



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

**Meeting Date: 12/7/2020**

#### **New Business**

**Department:** County Manager's Office

**Presenter(s):** Joint Vance Monument Taskforce Co-chairs: Oralene Simmons & Deborah Miles

**Contact(s):** DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager

**Subject:** Joint Vance Monument Taskforce Recommendation

#### **Brief Summary:**

On June 9 and June 16, 2020, the Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, respectively, passed a joint resolution to remove two confederate statues located at the Buncombe County Courthouse and Pack Square Park, and to establish a jointly appointed task force to recommend action regarding the removal, relocation or repurposing of the Vance monument.

The Joint Vance Monument Task Force (JVMTF) will consist of 12 members whose appointments were made in equal numbers by the two governing boards. It was the intent of the governing boards of the City of Asheville and Buncombe County that the Vance monument is replaced or altered in such a manner, as to honor the local history of African-Americans. The JVMTF was tasked with gathering citizen input, particularly from those most impacted by the monuments, participate in public dialogue, and present the governing boards a final recommendation within three months of the completion of all membership appointments. After 12 weeks of information gathering and deliberation, the work was completed and at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting the JVMTF voted to remove the Vance Monument. The taskforce co-chairs will present the final recommendation and request acceptance from the Board of Commissioners.

#### **Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**

Formally accept the recommendation proffered by the JVMTF and direct the County Manager to work with the Asheville City Manager to develop the execution plan and determine next steps.

**County Manager's comments and Recommendation:** County Manager recommends approval.