

City of Edwardsville

Council Proceedings

July 21, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Edwardsville City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 118 Hillsboro Avenue in Edwardsville, Illinois, with Mayor Patton presiding. Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns answered present on roll call. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Patton welcomed everyone in attendance and those viewing on Cable Channel 993 and Facebook Live to the meeting.

Mayor Patton opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

Citizen Asher Denkyirah provided public comment via Zoom and spoke in support of the removal and relocation of the Ninian Edwards statue and the renaming of the Ninian Edwards Plaza. Two documents were provided to the members of the City Council in support of Ms. Denkyirah's public comment, a petition which listed the names of 189 people in support of the removal and relocation of the statue and renaming of the plaza and a letter addressed to the Mayor and members of the City Council with six (6) Actionable Items that the petitioners are asking the City to take. Both documents were received into the record and are attached herewith.

City Clerk Bates read two emails that were received for public comment. The first email read was sent anonymously and it asked the City Council to not allow a small, vocal group of citizens to make changes to the City such as tearing down the Ninian Edwards statue which could then lead to other changes like renaming the City. The second email from citizen Mary Grose, Ward 1, Edwardsville, IL was in support of relocating the Ninian Edwards statue to a historical museum in town where a fuller historical context could be given regarding Gov. Edwards.

Citizen Leo Murphy, Edwardsville, IL provided in-person public comment and spoke against the removal of the Ninian Edwards statue and provided his perspective on the definition of racism. Citizen John Burch, Edwardsville, IL provided in-person public comment and spoke against the removal of the Ninian Edwards statue out of respect for Gov. Edwards and for the people who came before the present day Council and citizens and made the decision to erect the statue.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Stack, seconded by Farrar, to approve the Consent Agenda.

City Attorney Berkbigler requested that one (1) additional Executive Session be added for Personnel and two (2) Executive Sessions be added for Collective Bargaining.

Mayor Patton read Consent Agenda items as follows:

Approval of minutes of Council Meeting on July 07, 2020

Activity and Financial Reports:

1. Reports of Elected and Appointed Officials received for information and file:
 - a) Finance Director – Monthly Financial Report
 - b) Finance Department – Monthly Activity Report
 - c) City Treasurer – Monthly Financial Report (electronic distribution)
 - d) Police – Monthly Activity Report
 - e) Fire Chief – Monthly Activity Report (Fire and EMS Services)
 - f) Public Works Director – Building, Electrical and Plumbing Permits
2. Circuit Clerk’s Report was received for information and file.

Group Health Insurance Fund Report - \$152,866.83

Closed Session – Personnel (2) and Collective Bargaining (2)

Roll Call on Consent Agenda: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Memo from Teska Associates regarding the I-55 District Development Code Update: Public Input Findings was received for information and file.

Mayor Patton shared a letter that he received from a resident with a compliment to the City’s Water Department for the wonderful job that was done fixing the problem in the resident’s front yard and easement and in regard to the Water Department employees’ excellent professionalism and communication.

Mayor Patton shared a letter that he received from a resident who had an elderly parent staying with him who needed to be transported by ambulance to the hospital. The letter stated that the Fire Department staff was very accommodating and even followed up to check on the parent after delivery to the hospital.

Mayor Patton shared a warning that was received today from Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker that if there is not a better job done of containing COVID-19 cases in Madison County and St. Clair County that those counties will be reverted back to Phase 3 of the State’s reopening plan. Mayor Patton read a public release from City Administrator Kevin Head that states, “Tonight, I am encouraging all residents of Edwardsville to wear a mask, practice social distancing and wash their hands regularly. Madison County has had a recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases. Today’s positivity rate in Madison County is 7.5%. The Governor has announced his intent to impose more restrictive measures if Madison County reaches an 8% positivity rate for three consecutive days. The City is

concerned about the health and safety of all our residents and the economic success of all our businesses. Practicing these simple measures now will help keep our businesses open, our economy moving, and most importantly, our friends and family healthy. Please continue to shop and dine in Edwardsville but wear a mask to protect those around you and to prevent the spread of the virus to those most at risk. By implementing these simple but effective practices together, we can slow the spread of the coronavirus and continue on a path of defeating COVID-19.”

