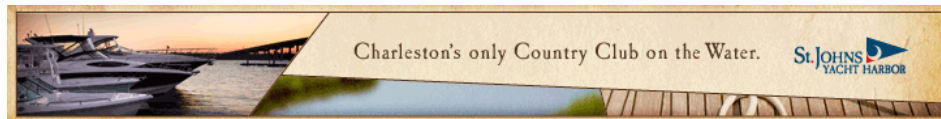




**Charleston**  
**Clear, 41°**  
 Saturday Forecast Hi: 71° Lo: 53°  
 Humidity: 73% Visibility: 10 miles  
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## Gilliard wants to honor King with district

BY RON MENCHACA  
 The Post and Courier

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When City Councilman Wendell Gilliard met with the son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he was told to keep pursuing his efforts to honor the slain civil rights leader with an honorary street name.

"He told me he had heard about what we were trying to do and he thanked us," Gilliard said of his recent visit with Martin Luther King III. "He said his father had overcome many obstacles during his life and that we would do the same."

Gilliard, who heads the Martin Luther King street naming committee, said his latest proposal is to establish a Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial District around the area known as the Spring and Cannon corridor, which city officials have slated for a major overhaul.

The proposal will go before City Council Tuesday.

Signs bearing the district name would greet travelers as they enter the peninsula from the Ashley River Bridge and the Crosstown. And the designation would likely be added to street signs along Spring and Cannon streets.

A park planned as part of the city's corridor plan also would be named in honor of King. And a statue of King would be placed in the park.

Although his previous efforts to salute King along Spring and King streets ran into opposition, Gilliard said his latest proposal will likely be supported.

"We have the legal staff checking out everything on this plan to make sure we get a green light so there won't be any trouble down the road, which we don't anticipate," Gilliard said.

"We will be contacting the neighborhood organizations that the streets directly impact so we can explain everything to them. We want the residents to know that we would not change any street names. This would be an honorary district name."

The Rev. Sidney Davis, president of the Cannonborough/Elliottborough Neighborhood Association, said he was aware of the new proposal and is inclined to support it, although the association has yet to formally discuss the matter.

Some Cannonborough and Elliottborough residents loudly opposed an earlier Gilliard plan to rename Spring Street after King.

"I think this new plan is a workable solution because it doesn't involve changing any street names," Davis said. "And I really like the idea of naming a park after King."

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