

## **City of Edwardsville**

### **Council Proceedings**

**September 15, 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 Louer, Stack, Burns, Risavy, Morrison, Krause and Farrar 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, Zoom and Facebook Live to the meeting.

Mayor Patton opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

City Clerk Bates read ten emails that were received for public comment. The first public comment email was from citizen Jean McGurk O'Brien, and it was in support of removing the Ninian Edwards statue. The second email was from Edwardsville resident Charlene Blair regarding the Ninian Edwards statue and offered three suggestions: 1) Rename the space "The Public Plaza"; 2) Add a cultural art garden in memory of an influential African American; 3) Consider someone like Edwardsville resident Rudy Wilson for recognition on a plaque in the garden. Mr. Wilson was the first African-American member, and later the first elected Black President, of the Edwardsville School Board. The third email was from citizen Dr. Anne Jason and was in support of removing the Ninian Edwards statue and relocating it to a museum or less visible place. Dr. Jason also suggested to replace the statue and recognize an individual like former Illinois Governor Edward Coles. The fourth email was from Edwardsville resident Lynn Beaumont and was in support of removing the Ninian Edwards statue and placing it in a museum. The fifth email was from Glen Carbon resident Caitlin Rutz and encouraged the Council members to be inclusive and open minded to the idea that the Ninian Edwards statue does not represent what the City of Edwardsville stands for. The sixth email was from Glen Carbon resident Jace Cook and was in support of removing the Ninian Edwards statue. The seventh email was from Edwardsville resident Katrina Knebel and was in support of removing the Ninian Edwards statue and instead having the space honor better local individuals of merit such as N.O. Nelson or honor historical individuals of color or Indigenous People. The eighth email was from Edwardsville resident Jane Floyd-Hendey and was in support of removing the Ninian Edwards statue and replacing it with a dedication to a person who really gave their life to Edwardsville. The ninth email was from Desiree Bennyhoff, President & CEO of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, and was in support of allowing video gaming terminals as a choice for all fraternal organizations, bars and restaurants to have. The tenth email was

from citizen Steve Seibert, owner of Big Daddy's in Edwardsville, and was in support of allowing video gaming for bars, restaurants and fraternal organizations. Mr. Seibert expressed concern that there were not enough conversations between aldermen and the bar/restaurant owners that this decision would impact. Mr. Seibert stated that he feels that the benefits of allowing video gaming for all greatly outweigh any negatives or misconceptions associated with video gaming. The public comment emails were received into the record and are attached herewith.

Six citizens provided in-person public comment from the Council Chambers at City Hall. Edwardsville resident Randy Niebur, part-owner of The Corner Tavern in Edwardsville, spoke in support of allowing video gaming because it would bring a much needed source of revenue for his business that would allow him to update his business building and property. Mr. Niebur expressed concern that after the last ACS meeting, bars and restaurants were now removed from the vote being considered for video gaming. Mr. Niebur felt that more aldermen should be present in-person at the Council meeting and not in attendance via Zoom. Citizen Ron Eberhart, representing the American Legion Post 199, stated that Legion has been suffering from low membership and higher costs in all areas and spoke in support of allowing video gaming for the Legion. Edwardsville resident Jo Niebur stated that after attending the last two City meetings that addressed the video gaming issue, she was disappointed with the changes that were being made to the ordinance which would allow video gaming for some but not for all. Mrs. Niebur asked the City Council why they would not want to help the bar and restaurant businesses with this revenue source. Mrs. Niebur feels that video gaming should either be allowed for all businesses or for none. Mrs. Niebur suggested the Council allow video gaming for all for two years and monitor and review the usage and benefits and non-benefits during that time. Citizen Marion Gilson, owner of The Back Bar in Edwardsville, spoke in support of allowing video gaming for bars and restaurants. Ms. Gilson spoke of the hardships her business is going through as a result of the pandemic. Ms. Gilson feels that video gaming will not contribute to college students in town becoming addicted to gambling. Edwardsville resident Jason Armbruster, from the restaurant Foundry Public House, stated that with so many things being taken away from businesses during this time that it would be nice to have something given back to them. Mr. Armbruster feels that bar owners operate under multiple licenses and rules & regulations and feels that the business owners are able to responsibly monitor the use of the video gaming machines when it comes to the concern of overuse. Mr. Armbruster stated that many businesses are struggling and could benefit from this additional revenue stream. Edwardsville resident Gina Gamblin went to the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Service Club and medical offices in town, and in less than 48 hours, she collected 326 signatures in support of video gaming. Ms. Gamblin stated that the community is not aware of the pros and cons of this issue. With so many nearby options for gambling in surrounding communities, Ms. Gamblin stated that Edwardsville businesses should have the option to also offer video gambling.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

