



**CITY OF CHARLESTON  
COMMISSION ON HISTORY**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the Commission on History will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 80 Broad Street. Live streamed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCharlestonSCgov> The agenda will be as follows:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Minutes
  - 1. November 5, 2025
- C. Old Business
  - 1. Protect and Respect the Bodies Under the YWCA (106 Coming Street) Update and Discussion
- D. Mary Utsey Playground Marker
- E. Gadsden Green Marker
- F. Update on 1947 Robert E. Lee Memorial Highway Roadside Marker (*Commissioner Dale Theiling*)
- G. Miscellaneous Business
- H. Adjournment

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, people who need alternative formats, ASL (American Sign Language) Interpretation or other accommodation please contact Janet Schumacher at (843) 577-1389 or email to [schumacherj@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:schumacherj@charleston-sc.gov) three business days prior to the meeting.

## Mary Salvo Utsey

October 8, 1920 - July 31, 1969

Mother, homemaker, civic leader and successful business woman. She loved the City of Charleston and cared deeply for all its citizens. She was happy to serve and did so proudly.

Elected in 1959 along with Mayor Palmer Gaillard, she served two terms as alderman becoming the third woman to ever do so.

During her tenure, she served on numerous committees and rose to chair the Board of Playgrounds and the Committee on Public Charities.

In 1966, she became the first woman to ever serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Charleston.

# Mrs. Mary Utsey, Former City Mayor Dies



Mrs. Mary Mercy Salvo Utsey of 211 Simmons St., Mount Pleasant, wife of William H. Utsey and the only woman to be named mayor pro tempore of Charleston, died Thursday at a local hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Luke's and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. Burial will follow in Magnolia Cemetery, directed by Stuhr's. Mrs. Utsey was born Oct. 8, 1920, in Charleston, a

daughter of the late Victor A. Salvo and Katherine A. Lynch Salvo. She was graduated from Memminger High School, was active in PTA work and was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Utsey, the third woman to be elected to an aldermanic post in the history of Charleston, was chosen to represent Ward 11 in 1959 when she was living at 53 Poplar St. She received 5,863 votes, third highest total

among the aldermanic candidates.

The only other women ever to serve on City Council were Mrs. Alfred J. Moorer, who held the Ward 11 post from 1923 to 1927, and Mrs. Clelia P. McGowan, the state's first woman to hold public office.

Mrs. Utsey was re-elected in 1963 and was named mayor pro tem by her fellow councilmen in January of 1966. As mayor pro tem most of

(See ALDERMAN, Page 3-A)

**MRS. W. H. UTSEY**  
**Third Woman Alderman**

CITY-SIZE DRAFT TEXT

TITLE: 18 characters and spaces / TEXT: 18 lines, 27 characters and spaces

Courier New (a True-Type Font) is best for draft text templates

If 2 title lines are required, there are 16 lines of text instead of 18

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Side 1

GADSDEN GREEN |T1

The neighborhood of Gadsden|1  
Green, also called Fiddlers|2  
Green or Back da Green, |3  
began around 1852. In that |4  
year, landowner and prolific|5  
slave trader Thomas N. |6  
Gadsden subdivided a tract |7  
generally bounded by Cannon|8  
St., President St., and |9  
Gadsden Creek. The marsh at|10  
that time extended several |11  
blocks further inland along|12  
Line St. By 1900 the area |13  
was a racially diverse but |14  
mostly Black community with|15  
1- and 2-story homes, small|16  
grocery stores, a shipyard,|17  
wharf, and sawmill. |18

(continued on next side)

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2026

Side 2

GADSDEN GREEN |T1

(continued from other side)

In 1938 the neighborhood |1  
was damaged by tornadoes. |2  
Over the protest of local |3  
residents, the City of |4  
Charleston subsequently |5  
demolished much of the |6  
neighborhood to build |7  
Gadsden Green Homes, |8  
a segregated public housing|9  
complex opened in 1942 and |10  
expanded in 1968. From 1954|11  
to 1970, the City filled |12  
Gadsden Creek and 100 acres|13  
of saltmarsh with municipal|14  
waste and soil for a City |15  
dump and urban development,|16  
in what had been a popular |17  
fishing and swimming spot. |18

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2026