

Responses Received from Meade County Public Forum Seeking Input on Confederate Statue Solicitation from City of Louisville

July 21, 2106, 7:00 p.m. Brandenburg Riverfront

Attendance at forum- 53

Questions

1. What do you hope will be the outcomes of moving the Confederate monument from Louisville to Brandenburg? In other words, what might those who favor moving the monument here say in support of this idea?

Responses from groups:

Bring new life to county. Generate attention. Boost tourism. Emphasize history.

Great asset to see from the river.

Confederate soldiers were given same rights and privileges after the war as Union troops why should we treat them differently. Honor Kentuckians who died in the war.

(The statue) needs to be in a small town setting.

Will need to explain the fit in our history.

There were both union and confederate soldiers here. Helps to clarify historic reasons for the civil war.

Part of our mixed heritage and fits with "Civil War Days".

Since first statue was to recognize the Underground Railroad adds to history.

Written responses submitted after the forum:

Most civil war monuments lie forgotten in squares around the country. Moving this particular monument will generate a lot of attention and inquisitive people who might come to see what the controversy is all about.

It will improve traffic so there could be more businesses willing to come here so it could add more jobs.

I believe Louisville has gotten too big for this statue. I believe it needs to be in a country area. We have civil war days every other year and it would be an asset. Tourism especially when the American Queen comes through.

Confederate soldiers were US Vets by law. With many other cities and towns disrespecting our ancestors I am proudly wanting this monument. We are not PC.

Peace, community efforts, jobs, comfort, representation.

Bring new life to downtown, generate attention, history connection, tourism.

Boost tourism-sell gas, food. Explain history to school children who are not told the truth about the civil war.

The monument would be appreciated. Brandenburg has a direct and indirect connection to the monument.

Proper preservation and reduced likelihood of vandalism of the monument. Context to the site and tourism.

2. What do you worry might be the outcomes of moving the Confederate monument from Louisville to Brandenburg? In other words, what might those oppose moving the monument here say against the idea?

Responses from groups:

Why the confederate monument here since this was not a confederate area/ state?

Paints the community as a racist community.

People coming from other places to protest.

Concerned with perceptions especially given the size of the monument versus the Underground Railroad monument.

Vandalism and maintenance cost.

Lawsuits already around this monument will that affect us.

If not maintained, will it become an eyesore?

Negative outside influences/media coverage. Increased police patrols.

Monument doesn't necessarily represent racism.

Written responses submitted after the forum:

The people who come from outside the area may not make some assumptions about the area mostly that it supports anti-civil rights to supremacy movements-regardless of the intent- that perception will be taken outside the community. Also, additional costs of caring for the stature will not make up for any generated income.

Media, vandalism.

Vandalism. How is it going to be permanently set? Will there be more patrol, for a while?

Funds for maintenance?

They may not like it. Some vandalism may occur.

Riots, outbreaks, rampages

Support monetarily to move. Paint a bad view of the area as race is controversial.

Overwhelming size, racist, maintenance, short lived attention, concern for safety.

Concerned it will draw rebel flag waving extremists/rednecks. Security? If they oppose why aren't they here? Size?

I know of no reason against.

Can't see anything as long as lighting and some patrolling is done...

The only reason it will draw visitors is because of the controversy.

How many people have been to Louisville and seen the statue? Did they go to visit it ever before the controversy?

Why is the statue moving? Citizens of Louisville believe it represents something and they want that gone.

Who is going to pay additional security costs? Who will pay for vandalism to the park and statue? It has been vandalized in Louisville.

3. What must you do to move the monument here but at the same time positively address the concerns of those opposed to the move? Is this possible?

Responses from group:

Explanatory signage that situated the history of the monument.
Dedication ceremony providing context for monument memorializing all who died in the civil war with union and confederate soldiers (reenactors present).
Dedicated area in the park for Civil War History.
Insure available money for continuous maintenance.
A great visual tool for school kids to learn about the civil war.
Join with other organizations in area to help support moving monument here and clarify context.
Provide lighting at night.
Learn about civil war history in Meade County.

Written responses submitted after the forum:

I do not believe that it is possible but... Only way is to create a comprehensive Civil War Museum that it is a part of and not an only item.

If people know the history of the flag they will understand more.

How is the media going to come into play? Depending on how it's presented to the public?

Need to be presented in a positive history way.

Do we have racists? Yes, but everywhere does to an extent. Tall fence for protection-open at certain times.

Contribute financially. Try to explain that confederates are vets and deserve recognition.

Unless there's money involved or a city tax exemption nothing's ever going to change. Point blank—Money talks.

Americans Comprehensive Civil War Museum. Foundation, Plaque explaining.

Form a foundation for upkeep.

We have a statute to the "Underground Railroad", this monument will give some balance to our present park.

Signage to fully explain the history of the monument and its context to the site.

Other questions/responses submitted in writing to respond to others voiced views during the forum:

A bad idea to have Lincoln looking across the river at a confederate soldier. Give the impression that Kentucky was a Southern State. It was not. That is revisionist history.

Have you asked our non-white residents what they think about this statue? The audience here tonight is very demographically similar.

Seems like the delegation has their mind made up before they go no matter what the opinions are at the meeting. But, good to ask for input. We need more of these. Thanks.

Great idea about forming a committee to plan riverfront rather than one small group controlling.