

Dixie flag won't rise again, Feinstein decides

The Confederate flag, which was torn down twice this week by groups who consider it offensive, will not fly again above Civic Center plaza, Mayor Feinstein says.

The mayor made her decision yesterday, after Supervisor Doris Ward asked her not to replace the flag.

"I want to make it very clear that my decision is based only on Supervisor Ward's request," Feinstein said. "I'm not impressed because some group shinies up a flag pole and tears down a flag."

The flag, part of an 18-flag display of historical banners that flies in Civic Center plaza, was torn down twice this week by Richard Bradley, a member of the Spartacist League and the Labor Black League for Social Defense.

The organizations consider the flag a symbol of racism.

Bradley was arrested Sunday and Monday, after he climbed the flagpole and tore the Confederate banner apart. He was charged with malicious mischief and released on his own recognizance both days.

During a press conference in front of City Hall yesterday, Bradley said he would continue to climb the flagpole and tear down the flag as often as The City put up a replacement.

"We got tired of seeing this racist, filthy flag flying," Bradley said.

Spartacist League member Al Nelson said, "We're going to keep that flag down. That's a promise."

Tom Malloy, general manager of the city's Recreation and Parks De-

partment, said Monday he intended to replace the flag indefinitely.

"The flags as a set were intended to depict American history," Malloy said. "As long as that avenue is purported to represent the full range of significant American flags, I don't want to fall victim to revisionist history. We have no intention of removing that flag."

Ward got involved in the issue Monday evening, after talking with members of the Spartacist League. Yesterday Ward sent a letter to the mayor, asking her not to replace the Confederate flag.

"The Confederate flag was carried as the banner of slavery, and is still used today to represent movements such as the Ku Klux Klan, which at-

tempt to restrict the basic freedoms of American people," Ward said in a prepared statement.

Ward aide Chelsea Baylor said the supervisor has received several calls each year from people who are offended by the Confederate flag.

"I think it's a legitimate concern," Feinstein said, after receiving Ward's request. "We will take a look at how history can be depicted with another flag."

Spartacist League member Keith Douglas called the mayor's decision "a victory."

"It's a victory for blacks and for all working people that it is down," Douglas said.