

MICHIGAN OFFICE

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

930 Mason Street, Suite 101
Dearborn, Michigan 48124
Tel: 313.581.1201 • Fax: 313.581.1604
www.adcmich.org

Fatima Abdrabboh, Director



NATIONAL OFFICE

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

1990 M Street NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.244.2990
Fax: 202.333.3980

www.adc.org

July 10, 2015

Dearborn City Council
c/o President Susan Dabaja
16901 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126

On behalf of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, I write to strongly urge you to remove the statue of Mayor Orville Hubbard that stands next to the Old City Hall. We do not seek to diminish Mayor Hubbard's accomplishments. However, we ask that the Mayor's role in maintaining a system of racial oppression be properly exposed and acknowledged. Mayor Orville Hubbard's statue is a symbol of decades of racial segregation that brutally divided the men and women of both the Dearborn and Detroit communities.

Hubbard was very vocal about his favorable attitude towards segregation and used his power to fuel racial antagonisms, preach white supremacy and maintain the color line at the Dearborn-Detroit border. Hubbard often rallied against miscegenation and turned a blind eye towards racially motivated violence. Hubbard based his support of this continued oppression on the belief that Caucasian Americans had a right to live separately from African Americans. As a city that boasts diversity, with a growing African American population and internationally recognized Middle Eastern community, this statue has no place remaining in its present location.

Cities across America continue to struggle to build strong, cohesive communities in the face of historic racial and ethnic discrimination; Dearborn is certainly no exception. ADC has witnessed a steady rise in reports of discrimination against Arab-Americans in Dearborn and the surrounding areas. It is clear that the prejudice practiced by Hubbard continues to have modern day ramifications. We have a duty to our community to remove this symbol of past oppression and work on paving the way towards a more just future.

Please support the removal of the statue of Mayor Orville Hubbard as his effigy is a painful reminder to the citizens of Dearborn of the racial intolerance that was once implemented in policy. We urge the City Council and its members to take a stance on this issue and join us as well as fellow members of the community in seeking a solution that is amicable for all parties.

Sincerely,