

## Please forward to Mayor and Council

I am writing to support the voices of many who have written in opposition to the set of proposals put forward by the RASEC committee. I have been following the discussion, which has centered on the proposal to rename McCathran Hall. While I see that proposal as needlessly divisive, and even hurtful, I want to go on record in saying that none of the proposals are necessary.

This is not to say that we, as a community and as a society, do not have work to do in confronting racism, as well as islamophobia and anti-semitism. We certainly do. But this laundry list of proposals strikes me as primarily cosmetic. They are, at best, symbolic in nature. At worst, they read like a set of grievances rooted in resentment, and feel almost punitive in nature.

It is clear that a lot of energy and thought went into drafting these resolutions. I wish that same energy and thought had been directed toward more substantive ways to address the effects of racism and its underlying causes. What is needed are constructive ideas and projects — Not attempts to rewrite or erase our town's history. We should certainly examine the more challenging aspects of that history, yes, but also recognize and appreciate the positive achievements.

And it really strikes me as manifestly unfair to single out the town's first mayor for what seems almost a personal attack. From what I've read, he reflected his times. He also did a lot to make this town a better place.

Sincerely

W. Luther Jett  
209 Maple Avenue