

RESOLUTION NO. 20171005-031

WHEREAS, the institution of American slavery caused and perpetuated brutal physical, mental, and emotional abuse and impeded opportunities for equality in all aspects of life for freed slaves from Africa and their descendants; and

WHEREAS, the Confederacy and its military fought to preserve slavery and deny equality at the cost of our American Union; and

WHEREAS, even after the slow and hard-won gains made from the Civil Rights Movement, Americans of African descent are still denied equality by a society that discriminates against them; and

WHEREAS, memorials and monuments of the Confederacy, far removed from Civil War battlefields, often have little to do with history but are public announcements of racial bigotry erected in the early- to mid-twentieth century during the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, monuments of the Confederacy along with streets, schools, and other public places named for prominent members of the Confederacy have continued to be glaring symbols of some's refusal to allow full and equal participation in society by Americans of African ancestry; and

WHEREAS, these monuments and other commemorations of the Confederacy were made for the explicit purpose of distorting the violent and oppressive history of the Confederacy and to preserve the cause of white supremacy as the law of the land; and

WHEREAS, it is deeply unjust to require Americans of African descent in our community to continuously support the City's upkeep of these hateful symbols with their tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the continued public display of monuments and commemorations of the Confederacy is antithetical to the stated public policy of the City of Austin to be a welcoming city to people of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the continued public display of monuments and commemorations of the Confederacy is harmful to the peace and tranquility of the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the people of Austin have observed the brave example of the people of New Orleans, Baltimore, Dallas, and Charlottesville in removing monuments of the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for a robust public discussion of the history of the monuments and commemorations, and the policy of the City of Austin regarding the standards for public commemoration of any person or event; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin strongly condemns the displaying of monuments and memorials of the Confederacy and the naming of public places for prominent members of the Confederacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- A. City Council directs the City Manager to identify and develop recommendations for accomplishing removal or renaming of City-owned monuments and memorials of the Confederacy located on City-owned property, including, and without limitation, streets and buildings, and encourages the City Manager to consult with the Equity Office and other City departments as needed to develop the findings and recommendations. City Council directs the City Manager to present these findings and recommendations in a report to City Council.
- B. The scope of this report shall include:
 - (1) Identifying all City-owned monuments and memorials of the Confederacy located on City-owned property, including, and without limitation, streets and buildings located on City of Austin property;

- (2) Producing an analysis of the cost of removal, replacement, or renaming of these icons, monuments, and memorials of the Confederacy; and
- (3) Making recommendations for disposition of artifacts of historic value, including preservation, storage, and maintenance for educational purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to submit the report to Council within 90 days.

ADOPTED: October 5, 2017

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk