

RESOLUTION

By Cano, Jenkins, and Gordon

Recognizing the Confederate Flag as a symbol of Hate.

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis declared racism a public health emergency in July 2020, and committed that “the City of Minneapolis will recognize the severe impact of racism on the well-being of residents and city overall and allocate funding, staff, and additional resources to actively engage in racial equity in order to name, reverse, and repair the harm done to Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color in this City;” and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis established a truth and reconciliation process in October 2020 to address systemic racism and harms perpetrated against communities of color; and

Whereas, the vision of the City of Minneapolis states that Minneapolis is “an intentionally compassionate city where each of us can reach our full potential while caring for one another, eliminating racial disparities, improving our environment and promoting social well-being” and that the City “lead[s] in innovative and creative ways, focused not only on our present needs but also the success of future generations;” and

Whereas, the mission of the City of Minneapolis states “Our City government takes strategic action to address climate change, dismantle institutional injustice and close disparities in health, housing, public safety and economic opportunities” and City leaders, in partnership with residents help “to ensure all communities thrive in a safe and healthy city;” and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis recognizes that Africans were forcibly brought to this country, enslaved, and after the emancipation of slaves, citizens of this country perpetuated anti-Black racism through violence, mass incarceration, and anti-Black policies, including redlining, and that the social construction of race was used to justify their enslavement; and

Whereas, since the end of the Civil War, the Confederate battle flag and other imagery of the Confederacy have been evoked and continue to be perpetuated by groups as symbols of hate, terror, intolerance, and as supportive of the institution of slavery; and

Whereas, after the Civil War ended, groups such as the Ku Klux Klan were formed to promote white supremacy and racial hatred; and

Whereas, the Ku Klux Klan was one of the first groups to continue using the Confederate flag after the war, as they rallied others who were still vexed after the war to instill fear and hate against freed African Americans; and

Whereas, the Confederate flag was later resurrected in the 1950s to rally resistance to the Civil Rights movement and support the South’s desire to maintain segregation and further the policies of Jim Crow; and

Whereas, to many groups, especially African Americans, the Confederate flag is a symbol of hate, racism, exclusion, oppression, and violence. Its symbolism and history are directly linked to the enslavement, torture, and death of millions of African Americans; and

Whereas, the Confederate battle flag has always been recognized as a deeply offensive symbol of violent opposition to human rights, civil rights legislation, integration, justice, education, and access to equal opportunity; and

Whereas, white supremacy is a political, economic, and cultural system that perpetuates racialized ideas of white superiority and entitlement across a broad array of institutions and social settings, both conscious and unconscious; and

Whereas, racism in all its forms causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, health, employment, public safety, and criminal justice; and

Whereas, today, as in the past, public display of the Confederate battle flag continues to instill fear, intimidation, and create fear of violence towards others; and

Whereas, throughout recent protests and events to recognize the Black Lives Matter movement, counter-protestors have brought Confederate battle flags to intimidate peaceful protestors and have perpetuated violence against them, including during the protests against the murder of George Floyd when white supremacists from all over the state and nation showed up armed and often used both their firearms and vehicles as weapons of intimidation; and

Whereas, insurrectionists carried the Confederate battle flag as they stormed the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021, threatening our democracy and the peaceful transfer of power;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council recognizes the Confederate flag as a symbol of hate and white supremacy, rejects the display of the Confederate flag in public buildings, even for educational purposes, and calls on other local government entities to do the same.