

Francine Frazier

From: Northside Coalition of Jacksonville <northsidecoalition@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Daniel.Davis@myjaxchamber.com; alexandra.allerding@myjaxchamber.com
Subject: Remove and relocate the "Monument to the Women of the Confederacy,"

Dear Mr. Davis,

We are now demanding that the city of Jacksonville remove and relocate the "**Monument to the Women of the Confederacy,**" located at Springfield Park.

There is now great consideration being given by several organizations to support a direct action economic boycott against businesses, as well as rallies, demonstrations and sit-ins at public offices to protest the continued failure by city officials to remove and relocate the "**Monument to the Women of the Confederacy,**"

This is not an attack on "**Southern heritage.**" It is instead an attack on **Confederate heritage** which is based on the wicked ideology of white supremacy.

The argument against removal is based on the ridiculous notion that slavery and race had nothing to do with the civil war. Removing this confederate monument should be based on a deep and abiding sense of justice and righteousness,; the ethical morality of right and wrong.

The business community can no longer look the other way and ignore the racism that this monument represents..

Four years ago a City Council President called for the removal of confederate monuments from public property; subsequently the Mayor said he would remove them.

That was back on June 9, 2020:

("The confederate monument is gone. And the others in this city will be removed as well," Mayor Curry said.)

It is unfortunate that one year later the **Monument to the Women of the Confederacy still** stands in **Springfield Park** on Main street.

The city's reputation is at stake;but even so there's still much more on the line than that!

For the past four years the **Northside Coalition of Jacksonville Inc** has pushed for the removal of confederate monuments, names and symbols.

We are concerned first and foremost with peace, safety and racial reconciliation in our city. We are gravely concerned because we know there are numerous instances of white supremacists inciting deadly violence and provoking immense ill will in defense of Confederate monuments! We must show the country that **Jacksonville** gives no safe harbor to such hatred.

The **Northside Coalition** is calling on you, public officials and the entire business community to join us; in the call to remove the Confederate monument at **Springfield Park!** Confederate symbols on public land, in effect, endorse a movement founded on white supremacy.

Our government should not continue to pay homage to the Confederacy. And we will never solve our community's racial problems if an entire group of citizens is alienated or feels targeted for discrimination.

Confederate symbols belong in museums and on private property.

In museums, we can learn their full history. Citizens will always have the right to fly the Confederate flag. They can even erect monuments on their own property. That will not change. Our fight is not against metal, marble or stone but against the racial hatred and white supremacy that this monument represents.

It is way past time to move the “**Monument to the Women of the Confederacy,**” to an appropriate place. It is time for Jacksonville to march into the sunlight of a brand new day.

All the best,

Ben Frazier, President

(904) 662-2748



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