

Resolution No.: 09-01-20
Introduced: 09-14-20
Adopted: 09-14-20
Effective: _____

**BOARD OF MANAGERS
FOR
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE, MD**

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF THE CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE BOARD OF MANAGERS CALLING FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, TO REMOVE A PLAQUE AND INSCRIPTION HONORING FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS FROM THE FOUNTAIN WITHIN CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE AND FOR AN ACT OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REMOVE THE NAME OF, AND MEMORIAL DEDICATION TO, FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS FROM THE FOUNTAIN WITHIN CHEVY CHASE CIRCLE

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Francis G. Newlands, the developer and founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, expressed white supremacist and segregationist beliefs incompatible with an inclusive, welcoming and diverse Chevy Chase Village, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, as noted in a resolution by our adjacent neighbors in Chevy Chase DC (ANC 3/4G), in his day Senator Newlands stated:

“I believe this should be a white man’s country, and we should frankly express our determination that it shall be.”(New York Times, June 17, 1912) Additionally, as part of his 1912 “White Plank” for the Democratic Convention platform, Newlands called for amending the Constitution to prohibit the vote to African Americans and limit immigration to whites only. (Reclaiming the Arid West: the Career of Francis G. Newlands, William D. Rowley, 1996);

and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers does not want the fountain’s memorial to be seen as honoring systemic racism and discrimination that is incompatible with the values of Chevy Chase Village. We believe there is no role in our community for discrimination against anyone for race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or ability; and

WHEREAS, only the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior can remove the plaque, and only the Congress of the United States can change the name of the Francis G. Newlands memorial fountain.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers this 14th day of September, 2020, to urge the United States Park Service to take immediate action to remove the plaque honoring Francis G. Newlands from the memorial fountain within Chevy Chase Circle, and to urge the Congress of the United States to take immediate action to remove the name of, and dedication to, Francis G. Newlands from the memorial fountain within Chevy Chase Circle.

ADOPTED by the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers at a public meeting assembled on the 14th day of September, 2020.

EFFECTIVE the 14th day of September, 2020.

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

Elissa Leonard, Chair
Board of Managers
Chevy Chase Village

ATTEST:

Shana R. Davis-Cook, Village Manager