

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
TO CONTEXTUALIZE THE CANNON REMOVED FROM THE DECATUR
SQUARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Whereas, the Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 36-9-2 authorizes counties to exercise control of all property belonging to the County;

Whereas, the City of Decatur Square is owned by DeKalb County (Title Opinion, Exhibit “A”);

Whereas, a mounted cannon was placed on the Decatur Square in 1906 by the Agnes Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy,

Whereas, a “Lost Cause” obelisk was placed by the same Agnes Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1908 to promote a white supremacist historical narrative; and,

Whereas, due to the efforts of many community members and led by the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, the obelisk monument on the Decatur Square was removed on the eve of Juneteenth, 2020; and,

Whereas, Muscogee Creek people who were the original inhabitants of this land were forcibly removed from their Georgia and Alabama homelands in 1836; and

Whereas, the tribe pursued many legal remedies to prevent their forced dispossession until the eve of their removal; and,

Whereas, there was an uprising in 1836 shortly before the “Creek Removal” and a cannon used to put down that ditch effort of the Creeks to remain in their homeland was displayed at this site on the Decatur Square; and,

Whereas, members of the Decatur community came together for Indigenous People’s Day on October 11, 2020 to demand the removal of this cannon as another step towards raising awareness practicing restorative justice, and,

Whereas, the City Commission of the City of Decatur, Georgia passed a resolution on December 21, 2020 to, support action by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to remove the cannon from the grounds of the historic DeKalb County Courthouse: and,

Whereas, through community organizing effort led by the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, the DeKalb County Commission passed a unanimous resolution, and the cannon was removed on October 19, 2021; and,

Whereas, as part of the Beacon Hill "Art for the People" Initiative, an art installation honoring the Muscogee Creek people will be placed in its stead permanently at Agnes Scott College.

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

1. The Governing Authority of DeKalb County finds that it is important to provide historical context to the removal of the cannon so there is a recognition of where it stood in the Decatur Square for more than a century.

2. 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 \$5,000 from the 2024 District 2 Reserve for Appropriation budget for the preparation and installation of the permanent marker near where the cannon was placed that provides contextualization as written in the attached narrative.

3. The Cannon Marker Language shall be:

The Muscogee Creek people were forcibly removed from their Georgia and Alabama homelands, primarily in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1906, a mounted cannon was placed in the Decatur Square, marked with the inscription: "Relic of the Indian War of 1836. Mounted by Agnes Lee Chapter U.D.C. No. 434. Apr. 26, 1906."

The Creek War of 1836 was a conflict between the U.S. Army, Georgia militias, and factions of the Muscogee Creek Nation that predominantly took place in southeastern Alabama. The uprising was the result of decades of mistreatment

and the threat of removal from their ancestral homelands. The U.S. Army defeated the uprising and sent remaining Creek families into concentration camps and proceeded to drive them onto the deadly 750-mile journey to Oklahoma.

Following community opposition to the continued display of this cannon, DeKalb County had it removed from the Decatur Square in October 2021 through the organizing efforts and leadership of Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights. As a part of the "Art for the People" Initiative, an art installation honoring the Muscogee Creek people has been placed at Agnes Scott College.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____ 2024

Mereda Davis Johnson
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this _____ day of _____, 2024

Michael Thurmond
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

Viviane Ernstes
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia