



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, August 3, 2020

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President (by videoconference)
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (by videoconference)
The Honorable Reva Trammell (by videoconference)

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m., and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through in-person and electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on July 20, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated that to maximize compliance with public health regulations aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting for inclusion in the record, and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, August 3, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who appeared in-person to participate in the public hearing would be given the opportunity to provide comment first. Following all in-person speakers, members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment virtually would be called to speak at the appropriate time to participate in the public hearing.

CHAMBER EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN AND CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-154

To provide for the removal of certain monuments on City-owned property, provide for the disposition of such monuments, and repeal an ordinance accepting the General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson monument, adopted Mar. 3, 1920, as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1812.

Councilor Michael Jones provided an introduction of ORD. 2020-154.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding ORD. 2020-154 prior to the Special City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the August 3, 2020 Special City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

In-person Speakers

Harry Ellen, Richmond Civil War Round Table member, American Revolution Round Table of Richmond member, stated he could not understand why the city was working to bring an end to Civil War tourism and the money it generated for the city. Mr. Ellen stated tourism was a cash-cow that would help solve the city's fiscal shortfalls.

Paul DiPasquale, Urban Design Committee former member, Public Art Commission former member, Urban Forestry Commission former member, stated he was hired by the city to ensure the safety of statues, crews and crowds during the statue removal process. Mr. DiPasquale stated he believed the removed statues were historic pieces of art and were assets for the city. Mr. DiPasquale requested Council require a stipulation that the statues not be destroyed by any entity that receives possession. Mr. DiPasquale provided photographs of certain statues.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Betsey Blevins, National Trust for Historic Preservation member, stated she was present to represent those who are not racist and believe in racial equality who want to speak up against the weeks of destruction under the veil of the Black Lives Matter movement. Ms. Blevins also stated it was her belief that the rights of all Richmond citizens had not been recognized and protected. Ms. Blevins further stated that the city was a historic landmark in Southern and American history. Ms. Blevins proposed that the city capitalize on its history and not destroy it. Ms. Blevins expressed her belief that the removed statues added context to the city's history and asked that they be restored with interpretive signage if needed.

Deborah Krausse addressed Council and expressed her belief that the statues recently taken down by the mayor were removed improperly and without due process. Ms. Krausse requested that the statues be restored and the city follow the recommendations of the Monument Avenue Commission by allowing the statues to remain with added context. Ms. Krausse further stated it was disgusting that the removed statues were being stored at a waste treatment facility.

Virtual Speakers

John Corritone, Italian-American Cultural Association of Virginia (IACAV) member, addressed Council regarding the disposition of the Christopher Columbus statue and provided information related to the IACAV. Mr. Corritone informed Council that IACAV members felt a sense of pride in what the Christopher Columbus statue meant to Italian Americans in Virginia, and stated the removal of the statue left a void for members that would be difficult to replace. Mr. Corritone also stated that the IACAV was participating in a joint effort with the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315, to transport, repair and temporarily store the Christopher Columbus statue until a private permanent location could be determined. Mr. Corritone requested that Council consider the request of the IACAV and the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315.

Aldo Funai, Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315, Order Sons & Daughters of Italy in America president, addressed Council regarding the disposition of the Christopher Columbus statue and provided Council with information on the history of the statue. Mr. Funai requested Council grant disposition of the statue to the Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315.

Thomas Jamerson, attorney representing Dr. James Ewell Brown Stuart V and Dr. Kelly Stuart, informed Council that Dr. Stuart was the great great grandson of General James Ewell

Brown (J.E.B.) Stuart. Mr. Jamerson stated he did not represent the J.E.B Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, but was given authorization to speak on the trust's behalf. Mr. Jamerson also stated that Dr. Stuart was working in conjunction with the trust to facilitate the transfer of the J.E.B. Stuart statue from Richmond, Virginia to Patrick County, Virginia, where J.E.B. Stuart was born and where the J.E.B Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust is located. Mr. Jamerson expressed that his clients believed the statue's proper place would be in Patrick County under the protection and preservation of the trust. Mr. Jamerson further stated the disposition to Patrick County would transfer the statue 200 miles away from the city, preserve the inspiration for Kehinde Wiley's *Rumors of War* artwork, honor previous efforts by private philanthropy that had maintained upkeep of the statue, and that the statue would be placed with context where historic preservation could take place. Mr. Jamerson noted that the trust would finance the transfer and indicated that the Patrick County local government had indicated support for the relocation to Patrick County.

Councilor Michael Jones stated he spoke with the Stuart family and noted his support for the disposition of the General J.E.B. Stuart statue to the Stuart family.

