

Confederate Monument Case Study

Prepared By:
Johnny Burnette
Gary Bush
Kevin Jeter
Dominique Walker
Lauren Woods

Executive Summary

Durham, North Carolina's Confederate monument was revealed for public display on May 10, 1924 after a persistent campaign spearheaded by members of United Daughters of Confederacy (UDC) (Eanes, 2017). The campaign was led decades after the Confederate Army's concession to the Union Army ending the Civil War and most notably during the Jim Crow Era. The statue stood on display for 93 years before it met its fate on the evening of August 14, 2017. Dozens of cities across the United States have begun to remove or propose the removal of monuments, plaques, and memorials commemorating Confederate leaders (Bidgood, Bloch, McCarthy, Stack, & Wilson, 2017). The removal of such memorabilia does not come without debate and opposition.

Quantitative research methods were used for this case study. A survey was conducted to capture the ideas and feelings of a diverse group of Durham County citizens in the surrounding area of North Carolina Central University. The survey was distributed electronically and in paper form. The survey contained twelve questions and were primarily multiple choice questions. The likert scale was also utilized on the survey. Respondents were asked to identify their demographics (gender, birth year, and race), and how long they have been a resident of Durham.

In terms of the Confederate Soldiers Monument located at the Old Courthouse in Durham County, 58% of respondents stated they knew a little but not much concerning this history of the statue. Nearly 51% of respondents strongly agreed that Confederate monuments should be removed from all public spaces, while only 22% of respondents only agreed that Confederate monuments should be removed from public spaces. An interesting note is that 43% of respondents believe that Confederate monuments should be removed completely and 28% want the monuments moved to State Museums.

The feedback provided by survey participants illustrates the need for an inclusive community process to address where Confederate monuments, plaques, and memorials should be housed.

Introduction

After 93 years of display on the Durham County Courthouse lawn, Durham, North Carolina's most visible confederate monument met its ultimate demise on the evening of August 14, 2017 (Bonner, 2017). After a day of heightened tensions, a group of protesters assembled on Courthouse lawns and toppled the long standing statute. In recent months, the placement of Confederate monuments in public spaces has been the topic of National discussion.

Durham, North Carolina's Confederate monument was placed on public display May 10, 1924 after a persistent campaign spearheaded by members of United Daughters of Confederacy (UDC) (Eanes, 2017). The campaign was led decades after the Confederate Army's concession to the Union Army ending the Civil War and most notably during the Jim Crow Era. The Jim Crow Era was a time of intense racial segregation, discrimination, and violence against African-

Americans. The monument stood just one block away from the then thriving “Black Wall Street”, a prominent African-American economic district in Durham. The monument was paid for by public funds as the county set aside one half of one percent of the county’s taxes. This was the result of special provision permitted by the state legislature in a bill (Bonner, 2017). In 2015, former North Carolina Governor, Pat McCrory, signed legislation preventing the removal, relocation, or altering of monuments, memorials, plaques, and other markers that are on public property without permission from the N.C Historical Commission (Bonner, 2017). This legislation serves as an impediment limiting the powers of municipal and county governments across the state North Carolina from determining the fate of such monuments.

Dozens of cities across the United States have begun to remove or propose the removal of monuments, plaques, and memorials commemorating Confederate leaders (Bidgood, Bloch, McCarthy, Stack, & Wilson, 2017). The removal of such statutes does not come without much debate and opposition. Those in opposition of removing Confederate monuments from public spaces argue that these statues represent their history and heritage, not racial inferiority. Meanwhile supporters of the removal argue that the controversial statutes were used as a tool of Jim Crow politics and symbolize a dark period in American history (Eanes, 2017). Despite the fact that it was an act of civil disobedience that led to the destruction of the Durham’s Confederate Monument, many feel as though the statute has no place for display in public spaces. The true question remains, where do statues honoring Confederate leaders belong?

Methodology

Quantitative research methods were used for this case study. A survey was conducted to capture the ideas and feelings of a diverse group of Durham County citizens in the surrounding area of North Carolina Central University. The survey was distributed electronically and in paper form. The electronic survey was compiled using Qualtrics and was sent out to the North Carolina Central University Network. The paper survey was passed out to every fifth person (Systematic Random Sampling) at the Phoenix Crossing Shopping Center located on Fayetteville Street in Durham, North Carolina. The paper survey was also distributed to students at the James E. Shepard Memorial Library located on the campus of North Carolina Central University.

The survey contained twelve questions and were all multiple choice. Respondents were asked to identify their demographics (gender, birth year, and race), and how long they have been a resident of Durham. They were then asked certain questions ranging from the removal of the Confederate Soldier’s Monument at the Old Durham County Courthouse to the Unity Monument located at Bennett Place State Historic Site. These questions were asked to better gauge the respondents knowledge on the subject of Confederate monuments. Additional questions included: opinions on what should happen to Confederate monuments, where they should be moved and housed, and which entity should fund maintenance, removal and replacement of said monuments. Time was a limitation. Due to the time constraints, only a small sample size was obtained. The total sample size was identified as 53 respondents.