Legislative & Executive

Motion by Morrison, seconded by Krause, to approve the appointment of Melissa McDonough-Borden to the Edwardsville-SIUE Community Destination Group effective immediately.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Legal & Judicial

None

City Treasurer

None

City Clerk

None

Finance Committee

Revised minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on June 09, 2020 were received for information and file.

Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on June 30, 2020 were received for information and file.

Motion by Louer, seconded by Stack, to approve Claims - \$406,509.95 (Regular) and \$27,686.03 (Library) for a total of \$434,195.98.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Motion by Louer, seconded by Stack, to approve a Commercial Building Façade Application for Mark J. Bradley Trust at 1507 Troy Rd., in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

Public Safety Committee

Public Safety Committee will meet on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

Public Services Committee

Minutes of Public Services Committee meeting held on June 30, 2020 were received for information and file.

Motion by Burns, seconded by Morrison, to Award the Spring 2020 MFT Pavement Patching Contract to RCS Construction in the amount of \$237,930.00.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Motion by Burns, seconded by Morrison, to approve Change Order #1 for the Ridgeview Road Regional Lift Station to Kamadulski Excavating and Grading Co., Inc. in the amount of \$28,405.00.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Motion by Burns, seconded by Louer, to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Sheppard, Morgan, and Schwaab, Inc. in the amount of \$16,500.00 for smoke testing.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Public Services Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

Administrative & Community Services Committee

Minutes of Administrative & Community Services Committee meeting held on July 01, 2020 were received for information and file.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Krause, to approve a Resolution Approving a Sign Variance Request – 2222 Troy Road Schnucks / CVS Pharmacy.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Morrison, to approve a Resolution Approving the Biarkis Minor Subdivision Plat.

The Resolution is to include the following two (2) variances: 1) Section 5-8 Sidewalks, and 2) Section 3-4.B-2(5)(K) Street Trees.

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Krause, to approve an item forwarded from the Recreation, Arts & Special Events (RASE) Board meeting held July 07, 2020:

- 1) Edwardsville / Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce Halloween Parade – October 31, 2020

Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held on June 10, 2020 were received for information and file.

Two items from the July 07, 2020 RASE Board meeting were received for information and file:

- 1) Parks & Recreation Department - Special Events & Activities Report
- 2) Parks & Recreation Department - Sports & Recreation Report

Administrative & Community Services Committee will meet on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Closed Session

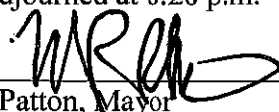
At 7:49 p.m., Motion by Stack, seconded by Lauer to enter into Closed Session to discuss two (2) Personnel items and two (2) Collective Bargaining items. Council reconvened into Open Session at 8:23 p.m.

Motion by Louer, seconded by Stack, to approve a 2% increase to base wages for non-contract employees with a retroactive effective date of May 01, 2020 and with the following variances:

- Eric Williams 4% increase to base wage
- Kevin Head 3% increase to base wage
- Ryan ZwiJack 3% increase to base wage

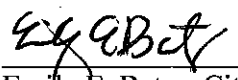
Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Risavy, Morrison, Krause, Farrar, Louer, Stack and Burns. Motion carried.

There being no further action required, Council adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Hal Patton, Mayor

Attest:



Emily E. Bates, City Clerk

Two (2) Public Comment Documents

Received by the City Council

from Ms. Asher Denkyirah

07/21/2020

Relocate Ninian Edwards Statue

To: Edwardsville (IL) City Council

We call on the City of Edwardsville to remove the name and statue of Ninian Edwards from the Ninian Edwards Plaza.

Why is this important?

Ninian Edwards was a founding political leader and governor of Illinois in the 1800s. He was also a slave owner who actively encouraged the continuation of slavery in Illinois when the North West Ordinance of Illinois outlawed it. Edwards also participated and encouraged the removal and genocide of Native Americans in Illinois. In 2007, a statue of Edwards was erected and a plaza was named after him, right in downtown Edwardsville.

