



April 11, 2022

**The Honorable Samuel Newby, City Council President**  
**Honorable City Council Members**  
**117 West Duval Street, Suite 425**  
**Jacksonville, Florida 32202**

**Subject: Process to Review Historic Monuments in Public Spaces**

Dear Council President Newby and Honorable City Council members,

To support the Jacksonville City Council in the achievement of its 2022 Strategic Goals, the Jacksonville Civic Council's Race and Social Justice Task Force has examined case studies of cities, states and countries that have grappled with disputes over the meaning of certain historic monuments and markers in public spaces. Recently, the Jacksonville City Council and community have debated the meaning of the 'Women of Southland' monument located in Springfield Park.

Disputes over historical legacies in public spaces are not new to this community or communities around the world. Jacksonville residents deserve an evidence-based process to address all historic markers located on city-owned property. The Jacksonville Civic Council (JCC) supports a public process that ensures all interested citizens and stakeholders have a place to listen and be heard facilitated by an independent party.

After a review of the processes used by other communities, JCC recommends a process developed and recommended by the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation's (IHJR) [Contested Histories in Public Spaces](#). The framework outlined by the report provides the Jacksonville City Council, decision-makers, community members and other stakeholders with a set of principles and guidelines for responding to disputes over historical legacies in public spaces derived from deep and thoughtful review of case studies from all over the world. Among the case studies reviewed was the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia. The process takes into careful consideration how it operates within the framework of existing legislation or local ordinances.

The JCC endorses and recommends the use of the IHJR's Contested Histories in Public Spaces framework, using the [University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation](#) as a facilitator for the process in Jacksonville. The leaders of that Institute have learned extensively from the process undertaken in [Charlottesville](#) and are in a good position to apply lessons learned. In summary, JCC recommends contracting with an outside facilitator, possibly the Institute of Engagement and Negotiation, in partnership with a local partner with no known local position on Jacksonville's recent efforts with our confederate monuments. Mari

Kuraishi, President and CEO of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and an active member of the JCC, is willing to fully fund the contracted facilitator, eliminating any taxpayer or City of Jacksonville budget concerns.

In conclusion, after researching and consulting with various authorities across the country, here in Jacksonville and with members of our Race & Social Task Force, we believe IHJR's Contested Histories framework is the right framework, at the right time for the City of Jacksonville.

Sincerely,



John Delaney  
Chairman



Jeanne M. Miller  
CEO & President

Cc:

The Honorable Joyce Morgan  
The Honorable Al Ferraro\  
The Honorable Aaron L. Bowman  
The Honorable Kevin Carrico  
The Honorable LeAnna M.G. Cumber  
The Honorable Michael Boylan  
The Honorable Reggie Gaffney  
The Honorable Ju'Coby Pittman  
The Honorable Garrett L. Dennis  
The Honorable Brenda A. Priestly Jackson  
The Honorable Danny Becton  
The Honorable Randy White  
The Honorable Rory Diamond  
The Honorable Randy DeFoor  
The Honorable Terrance E. Freeman  
The Honorable Ronald B. Salem  
The Honorable Nick Howland  
The Honorable Matt Carlucci  
The Honorable Lenny Curry