

INTRODUCED: January 5, 2022

AN ORDINANCE No. 2022-001

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept a donation of personal property including the Robert E. Lee statue, pedestal blocks, and associated artifacts formerly located at the Lee Circle in the city of Richmond, valued at approximately \$12,000,000.00, from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

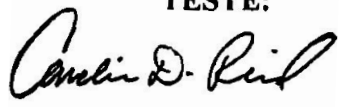
Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 12 2022 AT 5 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, be and is authorized to accept a donation of personal property including the Robert E. Lee statue, pedestal blocks, and associated artifacts formerly located at the Lee Circle in the city of Richmond, valued at approximately \$12,000,000.00, from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:

City Clerk

AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 12 2022 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____



CITY OF RICHMOND


INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE


O&R

REQUEST

DATE: December 28, 2021 **EDITION:** 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

FROM: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor 

THROUGH: J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer 

THROUGH: Robert Steidel, DCAO – Operations Portfolio *RCS*

RE: Acceptance of Robert E. Lee statue, pedestal blocks, and associated artifacts

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept a donation of personal property including the Robert E. Lee statue, pedestal blocks, and associated artifacts, valued at approximately \$12,000,000.00, from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

REASON: An ordinance is necessary to authorize the CAO to accept the donation of such items on behalf of the City.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval is recommended by the City Administration.

BACKGROUND: The Commonwealth of Virginia, as part of a project that commenced July 2020 to remove war memorials in the City of Richmond, would like to donate the state-owned Robert E. Lee statue, pedestal, and related artifacts to the City of Richmond. The items to be accepted were last valued at 12 million dollars and are as follows: (1) Robert E. Lee statue in its current form; (2) pedestal blocks in their current form; and (3) associated artifacts, such as signage, as provided by the Commonwealth.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: Direct costs related to consummating the acquisition from the Commonwealth will be managed out of the “war memorial project” budget within the DCAO of Operation’s budget.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Following acquisition, the City will incur minimal costs related to storage and insurance of the items.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: January 3, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: January 10, 2021

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Requesting committee referral waiver pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Public Works

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: N/A

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

STAFF: Robert Steidel, DCAO – Operations Portfolio
Maggie Anderson, Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Levar Stoney



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Clark Mercer
Chief of Staff

December 29, 2021

Mr. J. E. Lincoln Saunders
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Richmond
900 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Saunders:

In 2020, Governor Northam directed that the Robert E. Lee Statue be taken down from its location at the intersection of Monument Avenue and North Allen. The Commonwealth is aware of the City's efforts related to the Lost Cause monuments, which include public-engagement and partnerships that will provide for proper context of Richmond's complete history. The Commonwealth is offering as a gift to the City of Richmond the Robert E. Lee bronze statue in its current form; the dismantled pedestal in its current form; and associated artifacts that included the ephemera that were placed on and around the pedestal, the 2021 Time Capsule sealed with its contents, and two bronze plates. The insured valuation is \$12,000,000. The value of the artifacts are indeterminate.

For your information the following is the known history of the statue and pedestal: Construction of the pedestal and the laying of the cornerstone occurred on October 27, 1887. The monument was unveiled on May 29, 1890. The bronze statue sculpted by Marius Jean Antonin Mercié, a renowned French sculptor. The bronze casting of the statue and the plaques were completed at the foundry of Thubout Frères in Paris, France. The pedestal was designed by French architect Paul Pujol. The pedestal was constructed by James Netherwood, a local sculptor and quarryman. Casper Buberl completed the carved stone work on the north and south sides of the pedestal.

I look forward to your reply of acceptance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clark Mercer".

Clark Mercer