



Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia
Planning Commission



UDC 2025-27	Conceptual Review	Meeting Date: 9/16/2025
Applicant/Petitioner	Lynne Lancaster / Department of General Services	
Project Description	UDC 2025-27 – CONCEPTUAL – Location, Character, and Extent review of the proposed plans for the relocation and installation of the Richmond Police Memorial Statue at the Richmond Police Training Academy, 1202 W. Graham Road.	
Project Location		
Address: 1202 W. Graham Road		
Property Owner: City of Richmond		
High-Level Details: The project involves relocation of the Richmond Police Memorial statue, created in 1987, to a new memorial courtyard at the Training Academy. The statue was vandalized in 2020, subsequently restored, and in 2023 was donated to the City of Richmond by the Richmond Police Foundation.		
UDC Recommendation	Approval, with Conditions	
Staff Contact	Kevin Costanzo - kevin.costanzo@rva.gov	
Public Outreach/ Previous Reviews	Please refer to Applicant's Narrative	
Conditions for Approval	UDC recommends the following conditions: 1. UDC recommends that final details on outdoor lighting be sensitive to light pollution or dark-skies compliant, where applicable. 2. UDC recommends inclusion of permeable hardscape materials and sustainable stormwater features, where appropriate, and as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines. 3. UDC recommends the inclusion of public art, where feasible. 4. UDC recommends that the re-use of existing materials onsite should be incorporated with the design plans, where feasible. 5. UDC recommends the Applicant to revise plans to simplify the paving pattern . 6. UDC recommends the Applicant provide ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings across the internal drive aisle, including striping, ramps, and detectable warnings.	

	7. UDC recommend the Applicant explore opportunities for micro-mobility infrastructure, such as bicycle racks. 8. UDC recommends the Applicant to explore opportunity to front light the proposed statue. 9. UDC recommends the Applicant to explore the expansion of pedestrian space in front of statue. 10. UDC recommends the Applicant to consider lighting options for front lanterns specifically concerning style and scale.
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Findings of Fact

Site Description	The Richmond Police Training Academy, located at 1202 W. Graham Road, is a City-owned facility surrounded by institutional and residential uses near Virginia Union University. The proposed memorial courtyard site is located at the Academy's main entrance, adjacent to an existing flagpole and commemorative plaque.
Scope of Review	This project is subject to Location, Character, and Extent review under Section 17.07 of the Richmond City Charter, with design recommendations under Section 17.05.
Prior Approvals	N/A
Project Description	<u>The Applicant States:</u> "The Richmond Police Memorial statue was created in 1987 and originally located in downtown Richmond near the Coliseum. Relocated to Byrd Park in 2016, the statue was vandalized and taken down in 2020. The Police Memorial Foundation donated the statue to the City of Richmond, and the proposed plan is to locate the statue at the Richmond Police Training Academy on W. Graham Road. The statue will be located on a plaza in front of the main academy entrance, so that cadets and visitors will be able to pass the statue on their way into the facility. Across the drive aisle, a larger plaza will be renovated and expanded to include benches, decorative pavers, and groundcover plantings around the existing flagpole and memorial plaque. The plaza will connect with the public sidewalk on Graham Rd., and the pavers and color themes will carry across the internal drive aisle to create a focal point at the statue." <u>Staff Review:</u> Staff reviewed the submitted narrative, concept package, and application materials against the Urban Design Guidelines. The proposed paving consists of decorative pavers arranged in a decorative motif. Staff notes that the Guidelines encourage minimizing impervious surfaces and considering permeable alternatives. Staff also recommends the Applicant to simplify the paving pattern as it extends over the front drive isle in preparation for the FINAL application. Staff recommends limiting the use of bollards to locations where they are necessary for safety. In addition, staff encourages the applicant to evaluate the potential for bicycle racks or other micro-mobility accommodations to strengthen site connectivity and public access. <u>Staff Recommendation:</u> Staff recommends approval with the following conditions: 1. Staff recommends that final details on outdoor lighting be sensitive to light pollution or dark-skies compliant, where applicable.

	2. Staff recommends inclusion of permeable hardscape materials and sustainable stormwater features, where appropriate, and as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines. 3. Staff recommends the inclusion of public art, where feasible. 4. Staff recommends that the re-use of existing materials onsite should be incorporated with the design plans, where feasible. 5. Staff recommends the Applicant to revise plans to simplify the paving pattern as it extends over the front drive isle. 6. Provide ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings across the internal drive aisle, including striping, ramps, and detectable warnings. 7. Explore opportunities for micro-mobility infrastructure, such as bicycle racks. <u>UDC Recommendation to Planning Commission</u> The UDC reviewed the application and discussed the prominence of the location of the statue within the plaza, the proposed pedestrian scale lighting that are styled as lanterns not matching the style of the building, the proposed curved bench area, the complexity of the paver design to ensure that it was obvious for pedestrians to know where to go, decreasing the width of the drive isle, the visibility of the text located on the ground, the height of the pedestal the statue is located upon, that the ground paver design could highlight the statue better, A member of the public recommended ground-based lighting on the statue to be located within the drive isle. The UDC recommended approval with the following conditions: 1) 1. UDC recommends that final details on outdoor lighting be sensitive to light pollution or dark-skies compliant, where applicable. 2) 2. UDC recommends inclusion of permeable hardscape materials and sustainable stormwater features, where appropriate, and as suggested by the Urban Design Guidelines. 3) 3. UDC recommends the inclusion of public art, where feasible. 4) 4. UDC recommends that the re-use of existing materials onsite should be incorporated with the design plans, where feasible. 5) 5. UDC recommends the Applicant to revise plans to simplify the paving pattern . 6) 6. UDC recommends the Applicant provide ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings across the internal drive aisle, including striping, ramps, and detectable warnings. 7) 7. UDC recommend the Applicant explore opportunities for micro-mobility infrastructure, such as bicycle racks. 8) 8. UDC recommends the Applicant to explore opportunity to front light the proposed statue. 9) 9. UDC recommends the Applicant to explore the expansion of pedestrian space in front of statue. 10) 10. UDC recommends the Applicant to consider lighting options for front lanterns specifically concerning style and scale.
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Urban Design Guidelines and Master Plan

	Text	Staff Analysis
Master Plan		

<i>Big Moves:</i>	<i>Reconnect the City (R300, p.199)</i>	Project enhances civic connections by establishing a publicly visible memorial plaza
	<i>Realign City Facilities (R300, p.201)</i>	Investment improves the entrance sequence and civic function of a City-owned property.
Urban Design Guidelines		
	<i>Paving and Surface Materials (p.4)</i>	Decorative pavers are proposed; pervious alternatives and maintenance planning are recommended.
	<i>Multimodal Transportation (p.6)</i>	Pedestrian crossings across the drive aisle should be designed for safety and accessibility.
	<i>Landscaping – Design (p.10)</i>	A detailed planting plan with native, diverse species and maintenance plan should be provided.
	<i>Lighting (p.18)</i>	A compliant lighting plan should be submitted with specifications and photometrics
	<i>Site Furnishings (p.21)</i>	Final specifications should confirm durability, compatibility, and limited use of bollards.