



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Healthy Neighborhoods

Chairperson, Jan-Michele Kearney
Vice Chairperson, Victoria Parks
Councilmember Reggie Harris
Councilmember Scotty Johnson

Monday, August 1, 2022

11:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PRESENTATIONS

Historical Background of Marquis de Lafayette

Gerald Checco

Homebase

Alena Speed, Executive Director

AGENDA

1. [202201562](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney from Gerald Checco titled Quick Historical Background.
Sponsors: Kearney
Attachments: [Presentation](#)
2. [202201550](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney, **WE MOVE** for the Department of Transportation & Engineering, in coordination with the Parks Department, work with "The Lafayette Trail, Inc." to install a marker on the Riverfront to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the visit to Cincinnati of Marquis de Lafayette, May 19, 1825. **WE FURTHER MOVE** that the City of Cincinnati send an official letter to "The Lafayette Trail, Inc." (20 Midland Drive, Easton, PA 18045), to accept the gift of the marker to be installed in the vicinity of the American Queen Paddlewheel sculpture in the axis of Broadway Street. (STATEMENT ATTACHED).
Sponsors: Kearney
Attachments: [Motion](#)

ADJOURNMENT



Quick historical background



September 6 1757

Birth of Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette

Father dies in a 7-year war battle when Lafayette is 2 years old

Mother dies when Gilbert is 13 years old

Lafayette becomes one of the richest eligible bachelors in France



July 4 1776

Declaration of Independence. War with England

Lafayette is 19 years old. Despite orders from the King of France to not participate, Lafayette buys a boat and embarks to the United States to help



September 11 1777

Battle of Brandywine – Lafayette is wounded but fight with valor

Washington "You served with bravery and military ardour"



May 18 1778

Battle of Barren Hill

Expressed to Washington that Slavery is inconsistent with idealism of American Revolution

Becomes a relentless and persistent Abolitionist both for the USA but also for Europe (France)

Lafayette goes back to France and convinces the King to provide more money, more troops and the French Navy



October 19 1781

Battle of Yorktown - The last significant Battle of the Revolution

French Navy defeats British Navy and blocks supply lines.

American and French military lay siege on Yorktown and defeat General Cornwallis. 25% of British forces are prisoners

Negotiations to end the war



July 14 1789

Storming of the Bastille – French Revolution

Lafayette writes “Les Droits de l’ Homme et du Citoyen” – Equivalent to the Bill of Right.

Does not prevail with his idea of a constitutional Monarchy, must escape France to avoid the guillotine

Prisoner of the Austrian in solitary confinement for 5 years

"the whole nation ardently desire to see you again among them".

President James Monroe



August 15 1824

Lafayette arrives in New York, beginning to a 13-month tour to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence



May 19 1825

“On May 19 at ten o’clock in the morning we arrived on the left bank of the Ohio. The first object that attracted my attention on the other bank, nearly opposite us, was the beautiful City of Cincinnati, spreading itself out majestically on a vast amphitheater at the foot of which the river flowed peacefully at a width of more than half a mile.”

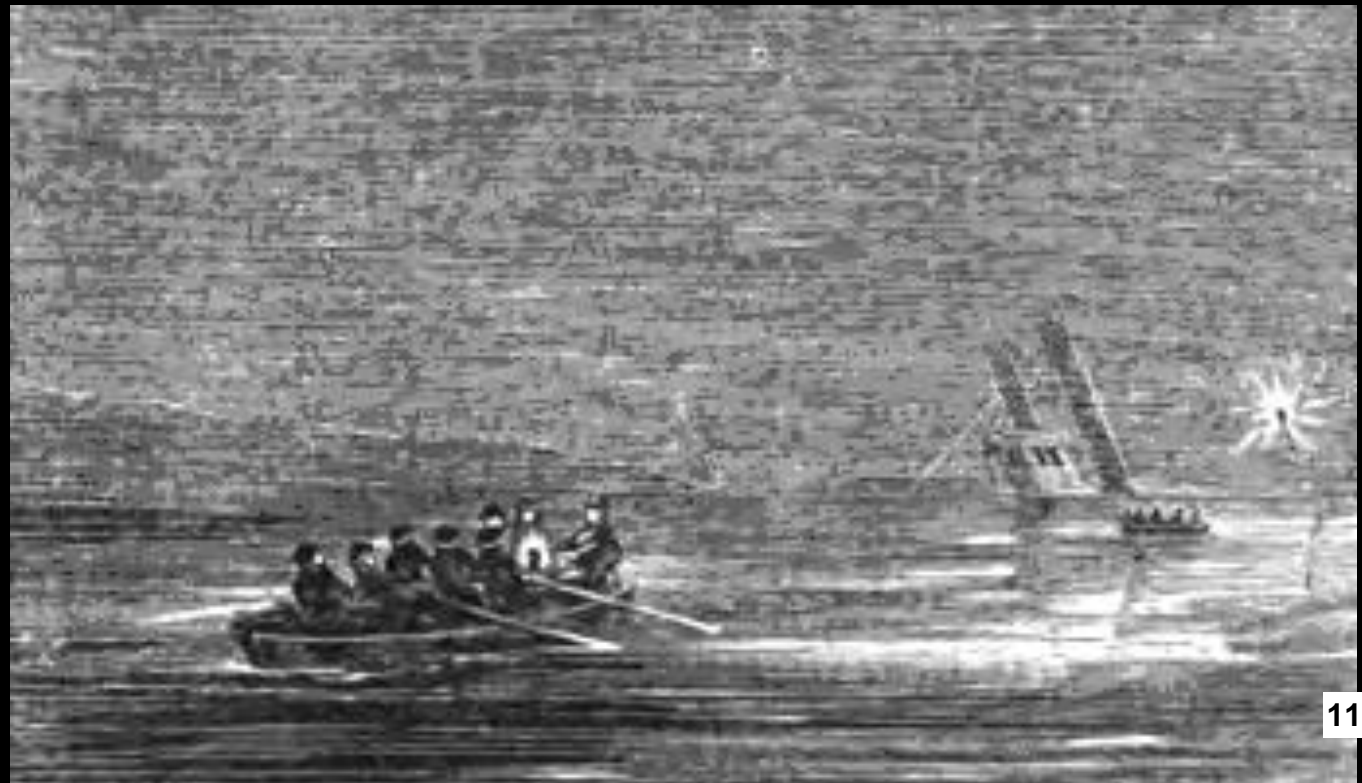
“Slavery and involuntary servitude are abolished there. A Slave becomes free when he touches the happy soil of Ohio”.



