

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to our attention that UPS is considering opening a facility in Graham, NC. As members of the community of Graham and Alamance County, we feel it is our duty to inform you of the current political climate surrounding the highly controversial Confederate monument that sits in the heart of the city. As a company committed to uplifting communities and the principles outlined by the UPS Foundation, we urge UPS to take these conditions into account in moving forward with your partnership with our elected officials.

The Confederate monument that stands in front of our county courthouse was erected in 1914 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy as part of their campaign to preserve the legacy of the Lost Cause and reinforce white supremacy - an act they replicated with [hundreds](#) of similar monuments across the country. As many leaders confront the painful history behind these monuments, we see even the most conservative southern towns removing them. Sadly, this is not the case for Graham. It continues to overshadow the city as a perpetual reminder of white supremacy. Perhaps one of the UDC's most sinister efforts, Graham's Confederate monument is also the site of the [brutal lynching](#) of the city's first black constable and town commissioner, Wyatt Outlaw, at the hands of the KKK. Despite recent protests, the city and county leaders continue to ignore pleas to remove the monument, so it continues to serve its intended purpose: making Graham unwelcoming for people of color.

We have witnessed this [inequality](#) firsthand in the recent [neo-Confederate rallies](#) that the city of Graham has allowed to take place, while city leaders respond to peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstrations by issuing states of emergency that force demonstrations to end and most recently declaring a "free speech zone," along with other measures that restrict our First Amendment rights. We have seen [hate crimes](#) committed against our neighbors for speaking out against this hateful symbol. Even worse, we have seen our own elected officials - the very people you are meeting with to make your proposal - [endorse such actions](#), admit to [perpetrating them](#) and take pride in their [family's slave-owning heritage](#).)

That is why [the community has called for](#) both the City of Graham and the Alamance County commissioners to publicly recognize the racist history of this monument and to take the proper steps to relocate it somewhere more appropriate, such as a museum or cemetery. These calls have gone unanswered for years, and as the current Civil Rights movement is unfolding in real time, our leaders continue to ignore, intimidate, and silence dissenters while tensions and unrest continue to grow. The ACLU has even had to file a lawsuit due to the stifling of First Amendment rights by efforts from the city and the county to make the protests go away. You may have read about our plight recently in the [Washington Post](#).

We are writing to let you know that we aren't going away - you will hear us speaking at the August 11 City Council meeting, you will see us demonstrating at the August 17 County Commissioners meeting, and our officials will continue to see us and hear from us until every member of our community is as clearly valued as the next. We hope UPS will take Laura Lane's

TED talk advice and not play by the rules by including our community's demand to relocate the Confederate in your incentive package. Please make it clear to our government and to those looking for you for leadership in racial equity that you support the people of Graham and Alamance County - all the people.

We would love to schedule a meeting between a UPS representative involved in Project Sort and representatives from the many groups in the community who are unified in this request. Please reach out to Meg Williams at margaret.alice.ra@gmail.com if this is something you would be open to.

Gratefully,

[Alamance Alliance for Justice](#)

[Down Home NC - Alamance](#)

[Forward Motion Alamance](#)

[Siembra, NC](#)

Alamance Whites Against White Supremacy