

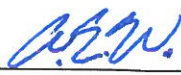
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Interdepartmental Correspondence Sheet

2015 JUL -8 PM 12:04

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK

TO: Ivy R. Taylor, Mayor

FROM: Alan E. Warrick, II, Councilman- District 2 

COPIES TO: City Council; Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

SUBJECT: Confederate Memorials

Character is often revealed during our darkest days, and the world has learned much about character in the wake of recent tragedies that have occurred throughout our country.

It often takes an unspeakable tragedy to perpetuate changes in policy and customs of society. We are currently seeing this unfold in Communities and States across the nation. Legislative chambers throughout our country are currently reflecting on their association with divisive symbols of the Confederacy including the battle flag and monuments erected on public property.

It is time for San Antonio to join this national moment of reflection by having our own discussion about the symbols of the Confederacy that are offensive to so many of our citizens.

I humbly request for Mayor Ivy Taylor to appoint a Task Force composed of Elected Officials, local Historians, Religious leaders, leaders in Education, and City Staff to review and inventory all Confederate monuments and or flags that are currently placed in public places. Its mission should be to have a robust and respectful dialogue and provide direction regarding these symbols. To discuss whether or not they are appropriately placed and whether they represent the evolving values of our community.

Perhaps most notable is the prominent Confederate monument placed centrally in Travis Park located in the heart of our downtown. Travis Park is one of the oldest Municipal Parks in the Country. The focal point of Travis Park is the Confederate Civil War Monument. According to the Office of Historic Preservation, the monument honoring the Confederate Dead was erected in 1899 and funded by the Barnard E. Bee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

While the monument was being proposed, it was not without its controversies. According to a newspaper article dated April 1, 1898 from *The Daily Light*, the author indicated that "...monuments erected today will be a scoff of a later generation".

I do not believe the vast majority of citizens who support Confederate flags or monuments have hate in their hearts; and in some cases, they may not even be aware of the lasting negative impacts these symbols represent such as enslavement, pain, oppression, and violence for a significant number of Americans. The fact that some of these symbols are utilized by hate groups to harass and intimidate should be enough to give us pause.

The Civil War is a part of our Country's history, and we would be remiss to ignore or forget our history, but there is a difference in remembering one's history and celebrating it. I would support relocating these relics to an appropriate museum which seems a more fitting venue where citizens can reflect on the realities of our Country's Civil War which was fought to preserve the enslavement of my ancestors and the ancestors of many San Antonians.

I hope as San Antonio's Leadership, we will move to discuss this topic swiftly so that our city may continue to achieve its vision as a City on the Rise for the new face of America.



Alan E. Warrick, II

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