Results

The sample size was 53 people (n=53). Out of the 53 people that were surveyed, 57% were female and 43% were male. Nearly 66% of those surveyed identified as a “Millennial” or someone who was born between the years of 1977 and 1995, while 13% identified as “Centennials,” or someone was born after 1995. In terms of race and ethnicity, nearly 94% of people surveyed identified as African-American, while nearly 3% identified as White and nearly two percent of respondents identified as multiracial. Nearly 29% of respondents identified as a someone who has lived in Durham all of their life, while 23% stated that they have only been in Durham for nearly two-five years - please note that only 52 of respondents answered this question.

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Warranted Actions

The law passed by the General Assembly in 2015, that protects confederate monuments limits the warranted actions available in this case. The law prohibits the removal of memorials from public property without State approval. This case involves the sale of public property to a private company, and is unique in the fact that the law does not prohibit the sale of public property that has historical monuments erected. This task force has identified three actions to resolve the issues surrounding the confederate statue outside of the Durham Courthouse. The primary issue here is whether or not public or private funds should be used to pay for the removal and restoration of the confederate statues.

The first action has been discussed in earlier commissioner meetings and involves the County Manager negotiating with Mr. Gordon Larson, representing the California Federal Syndicate, Inc., to move the statue from the courthouse grounds to Bennett Place for its protection. It has been estimated that \$3,000 to \$12,000 would be needed to restore the statue, which raises the issue of where these restoration funds would come. Should taxpayer dollars be spent on restoring these monuments? Or, should the organizations concerned with restoring these monuments be responsible for moving and restoring these monuments? Another option may involve preservation groups paying for the removal and restoration through existing funds.

The second viable action is for Durham County to let the sale of the Courthouse property remain as is, and give organizations concerned with the restoration and removal of the statue the opportunity to negotiate with Mr. Gordon Larson, to move the statue. This would give organizations concerned with the protection and restoration of the statue more authority to move

the statue to Bennett Place and restore the statue without involving taxpayer dollars. If Durham has agreed to sell the property as is than it has already made a profit of the property including the statue. This solution allows local government to keep those profits and not have to use additional resources to reach a deal with Mr. Larson.

The third option involves the establishment of the Durham County Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Jane E. Sheffield discussed the Historic Properties Commission's establishment at an earlier meeting. Once established the Historic Preservation Commission with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners may acquire property designated as historic, and pay for the property with funds appropriated for that purpose. The Historic Preservation Commission, once established, may receive funds from the United States Department of Interior. This solution would allow the Historic Preservation Commission to acquire the statue through federal funds that are in place for preserving historical properties. No additional funds would be needed to restore the property, as the Historic Preservation Commission would take charge of restoring and moving the property.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered as foundational and should be considered with proposed and approved plans from the Durham County Board of County Commissioners. First, it is recommended that public funds should not be used for the maintenance or restoration of the Confederate Soldier's Monument at the Old Durham County Courthouse and the Unity Monument located at Bennett Place State Historic Site. Second, it is recommended that the sale of the Old Courthouse property remain as is in order for organizations concerned with the restoration and removal of the Confederate statue have more authority to move the statue without the use of public funds. Third, it is recommended that the Durham County Board of Commissioners and Historic Preservation Commission establish a permanent community outreach task force comprised of community members that reflects population diversity in order to engage Durham County residents about future changes to the exterior of historic district or landmark properties. Finally, it is recommended that this study be continued in order to gain further data and input from residents in the Hayti community.

