

PETITION TO THE COUNTY MANAGER AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 10, 2012

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED CITIZENS OF HAYWOOD COUNTY, DO WISH TO LODGE OUR FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE COUNTY PERMITTING THE FLYING OF THE "STARS AND BARS" OR CONFEDERATE FLAG OR ANY SIMILAR SYMBOL ON PROPERTY THAT BELONGS TO EVERY CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTY.

NEARLY EVERY SYMBOL, FLAG AND BANNER CAN BE PLACED IN A HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THE PLACEMENT OF SAME ON PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A GREAT NUMBER OF OUR CITIZENS FIND THAT THE FLYING OF THIS PARTICULAR SYMBOL ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS OFFENSIVE. THIS IS A SYMBOL THAT DIVIDES OUR CITIZENS AND CONTINUES TO HARM OUR ABILITY TO HEAL PAST WRONGS.

WE SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF EACH CITIZEN TO PLACE BANNERS, SYMBOLS AND FLAGS ON PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY. THAT IS BECAUSE INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS DO INDEED HAVE VERY WIDE-RANGING FREEDOMS REGARDING SPEECH AND SYMBOLIC GESTURES. DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS DO NOT. THIS PETITION IS SOLELY DIRECTED TO THE DULY ELECTED COUNTY GOVERNMENT WITH A REQUEST THAT IT, AND ONLY IT, CONTROL THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED LAND IN A MANNER THAT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Carol Perires	Bob Clark
Anthony M. Scordo	D. Edward Moore
Alice Lowrey	M. Wallace
Carolyn Walker	Guarinta D. Shade
Ross Williams	Frank Burke
Joe Boulton	Ethel Burke
Gene Boulton	Geart Clark
Agnes S. Bryan	Bill Everett
	Sylvester Williams
	Terina Williams