Our downtown public spaces should celebrate our community's values and identity. The statue and plaza perpetuate negative messages about who is and is not welcome in our city, about who we revere and who we value. Edwardsville should demonstrate its commitment to equality and its opposition to racism by taking a straightforward action - removing the statue and renaming the plaza.

We believe this is the right action because of our history. We must learn about Edwards - who he was and what we did - but we should be doing so in a way that is appropriate for learning history, rather than revering him in the heart of our city. The statue can be rehomed to an educational/historical setting.

Please join us as we work to achieve the following:

- 1) The removal of the statue of Ninian Edwards from the downtown Ninian Edwards Plaza.
- 2) The relocation of the statue to a museum or less public city space, to be displayed alongside plaques which describe the harmful historical actions of Ninian Edwards against Black Americans and Native Americans.
- 3) The renaming of the Ninian Edwards Plaza

Signed by 189 people:

Name	Zip code
Ezra Temko	62025
Asher Denkyirah	62034
annie gianaris	62025
Eryn Coppersmith	62025
Blake Bamber	62025
Candace Elrod	62034
Karen Alhelwani	61822
Kayla Smith	63110
Hannah Warren	62034

Name	Zip code
Gaby Renteria-Poepsel	62025
Amanda Wickman	62025
Sarah Kirkpatrick	62067
Aaron Johnson	62034
Noah Manibusan	62025
Elliott Gianaris	62025
Jayne McCormick	62025
Mark Poepsel	62025
BethAnne Havis	62025
Drew Temko	62025
Beth Browne	62025
Isabella Divine	62025
Donna Charleston	62034
Sarah Ulloa	62034
Jane Floyd-Hendey	62025
Maddie L	62034
Danielle Freeman	62025
Arthur Maurer	62025
Cheyenne Slack	62685
Erin Vigneau-Dimick	62025
Autumn Santoni	62025
Bridget Followell	62025
Emma Lazerson	62025
Laura Hollingsworth	62025
Aryn Bailey	62034
Shane Overton	62025
Samantha Meeker	63116
Dawn Determan	62025
James Krapf	62025
Linda Markowitz	62025

Name	Zip code
Gary Matson	62025
Guy Russo	62025
Gillian Murphey	62034
Alexis Maestre-Saborit	33901
Savanah Signorello	62025
ellie elson	62025
Tom OHara	13209
Rachel Rodríguez	62025
Jace Cook	62034
Katelyn Bertels	62034
Emily Ash	62025
Nekisha Omotola	62034
Anna Schuh	62025
Zachary Standig	07751
Dzifa Kraka	62025
Megan Knobeloch	62034
jim lemons	80011
Leslie Lederman	98075
Lea Amtag	79312
Lauren McAlmont	62025
Brianna Pierson	62025
Anna Wilson	62025
Lily Grieve	62025
Dirk Beetner	62025
annie brock	82072
Patrick Haggerty	03104
Tessa Rife	94109
Gemma Heilmer	62025
Carolyn Tidball	62025
Samantha Calderon	90623
Emma Lipe	62025

Name	Zip code
Dr. Courtney Boddie, Associate Dean & Director	62026
Lenesha Moyegun	62025
Mikhaela Romoser	62025
Grant Claunch	62025
Caleb Romoser	62025
Karagan Romoser	62025
Brittany Mead	62025
Jami Curley	62294
Melissa Lovell	62025
Jessica Fagan	62258-1118
Chad Garrett	62025
Kelsi Huffman	62258
Ash Jenkins	62025
Jaron Davis	62025
Lauren Waight	62226
Hope Gunderson	62025
Amy Morby	62025
Matthew Huelsmann	62025
Brandan Phillips	90015
Pat Rausch	62025
Amy Morby	62025
Alexa Huelsmann	62025
Gwen Den Houter	62025
Emily Klingensmith	62025
Mary Wehking	62025
Lynn Beaumont	62025
Crystal Zieu	85132
Suzanne BeDell	62025
Chelsea Burdge	62025
Evan Johnson	62025

