

October 15, 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:

I regret to see that the Task Force on Confederate Monuments didn't include the one-third replica of Lee's plantation house, Stratford, at Oak Lawn Park in its deliberation.

The replica Stratford was understood to be an important part of promoting the idea that Robert E. Lee was a hero by the Dallas Southern Memorial Association (DSMA).

The DSMA in the forwards written by their presidents explain sometimes directly and sometimes less directly that the purpose of Robert E. Lee Park was to oppose the civil rights movement.

The replica Stratford is not a plantation house in general but a specific plantation house where slavery was practiced and the plantation house of Robert E. Lee. It serves to normalize both Robert E. Lee and antebellum slavery in the United States and excuse Robert E. Lee's practice of slavery. I enclose an account of Lee having runaway slaves punished, and how horrible the use of salt and brine in these punishments were. These are the terrors in history that plantation weddings ignore.

I see no good reason why this wasn't included in the agenda of the Task Force on Confederate monuments. It is a Confederate monument. In fact it is worse than Confederate statues since when it is used people are directly engaged in it.

I don't think the city of Dallas should be engaged directly or indirectly in the plantation wedding business and this replica plantation house needs to be addressed. It also should not be addressed as is done in some cases by having some token African American cultural event.

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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District 5 Council Member	Rickey D. Callahan	Mayor and City Council	Dallas City Hall
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