



SAVANNAH TREE FOUNDATION

Preserve. Protect. Plant. Since 1982.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Paul Daniels, President
Ben Baxter
Christie Wallace Bergen
Benjamin Curran
Sue Ebanks
Matthew Hallett
Amelia Harper
William Haws
Lesley McDaniel
Vanessa Miller-Kaigler
Kat Nelson
Pitch Powers
Eleanor Rhangos
Jody Trumbull
Josh Ward*

DIRECTORS EMERITI

*Lynda G. Beam
Hans Neuhauser
Dale Thorpe
Suzanne H. Williams*

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

*Craig Barrow
Shannon Baughman
Marti Bockhold
Jerry Holcomb
Patty Jensen
Martin Karp
Kevin Klinkenberg*

To: Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission
From: Zoe Rinker, Executive Director, Savannah Tree Foundation
Date: November 6, 2019
Re: 19-002716-HM

Dear Members of the Historic and Monument Commission,

I write in regards to petition 19-002716-HM to move the Waving Girl statue from Morrell Park. It has come to our attention that, in discussions on how to proceed, the option of removing or topping the crepe myrtles surrounding the statue's current location has been proposed as an alternative. Savannah Tree Foundation does not support the removal or improper pruning of these trees or any others as a first response to aesthetic concerns.

The four crepe myrtles surrounding the Waving Girl statue are healthy, thriving specimens. Removing them would eliminate the benefits these trees currently provide to Morrell Park, including shade and wildlife habitat.

Furthermore, topping, or pruning back large portions of the trees, to provide more visibility for the statue would be improper tree care and would have the opposite effect in the long term. Topping crepe myrtles creates a greater number of resprouted branches, and therefore a denser, lower canopy that would further impede sight lines of the statue.

In short, the unnecessary removal of trees, in a time when Chatham County is experiencing significant tree canopy loss, would be a disservice to our local community.

Respectfully,

Zoe Rinker
Executive Director



printed on 30%
post-consumer
recycled paper

502 Fair Street • Savannah, Georgia 31415
912 233-TREE (8733) • info@savannahtree.com