Name	Zip code
Stacey Iipe	62034
Eileen Shellhouse	77339
Jeff Corbin	62034
Anita Runge	62025
Brad Blumenstock	62034
Julia Goren	62025
Corey Stevens	62234
Zach Rosenthal	62294
Kiera Deskin	62298
Alice Yerby	63011
Madeline May	62025
Gloria Lewis	37027
J.T. Snipes	63104
Kody Scott	62025
Rachel Parnell	37127
Ingrid Alpha	47933-7908
Shelli Berwick	92592-1123
Denise Lytle	07095
Sue McGuey	85215
Abigail Kinnard	62269
Mary Grose	62025
Trina High	60620
Jane Yang	17112
Esan Fullington	20010
Emily Love	62025
Theresa Morrison	62025
Kris Miller	01862
Larry Gallagher	62025
Alexander Zielonko	62025
Steve Tamari	62034
Nancy Ruff	62025

Name	Zip code
Pamella Gronemeyer	62034
Jenn Courtney	62025
Alma Carver	62025
Trish Oberweis	62025
Katrina Knebel	62025
Laurie Puchner	62025
Pamela Decoteau	62025
Rachael Underhill	62034
Allison Funk	62025
Jack Decoteau	62025
Carolyn Tidball	62025
Kathleen Mendez	62025
Jennifer Miller	62025
Eileen Sackett	62025
Brigham Dimick	62035
Stephen Hartman	62025-7703
JOHN STURLEY	62034
Maggie Puchner-Hardman	62025
Jeffrey Skoblow	62025
Joel Hardman	62025
Jeanne Heitman	63130
Julie Zimmermann	62025
Charles Silvey	62025-3024
lauren karrick	62626
Colleen McCracken	62025
Max Gricevich	62025
Natalie Casey	62025
Jane Hicks	62025
Justin Gibson	62040
Darla Hoffmann	62025

Name	Zip code
K White	62034
Kevin Hall	62025
Rosanda Richards-Ellsworth	62035
Michael Woody	62025
Colin Kremitzki	62025
Samantha Heyen	62093
Jahna Schadt	62025
Di Woo	62034
Danielle Macdonald	62025
Lauren Lai	46250
Toni Oplt	620251435
Sheila Voss	62025
Adriana Martinez	62025
Leslie Wagner	62025
Steven Moiles	62025
Elizabeth McKenney	62025
Jenny Hanson	62025
Alan Black	62034
Eva Sedjo	62234
Jean O'Brien	62025
Kimberly Coppersmith	62025
John Abbott	60304
Rowena McClinton	62025
Connje Gordon	62025
Isaiah Smithson	62025
Mary Ellen DeClue	62056
Darla Andree	62025
LaTrice Lott	62025

To: City of Edwardsville Administrative & Community Services Committee

CC: Edwardsville City Council and Mayor Patton

We are a group of Edwardsville citizens calling upon the city to take the following actions:

1. Remove the statue of Ninian Edwards from the downtown Ninian Edwards Plaza.
2. Relocate the statue to a museum or less public city space, to be displayed alongside plaques which describe the harmful historical actions of Ninian Edwards against enslaved persons and Native Americans.
3. Rename Ninian Edwards Plaza or leave the plaza unnamed.

Rationale

Even by the standards of his time (early 1800s), Ninian Edwards was a racist and immoral man. We know that it was not the intention of the City to honor Edwards' harmful actions when they raised his statue and named the plaza after him. Nevertheless, such a public display of Edwards' statue and name has the effect of creating an impression of approval. It bestows Edwards with undeserved honor and reverence, glorifying the man and his life.

