

From: Bruce Lightner

Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 9:20 AM

To: Paul Coble

Cc: Joe Bryan; Phil Matthews; Tony Gurley; Ervin Portman; James West; Betty Lou Ward; Jim Goodmon; Thad Woodard; Orage Quarles; Tom Bradshaw; Smedes York; Reference File

Subject: Let's Talk

April 30, 2012

The Honorable Paul Coble, Chairman
Wake County Board Of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 550
Raleigh, North Carolina 28702-0550

Paul,

It pains me to feel compelled to send you this communiqué, but it comes with the expressed purpose of respectfully and humbly asking you to consider halting any further notion of naming the new Wake Justice Center after the late Senator Jesse Helms.

I realize fully that he was your uncle and that you, for the most part, agreed with the stances he took as a commentator on WRAL-TV and that as a U.S. Senator. But, if it is your wish to tear this town and county apart you could not have picked a more divisive and dreadful idea. Jesse Helm's name being affixed to anything called "justice" would be an aberration and cruel. I would hope have hoped under your leadership that you would want our society to move beyond the painful remembrances of Jim Crow, segregation and racial division and hatred.

Let's please talk about this to explore other options in which we can honor the late Senator. I would be interested to have a face-to-face discussion with you so that we can hopefully discuss this. Please let me know if you are interested in having an insightful and respectful discussion on this matter.

Yours truly,

Bruce Lightner, Chairman
Raleigh-Wake Martin Luther King Committee, Inc.
(919) 834-6264