Claims amount was changed by Ald. Louer to read \$1,015,028.03 (Regular) and \$37,985.16 (Library) for a total of \$1,053,013.19.

Mayor Patton read Consent Agenda items as follows:

Approval of minutes of Council Meeting on September 01, 2020

Activity and Financial Reports:

1. Reports of Elected and Appointed Officials received for information and file:
  - a) Finance Director – Monthly Financial Report (electronic distribution)
  - b) Finance Department – Monthly Activity Report (electronic distribution)
  - 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 - \$243,222.61

Closed Session - Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the use of the City pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) – (2)

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

### **Petitions and Communications**

Mayor Patton read the following letter submitted by the local NAACP, “Dear Mayor Patton and Aldermanic Board Members: At the August meeting of the NAACP Edwardsville Branch #3014, the body overwhelmingly passed a motion to call for the removal of the statue of Ninian Edwards from the public square in downtown Edwardsville, Illinois. We chose to add our voice to the list of concerned citizens and organizations petitioning the city on this issue. We have every confidence that the Aldermanic Board and the Administrative & Community Services Committee will address this concern. We request that you share with me the dates, times, and locations of the deliberations regarding this issue. This information will allow branch members and other concerned citizens the opportunity to attend these meetings. Thank you. Respectfully submitted, John Cunningham, President.” Mayor Patton stated that the letter will be forwarded to the ACS Committee for further consideration.

### **Legislative & Executive**

Mayor Patton read the following Proclamation recognizing September 16, 2020 as “The American Legion Day”:

“**WHEREAS**, the American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 on September 16<sup>th</sup> as a wartime veterans organization based on the four pillars of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the American Legion has become a preeminent community-service organization which now numbers more than 2.5 million members -- men and

women -- in over 14,000 American Legion posts worldwide working a variety of programs that support the four pillars and benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the American Legion are dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 observance of American Legion Day provides an opportunity to recognize Legionnaires in our community for their many contributions to our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Hal Patton, Mayor of the City of Edwardsville, Illinois do hereby proclaim September 16, 2020, as The American Legion Day.”

Motion by Stack, seconded by Morrison, to approve a License to Conduct a Raffle for Edwardsville Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 244 with proceeds going towards the lodge's charity account to help individuals in need, schools, etc. Chances will be sold from October 01, 2020 – November 30, 2020.

Roll Call: Six Ayes, with Aldermen Louer, Stack, Burns, Risavy, Morrison and Krause voting aye. One Nay, with Alderman Farrar voting nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Burns, to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Grant Agreement with IEMA/FEMA.

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

### **Legal & Judicial**

None

### **City Treasurer**

None

### **City Clerk**

Clerk Bates announced that the Consolidated Election is to be held on April 06, 2021. The offices to be elected are Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Alderman Ward 2, Alderman Ward 4 and Alderman Ward 6. Important upcoming dates to remember are September 22, 2020 which is the first day to circulate petitions, December 14, 2020 which is the first day to file nomination papers and December 21, 2020 which is the last day to file nomination papers. Packets for individuals interested in running will be available for pickup at the Finance Department on the first floor at City Hall beginning on September 22, 2020.

### **Finance Committee**

Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on August 25, 2020 were received for information and file.

Motion by Louer, seconded by Stack, to approve Claims - \$1,015,028.03 (Regular) and \$37,985.16 (Library) for a total of \$1,053,013.19.

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

Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

#### **Public Safety Committee**

Minutes of Public Safety Committee meeting held on August 27, 2020 were received for information and file.

Public Safety Committee will meet on Thursday, October 01, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

#### **Public Services Committee**

Public Services Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 29, 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 August 27, 2020 were received for information and file.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Burns, to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Article III, Division 2 “Mechanical Amusement Devices” of the Codified Ordinances of Edwardsville, Illinois to Allow Video Gaming in the City Pursuant to the Illinois Video Gaming Act and City Video Gaming and Liquor Regulations.

Roll Call: Three Ayes, with Aldermen Louer, Burns and Risavy voting aye. Four Nays, with Aldermen Stack, Morrison, Krause and Farrar voting nay. Motion failed.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Krause, to approve an Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Certain Personal and Governmental Property – Glen Ed Pantry.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Morrison, to approve an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Certain Personal and Governmental Property.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Morrison, to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter Two, Article V of the Codified Ordinances of Edwardsville, Illinois Fixing the Salary of City Mayor.

Roll Call: Five Ayes, with Aldermen Louer, Stack, Burns, Risavy and Morrison voting aye. Two Nays, with Aldermen Krause and Farrar voting nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Morrison, to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter Two, Article V of the Codified Ordinances of Edwardsville, Illinois Fixing the Salary of City Clerk.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Morrison, to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter Two, Article V of the Codified Ordinances of Edwardsville, Illinois Fixing the Salary of City Treasurer.

Roll Call: Six Ayes, with Aldermen Louer, Stack, Burns, Risavy, Morrison and Krause voting aye. One Nay, with Alderman Farrar voting nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Louer, to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter Two, Article III of the Codified Ordinances of Edwardsville, Illinois Fixing the Salary of Aldermen.

Roll Call: Seven Nays, with Aldermen Louer, Stack, Burns, Risavy, Morrison, Krause and Farrar voting nay. Motion failed.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Krause, to approve a Resolution Approving a Sign Variance Request for 3050 Gateway Commerce Center Drive South.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Louer, to approve a Sole Source Resolution Authorizing Replacement of the City Hall HVAC System.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Stack, to approve a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Deed of Conveyance of 419 S. Buchanan Property.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Stack, for Suspension of Rules and Passage on First Reading.

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

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Morrison, to approve an Ordinance Pertaining to the Local CURE Program.

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

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 114 Article II of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Edwardsville (Traffic Control) was filed for second reading.

Motion by Risavy, seconded by Krause, to approve an item forwarded from the Recreation, Arts & Special Events (RASE) Board meeting held September 01, 2020:

1) American Legion Post 199: Veteran's Day Parade – November 11, 2020  
Roll Call: Seven Ayes, with Aldermen Louer, Stack, Burns, Risavy, Morrison, Krause and Farrar voting aye. Motion carried.

Items from the September 01, 2020 RASE Board meeting were received for information and file:

- 1) Parks & Recreation Department:
  - i. Special Events & Activities Quarterly Reports
  - ii. Special Events & Activities Current Report
  - iii. Sports & Recreation Quarterly Reports
  - iv. Sports & Recreation Current Report

Administrative & Community Services Committee will meet on Thursday, October 01, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall and via virtual Zoom meeting.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

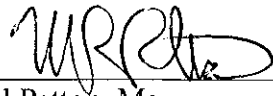
Mayor Patton is seeking the Council Members' input as to how to proceed this year with trick-or-treating and healthy Halloween celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. City Administration will also be keeping an eye out for standards occurring throughout the state and our region.

**Closed Session**

At 8:54 p.m., motion by Louer, seconded by Burns, to enter into Closed Session to discuss two items regarding the Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the use of the City pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. Council reconvened into Open Session at 9:39 p.m.

There being no further action required, Council adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



Hal Patton, Mayor

Attest:



Emily E. Bates, City Clerk

## Bates, Emily

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**From:** Jean O'Brien [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 2:00 PM  
**To:** publiccomment  
**Subject:** Ninian Edwards statue

Dear Council members,

I've been considering the Ninian Edwards statue question for awhile. At first I had no strong opinion, only a gentle "leaning". Upon consideration I've come to realize that, despite the good intentions of those who installed the statue, it does not represent what is best about our City of Edwardsville. Certainly the statue's position, and thus the honor of place that it currently holds, should be reserved for what is truly best about our City.

Though Edwards was powerful for a couple decades during our state's early years, he was a flawed and imperfect-in-many-ways leader. I believe that those whom we literally "put on a pedestal" need to be particularly above average in deed as well as morality, and Edwards does not meet this qualification. A position of power is not sufficient by itself to make one worthy of, nor entitled, to being honored on a pedestal fully two centuries later.

Additionally, I do not think that the "slippery slope" argument applies in this situation. We are simply talking about taking an inappropriate-for-time-and-place statue off its pedestal.

I agree with the idea that we could use this statue in some way to remind us all of our history, both the distant past of Edwards' lifetime, and the recent history which led to this statue being erected, and the current awakening into greater awareness of the social injustices that have riddled our country - which will soon enough also be history. There have been several proposals for where to place the statue. I am open particularly to the proposals which look to teach the complexities of our history. The statue itself, up on its current pedestal, gives the wrong message about Edwardsville.

Thank you for your time,

Jean McGurk O'Brien

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## Bates, Emily

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**From:** Charlene Blair [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 7:56 PM  
**To:** publiccomment  
**Subject:** Comments for September 15 - City Council Meeting - Re: Ninian Edwards Statue  
**Attachments:** Letter to City Council 9-15 Mtg.docx

As a 30 plus year resident of Edwardsville and member of the NAACP, I did not support the removal of the Ninian Edwards statue. Why, because as a historian, I see his name throughout the history of the Benjamin Stephenson house, a building where the spirits of my ancestors are memorialized. To remove the Edwards statue would be window washing if you are not removing his name from all venues where it is mentioned. He was so connected to the Founder of the Stephenson house that he named one of his own sons after him. And, he is mentioned in the Madison County Historical Society archives.

The growing pains that the city of Edwardsville is experiencing, will not be resolved by concerned nonresidents alone but will take the involvement of residents who are ready to acknowledge the contributions of slaves and indentured servants to this city. I would like to offer a compromise to the city council and SIUE initiators of the proposal to remove the statue.

- To rename the space "The Public Plaza".
- To add a cultural art garden to be installed in memory of an influential African American. (example below)
- To consider someone like Rudy Wilson for recognition on a plaque in the garden: Wilson was the first African-American member, and later the first elected black president, of the Edwardsville School Board.[1]

He joined [Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#) in 1969 and became the assistant provost for Cultural and Social Diversity and a professor in the School of Education. He worked there until 2009. [Rudolph G. Wilson - Wikipedia](#)

Thank you for considering this option and how life will change if the statue is removed. Will this change the hearts of men or lives of African Americans in Edwardsville if systemic issues are not address as well? Probably not because just like the mural, we will always say that is where the Ninian Edwards statue stood.

Created Garden Art for the Soul. It is the ONLY YARD ART that reflects OUR cultural experience.



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**Art For The Yard**


SHOP NOW

 You and 4 others

14K Views

 Like

 Comment

 Share

Charlene Blair



## Bates, Emily

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**From:** Carl Jason [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:13 PM  
**To:** Bates, Emily  
**Subject:** Removal of statue of Nimian Edwards

Dear Ms. Bates:

I am requesting that this letter be read at the next City Council meeting on September 15,2020.

I am Dr. Anne Jason and I have lived in Edwardsville since 2001.

Here are some of my thoughts regarding the removal of the statue of Nimian Edwards.

We are at a time in American history where there is so much division and anger that we can hardly be called "The United States of America". We should not allow the debate concerning the removal of the statue of Nimian Edwards to become another issue for discord. I think that we all approach this issue from different backgrounds and experiences, but I hope that we all have one thing in common: To do what is best for Edwardsville and the generation that will follow.

The original American settlers fled England to avoid being subject to rules that did not value the life and worth of human being. The Civil War was fought because some did not value the life and worth of human beings and chose to promote slavery. Many lives were lost on both sides, but the North which chose not to promote slavery won the war.

When Nimian Edwards was governor of Illinois, the state did not allow slavery, yet Mr. Edwards chose to own slaves. Not only did Mr. Edwards own slaves, but he also rented his slaves and some Native Americans out for profit.

So I ask : Why should we have a statue of a person who as governor of Illinois, broke the law of the state by owning slaves?

Why not replace the statue of Nimian Edwards with someone like Edward Coles? I know that we already have a memorial for Mr. Coles, but it is not as visible as Mr. Edwards.

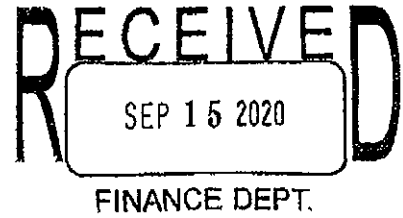
Edward Coles was antislavery and was an advocate for "Human Rights". Mr. Cole was born and raised in Virginia. When his parents died, he inherited the family plantation and its slaves. When Mr. Cole moved from Virginia to Illinois, he freed his slaves. He freed his slaves in 1819 and AQUIRED LAND FOR THEM. Mr. Cole led two political campaigns that prevented the legalization of slavery in Illinois.

If there are other notable people in Illinois History, they might be a suitable replacement for Mr. Edwards statue. I recommend that the statue of Nimian Edwards be placed in a museum or a less visible place.

We should not glorify people who did not value "Human Rights" by erecting statues of them.

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September 14, 2020

Ninian Edwards' participation in and support of racism, oppression, and genocide is an inextricable part of his legacy that cannot be glossed over. Knowing and acknowledging the truth of his character, his statue can only be a monument to that cruelty and prejudice and as such can have no place in our community.

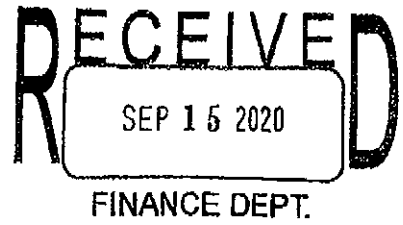
It has been suggested that Edwards was simply a product of his time, that his actions and beliefs were typical and therefore, somehow, forgivable. However, we know that abolitionist efforts were alive and well in his time and that he actively worked against them. This is not a man to be celebrated.

The "erasing history" argument is another popular one in defense of controversial statues. In my personal experience, historical education was rarely statue-dependent, and in fact I would argue that such monuments present so small a piece of the historical picture as to be actively misleading. My original knowledge of the statue in question was 1) that it was Ninian Edwards, 2) that the city was named after him, and 3) I was \*pretty\* sure that he had been governor at some point? I had absolutely no idea that this man was also an unapologetic slave owner and defender of the institution of slavery or that he actively encouraged and even led efforts to remove and murder Native Americans in Illinois. Removing his statue from its place of prominence in the town and placing it in a museum with full context is quite the opposite of erasing history. This is how we acknowledge that history and vow to do better.

When he was presented with positions of power, Ninian Edwards used his influence to defend, perpetuate, and promote violence and oppression against people of color. What will you do with yours?

Lynn Beaumont

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



September 13, 2020

It's simple, why continue to hold onto a problematic past that can and does haunt some of your city members? Don't be daft and be inclusive and open minded to the idea that this statue does not represent what the City of Edwardsville stands for.

Caitlin Rutz



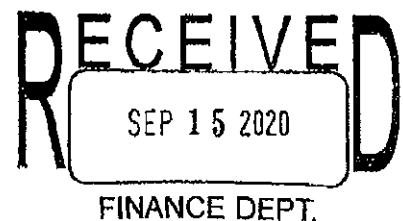
September 13, 2020

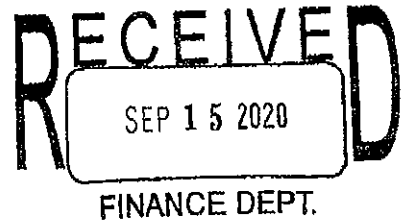
My name is Jace, and I have lived in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area since I was a child. I strongly believe that our area needs to do better to make our Black community members feel more welcome. The removal of this racist statue will only be start to the work required to do this. We should never honor a person who owned another, and while Ninian Edwards is a founder of Edwardsville, he is not someone who should be cast in metal and looked upon as if he is some hero. He profited off of slave labor and that put him in a position to start a town. Nothing more. He needs to come down.

I want Black people to feel safe in Edwardsville. I want Black people to feel welcome in Edwardsville. I want Black people to feel at home in Edwardsville. I want Black people to feel like this is a place they can raise their children. Black people deserve happiness, comfort, safety, and respect.

Removing this statue won't fix everything, but it sure is a start. These battles for justice will always be fought in miserable inches and we will not give a single inch back.

Jace Cook  

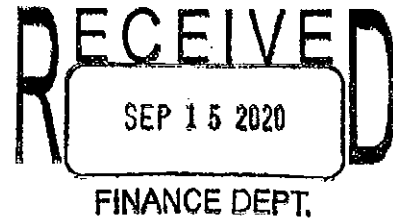


September 14, 2020

This statue is an abomination! We could honor such better local individuals of merit. N.O. Nelson, for instance, was actually one of the "good white guys" and quite important to our nation's history since he was friends with Upton Sinclair. Not to mention, Nelson's factory and Leclair was written about by Nelly Bly. Why wasn't he selected instead of Edwards? Or why not historical individuals of color? Or indigenous people who were wiped out so that we might be here today? I'm not a local historian by any means, but I suspect there are dozens of more meritable candidates than Edwards and considering his history of condoning and inflicting violence and given that this statue was a recent installation it is abominable and embarrassing to this town. As a community, we should know better. We should want to represent better principles; we should stand for something better. I would like to live in a community that is anti-racist, and that works towards fighting this white supremacist nation rather than upholding it.

Katrina Knebel






September 14, 2020

I have lived in Edwardsville since 1973. My children attended the Edwardsville schools. I have served on the Human Relations Committee. I was awarded the Edwardsville Heart Of The City award. I retired from SIUE after a lifetime of working with persons with disabilities. I was raised by parents who believed that All People Are Created Equal. I have taught my children and my grandchildren the same. I was raised in Wood River and left because of the absence of blacks. I wanted my children to have a better education than I had. Meaning they attended school with a more diverse enrollment.

My friends all know I have fought fearlessly for the equality of black and brown residence of Edwardsville. Who decided to put a statue up in our town with this much hatred in their history? I'm embarrassed that this event happened with no historical information available at the time it was erected. In the 47 years I have lived here I have seen many good people contribute to this community. Let's replace this statue with a dedication to a person who really gave their life to Edwardsville. It is especially important that the younger generation can relate to a current person being commemorated. Let's not go back 100 or more years let's go back 25/50. I could name lots of people we could memorialize. This person could be black after so many white people have been honored who shouldn't have been. Statues are being taken down all over the USA due to the Civil War and slavery. Come on City Council and be progressive. Decide on a good replacement for this controversial statue. Let's all make sure this never happens again. Do your history and let's all stop offending people of color in this community. I want to be proud I live in a community that has a very diverse population. We are very fortunate to have SIUE available for advise and consultation. We should take advantage of this valuable resource.

Jane Floyd-Hendey





## Bates, Emily

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**From:** Bates, Emily  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:54 AM  
**To:** Bates, Emily  
**Subject:** FW: Letter for Council: Video Gaming

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**From:** Hal Patton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** Bates, Emily <ebates@cityofedwardsville.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter for Council: Video Gaming

Emily - please read this for the public record tomorrow.

Thank you, Hal

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Desiree Bennyhoff <ceo@edglenchamber.com>  
**Date:** September 14, 2020 at 2:45:57 PM CDT  
**To:** Mayor Hal Patton <mayor@cityofedwardsville.com>  
**Cc:** Hal Patton [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Letter for Council: Video Gaming

Mayor Patton -

I am writing regarding the city's consideration of allowing video gaming terminals.

I have spoken with several businesses that video gaming could impact. While not all eligible businesses will be interested in having gaming within their spaces, others view this as a viable option to strengthen their revenue streams.

At the Thursday, September 10 ACS committee meeting, 'fair and equitable' application of this proposed ordinance was discussed at length. As council makes its decision tomorrow evening, I encourage fair and equitable treatment of fraternal organizations, bars and restaurants so that these establishments are all able to make the choice that best fits their business model.

I appreciate ACS and city council's discussion of this matter.

Please read this letter into the minutes at the September 15, 2020 council meeting as appropriate.

Thank you,  
Desiree

Desiree Bennyhoff, IOM, ACE  
President & CEO  
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

[www.edglenchamber.com](http://www.edglenchamber.com)

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September 14, 2020

Edwardsville City Council,

I have written and spoken at meetings recently about the hardships that myself and every other bar and restaurant owner are going through during these unprecedented and uncertain times. I have told you how my sales are down, my expenses are up, the restrictions the state is imposing on us seem to change and get worse week by week and that there is a definite possibility that we as an industry in the metro east will not be open this winter. To be totally honest I feel it has fallen on deaf ears. While I believe the city council took into consideration my comments I feel the thing that they could not take away from these recent meetings is the feeling of despair amongst us restaurant and bar owners. We are beaten down. Afraid we won't be able to survive more restrictions or worse another extended closure. It is near impossible to pick up the emotion of these meetings from a Zoom meeting/video camera/computer screen. But I assure you we are asking for your help.

We are all proud to be the owners of our individual establishments in this town. We take pride in the food scene we have created in Edwardsville. We offer a wide variety of options that appeal to all types of customers and tastes. But it is more than just us as owners who make this possible, it is our employees who make us great. I currently employ 21 people, 10 of which are SIUE students or recent graduates. We all are able to buy the same supplies from our vendors- but it is the chefs who prepare the food and come up with the amazing menus we see in this town. It is our bartenders and servers who make the drinks and serve you your meals who make the experience what it is. And it is these people who will be directly and permanently effected if we are put at a competitive disadvantage to our neighboring communities if video gaming isn't fairly and justly allowed in the bars and restaurants in town. If this doesn't come to fruition, we will see bars and restaurants close. We will see vacant commercial properties around town. And new businesses will be more inclined to open elsewhere in communities who allow video gaming as a constant revenue stream.

I heard many aldermen say that they had talked to their constituents about this topic at Thursday's meeting. But I ask them, did any of them reach out to the small business/bar and restaurants owners in their ward to hear these owner's thoughts on this topic? Did they speak to the people who this would directly affect? Did they ask them what this would do to the future of their business? Alderman Farrar, I believe my business is in your ward. Did you ask any business owners on Main Street how this would affect their business and ultimately the financial stability of your ward? I know you did not seek my opinion on the matter. I think if you had heard my side of the story regarding this you might get the sense that this while not for every business it is the best for our industry and our city. We are a fiercely loyal bunch, us in the bar and restaurant industry. We support each other daily. You'll see me at small businesses across the town supporting them- be it at Foundry getting a drink, having a nice meal at 1818 Chophouse or Moussalli's, getting BBQ from Doc's or carryout from Wang Gang. My money stays in the small businesses in town- and that will not change. And I will continue

to see the owners of other small businesses in town at my establishment because at the end of the day we know we have to support each other now more than ever.

Restaurants and bars are the center of entertainment in any community. It is one of a long list of entertainment options that people use to add some joy to their life. Some people go to the gym to unwind. Some prefer going to the movies. Some prefer a concert or maybe a Blues or Cardinals game. Some people enjoy to play video poker as a source of entertainment and these people are already in this town. They are just going to our neighboring communities to their establishments to play these machines. If you allow video poker you aren't going to be attracting a new undesirable element to Edwardsville. These people are already playing these machines in their own towns. The people who would play the machines are the customers/regulars we already have who come to each individual bar or restaurant. You are going to keep these dollars in Edwardsville in both tax revenues and licensing fees in sums upwards of \$150-200,000 per year.

I want to finish by letting the board know I fully support the fraternal organizations in this town getting video gaming. I know like my industry they are struggling and could use this revenue stream as much as I or any other bar owner could. As a resident and a small business owner I fully believe the benefits greatly outweigh any negatives or misconceptions associated with video gaming. I think the benefit to these businesses will allow them to continue to operate as well as continue to support this city. I feel it its time the city and the city council step up and show them the support they have been given for years by these fraternal organizations and in all honestly all the bars and restaurants in Edwardsville. Otherwise we will have no option but to say no to donation requests, fundraisers in town and sponsorship requests to keep our businesses open. I hope you do the right thing for these organizations and this city and legalize video gaming for the fraternal organizations.

Respectfully,

Steve Seibert  
Owner  
Big Daddy's Edwardsville