May

19

1825





August 1 2022

Cincinnati Council Neighborhood Committee accepts the gift of a marker under the Paddlewheel sculpture on the Riverfront to commemorate the visit of Lafayette in Cincinnati.



May 19 2025

Bicentennial celebration of Lafayette visiting Cincinnati

Beginning of the celebration of the 250 anniversary of USA



LAFAYETTE'S TOUR
ON MARCH 2, 1825, GENERAL
LAFAYETTE, AN OUTSPOKEN
ABOLITIONIST, WAS RECEIVED
NEAR THIS SPOT BY GOV. BURTON
AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2020 19

Similar Marker





Marquis de Lafayette

The unsung hero

Lecture at OLLI – October 12, 2022

If you want to know more about the subject





Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

July 18, 2022

MOTION

WE MOVE for the Department of Transportation & Engineering, in coordination with the Parks Department, work with "The Lafayette Trail, Inc." to install a marker on the Riverfront to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the visit to Cincinnati of Marquis de Lafayette, May 19, 1825.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the City of Cincinnati send an official letter to "The Lafayette Trail, Inc." (20 Midland Drive, Easton, PA 18045), to accept the gift of the marker to be installed in the vicinity of the American Queen Paddlewheel sculpture in the axis of Broadway Street.

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

STATEMENT

Gerald Checco, President of Clifton Town Meeting, made the above request and sent our office the following information regarding this proposal:

At the age of 19, Marquis de Lafayette became the youngest Major General serving under General Washington during the American Revolution. He personally financed, not only his participations in the war, but also financially supported his entire military unit.

He served with valor, being injured at the battle of Brandywine in September 1777, coming back only two months later to win the battle of Gloucester, despite the overwhelming superiority of British forces.

Lafayette was an outspoken abolitionist, pressing the leaders of the new nation to be true to their stated vision to build a country based on liberty and freedom. In 1783, he invited George Washington to partner with him in the purchase of a plantation in French Guiana with the goal of demonstrating that the abolition of slavery was feasible.

Lafayette played a critical role in convincing the King of France to support General Washington financially and with a large number of troops. The decisive siege of Yorktown, Virginia is credited to mark the (unofficial) end of the war and had 9,000 French soldiers fighting alongside 9,000 American troops, against 9,000 British troops.

Back in France, Lafayette became a major player of the French Revolution, advocating moderation and opposing extremism. His moderation cost him to be imprisoned in solitary confinement for five years in several locations, including jailed in what is now the Czech Republic, for supporting the Revolution, but he avoided the guillotine in France. He opposed Emperor Napoleon because of his totalitarian regime.

Lafayette was invited by Congress to visit the United States in 1824 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. Lafayette was the only surviving Major General of the Continental Army. 1824 was a time when the United States was the most divided it had ever been, with four opposing presidential candidates, none of them reaching the number of electors needed to be elected. The President was then chosen by Congress on February 9, 1825, with Lafayette in attendance.

During his 13-month trip, Lafayette visited all 24 States of the Union, plus Washington, D.C., and included a visit to Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 19-20, 1825. During his visit to Cincinnati, he was welcomed by a very large crowd, a testament to his popularity across the nation and in the Queen City. Lafayette was particularly impressed by the beauty of our Cincinnati riverfront, and he marveled at the fact that “slavery and involuntary servitude are abolished here. A slave becomes free when they touch the happy soil of Ohio.”

Lafayette’s trip to the United States is credited to have been a major element of the healing of the country during a very difficult civic time in our history, during which a Presidential Election was decided by Congress. He continuously stressed the common values that united the country.