

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR RESOLUTION NO. 200559

Requesting the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners to research, examine, and develop a comprehensive strategy for the removal of memorials and symbolic monuments, including street, boulevard, and parkway names, on City owned property, together with property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, of figures that held slaves, promoted racism or participated in the oppression or dehumanization of others.

WHEREAS, in light of the reexamination of national monuments, memorials, and street, boulevard, and parkway names that symbolize racism, an analysis must be made of what symbols from Kansas City's past must be reconsidered or reevaluated in a historical context of honest and frank discourse; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Charter the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and have the duties to directly superintend, control, manage, develop and extend all parks, parkways, boulevards and other properties and resources as assigned by the City Council upon recommendation of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the memorials and symbolic monuments, including street, boulevard, and parkway names, on City owned property are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and therefore the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners is best suited to conduct such an analysis; and

WHEREAS, memorials, monuments, and symbols, including street, boulevard, and parkway names, that celebrate and serve as constant reminders of a painful history of colonialization and slavery are not conducive to an environment of diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City, the United States of America, and the world face an unprecedented transformational moment that includes the realization that removal of monuments and symbols to a racist past is a significant step in a healing process that seeks a more just future; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City must also take a look at symbols that for many represent oppression, divisiveness, suffering, and racial hierarchy and do not reflect the sense of community that this great city needs to prosper and advance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to request the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners to research, examine and develop a comprehensive strategy that acknowledges past injustice as well as uproots and removes memorials and symbolic monuments, including street, boulevard, and parkway names, of figures in Kansas City that held slaves, promoted racism, or participated in the oppression and dehumanization of others; NOW, THEREFORE,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners is hereby requested to research, examine, and develop a comprehensive strategy which shall include receiving input from local civil rights and indigenous peoples organizations for the removal of memorials and symbolic monuments, including street, boulevard, and parkway names, on City owned property, together with property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, of figures in Kansas City that held slaves, promoted racism, or participated in the oppression and dehumanization of others.

Section 2. That the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners is hereby requested to provide, within six (6) months of passage of this Resolution, a comprehensive report to the City Council regarding their efforts and to include such further actions that may be taken with respect to memorials and monuments, including street, boulevard, and parkway names, on City owned property, together with property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners.



Authenticated as Passed

Quinton Lucas, Mayor

Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

SEP 17 2020

Date Passed