Seat 1

*Robert McKnight*  
Council Member, Seat 2  
Mayor Pro-Tem

*Kevin Crystal*  
Council Member, Seat 3

*Henry Ennis, Sr.*  
Council Member, Seat 4

*Wayne Graham*  
Council Member, Seat 5

**City Manager**  
*Vacant*

**City Clerk**  
*Maryanne Schrader*

Timothy Parsons, PhD  
Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources  
Historic Preservation Grants Program  
500 Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Parsons:

The City of DeFuniak Springs was pleased to learn that St. Agatha's Episcopal Church is submitting a Florida Division of Historical Resources Special Category grant funding application to preserve and restore the Charles E. Murray house. Mr. Murray was a prominent businessman in our city during and after the Chautauqua era. He owned an entire city block on Baldwin Avenue, a/k/a the "Main Street." In addition to stores for merchandise and offices for various services, this block contained a carrousel, a Ferris wheel and a theater, all owned by Mr. Murray. In fact, the theater is still in use thanks to an historic preservation grant some years ago. His home is a unique form of Queen Anne revival architecture for this area because it is narrow, like an urban or townhouse structure, rather than the more typical Queen Anne houses with large, prominent porches and effusive gingerbread. It would be wonderful to have it preserved and restored given the unique quality of the house.

Our city is rich in history, and I am pleased to support all efforts that seek to preserve any part of our heritage. Because of their previous preservation successes and their willingness to participate in city activities by providing tours of all their properties, I believe St. Agatha's would be a stellar candidate for funding. St. Agatha's demonstrates preservation of history by providing tours of their facilities on a moment's notice and providing details to visitors about how their structures were saved via State Historic Preservation funding. Many area visitors have remarked that the St. Agatha tours of the structures are a highlight of their visit to our wonderful city, DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Robert "Bob" Campbell

Enclosure