



Mayor
Scott D. Schrecengost

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VILLAGE OF CELORON

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PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2015

Mayor Schrecengost would like to clear up some misinformation that is being circulated regarding the statue of Lucille Ball in the lakefront park. He stated, "There are a few things that I would like to clear up about the Lucy Statue. Stories vary from newspapers, news broadcasts and social media."

1. The statue was donated and was part of a real estate transaction. No one commissioned the work.
2. No proofs were ever submitted to anyone before it was unveiled on August 9, 2009. That's right, 5 years ago. Everyone was shocked and agreed it wasn't Lucy. This was not an issue then; but it is now.
3. The former Mayor and myself had talked with the sculptor about fixing the statue. My last conversation with the sculptor ended with him quoting between \$8,000 to \$10,000 to fix it; or, if we don't like the statue, take it down and put it in storage.
4. Since then I have contacted a couple of other sculptors with one of them willing to fix it for less. It would be reworked from the shoulders up – the entire head, neck and shoulders, not just the face.
5. The statue was left up because it was in remembrance of Lucy. Whether or not it looked like her, ugly or not, it's artwork. Yes, we would like to have a better representation of Lucy. So, now that this is an issue locally and nationally, I thought this would be the perfect time to seek donations to give the statue a face-lift.

Mayor Schrecengost further commented: "Now, we have this anonymous Facebook site that says do not donate to Celoron's Lucy statue. We are also finding out that this person or group has their own agenda to have donations come to them to have a statue made to put in Jamestown. It is a low cowardly move by this person or group to attack and disgrace Lucy's hometown in order to achieve their own agenda. It is my hope that all the Lucy fans out there are aware that Lucy lived and was raised in the Village of Celoron from a young age until she became a teen. She was actually born in Jamestown; however, a very small portion of her youth was spent in Jamestown. For Jamestown to say that it is Lucy's hometown is not quite accurate. The best place for a life size statue of Lucy is right where it is now – in Lucille Ball Memorial Park in her hometown, in the Village of Celoron, NY. If you agree and want to help the Village give the Lucy statue a makeover, please send donations to: Lucy Statue, Village of Celoron, NY, P.O. Box 577, Celoron, NY 14720-0577; Five Star Bank, 284 E. Fairmount Ave., Lakewood, NY 14750 or any branch of Five Star Bank." Donations can also be made on www.kickstarter.com with the project title of Lucille Ball Tribute Statue, Celoron NY.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/733785444/lucille-ball-tribute-statue-celoron-ny>