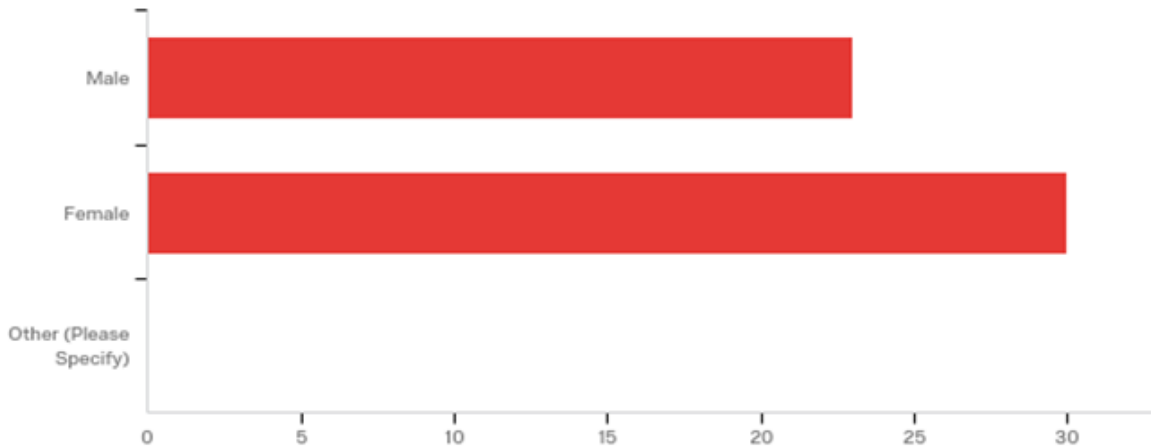
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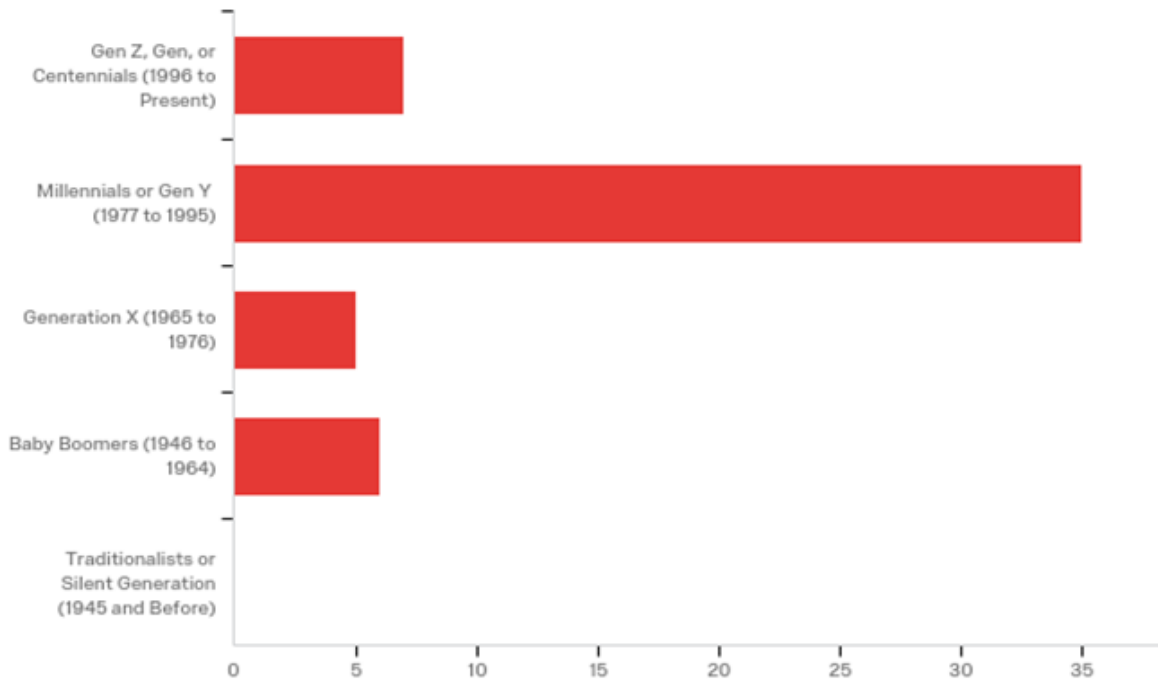
Appendixes
Survey and Data Analysis

Questionnaire about Confederate Monuments

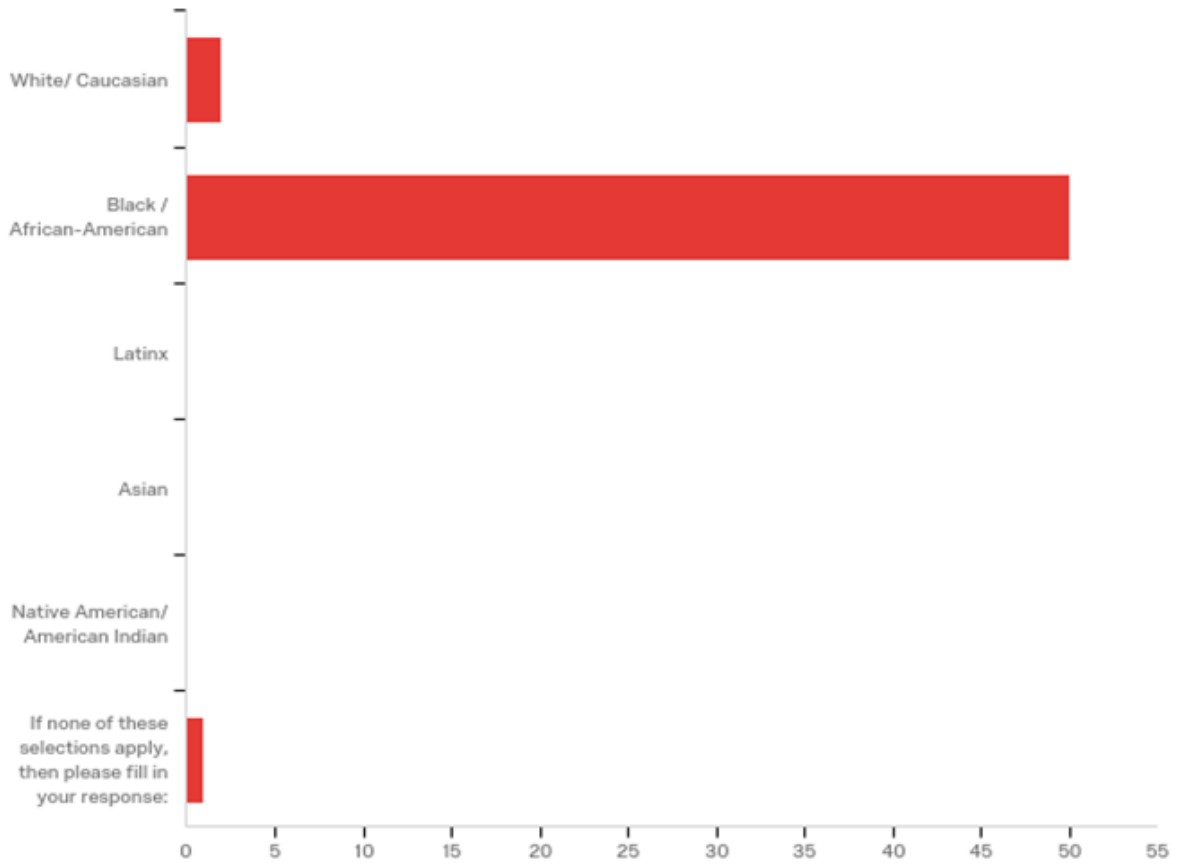
1. How would you classify your gender?



