

Urgent: NAACP preferred quote for Peace and Justice Plaza marker

The following quotes were presented by the NAACP to the Naming Committee of the Town Council last month as replacement quotes for the original Ben Franklin quote for the Peace and Justice Plaza marker.

The Franklin quote is "There has never been a good war or a bad peace." We objected because Franklin's quote says nothing about justice or the relationship of peace and justice, Franklin was a slave owner, and the black community was not consulted. Since then, Pres. Eugene Farrar petitioned the Council to reconsider the Ben Franklin quote and the Council agreed. The Naming Committee was asked to develop a public process to deal with this issue.

Sally Greene has said the **Naming Committee is meeting at 8:30am on Nov. 11 at the Town Hall** to discuss these matters. She would like us to **submit our recommendations to the Committee in writing before that meeting**. She said we "are welcome to attend, " but it would not be necessary if we gave her our selection (s) in writing.

At the Sat. Nov. 1, 2008 Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP meeting we decided that we would attend the Tuesday morning meeting. We set up an NAACP process to get feedback from the members about which quote you think is best. **The Executive Committee will discuss our selection at the Saturday Exec meeting, and by email/phone. This is the process: email or phone your preferences to Yonni Chapman by Friday night, or as soon as possible. You can call me at 819-3843 or email at john.k.chapman@gmail.com.** For those of you who did not attend the NAACP meeting, I apologize for the short notice.

Guidelines: There are no formal guidelines. However, I am sure the Naming Committee will be most open to quotes that are (1) short, not much longer than the Franklin quote. Second (2), the quote should focus on both peace and justice and their relationship. Third (3), I'm pretty sure it would be illegal for the Town to quote a religious text (but we're not sorry we put that in the mix).

Let your voice be heard!

1. We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.

Nelson Mandela

2. Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.

Frederick Douglas

3. If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.

Frederick Douglas

4. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Martin Luther King Jr.

5. The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

6. Justice is never given; it is exacted and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationship.

A. Philip Randolph

7. What does the Lord God require of all mankind? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

8. True peace is not merely the absence of some negative force, it is the presence of justice.

Martin Luther King Jr.