Edwards owned slaves his entire adult life. When he moved to the then-Illinois Territory, he should have been forced to free the slaves he brought with him under federal law. But Edwards did not, and in the process, helped establish slavery in Illinois, a place that was supposed to be free by federal law. Additionally, as territorial governor, Edwards vetoed a bill that would have officially abolished slavery in Illinois. Because of this, slavery persisted in Illinois until 1848, more than thirty years after Edwards chose not to stop it. Ninian Edwards also committed harmful acts against Illinois' Native American population during the War of 1812, massacring dozens of tribespeople who were in fact United States allies living peacefully on their own land.

For these reasons, we urge the City to move Ninian Edwards' statue out of the downtown plaza to a museum or other appropriate community space where better information can be provided about his harmful actions, and to rename Ninian Edwards Plaza.

Asking for the relocation of the statue and the renaming of the plaza is in no way erasing history or destroying the fundamental history of Illinois. It is not a 'slippery slope'. Statues are created to honor a person, a group of people, or an event. So, in retrospect, we are literally putting Ninian Edwards on a pedestal. If this truly was about the case of preserving history, then when this statue was created and put up in 2008, it would have included a plaque highlighting Edwards' full history, explaining that Ninian Edwards was a founding member of Illinois and the

third governor of Illinois, but also that he owned enslaved people and continued slavery in Illinois. Although he did good for the state in certain respects, discussions surrounding his active participation in the removal and murder of Native Americans and his role in establishing slavery in Illinois are not included in the statue's display. If there is any erasure of history, it is the blatant lack of acknowledgment of his white supremacist ideals when the statue was commissioned and installed. The statue, placed on a pedestal in our downtown, and the naming of the plaza, with no plaque describing Edwards' full legacy, constitutes a rewriting of history into a whitewashed narrative that may be more comfortable for some but that is very partial and selective.

We do not learn or study history primarily through statues or monuments. Monuments are not designed to encourage debate, but to put forward a particular narrative for community honoring. We study history through books, primary documents, and first-hand accounts. Historical figures are flawed, but if we ignore that they are flawed, we get a warped idea that the United States of America was founded without sin. Dr. Adam Dombay, author of *The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory*, explained this idea well, stating, "Statues are symbolic of who controls public space and correcting the narrative is part of the larger struggle to help people realize that racism still exists." So yes, we must assess history through the contemporary lens of what narratives our community believes should be honored. Removing the statue will not end the bigger racial problems in this community or in this country, but it is a start.

Actionable Items

We have included below six steps we are asking the city to take. We have arranged these chronologically based on what we think makes the most sense for how to proceed.

- *Action Item 1:* The city removes the Ninian Edwards statue image from the city website's rotating feature images.
- *Action Item 2:* The city create and add an educational plaque in front of the statue highlighting the true history of Ninian Edwards including his involvement in slavery and the removal Native Americans in Illinois.
- *Action Item 3:* The Edwardsville City Council and/or Administrative & Community Services Committee adopt a motion formally addressing the issue of the Ninian Edwards statue and the plaza named after him, such as a statement about Edwards, the incompatibility of Edwards' legacy with the city's values, and intentions to proceed with relocating the statue.
- *Action Item 4:* The city organizes community conversations about the plaza's future (e.g. name, purpose, physical features such as statue/sculpture/artwork).

- *Action Item 5:* The city removes and relocates the Ninian Edwards statue and plaque from a place of celebration and honor to a place of education (e.g. to the Benjamin Stephenson House or the Madison County Historical Museum).
- *Action Item 6:* The city selects, announces, and implements a new plan for the plaza's future.

City Action on Statue Removals

We are asking the City of Edwardsville to take this action. We believe this issue should be addressed by the officials we have elected to serve our community. We do not believe the city should abdicate its responsibility to govern whenever an issue is controversial, especially on issues of minority and civil rights.

Communities around the country are grappling with this same issue and are taking action. We have included at the end of this letter a list of statues removed by city governments all over the United States that were removed since the national protests impacted by the death of George Floyd began.

