

**From:** Pierce Macdonald Powell <piercemachotmail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** Item 15, June 21, 2021 Planning Commission

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## Dear Planning Commission;

Please take the following questions and suggestions into consideration when you decide item 15 on your agenda on June 21, 2021, the disposition of the granite Corinthian column at 0 N 29th Street:

- the statue of the soldier is gone and we hope it has been destroyed.
- the people who commissioned the statue are not the same people who built the granite column with their labor and artistry.
- the granite Corinthian column is an architectural feature with real monetary value, and it would be wasteful to destroy it unnecessarily.
- the column could be given a new purpose and a new meaning for much less money than the cost of using tax money to remove it.
- the ideas and opinions of African-American residents will envision the future of this space - please ask City staff to hold community meetings to consider the possible future uses of the column at 0 N 29th Street.
- could the Planning Commission give residents time to hold community meetings with all Richmonders to raise funds for a new statue for the column? Abraham Lincoln landed on the James River in view of, and beneath this site, for example.
- could the granite column be re-dedicated and Libby Park re-named to honor liberation and freedom?

Thank you for your service,

Mrs Pierce M Powell  
Mr Ben Campbell  
Mrs Mary Corley  
Mrs Marie Coates  
Mr and Mrs John Coates  
Mr and Mrs John Farley  
Mr John Kang  
Mrs Susan Ferrell

Mrs Andrea Baltzgar  
Mrs Cressida Silvers  
Mrs Jordi Ortega

**From:** Eugenia Anderson-Ellis <eandersonellis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** Libby Hill Corinthian column

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As a resident of Church Hill for 28 years, there are certain landmarks that spell home to me. Driving back on I-95, it is always welcoming to see the column atop Libby Hill Park. It is a stunning Corinthian column that speaks of a city which values its architecture.

Personally, I completely understood, and was in agreement with, the dismantling of all the statues that glorified slave owners. Although the humble 'soldiers and sailors' were most likely conscripted farmers who never actually owned slaves, still I understood removing their symbol as well.

What I cannot understand is the City of Richmond wanting to spend thousands of dollars to remove the beautiful, and politically neutral, column. Is the City so lacking in vision that it cannot imagine this handsome architectural statement as a marvelous centerpiece for the honoring of another deserving group or individual? Surely you can do better than a knee jerk reaction to tear it all down. If you'll pardon the trite cliché, isn't that a perfect example of throwing out the baby with the bathwater?

Why not allow citizens to compete for a chance to reimagine a future use?  
Use the talent we have for a positive outcome and become an example to the Nation.

Thank you,  
Eugenia Anderson-Ellis

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** FELIX FARLEY <FELIX.FARLEY@Longandfoster.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** Libby Hill Park and Monument

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## Dear Richmond Planning Commission;

Please take the following questions and suggestions into consideration when you decide item 15 on your agenda on June 21, 2021, the disposition of the granite Corinthian column at 0 N 29th Street:

- the statue of the soldier is gone.
- the people who commissioned the statue are not the same people who built the granite column with their labor and artistry.
- the granite Corinthian column is an architectural feature with real monetary value, it would be wasteful to destroy it unnecessarily.
- the column could be given a new purpose and a new meaning for much less money than the cost of using tax money to remove it.
- could the Planning Commission give residents time to hold community meetings with all Richmonders to raise funds to put a new statue on the column, such as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, George Wythe, Powhatan, or someone that made a difference for us Richmonders?
- the ideas and opinions of people of color should be taken into consideration - please ask City staff to hold community meetings to consider the future use of the column at 0 N 29th Street and reach all Richmonders.
- could the granite column be re-dedicated and Libby Park re-named to honor liberation or freedom?

Thank you for your service,

Felix Farley

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**From:** Nan Johnson <nan@nanjohnson.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** URGENT COMMENT June 21 re: Libby Hill Park Column and Pedestal

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To Members of City of Richmond Planning Commission  
Matthew J. Ebinger, Secretary

While there are certainly myriad issues surrounding Richmond's past - as in other locales in Virginia, across the country and around the world - none is more abhorrent than the slave trade. And there are many good reasons to discuss, debate and engage in conversations and actions that address the City's past.

And while there are worthy and varied views about statuary created and installed in recognition of public figures and representations of those who participated in the Civil War and the slave trade, **there is no good reason to remove the columns and pedestals where that statuary once stood.**

No. Good. Reason.

Mayor Stoney, in his first bid for office, ran on a platform of public discussion surrounding contextualizing the statuary. Not their removal.

But now they're gone.

The pedestals and columns can easily be the starting point for public discussion - even debate - about how to move forward. Use them for good:

- create new statuary that celebrates all Virginians
- create new icons worthy of national publicity (showing other locales how it can be done)
- involve the City's citizens in the process (which hasn't happened yet, though it was promised)

**This is an opportunity for the City to shine**, for citizens to participate in the process, and for artists to thrive.

These bases - **beginning with the Soldiers and Sailors Monument base and column in Libby Hill Park** - can be the basis of an inclusive movement to remember the past and celebrate the future with optimism, hope and art.

Removing them would be a crime.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Johnson, a Richmond native living in Church Hill  
James S. Johnson III, a Richmond native living in Church Hill  
2815 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23223