



Howard County Council

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Dr. Calvin Ball
District 2

Jennifer Terrasa
District 3

Statement from County Councilmembers Calvin Ball and Jen Terrasa Concerning Confederate Monument Outside Howard County Circuit Courthouse

August 18, 2017

We have heard from many people in the last few days, expressing sadness, rage, frustration, disgust, and everything in between regarding the events in Charlottesville, and everything related that has happened since, including the continued presence of a confederate monument on the grounds of the Howard County Circuit Courthouse. White supremacy is monstrous and vile, and not representative of the Howard County we know and love--a community which should be open and welcoming. The events of the past week have been extremely upsetting, sad, and frustrating on so many levels. We are beyond appalled by the reaction of President Trump, whose behavior might seem bizarre if he weren't president, but in that position his behavior horrifies and dismays us.

On a local level, we are very frustrated and growing angrier by the day at the continued presence of a confederate monument on the grounds of our courthouse, a place that should be a symbol of justice and equality for all. From our perspective, if we couldn't remove the monument immediately, there is no reason we can't at the very least cover it up while we work through whatever process some believe we need to follow. We assure you that we are doing what we can to get the monument removed as soon as possible and to support having it placed in a museum where it can be put in context not as a monument to war heroes built after the war but as a monument built in 1948 - a very different time and for a very different purpose.

To have it in a museum affirms that it belongs in the past, remembered in proper context with other heinous ideas that humanity has discarded on its way to a better future. We know others agree with the ultimate disposition of this monument and are working to make this happen. To continue to have this symbol of white supremacy on our courthouse grounds gives it current credibility; with Charlottesville and other communities across the country taking quick and decisive action to remove confederate monuments, our delay is particularly troublesome. With each passing day, we continue to be on the wrong side of history.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer R. Terrasa".

Jennifer Terrasa
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dr. Calvin Ball".

Dr. Calvin Ball
Councilmember