

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 28, 2017

TO The Mayor and Dallas City Council

SUBJECT A Resolution of the City of Dallas Regarding Confederate figures and Symbols

Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine R. Caraway, Councilmember Casey Thomas II, and Councilmember Tennell Atkins recognize the importance of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom" where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963.

The undersigned members of the Dallas City Council request the City Manager to place a voting item on the September 6, 2017 City Council Agenda on recommendations of policies and procedures for the removal of confederate monuments and symbols such as:

- a. The costs associated with the removal and relocation of public Confederate monuments and symbols and with the renaming of public places, including parks, and streets;
- b. The process of disposal or relocation of Confederate monuments and symbols;
- c. Suggesting additional standards for the naming of public places, including parks, and streets going forward;
- d. Replacements for Confederate monuments and symbols recommended for removal to promote a more welcoming and inclusive Dallas.
- e. Replacement names for public places, including parks, and streets that also promote a more welcoming and inclusive Dallas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Handwritten signature of Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine R. Caraway.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine R. Caraway

Handwritten signature of Councilmember Casey Thomas II.

Councilmember Casey Thomas II

Handwritten signature of Councilmember Tennell Atkins.

Councilmember Tennell Atkins

September 6, 2017

**WHEREAS**, the enslavement of the then Africans was one of the causes of the Civil War, which divided our country over 150 years ago;

**WHEREAS**, the Confederacy lost its war against the United States and the "negro" slave was then freed from slavery, transferring names from "negro" to "colored";

**WHEREAS**, "colored" individuals continued to face discriminatory laws, legal practices, and unpunished violence specifically aimed at preventing them from achieving equality from Reconstruction through the Jim Crow Era;

**WHEREAS**, even after the economic, social, and legal gains made by the Civil Rights Movement, those now referred to as "blacks" were still denied equality by a society that discriminated against them even when hard-won laws call for equal treatment;

**WHEREAS**, through the progression of history, those African descendants who were formerly known as "negro" slaves, then "coloreds," and then "blacks" are now referred to as African Americans;

**WHEREAS**, in spite of every obstacle placed in their path, the African-American community has always resisted and has in the most fundamental way prevailed;

**WHEREAS**, now, we are faced with the decision of keeping, removing, or replacing public monuments, images, and symbols, as well as names of public places, including parks, and streets that are continuous reminders of the Civil War;

**WHEREAS**, Confederate monuments, along with public places, including parks, and streets are named for prominent Confederates continue to be glaring symbols of our country's division, and create racial barriers in our city;

**WHEREAS**, these Confederate monuments, symbols, and images, and public places, including parks, and streets named for Confederate figures distort the violent and oppressive history of the Confederacy and preserve the principles of white supremacy;

**WHEREAS**, for many years, leaders of diverse backgrounds have consistently called for the removal of Confederate monuments and symbols from public property;

**WHEREAS**, the city of Dallas strives to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all its residents and visitors, regardless of their cultural or ethnic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is time for a robust public discussion of the history of the Confederate monuments and commemorations, and the city of Dallas' policy regarding the standards for public commemoration of persons, places, and historical events.

Now, Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:**

**Section 1.** That the display of public Confederate monuments and the names of public places, including parks, and streets named for Confederate figures do not promote a welcoming and inclusive city and, thus, are against the public policy of the city of Dallas.

**Section 2.** That the city council directs staff, in accordance with the Charter, Dallas City Code, and other city of Dallas rules, regulations, and policies, as well as all applicable state and federal laws, to work with the appropriate committees, boards, and commissions to remove public Confederate monuments and symbols, and rename public places, including parks, and streets named for Confederate figures.

**Section 3.** That, to accomplish the removal of these public Confederate monuments and symbols and the renaming of public places, including parks, and streets, the city council supports the Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments ("Task Force"), which is a made up of a diverse group of city leaders who will provide recommendations to the city council:

a. regarding the costs associated with removal and relocation of public Confederate monuments and symbols and with the renaming of public places, including parks, and streets;

b. regarding the process of disposal or relocation of Confederate monuments and symbols;

c. suggesting additional standards for the naming of public places, including parks, and streets going forward;

d. suggesting replacements for Confederate monuments and symbols recommended for removal to promote a more welcoming and inclusive Dallas; and

e. suggesting replacement names for public places, including parks, and streets that also promote a more welcoming and inclusive Dallas.

**Section 4.** That the Task Force shall convene at least two public meetings to receive public input and shall work with, and make recommendations to, the Cultural Affairs Commission by October 12, 2017.

**Section 5.** That the Cultural Affairs Commission shall make a final presentation to city council on November 1, 2017, reporting its findings and making its recommendations.

**Section 6.** That the city council shall take any further action, as needed, on November 8, 2017, including authorizing the renaming of certain public places, including parks, and streets.

**Section 7.** That the city manager, with the cooperation of the Lee Park Conservancy, shall immediately remove the Alexander Phimster Proctor monument (of Robert E. Lee) at Lee Park and store it at a safe location until the conclusion of the recommendations of Task Force as this monument is not a designated city landmark, nor is it part of the city's public art collection, as defined in Section 2-102(12) of the Dallas City Code.

**Section 8.** That the city manager is hereby authorized to transfer funds or appropriate funds from excess revenue, as necessary, to remove all public Confederate monuments.

**Section 9.** That, consistent with City Council Rules of Procedure, Rule 6.2(b), the Mayor shall not place any item on the agenda that has been voted on by the city council within the one-year period preceding the date requested for placement of the item on the agenda.

**Section 10.** That this resolution shall take effect on September 6, 2017, and it is accordingly so resolved.