

October 15, 2017

Edward H. Sebesta

edwardsebesta@gmail.com

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

Dear Hon. Rawlings:

The Task Force on Confederate monuments did not research or investigate or report on the history of neo-Confederacy in Dallas and Texas.

This has had the unfortunate result in that the public hasn't been educated and doesn't know the motivations of the people who erected these statues and what was the ideology behind them. There were presentations about the fact that Dallas was a white supremacist society during the period in which they were put up, but the historical record of the beliefs of these organizations and supporters of the monuments has not been examined.

This results in some not really taking seriously the reason to remove these Confederate monuments. The need to eliminate Confederate street names is not taken that seriously and rationalizations are given to only change some. As of 10/15/2017 it is unclear what will be done with Fair Park. The one-third replica Lee plantation house, Stratford, isn't being discussed, the remaining memorials that seek to honor Confederates aren't addressed.

So I think it would be useful that you and city council get a sampler, a small sampler of what neo-Confederacy stood for in Dallas.

1. The United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1934 and 1935 campaigned against a play *Jute* that was planned to be performed by the Oak Cliff Little Theater. The UDC opposed it since it was planned to use an interracial cast to perform it. The performance of the play was prevented and the Oak Cliff Little Theater closed down. The Texas Division UDC President in the UDC convention minutes reported it as a triumph in the defense of the South. The *Dallas Morning News* reported on this multiple times: "Interracial Body Meets Opposition of Confederates," Dec. 4, 1934, page 2; "Quince to Revive 'Jute' on June 4 at Cliff Theater, April 27, 1935, page 10; "Title Role of 'Jute' Still Remains Uncast," May

13, 1935, page 6; "Cast for 'Jute' Already Complete," May 17, 1935, Page 14; "Confederate Daughters Oppose Playing Whites and Negroes in Drama," May 18, 1935, page 6; "Another Confederacy Chapter Opposes Two Races in Theatricals," May 23, 1935, page 6; "Guarantee No 'Social Upheaval,' Quince Asks Protests to Cease on Mixed Cast for Play 'Jute,'" May 24, 1935, page 2; "Quince Drops 'Jute' In Face of Protests," May 27, 1935, page 7; "Oak Cliff Merges Membership with Dallas Little Theater's," May 28, 1935, page 14.

2. Walter White of the NAACP came to speak at a YWCA against lynching in 1937. The campaign against his speaking engagement was so ferocious that it was moved to a different Y for safety, a police guard had to be assigned, and White had to fly in at 3 pm and fly out at 6 pm for his own safety. The campaign was led by Walter E. Hurt, Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
3. An extract for John H. Reagan, from the *Dallas Morning News*, April 28, 1897, page 1 in which Reagan explains that the restoration of white supremacy after the Civil War was more meritorious than any of the Civil War battles that the Confederates fought.
4. A report on a speech made by the Historian General of the Texas Division of the United Confederate Veterans at UCV meeting in Fort Worth asking that all African Americans be sent back to Africa and giving forth on his biblical theories of racial inequality. It is from the *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. 24, No. 12 pp. 529, Dec. 1916.
5. Selections from the *John B. Hood Journal* of the John B. Hood SCV camp in Dallas in 1965. The raw rancid racism really shows what Confederate "heritage" is all about.

I could supply a lot more. I want you and the city council to understand the motivations behind these monuments and other Confederate items of the built environment of Dallas and not be inclined to be lax in addressing the issue involved instead of strenuously de-Confederating Dallas.

Sincerely Yours,

Edward H. Sebesta