

ATTACHMENT D: Letter from Chairman to County Executive and Council President

August 25, 2015

The Honorable County Executive Isiah Leggett
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The Planning Board met to discuss potential relocation of the Confederate statue on September 3, 2015. The Board supports your efforts to relocate the statue from the grounds of the historic court house in Rockville to a different location. We recognize that our elected officials may not be able to identify a solution that achieves unanimous agreement, but we hope you can identify one that is acceptable to a majority of our citizens. That said, the Board does not believe that placing the statue in one of M-NCPPC's parks is the proper solution.

We would support the statue's future association with an historical society or museum that can best interpret the complicated story of Montgomery County's participation in the Civil War from the perspective of Confederate and Union supporters as well as free blacks and slaves. We also would have no objection returning the statue to those who created it, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, or to another appropriate private entity.

Below are our preferences, stated in order:

1. Place the statue at the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville, home to the Montgomery County Historical Society, as part of a new, more balanced interpretation of the Civil War and its legacy; or give the statue to the United Daughters of the Confederacy or another appropriate private entity.
2. Only showcase the statue at Calithea Farm Special Park if it can be housed in a true Civil War visitor center as envisioned in the Blockhouse Point Master Plan. Such a scenario would mean that the statue would need to be stored temporarily until Parks receives a CIP appropriation for such a center, and can develop a comprehensive, balanced display.
3. Only place it at Darnestown Square Heritage Park if the above sites do not work. The park in Darnestown is highly constrained, lacks public parking, and includes a burial ground that cannot be disturbed. If Darnestown is supported by the public, consider acquiring additional, adjacent land to make this park bigger, if it comes down to immediate relocation being the only option the County will consider. Otherwise, there will be no opportunity for a balanced display.
4. Remove Jesup Blair Local Park from further consideration. Although Jesup Blair Local Park contains a mid-19th century house identified in the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation, the principle purpose of this park is not the interpretation of the Civil War, but the opportunity, instead, to provide green space, athletic fields, and walking and passive recreation opportunities to the community and adjacent college.

Sincerely,

Casey Anderson
Chair

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August 25, 2015

The Honorable George Leventhal
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

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