



Re: April 27, 2022 Media Statement

1 message

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 4:31 PM

Hi there Cara et al.

Thank you for sending out Montpelier's recent statement to the media. I'm glad that several of the same issues that were discussed in the meeting on Monday have shown up in the statement.

I wanted to chime in on the question that was posed in the media statement: "Is the MDC a political organization with a political agenda or an organization committed to representing descendants at Montpelier?"

As a 501c non-profit organization, the Montpelier Descendant Committee is able to address all manner of issues surrounding education, racism/anti-racism initiatives, unionization of members and their associates, stewardship of relevant ancestral material culture, in addition to politics. So, from my standpoint, yes, I believe that the MDC can speak to and represent both of the issues pointed out in the Montpelier statement. My answer is based off of a very rudimentary google search of what a 501 non-profit organization does.

Cara, on a personal note and for the rest of you who do not know me... I am a fairly well-read 42 year old doctoral student, I have studied plantations for the last ten years of my life, excavated on plantations in Haiti and St. Croix, taught hundreds of students, developed my own courses in pedagogy (teaching), and have traveled extensively through Europe and Africa. I am not that impulsive (both parents were in the army) and I have always given people and places the benefit of the doubt. Prior to my employment at the Montpelier plantation, I had heard the rumors of the foundation's/museum's inability to retain any of the Black employees who decided to work here. Sadly, I now understand why. Cara, we have never formally met, but your refusal to make eye contact with me (at the very least), or even acknowledge my presence (at the most) prior to the meeting on Monday gave me a good sense of my value here at Montpelier.

The casual racism that I encounter frequently from close colleagues, the tokenism, being referred to in press statements as being the "one" black employee by Roy, or worse, a no-name "intern" has taken its toll. The meeting with Peter McHugh on Monday where his aggression, combativeness, and condescension to Katie, Kemp, Laura and Hillarie was unpardonable, and to be frank-heartbreaking. In the brief time that I have been here, I have been continually impressed by these women and the work that they continue to accomplish for Montpelier.

Given the current climate of Montpelier and the heightened worry of retaliation, I would like to submit my two weeks notice. As my direct supervisors have been either fired or suspended, I am submitting my request this way.

It looks like the Montpelier plantation has lost another "one".

All the best,