

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

TALBOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING

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ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is necessary to resolve the issue of whether a statue memorializing the life of Frederick Douglass will be permitted on the Courthouse Green; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Talbot County that a policy be established for the proper location of appropriate remembrances of persons and events of historical significance; and

WHEREAS, the space available at the Courthouse is limited and there are many interests which may compete for use of that space; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the County Council to commit to writing a policy for the future; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following policy shall govern the use of public lands in Talbot County:

- 1. Subject to approval by a majority of the County Council as required by Paragraph 3 hereof, a statue no greater in size than any existing monument shall be permitted, on the Courthouse Green, honoring the life of Frederick Douglass;
- 2. Free-standing statues, monuments, and memorials, or remembrances shall be restricted to those which constitute a collective remembrance of persons from Talbot County who served and/or died in a major war or military effort, or persons of extraordinary distinction or achievement and which may be authorized by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of the County Council, said vote taken no less than twenty (20) years after the death of the individual or conclusion of the military event to be remembered;

- 3. Individual monuments or markers shall be limited to individuals from Talbot County who are of national historical significance, individuals whose lives were of exceptional local significance, or events of tremendous importance may be authorized by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the membership of the County Council, said vote taken not less than twenty (20) years after the death of the individual or the occurrence of the event;
- 4. That the appearance, dimension, content and location of said statues, monuments and plaques are within the discretion of the County Council;
- 5. That the fact that a memorial may qualify under this policy does not create an entitlement for the use of the Courthouse or any other County property, and each request shall be weighed by the County Council with regard to its comparative significance to other displays and requests;
- 6. That the County Council encourages the use of schools, libraries, office buildings or other public places to display statues, monuments, memorials or plaques of importance to the citizens of Talbot County as may from time to time be approved by the appropriate authority;
- 7. That this Resolution shall apply prospectively only.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT FROM THIS DATE HEREOF.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND THE GREAT SEAL OF TALBOT COUNTY, THIS 16TH DAY OF MARCH, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND FOUR.

Attest:

Jessica Morris Clerk

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Philip Carey Foster, President

Hope R. Harrington, Vice President

NAY

Peter A. Carroll

NAY

Thomas G. Duncan

Hilary B. Spence