

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas, a confederate monument is located on the Decatur Square adjacent to the rear of the DeKalb County History Center, formerly the DeKalb County courthouse (“Confederate Monument”);

Whereas, historical media articles reflect that the Confederate Monument appears to have been erected in 1908 with its construction directed by the A. Evans Camp of Confederate Veterans and the Agnes Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy;

Whereas, at the time of its enactment in 1908, African Americans were prohibited from exercising the same first amendment and other constitutional rights as bestowed upon white Americans;

Whereas, the Confederate Monument contains an inscription which glorifies and praises soldiers of the confederacy, in part, because such soldiers “were of a covenant keeping race”;

Whereas, it appears that the Confederate Monument is owned by DeKalb County and is located on land owned by DeKalb County;

Whereas, state law allows a county or county official to relocate a confederate monument or transfer such a monument to a third party so long as the monument remains visibly displayed; and

Whereas, the Confederate Monument has recently been vandalized on at least two occasions, and has been the focus of much debate and various rallies; and

Whereas, the Confederate Monument could easily become a rallying and flash point for violence as occurred in August of 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia; thus, creating a public safety concern for the City of Decatur and DeKalb County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Authority as follows:

1. The Governing Authority finds that the Confederate Monument is owned by DeKalb County and is located on land owned by DeKalb County;
2. The Governing Authority hereby finds that the Confederate Monument shall be relocated to a place that allows it to be visibly displayed or shall be transferred to a third party with a written requirement that such third party locate the Confederate Monument at an identified place which allows the Confederate Monument to remain visibly displayed;

3. The Governing Authority hereby finds that this action to transfer and relocate or simply relocate is an appropriate measure for the preservation, protection and interpretation of the Confederate Monument and the public safety of the citizens of and visitors to the County and the City of Decatur;
4. The Governing Authority directs the Executive Assistant to implement a publicly advertised process whereby he solicits proposals for (1) relocation and/or transfer and (2) interpretation of the Confederate Monument within 30 days of adoption and approval of this Resolution; and
5. The Governing Authority plans to lobby for the full repeal of O.C.G.A. 50-13-1 by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2018 session and shall include such repeal as a priority in its legislative agenda for 2018.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

JEFF RADER
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
Interim County Attorney