



November 8, 2021

The Honorable Lenny Curry, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville
City Hall at St. James Building
117 West Duval Street, Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32202

The Honorable Samuel Newby, City Council President
Honorable City Council Members
117 West Duval Street, Suite 425
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Subject Ordinance 2021-752, appropriating \$1.3M to remove Tribute to Women of the Confederacy Monument in Springfield Park

Dear Mayor Curry, Council President Newby, and Honorable City Council members,

We are writing today to communicate our disappointment in the City Council's failure to pass, in committee, Ordinance 2021-752 appropriating \$1.3M to remove the Tribute to the Women of the Confederacy Monument in Springfield Park. We respectfully request that Mayor Curry and the appropriate members of City Council move to withdraw or postpone a vote on the legislation at next Tuesday's City Council's meeting to a specific date to be determined.

The issue of Confederate monuments on public property is not a new one to this community or our nation. Communities around the nation (and world) have had the courage to address this issue head on by developing plans that acknowledge all historic events – those recognized by monuments and those often overlooked in history books. The City of Jacksonville deserves a comprehensive review and action plan to address all historic markers instead of a one-by-one approach. In 2020, Mayor Curry is cited in numerous media reports stating that he is working with a group of experts and city agencies to make decisions on how and when to remove the Confederate monuments. The Jacksonville Civic Council respectfully requests that Mayor Curry and the City Council continue to work with community experts to finalize a comprehensive action plan by end of March 2022.

It is evident from this weeks' City Council committee meetings that the bill does not have the required 13 votes to pass. Pursuant to City Council rules, if the Council fails to pass the Ordinance next Tuesday, the Mayor and City Council will be not be able to re-introduce the bill for at least one year. Withdrawing or postponing the Ordinance is, unfortunately, the best course of action at this time. A withdrawal or postponement will allow our elected leaders the opportunity to finalize a comprehensive action plan that identifies a set of

principles, processes and best practices that can help inform our decision-making when responding to the removal, replacement and/or storage of all confederate-related legacies in the form of statues, street names, building names, monuments, memorials or emblems and symbols located on public land.

In sum, if the City Council is not inclined to pass Ordinance 2021-752 on Tuesday, then we respectfully request withdrawal or postponement of the bill at the November 9th City Council meeting. Upon withdrawal or postponement, we further encourage the administration to proceed with diligence and a sense of urgency to complete a thoughtful and multi-perspective action plan to remember and heal from our city's history. The Jacksonville Civic Council is poised to lend resources and support or participate as called upon to finalize the plan and move our city forward.

Sincerely,



John Delaney
Chairman



Jeanne M. Miller
CEO & President

Cc:

The Honorable Joyce Morgan
The Honorable Al Ferraro
The Honorable Aaron L. Bowman
The Honorable Kevin Carrico
The Honorable LeAnna M.G. Cumber
The Honorable Michael Boylan
The Honorable Reggie Gaffney
The Honorable Ju'Coby Pittman
The Honorable Garrett L. Dennis
The Honorable Brenda A. Priestly Jackson
The Honorable Danny Becton
The Honorable Randy White
The Honorable Rory Diamond
The Honorable Randy DeFoor
The Honorable Terrance E. Freeman
The Honorable Ronald B. Salem
The Honorable Matt Carlucci