

FOR RELEASE:

10:00am Monday, June 29, 2020

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### **Alamance County Leaders' Statement on the Confederate Monument on Courthouse Square**

We as leaders in Alamance County recognize that we have a role to take the necessary and timely action needed to ensure that our county is an inclusive, equitable and welcoming place for people to thrive, conduct business, pursue an education, and live fulfilling lives.

The Confederate Monument in the Courthouse Square of Graham currently stands at the symbolic heart of our county at the epicenter of government. While this artifact is undeniably part of our history, for many in our community, it represents an ideology incompatible with equality. The history of Confederate monuments in the United States is complex. While many believe they exist simply to honor fallen soldiers, in actuality they were erected at a time of fervent white supremacy. The monument's prominent location before a house of justice, an entity which has historically failed to serve our communities of color with equality, perpetuates this symbol as a barrier to the inclusion we aspire to achieve. As the municipalities and counties around us have taken action to remove their monuments, the Alamance County monument draws ever increasing notoriety and represents an increased potential for violence. Now is the time for decisive action to relocate this monument.

We are at a crossroads. As leaders, we want the county to move forward to a bright, prosperous future and not cling to a symbol that will inevitably hold us back. The county manager has wisely warned of the risks of deadly violence and recommended that the monument be relocated. We wholeheartedly agree and support urgent action.

The future of our community hangs in the balance. Bold and inclusive leadership is needed now more than ever. We stand together in this request and we invite other leaders to join us in this call to action.

We hereby call upon the Alamance County Commissioners and the City Council of Graham to take action to relocate the monument in a respectful and appropriate manner. Relocation of the monument will remove the threat to the public safety that has been created by this symbol in the Courthouse Square of Graham.

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Lenny Williams, Mayor, Town of Gibsonville  
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Connie Book, President, Elon University  
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Steve Van Pelt, School Board Member, Alamance Burlington School System  
Brian Feeley, School Board Member, Alamance Burlington School System  
Wayne Beam, School Board Member, Alamance Burlington School System  
Kathy Colville, Healthy Communities Director, Cone Health  
Quinn Ray, Alderman, Town of Elon  
Emily Sharpe, Alderman, Town of Elon  
Doug Williams, CEO, Buckner Companies  
Bill Scott Jr., President, Alamance Foods, Inc  
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President Barrett Brown, Alamance NAACP  
Jim Bryan, President, Fairystone Fabrics  
Preston Hammock, Senior VP, Cone Health  
Lavern Delaney, Chief Nursing Officer and VP, Cone Health  
Mandy Eaton, EVP People & Culture, Cone Health  
Laura Vail, Director, Health Equity, Cone Health  
Griffin McClure, Green & McClure Furniture  
Jason Cox, The Monroe Companies  
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Tamara Kersey, Secretary, Alamance Pride  
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Yun Boylston, MD, Burlington Pediatrics  
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Mark Gordon, President, Alamance Regional Medical Center  
Rev. Dr. Bridgette Gloster, Senior Pastor, Springdale AME, Burlington  
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For questions or to have your name added to the list of supporters on this letter, please  
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