In Delaware, Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki referred to the removal and relocation of the Christopher Columbus and Caesar Rodney statues as “an overdue discussion about the public display of historical events and figures.” Caesar Rodney is a founding figure in Delaware’s history and directly contributed to the state’s claim to being “the first state.” Nevertheless, these statues were removed the week of June 12 in advance of a further discussion about how best to proceed. Mayor Purzycki said “We cannot erase history, as painful as it may be, but we can certainly discuss history with each other and determine together what we value and what we feel is appropriate to memorialize.”

(<https://whyy.org/articles/wilmingtons-statues-of-columbus-and-caesar-rodney-coming-down-at-least-for-now/>)

In Birmingham, Alabama, Mayor Randall Woodfin ordered the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors monument removed from a public park in the city, following civil unrest in the city that had led to the destruction of another Confederate memorial in that same park. The removal came with a \$25,000 fine for violating the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017, which prohibits the removal or altering of architecturally significant buildings and monuments that have existed on public property for more than 40 years. The mayor said “I chose my city to avoid more civil unrest” and added it was better to pay the fine than to experience more civil unrest. He additionally said, “We don’t have time to worry about something that’s not working for our city and relegates Black people to property and slavery. It’s important that we take this down and move forward.”

(<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/i-chose-my-city-birmingham-alabama-removes-confederate-monument-faces-n1223511>)

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the city removed a statue of Frank Rizzo, police commissioner from 1968 to 1971 and mayor from 1972 to 1980. As mayor, Rizzo faced lawsuits over discriminatory hiring practices against Black police and Fire Department applicants, as well as a lawsuit by the U.S. Department of Justice for police brutality. The statue was removed from outside the Municipal Services Building and placed in storage until the city creates a plan for it. According to Mayor Jim Kenney, the statue represented “bigotry, hatred, and oppression for too many people, for too long.” According to Councilwoman Helen Gym, the city needs to “find a different way to reflect on his legacy.” She said “Frank Rizzo was known and loved by the people who knew and loved him. But putting that statue in such a central location sends a different message. We need that space to be welcoming to all.”

(<https://www.inquirer.com/philly/news/philadelphia-statue-legacy-was-frank-rizzo-racist-20170822.html-2> and <https://whyy.org/articles/how-kenney-was-able-to-remove-the-rizzo-statue-without-anyones-approval/>)

Like these city officials, we hope city officials in Edwardsville will take action to ensure our downtown statues are inclusive and represent the best of Edwardsville. Please consider joining us in advocating for the relocation of the statue of Ninian Edwards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Asher Denkyirah, on behalf of the citizen group for the Relocation of Ninian Edwards Statue and Renaming of Ninian Edwards Plaza

