



Diane Collier
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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September 14, 2016

Faith Rose
Executive Director
Public Design Commission
City Hall, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Denial of the Proposed Addition of a Historical Plaque to the Dr. J. Marion Sims Statue.

Dear Ms. Rose,

Community Board 11 voted at the Full Board meeting on June 21, 2016, to deny support for the addition of an historical plaque to the Dr. Marion Sims statue at East 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue. During deliberations, the full board agreed by majority that the plaque and its placement on the Sims monument are optically demoralizing to the African-American women who were unfortunate participants by virtue of their slave status.

While we heard the Parks presentation that the plaque adds further information about the context in which Dr. Sims lived and worked, and honors the enslaved women's contributions to medical advancements, the board agreed by majority the plaque is an inadequate response to the atrocities that were committed.

Our board also voted to demand that the statue be removed from its current location and that NYC Parks and Recreation find an alternative location for this statue that is not in our district. The vote was 38 in favor, three opposed and five abstentions.

As East Harlem is predominately a community of men and women from the African Diaspora, it is particularly egregious that this statue is installed here.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Mia Brezin, Assistant District Manager, at 212-831-8929.

Sincerely,

Diane Collier
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Steve Simon, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (via email)
Sheena Brown, NYC Public Design Commission (via email)
Frances Mastrota, Community Board 11 (via email)
Jewel Jones, Community Board 11 (via email)