June 23, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

FROM: Sherman Neal II
Murray, Kentucky

TO: Daniel Cameron, Kentucky Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Kentucky State Capitol
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 118
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3449

RE: Murray, KY Confederate Memorial featuring Robert E. Lee

Attorney General Cameron,

I am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Kentucky seeking your influence on a legal matter ripe for action. Since 2017, this community has sustained an effort to remove a Confederate monument featuring Robert E. Lee from Calloway County public property. Individual support of the removal initiative reached a critical mass of the local population within days and continues to grow as we educate citizens on this matter. Public support in favor of removal which includes: Governor Andrew Beshear, Murray State University, and the City of Murray City Council. Supporters of removal have held (6) peaceful assemblies seeking formal redress from the Calloway County Fiscal Court, led by Judge-Executive Kenneth Imes.

Calloway County has had constructive notice of the request for removal since June 1, 2020. The Calloway County Fiscal Court refused to resolve this matter at its most recent session on June 17, 2020. Further, the Court did not specify a date to address this matter, nor did it provide clarity of its intentions or any further process it would follow. Following the hearing, the Calloway County Attorney stated,

> "[W]e have a number of things that I'm doing work on...Frankly, some of those will have to be prioritized ahead. This is obviously a high-priority issue. This is not something that gets pushed to my backburner, but it's not the most single pressing thing I have either."[1]

I am concerned by the indifference and inaction displayed by the elected officials of Calloway County.

On several occasions the Judge-Exectuive Imes referred to unspecified legal considerations delaying action. I am concerned that the lack of transparency with regard to its intentions or its process are a sign that Calloway County Fiscal Court will not apply resources to clearly identify any potential outstanding legal issues in a timely manner. I am confident that the coalition of community members who have sought removal of this monument from public property have the requisite historical context, understand administrative requirements, and grasp legal theory required to facilitate removal. Unfortunately we do not possess the power to force action.

[1] https://www.wkms.org/post/west-virginia-born-out-civil-war-grapples-confederate-monuments

**I ask that you direct Judge-Executive Imes and Calloway County elected officials to expedite a decision on this matter and monitor procedures to ensure transparency and proper application of legal theory**. As the attorney general for the state of Kentucky, you have the power to influence action on this matter in accordance with Governor Beshear's recent guidance.



Sherman Neal II

CC: Governor Andrew Beshear
Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman
Congressman James Comer (KY District-1)
Representative Larry Elkins (KY District-1)
Kentucky Military Heritage Commission
Calloway County Judge Executive Kenneth Imes
Magistrate Eddie Clyde Hale
Magistrate Larry Crutcher
Magistrate Don Cherry
Magistrate Paul Rister
Calloway County Attorney Bryan Ernsberger
Mayor Bob Rogers, City of Murray, KY
Murray City Council
Robert Jackson, President, Murray State University