

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Telephone: (716) 286-4310

February 23, 2022

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

RE: Placement of Historical Marker at City Train Station

Council Members:

The Niagara Frontier Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society intends to apply for a William G. Pomeroy Foundation grant for a National Register of Historical Places Marker, commemorating the capture of a confederate spy by a City policeman on December 16, 1864, at the NYCRR depot here in the City. The spy, John Yates Beall, was waiting for a train to take him to Canada (presumably via Suspension Bridge). He had recently attempted to derail a train between Buffalo and Dunkirk that was carrying prisoners of war. Before he could escape, he was apprehended by Officer D. H. Thomas. Officer Thomas is buried here in Oakwood Cemetery.

As railroad history is integral to the historical event because it occurred at the NYCRR depot, it is proposed that the historical marker be placed near the City's current Amtrak station. This location is also desirable as it is near to the site of Suspension Bridge, which was close to where Beall was apprehended.

The grant application requires permission from the landowner to install the marker at the proposed location. It is anticipated that this will add to the connectivity of the area which will hopefully make for a more enjoyable and informative experience for both visitors and residents alike.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to implement the same?

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. RESTAINO
Mayor

Bax _____ Myles _____ Tompkins _____ Zajac _____ Spanbauer _____