

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 29, 2017

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
TO Members of the Cultural Affairs Commission
Members of the Park and Recreation Board
Members of the Public Art Committee of the Cultural Affairs Commission

SUBJECT Recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments

On August 24, 2017, Mayor Michael S. Rawlings appointed a task force charged with providing recommendations related to the removal and relocation of public Confederate monuments and symbols, and renaming of public places, including parks and streets. The task force received further instructions related to this charge from the City Council through Council Resolution No. 17-1385, approved on September 6, 2017. Specifically, the Task Force was instructed to provide recommendations to the City Council:

1. regarding the costs associated with removal and relocation of public Confederate monuments and symbols and with the renaming of public places, including parks, and streets along with available options for private funding;
2. regarding the process of disposal or relocation of Confederate monuments and symbols if deemed necessary;
3. suggesting additional standards for the naming of public places, including parks, and streets going forward if deemed necessary;
4. suggesting replacements for Confederate monuments and symbols recommended for removal to promote a more welcoming and inclusive Dallas if deemed necessary; and
5. suggesting replacement names for public places, including parks, and streets that also promote a more welcoming and inclusive Dallas if deemed necessary.

The Task Force held five public meetings between August 31, 2017 and September 22, 2017. City staff provided briefings on City processes related to public art, historic preservation and landmarks, park and street naming. Additional briefings were provided on the historical context of Confederate monuments, symbols and names, as well as a presentation by author Joyce King on the historical context of Dallas in the 1890s and 1930s. All briefing materials, handouts and other information presented to the Task Force were immediately published online at DallasCulture.org/ConfederateMonuments. Additionally, public comments were heard at two meetings of the Task Force, and written comments were received throughout the process and entered into the record of the Task

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Force's proceedings. A total of 160 public comments were recorded on this matter. The public's position on this issue is summarized below.

Residency	Manner Received	In Favor of removal	Opposed to removal	General Information	TOTAL
Dallas	In Person	6	21	5	32
Dallas	Written	14	49	6	69
Total Dallas		20	70	11	101
Outside Dallas	In Person	0	2	0	2
Outside Dallas	Written	1	51	5	57
Total Outside Dallas		1	53	5	59
GRAND TOTAL		21	123	16	160

Following briefings and discussions of each of these matters, the Task Force adopted the following recommendations and submits them to the City Council and other boards, commissions and City departments, as each recommendation may appertain.

Confederate Monuments

1. The Task Force recommends that the City of Dallas seek to place the statue of Robert E. Lee designed by Alexander Phimister Proctor, which was recently removed from Oak Lawn Park (formerly Robert E. Lee Park), and the base of said statue, designed by Mark Lemmon and currently remaining in Oak Lawn Park, as well as the Confederate Monument designed by Frank Teich currently located within Pioneer Cemetery, on long-term loan or by donation to a museum, educational institution, or educational site located within North Texas so that they may be preserved and used for educational purposes through display within the full historical context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, 'Lost Cause' mythology, and the 'Jim Crow' era. If the City is unsuccessful in its efforts and the statues remain in storage after three years, the City Council should revisit this issue.

Fair Park

2. Recognizing that Fair Park is a local, state, and national landmark, the Task Force recommends that the historic art and architecture of Fair Park which contains symbols of, or references to, the Confederate States of America or persons associated therewith, remain in place as a piece of the history of Texas as presented at Fair Park. However, the Task Force recommends that appropriate

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signage, markers, digital tour guides, public art, educational programming, and/or exhibitions be added as necessary to provide the full context of the Civil War, Reconstruction, "Lost Cause" mythology, the "Jim Crow" era, and the creation of Fair Park for the 1936 Texas Centennial. Historical context should include reference to the many contributions of Mexicans, Tejanos and indigenous peoples made during the colonization of Texas, the Texas Revolution, and during and after the Mexican War leading to the 20th Century, to also include the participation or exclusion of various communities in those historic events.

3. The Task Force further recommends that the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Landmark Commission work with the Dallas Historical Society concerning the foregoing, as well as with the African American Museum and the Public Art Committee in adding a substantive commemoration of the Hall of Negro Life, which was built for the 1936 Texas Centennial, recognition of the "Jim Crow" era and South Dallas bombings, and that the City of Dallas should allocate funding and seek additional private and grant funding for the accomplishment of this work.
4. The Task Force further recommends that attempts be made by the City to return to Dallas, or recreate, the murals which previously occupied the Hall of Negro Life at Fair Park.

Park Names

5. The Task Force recommends removal of the Robert E. Lee Park name. (The Park Board subsequently approved the name change to Oak Lawn Park on September 22, 2017.)
6. The Task Force recommends removal of the Confederate Cemetery name and requests the Park Board rename it in a proper context.
7. The Task Force recommends that a citywide engagement process be initiated to consider renaming City parks with placeholder names for historical abolitionists, the formerly enslaved, civil and human rights leaders, people from marginalized and underrepresented communities, and victims of police brutality.

Street Names

8. The Task Force recommends that streets named after a Confederate leader and/or general, who made a significant contribution to the Confederacy, specifically Gano, Lee and Cabell, be changed.

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9. The Task Force further recommends that the street names Stonewall and Beauregard be changed.
10. The Task Force further recommends that the renaming of these streets be accomplished on a priority basis within 90 days and the comment process be expanded to include the voices of people throughout the city whose ideas and testimony shall be given equal weight with those of adjacent property owners.

Other Recommendations

11. The Task Force recommends that this process be directed and led by paid local and regional artists, architects, preservationists, and historians.
12. The Task Force recommends that the City erect a marker at Akard and Main streets memorializing the lynching of Allen Brooks.
13. The Task Force recommends that the City of Dallas create a racial equity policy after public acknowledgement and apology for the policies and practices of the City that have furthered institutional racism and segregation.

Much thought and deliberation went into each recommendation submitted. All briefing materials, handouts, and other information presented to the Task Force, as well as video recordings will remain published online for public review at DallasCulture.org/ConfederateMonuments.

On behalf of the Task Force, I thank you for the opportunity to serve and represent the residents of Dallas on this important matter. Sincere gratitude is also expressed to the dedicated staff from each City department who participated in this process.



Frances Cudjoe Waters, J.D., Chair
Mayor's Task Force on Confederate Monuments

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