

From: [betty.petkovsek](#)
To: [Mark Doty](#)
Subject: Re: Throckmorton Committee
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:32:57 AM

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On Oct 15, 2020, at 9:17 AM, betty petkovsek <> wrote:

On Oct 15, 2020, at 8:36 AM, betty petkovsek <> wrote:

Mayor Fuller and City Council members,

I value the opportunity to be able to share my thoughts after serving on the Throckmorton Ad Hoc Committee. Let me begin by commending you on the formation of the committee and express my appreciation to be able to serve. The city staff did an excellent job in compiling historic information, listening to additional information and facilitating the process. I feel as if this committee is the perfect example of how individuals with different opinions can agree to disagree in a civil manner. For some reason in our recent political atmosphere, we seem to have lost such a simple concept and it was uplifting and encouraging to be a part of such a group.

After reading the massive amount of research provided during the process, I wanted to briefly share my “take” on this issue.

James Webb Throckmorton was a very complex individual living during a very complex and unstable time in history. Although he honorably served in the Mexican American war, promoted commerce to Collin County and was elected as Governor of Texas (removed after only one year of serving) he was an advocate for a racial caste system, for the Black Codes and ultimately fought against the basic equality for a large portion of this county. In my opinion, the "negatives" outweigh the “positives" that he was able to accomplish while serving our community.

In 2020, with heightened racial unrest, this statue is not the “symbol” or the message that I want to represent us as a community on our town square.

In my opinion, our best option of how to move forward would be to relocate the statue to a location of more historical context where those that want to learn more about the history of Throckmorton and the time in which he lived could do so. If Council chooses not to relocate the statue then I would like to see a more contextual narrative added to the statue which explains the history, the good and the bad, and the challenges that were present during the Reconstructive period.

During our public forum, there was an individual that stated “the wrong thing to do is to do nothing at all”. I totally agree. After recent publicity and the steps that the city has taken to address these concerns “to do nothing” I am afraid would send a more divisive and unclear message to our community.

Thank you for your time and your willingness to serve our community.

Respectfully,

Betty Petkovsek