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KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2-20

June 11, 2020

Directing the Removal of the Statue of Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler from in Front of City Hall

WHEREAS, in 1925 the City of Albany erected a statue to Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler, a native of Albany, in commemoration of his service as a Major General in the Continental Army, and as a member of the Albany Common Council, New York State Senate, and United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, the City's decision to place a statute of Maj. Gen. Schuyler in front of City Hall ignored a grim aspect of his life, namely that he was reportedly the largest owner of enslaved people in Albany during his time; and

WHEREAS, tangible proof of this cruel legacy has manifested in Albany as recently as 2016, when the remains of fourteen enslaved people owned by Maj. Gen. Schuyler's family were reinterred in St. Agnes Cemetery, having been disinterred in 2005 from an unmarked grave on land formerly owned by Schuyler; and

WHEREAS, Maj. Gen. Schuyler's ownership of enslaved people is part of a broader, but often overlooked history of enslavement in New York, which had a population of more than 21,000 enslaved people during Schuyler's lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is long overdue in confronting its history of racism and inequality, the origins of which may be traced back to slaveholders in the colonial era such as Philip Schuyler; and

WHEREAS, cities and states across the country have begun to reckon with the misdeeds of the past by removing monuments to historical events and figures that supported and perpetuated slavery, systemic racism, and oppression;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy M. Sheehan, Mayor of the City of Albany, by the authority vested in me by the charter and laws of the City of Albany, do hereby order:

Section 1. Removal of the Statue of Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler

- a. The Department of General Services is hereby directed to take all steps necessary, including commissioning an engineering study to determine the statue's structural integrity, to remove the statue of Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler from the plinth outside the front doors of City Hall as soon as possible.
- b. The Department of General Services shall also remove Maj. Gen. Schuyler's name from the plinth as soon as possible.


Section 2. Disposition of the Statue

- a. The statue is to be given to a museum or other institution accredited by the New York State Department of Education or New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for future display with appropriate historical context.

Section 3. Effective Date

- a. This Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Albany to be affixed this 11th day of June, 2020.



Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany



WITNESS