

Waving Girl Monument Relocation Objections and Questions

1. **Timing.** Why is the moving of the Waving Girl a crisis that needs to be acted on now? The Propeller Club voiced their visibility issue as early as 2014. See here: <https://www.savannahnow.com/article/20140424/NEWS/304249682> The public has heard little since. Shouldn't there be more public input before we move a monument that is dear to Savannahians? The media notice on a petition happened just six days ago and it's already in front of the MPC for a vote: <https://www.wjcl.com/article/savannah-organization-petitions-to-re-locate-waving-girl-monument/29658476#>. The speed and timing (during an election week) is creating suspicion.
2. **Options.** The idea is more visibility to the ships. The proposed site is in a mass of development, and she will get lost visually from far down the river. The current spot is obstructed, but she's in a serene park for the public to enjoy. Landscaping can be altered to open visibility. The Propeller Club document notes the real sticking point is the crepe myrtles. The document says the city won't allow them to be cut and the Savannah Tree Foundation would likely oppose their removal. This should be at least pursued and not simply assumed. There should be a discussion – a public one.
3. **Historic Reasons and Purpose.** If all we care about is the visibility from ships, then it would make sense to put her on Elba Island.
4. **Eastern Wharf.** We aren't proposing this, but if visibility and a "welcome to Savannah" is the real issue then the Eastern Wharf site makes more sense. Has anyone asked the "private individual" funding this about better locations?
5. **Possible Conflict of Interest.** A proposal keeps mentioning a "private individual" is willing to pay the cost of relocation. Everyone knows this "private individual" might be predisposed to a specific spot related to self-interest. Has the "private individual" considered more ideal locations? Perhaps in a location before ships hit the downtown area? Maybe Eastern Wharf?
6. **Transparency.** That is debatable, and should we not have a public debate? It's known public relations people related to the "private individual" have pitched the *move* to key organizations many months ago to preempt opposition. This is not about altruism. Let's call it for what it is.
7. **Optics.** If the MPC and the City Council agrees to the relocation without looking at other options, aren't they, in a sense, selling the monument? More public input is necessary. Trust is important.

We hope that the Monument Commission will slow this process down, not render a vote today, consider options, and listen other thoughts from the public.

● Three sites from left to right: 1st is proposed, 2nd is current, 3rd Eastern Wharf area (hypothetical).