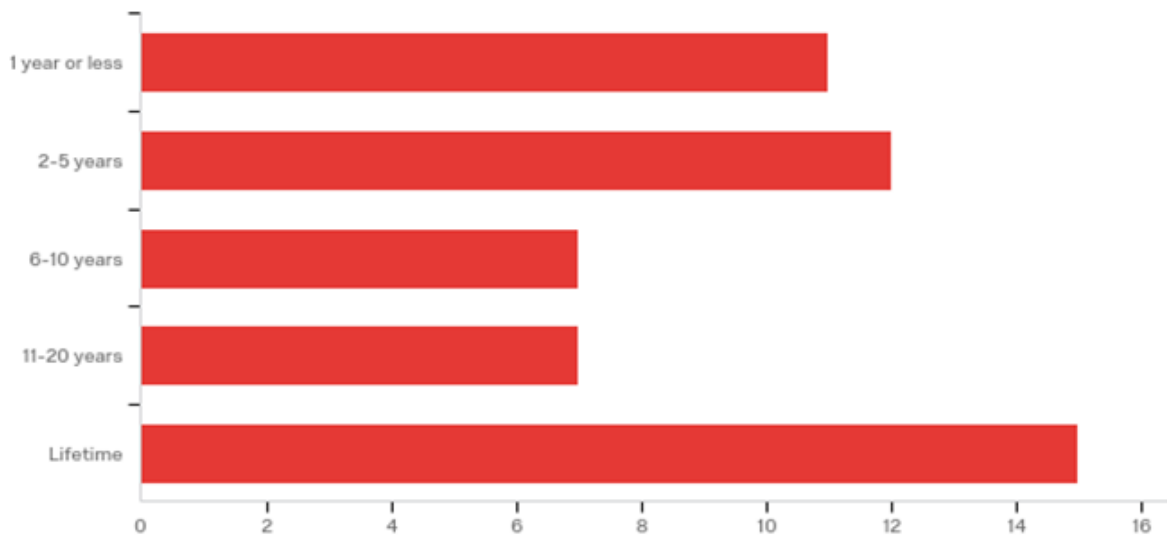
2. What generation do you affiliate with?



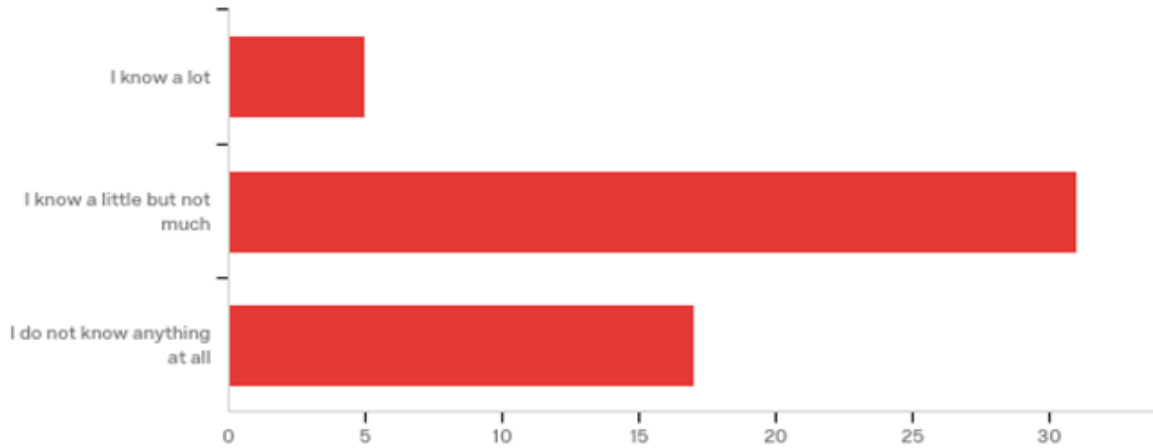
3. What race or ethnicity do you identify with?



