

Resolution for Preservation of Lauderdale County History

WHEREAS, the courage of our ancestors is key to understanding the cost of the liberties we enjoy today; and

WHEREAS, historical monuments preserve a record of that courage; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties are trustees for the preservation of historical monuments, statues, and items of antiquity for future generations and must, as trustees, do so without judging any previous generation by today's standards, for to do that would result in the removal of all venerated objects as no previous generation ever has had the political or social philosophy of a succeeding generation that would improvidently seek to judge it; and

WHEREAS, the Lauderdale County, Alabama monument to the men of the county who served in the Confederate Army during the War Between the States from 1861-1865, fought against oppressive taxation and to preserve states' rights, in an army that included African Americans in support and combat roles, was dedicated in 1903 and has stood in front of the County Courthouse for 117 years; and

WHEREAS, there is a movement of liberal and radical organizations, not representative of the majority of citizens of Lauderdale County, which currently are attempting to destroy any record of the courage and sacrifice of our ancestors in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, liberal and radical organizations are currently seeking to remove the Lauderdale County Confederate Monument as a part of their desired destruction; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order on June 26, 2020 that states, "It is the policy of the United States, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to withhold Federal support from State and local law enforcement agencies that have failed to protect public monuments, memorials, and statues from destruction or vandalism. Unwillingness to enforce State and local laws in the face of attacks on our history, whether because of sympathy for the extremists behind this violence or some other improper reason, casts doubt on the management of these law enforcement agencies. These law enforcement agencies are not appropriate candidates for limited Federal funds that support State and local police." And,

WHEREAS, the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act (Ala. Code 1975, §§ 41-9-230 --237) precludes removal of monuments more than 40 years old, without exception; that to do so would expose Lauderdale County and the City of Florence to a \$25,000 statutory fine, state and private lawsuits, and could constitute criminal action; and

WHEREAS, the Florence City Council is considering taking up the issue of illegal removal; and

WHEREAS, the Lauderdale County Commission is considering allowing the City of Florence onto County property to violate the law and remove the monument; and

WHEREAS, the suggested, but illegal, safe movement of the Lauderdale County Confederate Monument would cost many additional thousands of dollars of taxpayer monies, would be a wasteful expenditure in light of the statement of City of Florence leadership that it raised the City sales tax by 28.6% because they did not have enough money to operate the City without their sales tax increase on the residents and shoppers of Florence; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Florence and Lauderdale County have not voted on the issue; and

WHEREAS, a current scientific poll states that 66% of Lauderdale County residents support keeping the monument while only 32% want it removed; and

WHEREAS, such removal would violate the will of the people of Lauderdale County and deprive future generations of a historical monument for them to interpret history on their own; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Hiram Mann, "No man escapes when freedom fails. The best men rot in filthy jails, and they who cried, 'Appease, Appease!' are hung by the men they tried to please." And

WHEREAS, demand to remove this monument is the beginning of a movement of cancel-cultural Marxists to tear down monuments to Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Christopher Columbus and to destroy cultural icons like Mount Rushmore, and

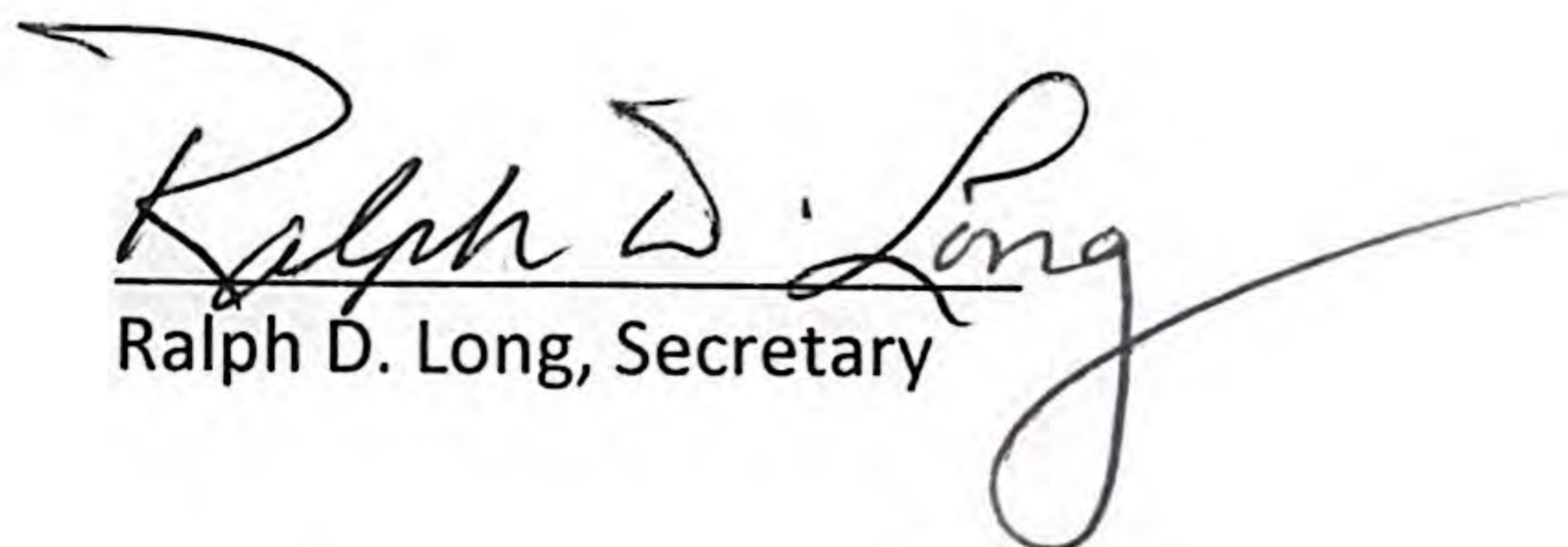
WHEREAS, Shaun King of Black Lives Matter has already demanded, "Tear Them Down" regarding 'White European' Jesus Statues, Murals and Stained-Glass Windows,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Lauderdale County Republican Executive Committee that we stand firmly against the removal of the Confederate Monument from its current public location; that to do so is illegal, should be condemned as a cowardly act on the part of the Lauderdale County Commission, Florence City Council, or any political body which would yield to the current radical Anti-Cultural Revolution without regard to the wishes of the general public; and that to do so, ignores the lesson of history that appeasement to the demands of petty tyrants begets Tyranny; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lauderdale County Republican Executive Committee will attempt to hold the Lauderdale County Commission and the City of Florence civilly liable for a violation of the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act (Ala. Code 1975, §§ 41-9-230 - 237) if the City of Florence is allowed on Lauderdale County Property to violate this law and move the monument; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lauderdale County Republican Executive Committee shall provide copies of this resolution to all elected officials in Lauderdale County and the City of Florence and call on every elected official excluding Judges to state their position publicly.

ADOPTED THIS 2nd Day of July, 2020


Ralph D. Long, Secretary


Joshua Dodd, Chairman