

March 15th, 2017

Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
24 West 61th Street
New York, NY 10025

Re: The removal of the J. Marion Sims statue from my neighborhood.

Dear Commissioner Silver,

I am a lifelong resident of East Harlem as well as a writer, educator and one of the founders of the socio-political Hip Hop collective, The Welfare Poets.

I write this letter because I am, and have been for some time, utterly appalled at not only the existence of the statue of J. Marion Sims in my neighborhood, but also the lack of a response to the community's call for its removal. No person responsible for the heinous acts that J. Marion Sims is responsible for should ever be given a statue, let alone a public one to be displayed in a community filled with people from the ethnic group he tortured.

In respect to those victims, in respect to all women, I urge you to remove this statue. Please stop insulting us and our children—our intelligence and our sense of humanity—with this destructive monument on 103rd Street at 5th Avenue.

If you have any questions, you can contact me directly at 347-785-0216, or at thewelfarepoets@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Raymond Ramirez
www.thewelfarepoets.com