

You may have heard my comments from the last board meeting which I will post on social media.

In that I mentioned monuments are being removed across the nation. Nationwide, the monuments, names, and symbols of the confederacy have been removed from countless cities across our nation, including Austin, Texas, Baltimore, MD, Brooklyn, NY, Durham, NC, Gainesville, FL, New Orleans, LA, Boston, MA, Charlottesville, VA, Jacksonville, FL, Lexington, KY, Memphis, TN, Nashville, TN, Richmond, VA, Kansas City, Stone Mountain, GA, DC, San Antonio and several other cities.

They did not get community input or send out community surveys to get permission to see if it's ok to remove them. Many of those complaining are racist people. I believe in free speech but that does not allow us to sit at the table with white supremacist and alt-right members to make sure it's o.k. for them or to let them know "your voice is being heard". Do not equate that with the struggle of Black Americans who want their voices heard.

Our voice is to unify this nation to work on the imperfections to make this the great nation it should be. Their words are divisive and advocate for the expansion of white supremacy ideology and its vestiges. When we talk about white supremacy it's not just those neo Nazis and other radical groups, it's those who show a lack of respect for others who wish to protest peacefully in order to attract attention to the racial inequality that exist in this country. While many NFL players are taking a knee or locking arms in solidarity, there are negative reactions from the fans in the stands that are reflective of those that watch the game on TV and are a part of our general society. Those fans are focused more on the knee than the reason why he kneeled.

Their refusal and lack of respect to acknowledge the players have at the minimum a valid point in kneeling is racially insensitive and disrespectful. After the American Revolution did we have to ask British sympathizers if it is o.k. to remove symbols and monuments of British oppression? Do people of Jewish decent have to ask to remove Nazi symbols? No! But we as Black Americans have to get permission to remove confederate names, monuments, statutes, and symbols of a legalized enslavement, rape of black woman and

children, and murder? The colonial Americans and Jewish people were not worried about offending anyone for removing symbols of oppression and hate. Why should we as Black Americans, and all Americans? Why do Native Americans need to get permission to remove symbols of Christopher Columbus? Why do people of color in America have different standards than others?

People have degraded our prior President, his wife, and children for no substantive reason. For myself, and millions of Black Americans living today, that have died in the last 100 years, those that were slaves, and millions of Americans that are not Black, slavery is defined as an institution that justifies legal rape, legal child molestation, legal murder, legal maiming, legal cutting of body limbs, legalized removal of families, legalized selling of people, legalized brutal beatings of adults and children, legal refusal to allow blacks to read and write, proponent of misinformation of genetic inferiority, etc...

Community input is helpful with issues of deciding to rename a school but not to decide if we need to remove racist images from our schools.

Mr. Garland Pruitt, Pres. of OKC NAACP and some other NAACP members are present. He stated to me racism is still alive and well, one time we were considered 3/5 of person but changed because of people informed and enlightened. The names need to come down! Educate the general public! It was racist, bigoted, and arrogant, and they lost the war. The change that needs to happen is called progress.

What progress can be made if we are asking to permission to remove treasonists from our school.

Candace Liger, parent of school age child, community activist, who is an advocate for equality, discussed why we need symbols of hate on our school walls? Why have names of oppression on our school buildings? What about progress?

Statements were made to keep the school names the same:

"General Lee was good to his slaves"

"What's wrong with just leaving stuff alone, it's not been a problem all these years, WHY NOW"

"It is sad that people are losing the school they attended 50 maybe 70 years ago. You all should be ashamed of yourselves"

"If they are taken down then every Martin Luther king and Harriet Tubman and all others need to come down. If you won't accept my history then I won't accept yours"

In the example with NFL players, people were more concerned with the players protesting than the reason why they are protesting. Some opponents of this issue are more concerned with the action taken by us to remove the names more so than the reason behind the removal.

History is made in the past, but history is also made in the present and future. Many people are closet racist that don't want to see change. Hide behind their rhetoric or social media account to not be exposed for their bigotry or racial insensitivity. Many young people are standing up to change the wrongs of society. History is being made showing our country is becoming unified and not influenced by those that want to divide.

We have a donor willing to pay and remove signage. That is not an argument anymore. The cost is not what it appeared. He told me no innocent child of color should have to walk in a school that is named after someone that fought to preserve our country's original sin. If we don't take the right action we're teaching it's O.K. to have treasonist on our public buildings. The majority of people protesting in Charlottesville and across this nation against the neo nazis, kkk, and white supremacist are white Americans, not black Americans. The majority of Oklahomans support the name changes. Even those that may not agree with everything they understand if it's offensive to a large part of our population then they respect our decision.

Thank you.

