

From: BELLING, MARK C.
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 1:17 PM
To: '@cityofmadison.com'
Subject: Email to Mayor Soglin from Mark Belling, WISN-AM

August 18,2017

Paul Soglin
Mayor
City of (racist name deleted)
(racist name deleted), Wisconsin

Dear Paul,

As a former resident of Madison I am appalled that during your 40 or so years of off-and-on mayoring of Madison you proudly displayed a statue of a racist confederate in a Madison park. This promotion of bigotry is a stain on the city and a stain on all the rest of us in Wisconsin. Your condoning of such racism is horrible. There is only one way for you, and Madison, to atone.

I demand that you change the name of the City of Madison. It is outrageous that the capital of our state is named after a slave owner. As you know, James Madison of Virginia, fourth President of the United States, owned slaves his entire life. Slaves worked on his family owned property even as he served as President. A slaveowner should not be honored by naming a major city after him, even if that city has a history of proudly displaying confederate statues. To correct this longstanding sin, I demand that you forthwith begin proceedings to change the name of your city.

My first inclination is that Madison's new name should be that of a leader more in keeping with its faux progressivism. I thought a good name might be City of Soglin. Or perhaps City of Stalin. But given your own proud display of confederate statuary, Soglin wouldn't be a good enough fresh start. And given Pape Joe's own slaughter of his people and denial of civil rights, City of Stalin won't do either.

Instead, I propose you rename the City of Madison (ugh!; that racist name) after an American President with a history of breaking down racial barriers. City of Reagan has a ring but even that comes up hollow. To mark Madison's new status as a color blind community willing to break with its history of honoring slaveowners, I suggest the city be named after a President who opened a racist country club to African Americans and has empowered all minorities with jobs and positions of influence.

I demand you end this racism once and for all and change the name to City of Trump.

Mark Belling

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