

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION**  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2020-596

**Sponsor:** Introduced by Council Member Dennis

**Date of Introduction:** September 22, 2020

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R

**Date of Analysis:** September 23, 2020

**Type of Action:** Request to Mayor's Office and State of Florida

**Bill Summary:** This bill supports the returning of the Statue of the Confederate soldier and the associated plaque recently removed from the former Hemming Park (now James Weldon Park) to the Hemming Family so they can maintain and preserve them as family historical artifacts.

**Background Information:** Mr. Elwood Daniel Hemming IV wrote a letter to the city requesting that the statue and plaque be returned to the Hemming Family because it is part of their family's history. For more than 120 years James Weldon Johnson Park, formerly known first as St. James Park and then in more recent history as Hemming Park, was the home of a Confederate Monument that was gifted to the City by former Jacksonville resident and Confederate veteran Charles C. Hemming. On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 the statue and plaque was removed from the park. The value of the Confederate Monument at the time it was constructed and donated was \$20,000, which in today's value would be more than \$500,000.

**Policy Impact Area:** Disposition of public property

**Fiscal Impact:** Statue and plaque are valued at more than \$500,000

**Analyst:** Distel