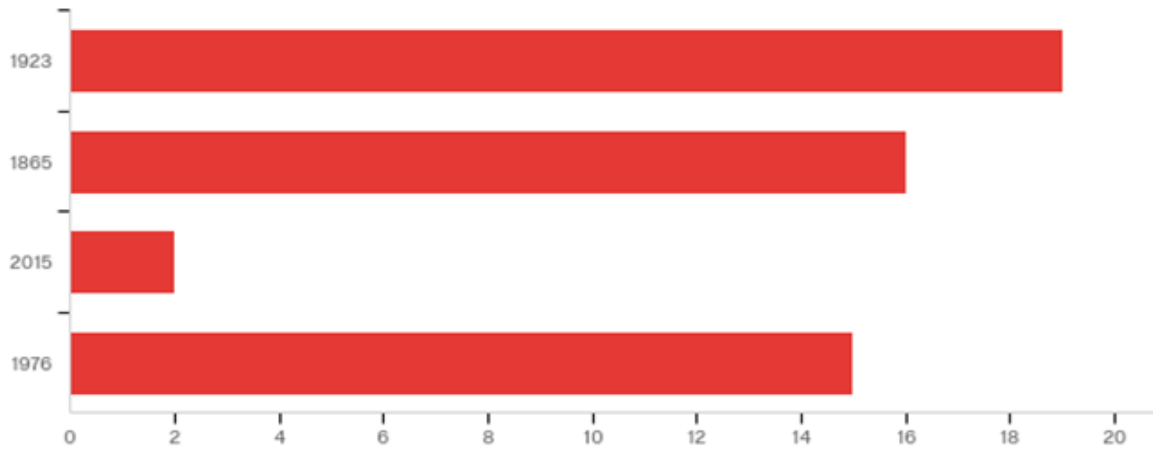
4. How long have you lived in Durham?



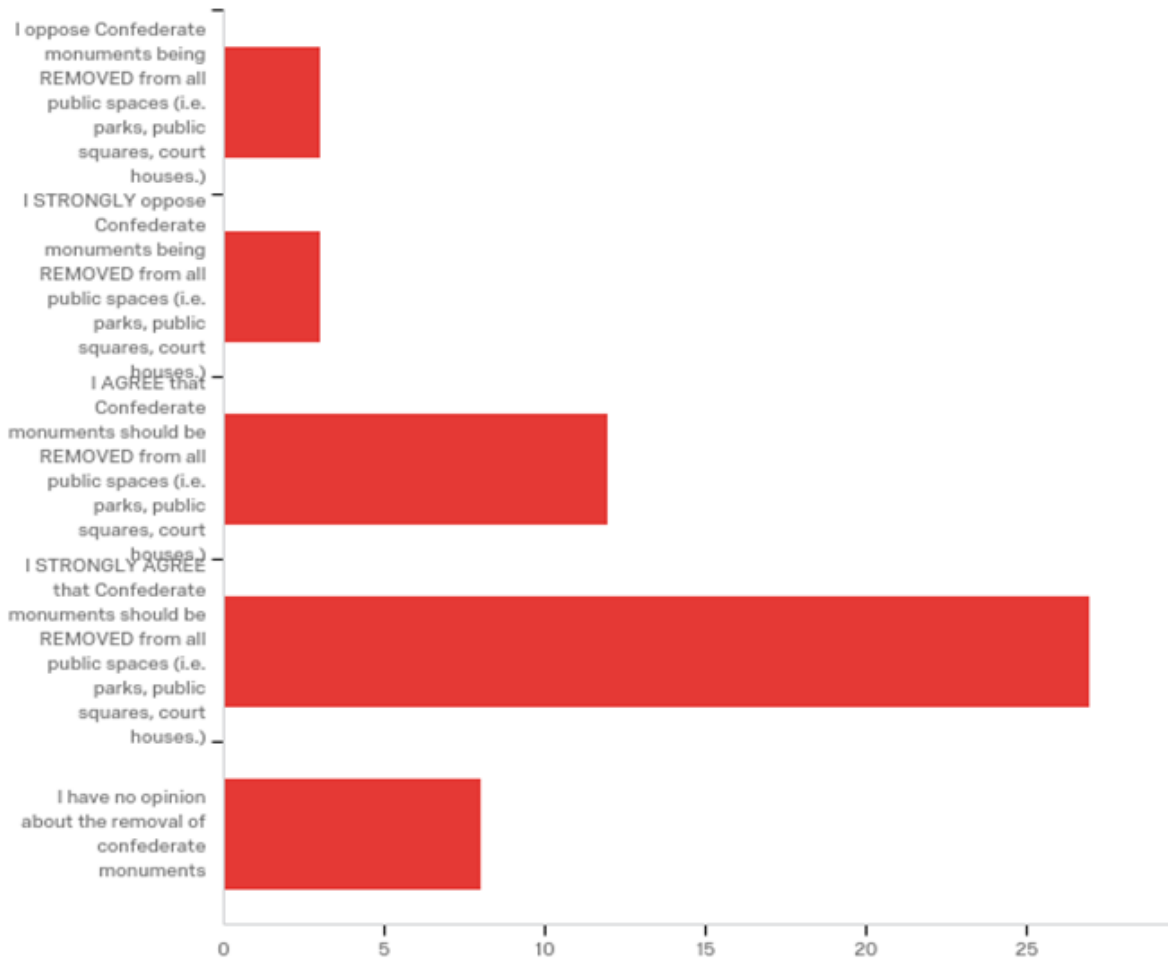
5. What do you know about the Confederate Soldiers Monument located at the Old Durham County Courthouse?



