



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

COREY JOHNSON
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE
(212) 788-7210

June 18, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

In the last few weeks, New Yorkers have called on all of us in elected office to make bold change so that communities of color feel heard, protected and represented. The City Council is committed to creating true reforms to policies and policing that hurt Black New Yorkers.

But that is not enough. There are disturbing images of divisiveness and racism in our City that need to be revisited immediately. That starts with City Hall.

The statue of Thomas Jefferson in the City Council Chambers is inappropriate and serves as a constant reminder of the injustices that have plagued communities of color since the inception of our country. It must be removed.

Jefferson is America's most noted slave holder, a man who owned more than 600 Black women and men and a scholar who maintained that Blacks were inferior to whites.

The City Council Chambers is a place where we vote on bills to improve the lives of all New Yorkers and build a more fair and just city. It is not a suitable place for a statue of Thomas Jefferson. Keeping it in City Hall sends a terrible message to the people who are counting on us to work towards a more equitable New York City.

We urge you to support our efforts as we go to the design commission to expeditiously remove this statue.

Sincerely,

COREY JOHNSON
Speaker

DEBORAH ROSE
Council Member

INEZ D. BARRON
Council Member

ADRIENNE ADAMS
Co-Chair, Black, Latino &
Asian Caucus

I. DANEEK MILLER
Co-Chair, Black, Latino &
Asian Caucus