



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 20-239, **Version:** 1

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**TITLE:**

Authorization for Mayor Lavelle to Send Letter to Chief Justice Beasley to Remove the Portrait of Thomas Ruffin Displayed in the Courtroom of the NC Supreme Court and the Statue of Thomas Ruffin Displayed in the NC Court of Appeals

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this item is for the Town Council to endorse the letter and authorize the mayor to send it on behalf of the Town Council.

**DEPARTMENT:** Town Council

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Mayor Lavelle, Council Members Foushee and Seils

**INFORMATION:** The Town Clerk received a request from Mayor Lavelle and Council Members Foushee and Seils to schedule this item for the Town Council's action. The information below was included in the request:

The ask for the Town Council on June 9 is to authorize the mayor to send a letter to Chief Justice Cheri Beasley endorsing the request by the North Carolina Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities for the North Carolina Supreme Court to remove the life-size portrait of former Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin from its courtroom and the life-size statue of Ruffin at the entrance to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. The attached documents are included as background information.

Council Members Foushee and Seils, with the assistance of former public defender James Williams, are also preparing a resolution regarding the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment for the Town Council's consideration on June 23rd.

**FISCAL & STAFF IMPACT:**

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Mayor and Town Council take action on this item by endorsing the Mayor to send the letter.