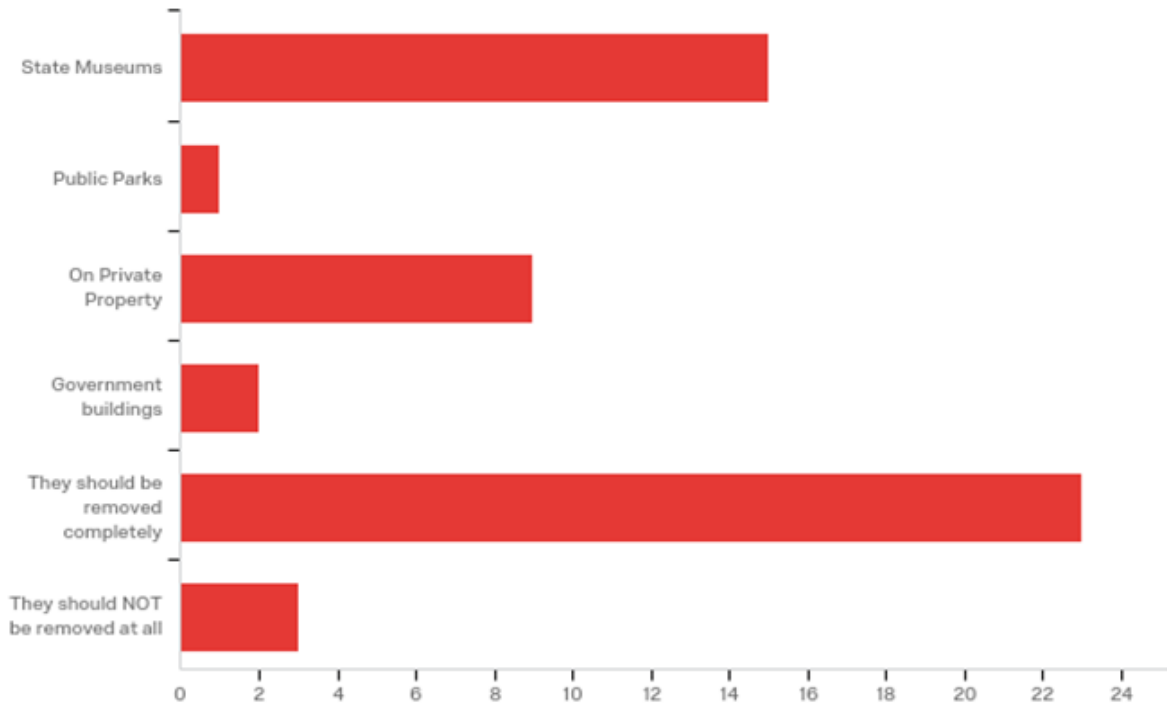
6. When was the Unity Monument located at the Bennett Place State Historic Site that emphasizes the reunification of the United States after the Civil War erected?



