

# Ole Miss removes Mississippi flag with Confederate emblem

By Emily Wagster Pettus and Jeff Amy

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) - The University of Mississippi quietly pulled down the state flag on Oct. 26, deciding that the 121-year-old banner's Confederate battle emblem sends a harmful message in this age of diversity.

Acting under the order of Interim Chancellor Morris Stocks, three campus police officers furled the flag before most students were awake, taking it down from a circle of honor between the white-columned administration building and a marble statue of a saluting Confederate soldier.

A group of university leaders met Sunday night (Oct. 25) and agreed to take it down, days after the student and faculty senates urged its removal from the Oxford campus, a bastion for Southern elites since its founding in 1848.

"Because the flag remains Mississippi's official banner, this was a hard decision. I understand the flag represents tradition and honor to some. But to others, the flag means that some members of the Ole Miss family are not welcomed or valued," Stocks' statement said.

The banner will be put on display in the university's archives, Stocks told The Associated Press.

The flag had flown for years in the Lyceum circle, where deadly white riots broke out in 1962, when James Meredith enrolled as the university's first black student, under a federal court order and with the protection of U.S. marshals.

A half-century later, federal forces were again keeping close watch on the Ku Klux Klan as a civil rights group's Oct. 16 remove-the-flag rally proved to be the catalyst for change.

Two Klan members who protested Oct. 22 faculty senate vote were arrested on state weapons charges after campus police found shotguns and a "Black Lives Don't Matter" sign in their pickup truck, according to an FBI agent's request to prosecute both men on federal weapons charges. Federal court records show one of the guns was loaded. At least one of the men had also protested the NAACP rally.

Today's students forced this issue as the governor and most state lawmakers seek re-election on Nov. 3, and many politicians have avoided staking positions. Not so Chris McDaniel, a state senator who lost a contentious Republican primary to U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran in 2014, and insisted that "Ole Miss should fly it, as long as they remain a publicly funded university."

"Universities are supposed to be marketplaces of ideas, not cocoons designed for coddling the feelings of the perpetually offended," the tea party favorite posted Oct. 26 on his Facebook page.

There was no sign of protest on campus Oct. 26.

"It needed to be removed," said Ellie Bond, an international studies major from Flowood, Mississippi, who wore a T-shirt with a flag that preceded Mississippi's current banner, featuring a magnolia tree rather than the battle flag.

Among the student senators who tried to keep the flag on campus is Andrew Soper, a business major from Tupelo. He said he's not opposed to a redesign, but said "I think the state flag is a state issue, not a university issue."

Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn said Monday that it's time to change the flag, but his fellow Republican, Gov. Phil Bryant, declined to call a special legislative session to debate it and said Mississippians themselves should decide the flag's future.

Since 1894, the Mississippi flag has had the Confederate battle emblem in its upper left corner - a blue X with 13 white stars, over a field of red. State voters decided in 2001 to keep it there, the last state flag in the nation to incorporate the divisive symbol.

"I think college students react a lot emotionally," the governor said after the student senate vote.

He held his ground on Oct. 26.

"Mississippians overwhelmingly voted in 2001 to fund the current Mississippi state flag. I believe publicly funded institutions should respect the law as it is written today. It clearly states 'The state flag shall receive the respect and ceremonious etiquette given the American flag,'" Bryant said in a statement.

The law Bryant cited makes displaying the flag optional, not mandatory, at public buildings.

The University of Mississippi has struggled with South symbolism for decades. Sports teams remain Rebels, but the Colonel Rebel mascot was retired, and fans mostly stopped waving Confederate battle flags as sticks were banned in the stadium.

Chancellor Dan Jones, who sought to make the campus more racially inclusive, was ousted in March, and many of his supporters suspected he was too liberal on race. The trustees, who are appointed by the governor. Trusts insisted that he had to go because he resisted financial changes they wanted at the university's hospital.

The flag came down just ahead of Thursday's campus visit by board's choice to replace Jones - University of Kansas Provost Jeffrey Vitter - who told the AP in an interview last week that he is committed to diversity, but offered no opinion on the flag.

Athletic director Ross Bjork, who has said the flag makes recruiting more difficult, was among those who met with the interim chancellor during the weekend. "I'm just proud our university can stand like this. It's the right thing to do. It helps move us forward," Bjork said.

Football coach Hugh Freeze said removing the flag "is the right thing for this university, and hopefully our state also will follow. I think it represents adequately our core values of what we want to be."