Monument/Memorial	City	State	Means of Removal	Description
Confederate Sailors and Soldiers Monument	Birmingham	AL	Removed by the city	Birmingham's mayor decided to remove the statue after another statue in the same park was vandalized. The memorial was ordered in 2017 to be partly hidden with plywood screens after the violence in Charlottesville, but the plywood came down after a unanimous state Supreme Court decision.
Confederate Adm. Raphael Semmes Statue	Mobile	AL	Removed by the city	The City Council of Mobile had the statue
Confederate soldier memorial plaques	Tuscaloosa	AL	Plans for removal	The University of Alabama Board of Trustees approved the removal of three confederate memorial plaques from the campus and their relocation to a "more appropriate historical setting."
Capital Guard Statue	Little Rock	AR	Removed by the city	The Capital Guard Statue, a confederate monument, was removed for repair on June 18 after it was vandalized. Little Rock's mayor announced that afternoon it would be removed permanently and relocated to be viewed in a "comprehensive historical context."
Christopher Columbus and Caesar Rodney statues	Wilmington	DE	Removed by the city	Wilmington officials removed two statues—one of Christopher Columbus, the other of Caesar Rodney, a slaveholder—to prevent them from damage and to create a "an overdue discussion about the public display of historical figures and events," according to Wilmington's mayor Mike Purzycki.
Confederate soldiers Monument	Jacksonville	FL	Removed by the city	Mayor Lenny Curry announced that all Confederate monuments citywide would be removed. This includes three monuments and eight historical markers
Athens Confederate Monument	Athens	GA	Plans for removal by city	The mayor and city commissioners announced plans to remove the monument.
The Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument	Indianapolis	IN	Removed by the city	The City Council of Indianapolis had the monument removed
Jefferson Davis Statue	Frankfort	KY	Removed by the city	The statue will be relocated to the Jefferson Davis State Historic Site in Fairview
Confederate Soldier John Castleman Statue	Louisville	KY	Removed by the city	The City Council of Louisville had the statue removed.
Confederate Soldier John Breckinridge Castleman monument	Louisville	KY	Removed by the city	City officials removed statue after a two-year effort, relocating it to the cemetery where the soldier is buried
Confederate soldier monument	Iberville	LA	Plans for removal by city	A statue that paid homage to confederate soldiers will be removed after a unanimous vote by the Iberville Parish Council on June 16. The statue will be placed in storage.
Columbus Statue	St. Louis	MO	Removed by the park	Tower Grove Park's Board of Commissioners had the statue removed
Confederate Soldier monument	Oxford	MS	Plans for removal	The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning approved the relocation of a confederate soldier monument from outside the University of Mississippi's administration building to the campus cemetery, a year and a half after the Associated Student Body Senate for inclusion and cross-cultural engagement passed a resolution denouncing confederate ideology.
Confederate soldier statue	Greenville	NC	Removed by the city	Local officials approved the removal of a confederate soldier statue located outside the Pitt County Courthouse in Greenville.
Nash County Confederate Monument	Rocky Mount	NC	Plans for removal by city	The City Council of Rocky Mount voted to remove the monument.
Fane Confederate Monument	Salisbury	NC	Plans for removal by city	Salisbury officials are in tentative discussions with the Daughters of the Confederacy for the permanent relocation of the Fane Confederate Monument.
Confederate Soldier/Gen. Stand Watie monuments	Tablequah	OK	Removed by The Cherokee Nation	The Cherokee Nation removed two confederate monuments from Tablequah's Capital Square.
Frank Rizzo Statue	Philadelphia	PA	Removed by the city	The City Council of Philadelphia had the statue removed
John C. Calhoun Statue	Charleston	SC	Removed by the city	Charleston City Council had the statue removed
Spirit of the Confederacy/Confederate Lieutenant Dick Dowling statues	Houston	TX	Removed by the city	Two confederate statues in Houston have been removed two years after a task force condemned the statues and recommended their displacement from public property. One is being held in a museum while the other is in storage until its relocation is confirmed.
Appomattox Confederate Statue	Alexandria	VA	Removed by the city	City Government and the Daughters of the Confederacy had the statue removed
Virginia Defenders of State Sovereignty Confederate Soldier Monument	Farmville	VA	Removed by the city	The Farmville Town Council unanimously voted to remove the statue.
Confederate Soldier Johnny Reb Statue	Norfolk	VA	Removed by the city	Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander announced plans to remove the statue and a day later it was removed
Robert E. Lee Statue	Richmond	VA	Plans for removal by city	Virginia's governor announces plans to remove an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee after days of protests over the death of George Floyd.

Bates, Emily

From: Dagny.Taggart3 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:05 AM
To: publiccomment
Subject: Public comment from concerned citizen

I'm writing to you with deep concern that city of Edwardsville, the city I've grown up in & loved, is about to allow itself to be changed by a small, yet vocal, group know as "The Angry Mob." The Angry Mob wants to shut down voices. The Angry Mob is certain you're a racist if you have a dissenting opinion. No one ever wins when The Angry Mob shows up. You may think tearing down a statue will appease them but it won't. There are already conversations happening online about changing the name of the city as well, but folks are wanting to hide that sentiment so it doesn't seem too aggressive right now. Ninian Edwards will be the first scalp, but rest assured, that will only fuel the fire. The National Angry Mob has pivoted from tearing down confederate civil war statues to removing all statues of our founding fathers, anyone associated with slavery & even abolitionists! Our current cancel culture grants points to those who can publicly display their level of virtue, or "wokeness". Make no mistake, this is not about racial injustice. This is about power & destruction to allow people to feel better about themselves.