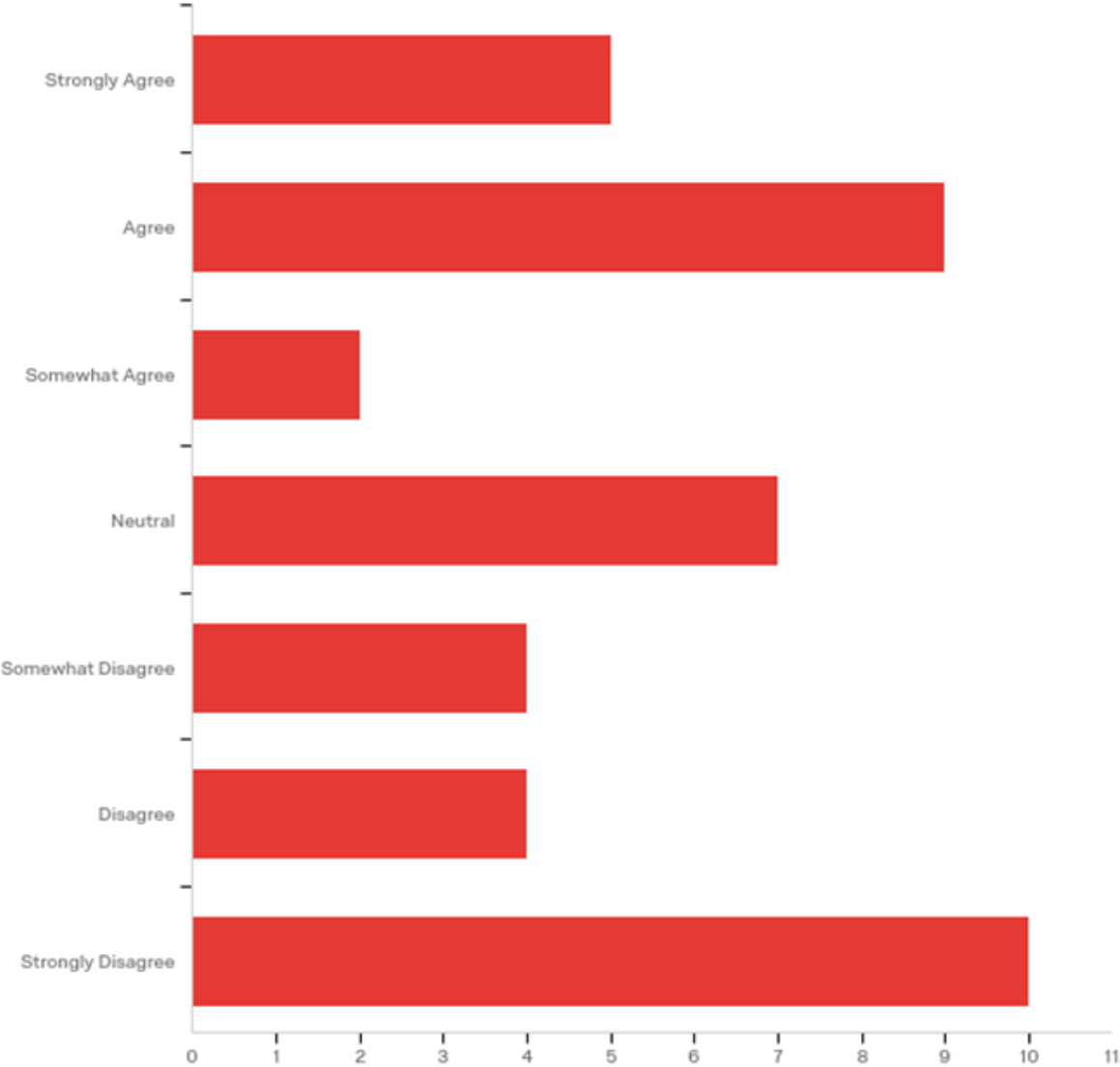
7. Which of these descriptions best describes your opinion of the Confederate Monuments?



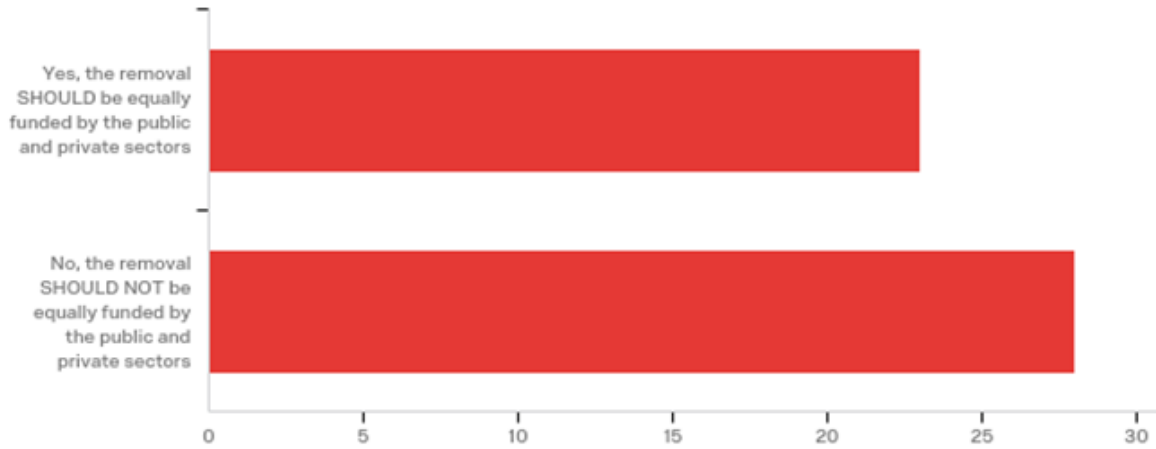
8. Where should Confederate Monuments be REMOVED to?



9. Do you agree that public funds should be used for the maintenance, removal, or replacement of Confederate monuments? On a scale of 1-7, with 1 being strongly agree and 7 being strongly disagree, select the number that corresponds with your level of support.

