
Questions Concerning JC Confederate Statue

3 messages

Patrick Clemons <patrick@thesylvaherald.com>
To: "gaylewoody@jacksonnc.org" <gaylewoody@jacksonnc.org>

Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 10:20 AM

Ms. Woody,

My name is Patrick Clemons and I am a writer for The Sylva Herald. I am reaching out to you today as a writer for The Sylva Herald in regard to a petition to remove the confederate statue in front of Jackson County Library. If you could answer the following questions for me, I would greatly appreciate it!

1. What is your overall reaction to the petition? <https://www.change.org/p/jackson-county-commissioners-remove-confederate-statue-in-front-of-jackson-county-library?fbclid=IwAR1CVr6xlwohbgA4dVtL3uFZY3paDRRwKos-u8gUNeo7GEnj2pyylyNH0Ro>
2. Do you support it being destroyed or simply moved to another location?
3. Have you thought about a plan to resolve this issue?

Thank you,



Patrick Clemons
Editor-in-Chief of The Western Carolinian

M (704) 614-2981

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Gayle Woody - Commissioner <gaylewoody@jacksonnc.org>
To: Patrick Clemons <patrick@thesylvaherald.com>

Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 11:56 AM

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for reaching out to me. As you are well aware, this is an important issue that deserves thoughtful consideration from many angles.

I have thought deeply about a plan to resolve the issue and have, and am still, reaching out to people from different “sides” to get their input. It may appear I am avoiding taking a position but in all honesty, I am listening to Jackson County citizens of various viewpoints. My personal stance is not important, The thoughts of the citizens of Jackson County are essential.

Any “resolution” will make some citizens feel disrespected and or marginalized, whether one agrees with their position or not.

I participated in the demonstration last Tuesday and was so pleased by the respectful participation (except for one student at the end of the march) and the peaceful and respectful presence of our law enforcement. The petition makes two statements I think are misleading since I was there and observed the demonstration first hand. My reaction to the petition is that it is an effective, peaceful way for citizens to express their stand on the presence of the statue in Sylva.

I also have a questions for you. Who is the Jackson County citizen who started the petition?

If you are interested in more than “sound bites”, please feel free to call me at 508-0522. If you would like to meet in person, please let me know. I could meet tomorrow afternoon.

I am an advocate for our free press, so I appreciate you taking the time to reach out to me.

I hope to be in touch with you soon,

Sincerely,
Gayle Woody
[Quoted text hidden]

Patrick Clemons <patrick@thesylvaherald.com>
To: Gayle Woody - Commissioner <gaylewoody@jacksonnc.org>

Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 2:01 PM

Gayle,

Thank you for responding and your kind words as they are greatly appreciated. To answer your question, I know who the citizen is but they have requested that I not share their name at this time and I will honor that request. Once again, I appreciate your thoughtful response and will definitely stay in touch.

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[Quoted text hidden]



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