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Jeff Amy and David Brandt reported from Oxford, and Emily Wagster Pettus reported from Jackson.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Durham Board of County Commissioners solicits applicants to fill positions on the following citizen boards and commissions:

- Boxing and Wrestling Commission (1 At-Large Position)
- Community Child Protection Team/Child Fatality Prevention Team (2 Positions - 1 Fireman/EMS Personnel and 1 (Parent of) Death of Child before 18)
- Historic Preservation Commission (1 Position - 1 Attorney)
- Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee (3 At-Large Positions)
- Planning Commission (1 Position - 1 Triangle Township)
- Public Health Board (1 Position - 1 Engineer)
- Transportation Advisory Board (1 At-Large Position)

Property tax listing **must** be current. County and City taxes must not reflect **any** delinquencies **before** an application is considered.

**\*Please note that appointment schedules may change without notice.**

Appointments will be considered by the County Commissioners on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 East Main Street

For applications or additional information, please contact the Clerk to the Board's Office at 560-0025. Website: [www.dconcc.gov](http://www.dconcc.gov)

**Deadline for receipt of applications--5:00 p.m. November 30, 2015**



## City of Durham

The Department of Community Development will make available beginning **November 3, 2015** plans and specifications for Site Preparation and Infrastructure improvements for the second phase of **rental** development for the Lofts at Southside.

Beginning on **November 10, 2015** plans and specifications will be available for Site Preparation and Infrastructure improvements for the second phase of development for the **homeownership** effort in Southside.

A copy of the bid documents may be obtained from ARC, 507 Airport Blvd Suite 107, Morrisville, NC 27560 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of approximately \$70 per set in cash or certified check payable to ARC. To order, either call ARC at (919-388-9900) or email a request to their production email at [raleigh.jobs@e-arc.com](mailto:raleigh.jobs@e-arc.com)

Additional information on the plans and specifications to include dates that bid packages will be due can be obtained by accessing the following websites:

<http://durhamnc.gov/bids.aspx>  
<http://durhamnc.gov/445/Community-Development>  
Additional Contact Information

## Florence to keep plaque with words 'white,' 'colored'

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP) - Florence City Council has agreed to accept a plaque with the words "white" and "colored" memorializing men who died in the First World War.

Local media outlets report that council voted 4-3 on Monday to accept the plaque for the Florence Veterans Park.

A local American Legion post has permission to move it to the park but the move was put on hold because of concern about the wording. The council agreed to accept the plaque and will also put up a second to explain the wording.

City attorney Jim Peterson explained that the state's Heritage Act prohibits changes to a monument on public grounds without approval of two-thirds of the state Legislature.

He said once the city accepts the plaque, it falls un-

## Boards, Committees and Commissions Openings

The City of Durham is seeking interested citizens to serve on various boards, committees and commissions. Candidates are appointed by the City Council. Applicants must reside in the City limits and City and County taxes must not reflect any delinquency at the time of submission of applications.

Deadline for receiving applications is 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Housing Appeals Board.....	November 16, 2015
Durham Cultural Advisory Board.....	November 16, 2015
Citizens Advisory Committee (term expiring June 30, 2016).....	November 16, 2015
Citizens Advisory Committee (term expiring June 30, 2017).....	November 16, 2015
Durham City-County Appearance Commission (term expiring April 1, 2018).....	November 16, 2015
Durham Open Space & Trails Commission (Ward 2).....	November 16, 2015
Human Relations Commission.....	November 16, 2015
Citizens Advisory Committee (term expiring June 30, 2018).....	November 23, 2015
Durham City-County Appearance Commission (term expiring April 1, 2016).....	November 23, 2015
Durham Open Space & Trails Commission (At-Large).....	November 23, 2015
Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee.....	November 30, 2015

For more information, citizens should contact the City Clerk's Office located on the Floor of City Hall at 101 City Hall Plaza from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, telephone 919-560-4166. You may also obtain an application at the City's Website [www.durhamnc.gov](http://www.durhamnc.gov) (Boards, Committees and Commissions).

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## Durham Annual Action Plan "Needs" Public Hearing

November 16, 2015 - 7:00 PM  
 Durham City Council Chamber - City Hall  
 101 City Hall Plaza



A public hearing will be held by the Durham City Council to receive citizen comments on the needs in Durham neighborhoods. It is envisioned that these needs will be addressed through the use of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Consortium funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, and Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) funds, as contained in the upcoming FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet notified the City of final entitlement amounts for FY 2016-2017. For planning purposes, the City expects to receive approximately \$1,807,500 in CDBG funds, \$776,000 in HOME Consortium funds, \$160,000 in ESG funds, and \$282,900 in HOPWA funds.

For additional information contact Wilmur Conyers, Federal Programs Coordinator, Department of Community Development at [wilmur.conyers@durhamnc.gov](mailto:wilmur.conyers@durhamnc.gov) or (919) 560-4570, ext. 22277.

### Notice Under the Americans With Disabilities Act

A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919-560-4197, fax 919-560-4196, TTY 919-560-1200, or [ADA@durhamnc.gov](mailto:ADA@durhamnc.gov), as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.