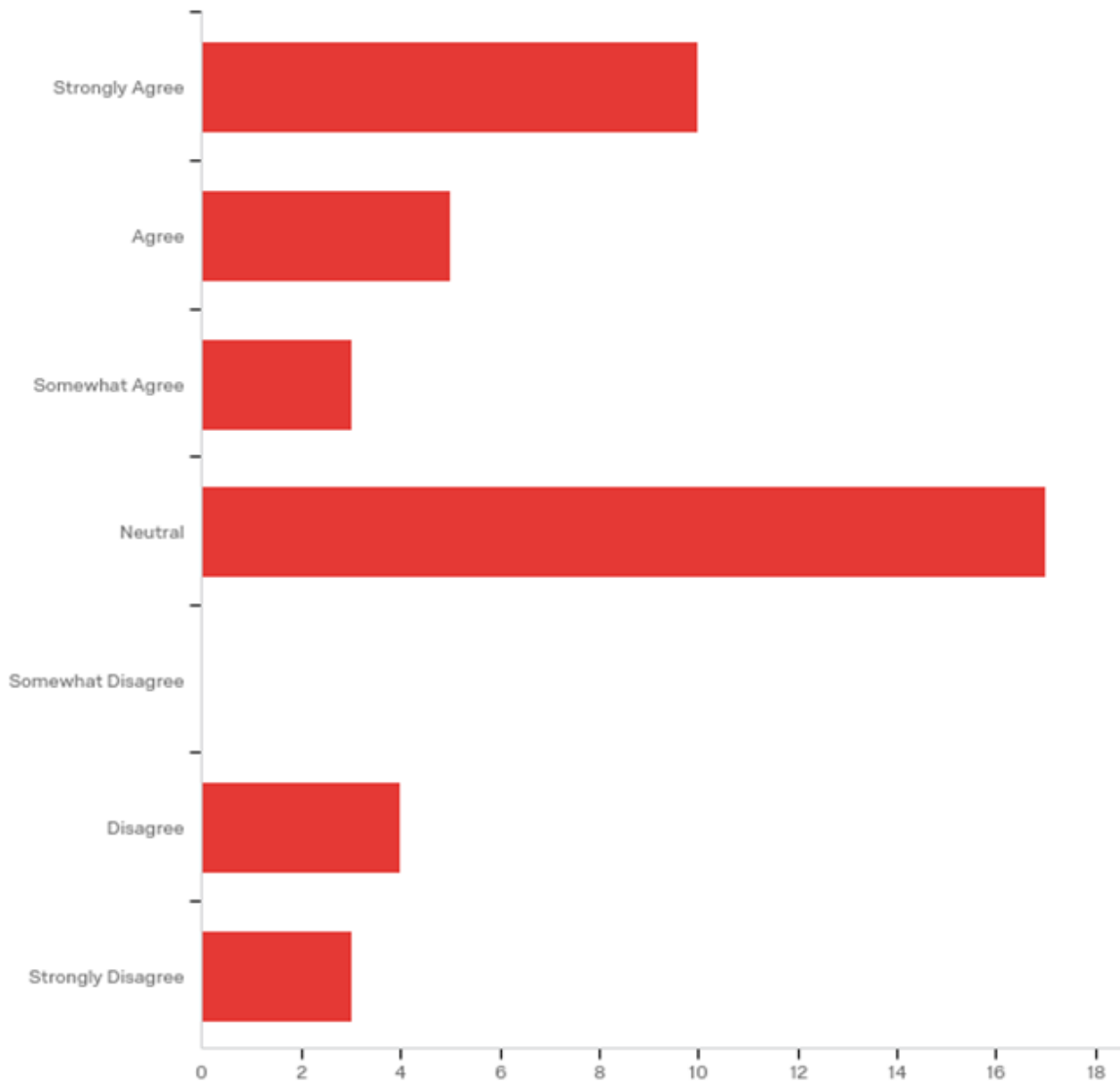


10. Should the removal of Confederate Monuments be equally funded by both the public and private sectors?



11. Do you believe that civil disobedience should be used to support the removal of Confederate monuments? On a scale of 1-7, with 1 being strongly agree and 7 being strongly

disagree, select the number that corresponds with your level of support.



12. Please leave any further comments in the section below:

Continue your involvement in the community, it's needed.

Monuments should be left as they are or if they have to be moved put in a museum. It is history why try to erase what happened? Need to remember.

Have a blessed day.

My issue is not so much as monuments, etc.. But there are towns named after these individual. For instance Julian Carr, a known white supremacist, do we argue about removing his name from a high school, although a TOWN IS NAMED AFTER HIM (Carrboro). We remove monuments , but majority of the Founder Fathers ,in some sort of fashion owned slaves at one point. What then remove Thomas Jefferson? Although change starts somewhere....

If we are to believe that Durham is a forward moving and progressive city, then we need to take action that supports that. As a proud Black woman I want to be in an area that supports harmony and peace. The confederacy was not about that. It supports and promotes division, war, and violence. None of the things I wish to be associated with. I would not even feel comfortable promoting Durham as a great place to live as long as those confederate monuments are still planted in the heart of the city. They must go. They serve as a hindrance to our bright future and a celebration and harsh reminder of a dark past