

Public Hearing: Board of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

Request for Specialty License Plate Display of Rebel Flag Honoring the Confederacy

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Testimony

Good morning to The Honorable Chair Victor Vangergriff and distinguished members of the Board of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. I rise on behalf of the diverse Executive Committee and membership of the NAACP Garland Branch to voice our strong opposition to the display of the rebel flag on Texas license plates honoring the Confederacy. We urge that each of you vote “no” to this request for the following reasons:

1. The rebel flag symbol represents the darkest and most de-humanizing period (i.e., slavery) for African-Americans in the history of these United States.
2. Public display of this symbol of hate, human-servitude will add to, and intensify an already toxic and viral political as well as social climate in our Great State and Nation.
3. It will have negative impact on our ability to attract and retain quality businesses and progressive-thinking families to Texas.
4. This rebel symbol is highly divisive and inflammatory.
5. This rebel symbol is highly offensive not only to the African-American, but to all Texan who value and respects dignity their fellow citizens based on the content of their character, rather than the color of their skin.
6. Finally, ladies and gentlemen: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
7. Finally, Mr. Vandergriff, Mr. Butler, Mrs. Ryan, Mr. Ingram, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Rush and Mr. Walker I close with this analogy: “Would you give an 8x10 picture of a Rockwilder as a birthday gift to a twenty-eight (28) year old young man who was attacked and brutalized by a pack of Pit Bulls when he was eight (8) years old?”

Meditate on this as you deliberate! We urge you to vote “NO” to this request. **THIS BUCK STOPS WITH YOU!!** Thank you for this opportunity and wish you well!

Submitted By:

B. J. Williams
President, NAACP Garland Branch

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