

Resolution No. _____
Requested by: County Mayor

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
EVALUATING REVISION OF THE OFFICIAL WILLIAMSON COUNTY SEAL**

WHEREAS, one of the four quadrants of the official seal of Williamson County adopted in 1968 bears a cannon and Confederate flag commemorating the local history related to the War Between the States; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of recent events, a number of citizens have raised questions regarding changing the Seal to remove the Confederate flag; and

WHEREAS, other citizens have expressed opposition to such removal; and

WHEREAS, the design on the Williamson County Seal meets the definition of a memorial commemorating an historic conflict under Tenn. Code Ann. §4-1-412; and

WHEREAS, due to such status, any change in the Seal would require approval of the Tennessee Historical Commission by 2/3 vote, after request by the relevant public entity, which in this case is Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, such request must be accompanied by at least one report showing that there is a material and substantial need for the Seal to be altered based on historical or other compelling interest; and

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Board of Commissioners has determined that a Task Force composed of citizen stakeholders, representing a range of community, business and historical perspectives, should be commissioned to review the issue and provide such a report to the Board of Commissioners in order that it may consider whether it is appropriate to request approval to alter the Seal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Williamson County Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session this 13th day of July, 2020, hereby authorizes the County Mayor to appoint a Task Force, consisting of citizens representative of specifically defined constituencies as outlined below, to conduct a study and provide a report to the Board of Commissioners prior to its September 14, 2020 meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the constituencies to be represented on the nine-member Task Force shall be as follows:

- One representative of Williamson, Inc., who shall serve as Chair;
- Representatives of two families who have lived in Williamson County for at least three generations (at least one of which should be an African-American family);
- One representative of the Heritage Foundation;
- One representative of the African-American Heritage Society;
- One African-American business owner or manager, or educational professional;
- One African-American religious or community leader; and
- One representative of the Williamson County Convention and Visitors' Bureau; and,
The County Historian

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such Task Force shall implement a process for receiving input from citizens and other stakeholders, and shall consider such input in developing its recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such study and report shall be in writing and shall include an evaluation of the financial, social, public interest, tourism and business impacts of altering, or not altering the seal, and shall include a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding (1) whether there is a material and substantial need for the Seal to be altered and (2) if so, the specific historical or other compelling interest(s) that support such need, as required by state law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its passage by the Williamson County Board of Commissioners, the public welfare requiring it.

County Commissioner

County Commissioner

COMMITTEES REFERRED TO & ACTION TAKEN:

Property Committee For ___ Against ___ Pass ___
Budget Committee For ___ Against ___ Pass ___
Commission Action Taken For ___ Against ___ Pass ___ Out ___

Elaine Anderson, County Clerk

Tommy Little, Commission Chairman

Rogers Anderson, Williamson County Mayor

Date _____