Support for Removal of the Confederate Flag

WHEREAS, South Carolina State University is a historically black college and university established for the purpose of educating freed men and women in the South who were once subjected to the cruel and inhumane institution of slavery;

WHEREAS, One of the victims of the Emanuel AME Church shooting, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, was an esteemed 1991 graduate of South Carolina State University, and was by all accounts a pillar of her community;

WHEREAS, The Confederate Flag, also known as the "Confederate Battle Flag," is a symbol that has long been regarded by African-Americans and others as representing support for the ideologies of slavery, segregation, rebellion, and racism;

WHEREAS, The Confederate Flag currently flies over the grounds of the South Carolina State Capitol;

WHEREAS, Students attending South Carolina State University during the Civil Rights Era marched and protested against the principles and ideologies represented by the Confederate Flag;

WHEREAS, Students attending South Carolina State University in 2000 joined thousands of others to call for the removal of the Confederate Flag, which, at the time, flew atop the Statehouse dome;

WHEREAS, South Carolina State University is an institution of higher education which is guided by principles of equality, fairness and diversity;

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees, as the governing body of South Carolina State University, is committed to preserving and supporting the mission of the institution that ensures a quality education to any student who desires one, regardless of race, creed, color, religious affiliation, or gender;

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees and the administration of South Carolina State University strive to maintain an academic environment conducive to learning, productivity, unity, and not one of divisiveness, discord, intimidation and hate;

WHEREAS, The South Carolina State University community and its alumni deplore the principles and ideologies represented by the Confederate Flag and believe it threatens the existence of a united state of South Carolina, and threatens the vision of a nation free of discrimination, hatred, and racial division; and

Now, Therefore, be it resolved,

That the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire university community, does hereby petition the South Carolina General Assembly to swiftly adopt legislation that will immediately remove the Confederate Flag from the grounds of the South Carolina State House.

Acting President

Chairman, Board of Trustees