

# DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY

## RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE WORD “PLANTATION” FROM NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE, AND ROADWAYS

**WHEREAS**, In many minds the historical plantation is synonymous with slavery; for example, one definition of “plantation” is an estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, tobacco, and cotton are cultivated by slave labor (Dictionary.com), and

**WHEREAS**, The use of the word “Plantation” bears a history of exploitation, destruction of families, loss of culture, loss of the lives and language of the people exploited by slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, The black communities in Charlotte, North Carolina, as well as across the State, continue to face systemic racism and economic oppression and the use of the word “Plantation” throughout our community glorifies the atrocities leveled against the enslaved people and impedes our racial justice initiatives, and

**WHEREAS**, Other communities have taken decisive action, such as Rhode Island which voted to strip the word “Plantations” from their official name in a ballot measure to change the state’s name to “Rhode Island” from “Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,” and Rhode Island Governor, Gina Raimondo, issued an executive order stripping the word “plantation” from official state documents and symbols; and

**WHEREAS**, The Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, in partnership with the 2,231 signatures on the [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition in support of this initiative, has considered the implications of the word “Plantation” and believes that to actively commit to the practice of anti-racism, our community must continue to take positive action to break down old practices that intentionally or unintentionally divide and distract us from building a community of diversity, inclusivity, and equality - and that necessarily includes an acknowledgement of the power of words that label and define our neighborhoods and byways; therefore be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, That the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County calls for public and private governing entities to remove the word “Plantation” from neighborhoods, commercial developments, roadways, and other locations in Mecklenburg County and North Carolina, and seek to prevent future use by whatever means legally available, including legislation, private covenants, and continuing antiracist education.

Approved by the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County  
June 9, 2021