Even the local NAACP representative said that removing the statue wouldn't really do anything to help anyone. Ninian Edwards is a man who lived in a different time who did something (owning slaves) that by today's standards is abhorrent & unthinkable. No one disagrees with that. We cannot, however, judge history by today's current standards. No one would remain standing. In fact, I would venture to guess that each and every person trying to tear down the statue has done something pretty terrible in their lives. Luckily we live in a society where, up until recently, you weren't judged by your worst attribute or mistake but by the sum of your life's actions.

To my knowledge, before the current trend of statue removal took off, no one was saying anything at all about this innocuous little statue of our town's namesake. This is about the Angry Mob trying to score points for themselves. What's next?

Psssst, the multi-million dollar Benjamin Stephenson house seems like a prime target! He also owned multiple slaves & was good friends with Ninian Edwards. Columbus school is also on the chopping block, I hear, because of the wrongs of a man from the year 1492. I believe N.O. Nelson & LeClaire schools were also segregated until the mid 20th century. We even have an entire historic district of our town to honor Nelson & his LeClaire project. Do we erase everything? Who does that help?

I urge the city and our leaders to stand up to the Angry Mob. We have over 25,000 residents and the emotions of 500 people on a Facebook page (many of whom don't live in or pay taxes in this town), should not dictate our actions. They don't have any power unless you give it to them, and they're never satisfied, as there will always be another target once they get a victory. It feeds their wokeness & virtue. Rest assured, they are much more virtuous than any previous people & certainly more than you. It will not end. Do your jobs to represent the PEOPLE of Edwardsville, not the Angry Mob. The PEOPLE of Edwardsville aren't perfect, but still do some pretty amazing things. The PEOPLE of Edwardsville are able to learn from the past and accept that historical figures have flaws just like we

do, but still had many accomplishments. History is messy, history is violent, but history is important to remember so that mistakes are not repeated.

“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book has been rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered...History has stopped. Nothing exists except the endless present in which the party is always right” — George Orwell

PS- I'm writing this anonymously because the Angry Mob exists to destroy. If I shared my real name, they would certainly flood my social media with hateful & threatening posts because I speak the truth. This is what they have done to anyone who dares to comment online that they want the statue to remain. Angry Mobs also routinely attempt to get people fired & “cancelled”. Please do not reward this kind of behavior. Stand up for your town & the citizens of Edwardsville.

Sincerely,
Dagny Taggart

Sent with  Secure Email.

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This email was Virus checked by The City of Edwardsville. Please contact Helpdesk@cityofedwardsville.com with any questions.

Bates, Emily

From: Mary Grose [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 6:49 PM
To: publiccomment
Subject: Re: the Ninian Edwards statue

My comment above is for the city council meeting tonight 7/21 at 7 pm.

On Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 6:47 PM Mary Grose <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dear Mayor Patton and the City Council,

Regarding the Ninian Edwards statue, my hope is that we begin/continue to *see* the markers of white supremacy in our past and present. We can then educate ourselves when it's in the past and take action whenever possible when it's in the present to rectify the situation whether it be small measures like which historical figures we wish to place in places of honor or bigger issues like non-discriminatory housing/healthcare/incarceration/relationships with police and the legal system.

I don't advocate for the removal of the statue from sight. Rather I support the idea of moving it to one of the historical museums in town where a fuller historical context could be given to him. He was a complex figure. He was governor but he was also a slaveowner. As governor, he vetoed legislation that would have made indentured servitude (which in practice was basically slavery) illegal. Why not have a statue that represents something that we as a community are proud of and want to relate to, say, farmers, teachers, regular folk, a tribute to nature or abstract art?

I think that moving it would send a clear message of our values.

I appreciate the city government for being open to input from the community.

Thank you,
Mary Grose
Ward 1

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Helpdesk@cityofedwardsville.com with any questions.