

October 14, 2017

Edward H. Sebesta

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Mayor Mike Rawlings
City of Dallas
Mayor and City Council City of Dallas
1500 Marilla St.
Dallas, TX 75201

Dear Hon. Rawlings:

There have been three arguments raised in opposition to removing the Confederate memorial at Pioneer Park.

1. The Confederate monument might be damaged in being removed from Pioneer Park.
2. There is an alarmist apprehension that graves might be disturbed.
3. There is an argument that keeping the monument in place is some type of preservation activity.

I think these arguments are pretexts to prevent removal.

In regards to the first and third argument:

The Confederate Memorial was moved there from what was City Park to make way for a highway. This move was praised in that more people would see it and thus the neo-Confederate message of the monument would be more widely received. I enclose an article from the *Dallas Morning News*, April 16, 1961, page 8. If this monument can be moved for a highway, and it can be moved to promote the Confederacy, I submit that it can be moved because supposedly Dallas doesn't support white supremacy anymore.

Further this monument was moved in 1961 without problems. In 2017, fifty-six years later, I argue that the technology in almost every field has advanced and it is probably likely that this monument can be moved without damage more easily today than when it was first moved in 1961.

This isn't a preservation issue in terms of location. It was moved once, it can be moved again.

In regards to the second argument:

I enclose an article from the *Dallas Morning News*, July 6, 1966, page 12, in which the Sons of Confederate Veterans request that the City of Dallas dig up all the bodies buried at Confederate cemetery and have them moved to Pioneer Park. This is an obvious attempt of promoting the Confederacy through symbolic accretion. Apprehension over disturbing graves seems to be conditional over whether the Confederacy is promoted or not.

I attempted to bring this to the attention of the Public Art Committee of the Cultural Affairs Commission and had a set of articles with a cover sheet but they refused to accept the documents.

Sincerely Yours,

Edward H. Sebesta

CC:

Office	Name	Address	Address
Mayor Pro Tem	Dwaine Caraway	Mayor and City Council	Dallas City Hall
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem	Adam Medrano	Mayor and City Council	Dallas City Hall
District 1 Council Member	Scott Griggs	Mayor and City Council	Dallas City Hall
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