

27 February 2024

To the Mayor and Members of the Washington Grove Town Council:

I argue against changing the name of McCathran Hall, the Grove's town hall, as recommended by the Racial and Social Equity Committee (RASEC).

The Grove is a special place, in good part due to its respect for its history, good and some not so good. Respect includes accepting that those who built the Grove had both virtues and faults, while continuing to honor those who did so much to make the Grove special. Renaming anything should not be considered lightly, and especially not in response to a current fad for vandalizing evidence of the past. The latter is different only in degree from what the Taliban did to the Bamiyan sculptures.

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