



Committee: Directly to Council
Staff: Livhu Ndou, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: Final Action - vote expected
Keywords: #FrancisNewlands #ChevyChase
#ChevyChaseCircle #MemorialRemovalAct

AGENDA ITEM#5G
April 26, 2022
Action

SUBJECT

Resolution in Support of the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

A resolution in support of removing Senator Francis G. Newlands' name from the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- On February 23, 2021, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton and Representative Jamie Raskin introduced H.R. 1256, which would remove the brass plaque bearing the name "Senator Francis G. Newlands" from the grounds of the memorial fountain, remove from the memorial fountain a stone tablet bearing the name "Francis Griffith Newlands" and a related inscription, and remove the name "Newlands Memorial Fountain" carved into the upper face of the memorial fountain's coping stones.
- Former United States Senator Francis G. Newlands founded the town of Chevy Chase, Maryland in the 1890s and was an outspoken white supremacist. While serving in Congress, Newlands actively sought to strip voting rights from African Americans and as a developer created communities that precluded immigrants, Jews and others from living in these communities.
- This resolution affirms the County's commitment to equity and racial justice by expressing support for H.R. 1256.
- Council action is tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2021.

This report contains:

Resolution

Pages

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: April 19, 2022
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: Council Vice President Glass, Councilmembers Friedson and Jawando
Co-Sponsors: Council President Albornoz, Councilmembers Rice, Hucker,
Katz, Riemer, and Navarro

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act

Background

1. In April 2018, Montgomery County codified its commitment to equity and racial justice by approving the Resolution to Develop an Equity Policy Framework in County Government.
2. We recognize the dark stains in our history and continually celebrate our rich diversity each day as Montgomery County is home to four of the most diverse cities in the United States.
3. In acts of solidarity, Montgomery County has changed the names of streets and roadways that had been dedicated to residents who espoused beliefs contrary to what we stand for today. All members of our community should feel a sense of inclusion and connection, not alienation, when they observe streets, memorials, and other landmarks.
4. Chevy Chase, Maryland was founded by Francis G. Newlands of the Chevy Chase Land Company, who was an outspoken white supremacist and member of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate. Senator Newlands has a fountain memorial located in Chevy Chase Circle.
5. While in office, Senator Newlands advocated for the repeal of the 15th Amendment, published journals that called for expelling African-Americans from the United States, firmly believed that this country should be for whites only, and advocated for “White Plank” policies that would have restricted immigration to the United States to just white people.

6. As a residential developer, Senator Newlands actively sought to preclude immigrants, Jewish people, and people of color in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. from housing near jobs, transit, and other amenities. Developers like Newlands combined with other racist housing policies of the time created a legacy of inequality and disadvantage for many generations to come.
7. In 2020, both the D.C. Chevy Chase Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Maryland Chevy Chase Board of Managers adopted resolutions calling on the National Park Service to remove the plaque bearing Senator Newlands' name.
8. On February 23, 2021, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton and Representative Jamie Raskin introduced H.R. 1256, which would remove the brass plaque bearing the name "Senator Francis G. Newlands" from the grounds of the memorial fountain, remove from the memorial fountain a stone tablet bearing the name "Francis Griffith Newlands" and a related inscription, and remove the name "Newlands Memorial Fountain" carved into the upper face of the memorial fountain's coping stones.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. Montgomery County rejects the memorialization of white supremacists like Senator Francis Newlands.
2. Montgomery County supports H.R. 1256, which would remove the memorials commemorating Newlands.
3. Montgomery County will continue to actively reverse the harms caused by people like Senator Newlands by standing in support of racial equity and social justice.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council