

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO CONTEXTUALIZE THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT ON THE DECATUR SQUARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Whereas, a Confederate monument is located on the Decatur square adjacent to the former DeKalb County Courthouse that now houses the DeKalb County History Center;

Whereas, by adopted Resolutions 2017-1443 and 2017-1108 the Governing Authority of DeKalb County established policy governing the disposition of the Confederate Monument, and

Whereas, the monument remains at its original location because the Official Code of Georgia Sec 50-3-1(b) prohibits local governments from dismantling, destroying or concealing military related public monuments;

Whereas, DeKalb County government has actively sought opportunities to relocate the monument to museums, parks, and cemeteries and found no suitable place or willing third party to assume ownership and maintenance;

Whereas, historical records indicate that the monument was erected in 1908 with funds raised by the Agnes Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy and directed by the A. Evans Camp of Confederate Veterans;

Whereas, the Confederate monument celebrates and glorifies the soldiers of the Confederacy, but makes no mention of the violence, cruelty and inhumanity of slavery – the fundamental basis for the war;

Whereas, historical records indicate that there are two distinct periods when Confederate monuments were erected in the United States. The first was from 1900 to 1920 and the second was during the civil rights era of the 1950's and 1960's. The construction and dedication of the Confederate Monument on the DeKalb Court House grounds coincided with the imposition of "Jim Crow" laws that legislated the disenfranchisement and subjugation of African Americans throughout the former slave states;

Whereas, the monument is located in a prominent place within DeKalb County and the City of Decatur and its inscription promotes a false historical narrative that is not only misleading, but offensive to the majority of DeKalb citizens whose ancestors' historical narrative and political rights were targeted, minimized, and erased by the Jim Crow laws and the Lost Cause mythology;

Whereas, a group of local historians who were tasked by Resolution of the DeKalb Board of Commissioners to study the Confederate Monument and to provide objective, interpretive context on has recommended language to contextualize the monument. The historians provided three examples of contextualization that were specifically written for the monument and that has been combined into the attached narrative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY THAT:

1. The Governing Authority of DeKalb County affirms its policy of support for removal of the Confederate Monument from its current location, and for a change in State legislation that currently restricts and denies local governments the authority to do so, and
2. The Governing Authority finds that in the interim of finding a new location for the monument that the best course of action is to provide historical context to the monument that reflects the time period and circumstances under which the monument was established. Furthermore, when the monument is moved it shall continue to have this contextualization.
3. The Governing Authority shall work with the City of Decatur and the DeKalb History Center to determine the final design and placement of the marker and the Governing Authority shall appropriate \$3,000 in the 2019 budget for the preparation and installation of the permanent marker next to the monument that provides contextualization as written in the attached narrative.