Scott Coffield Italian-American Cultural Association of Virginia member, addressed Council regarding the disposition of the Christopher Columbus statue and stated propaganda was being used to portray Christopher Columbus in a negative light. Mr. Coffield also stated that Christopher Columbus was a visionary that inspired the exploration of the Americas. Mr. Coffield requested Council not erase a symbol of pride for Italian Americans.

Dr. Evie Terrono, Ph.D., Randolph-Macon College professor of art history, stated public monumental landscapes were political. Dr. Terrono suggested a measured approach to the disposition of the statues. Dr. Terrono expressed her concerns that private ownership of the statues could prevent access by the art history community. Dr. Terrono proposed art historians should be invited into discussions regarding the dispositions of the statues and that governmental agencies responsible for the dismantling of the statues should be required to provide detailed reports regarding the removal and storage of the removed statues.

Vice President Chris Hilbert expressed his belief that the statues referenced in ORD. 2020-154 were erected as an affront to African Americans. Vice President Hilbert stated the statues do not represent history and should not be present on city property.

Councilor Kristen Larson noted that several speakers at the public hearing inquired about the disposition of the removed statues. Councilor Larson requested that Council work with the Commonwealth of Virginia and Richmond Public Schools regarding how students are taught and informed about history.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated she was not present at the July 1, 2020 Special Council meeting. Councilwoman Trammell noted that the mayor began to remove the statues referenced in ORD. 2020-154, on July 1, 2020, and inquired if Council voted on the mayor's request to remove the statues at the July 1, 2020 meeting. Councilwoman Trammell also inquired if Council was permitted to consider ORD. 2020-154 while legal proceedings regarding statue removal were active.

President Cynthia Newbille informed members that Council was voting on the removal of the statues referenced in ORD. 2020-154, per the General Assembly of Virginia's approved process for statue removal. President Newbille requested that Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown provide a summary of ORD. 2020-154.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown stated ORD. 2020-154 provided for the removal of certain statues located on city owned property.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-154 was unanimously adopted.**

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that with the adoption of ORD. 2020-154, Council was required by state law to offer the removed statues to museums, governments, battlefields and historical societies for a period of 30 days. Mr. Brown stated after the conclusion of the 30-day period, Council could dispose of the removed statues as it pleased through Council adopted resolutions.

Council Chief of Staff Lawrence Anderson informed Council that the Office of the Council Chief of Staff would be open to receiving offers for the removed statues during the 30-day time period. Mr. Anderson stated staff would review the offers and present information, staff analysis and legal review to Council regarding the received offers.

Interim City Attorney Brown informed Council that offers could be accepted and reviewed during the 30-day process, but no accepted offer could go into effect until the 30-day time period had concluded. Mr. Brown stated that Council would have final decision on the disposition of the removed statues.

Councilor Kim Gray inquired why the General Assembly of Virginia listed museums, governments, battlefields or historical societies as recipients of the removed statues if Council made the final decision regarding disposition. Councilor Gray also inquired if pedestals were included as part of the statues and if the pedestals would be removed and included in the final disposition.

Interim City Attorney Brown stated the pedestals were considered to be included with removed statues. Mr. Brown also stated Council could dispose of pedestals separately through separate legislation if Council chose to do so.

Councilor Kristen Larson confirmed Council could take as much time as required to dispose of the removed statues. Councilor Larson requested additional information from Council staff regarding the process of receiving and reviewing proposed offers.

Council Chief of Staff Anderson stated staff was finalizing the vetting process of proposals and welcomed Council's insight regarding the process of review. Mr. Anderson also stated that staff would begin meeting with Council members individually regarding the process.

Councilor Larson requested the process be made available to the public for review by any potential entities that desired to make an offer for the removed statues.

President Cynthia Newbille addressed the need to continue meetings of Council electronically due to health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. President Newbille informed Council she would bring forth legislation to continue electronic meetings through the remainder of 2020.

Councilor Larson suggested Council examine additional ways to promote the electronic meetings of Council to citizens. Councilor Larson expressed her concerns regarding citizens' inability to access meetings through a computer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

CITY CLERK

From: [Bill Rider](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Confederate statues
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 8:01:44 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Please take down any that remain. Keep em down. Bury them. Don't honor traitors or support racist intimidation through statuary.

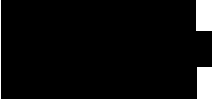
Bill Rider



From: timshe188@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Confederate statutes
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 8:48:00 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to support the permanent removal of the confederate statues in Richmond along monument ave!
Timshe1 Purdum



From: [Molly Brannan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for 8/3 meeting
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:07:38 AM

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Hello, City Council Members, and thank you for your time. My name is Molly Brannan, and I am a resident of the 3rd District.

I am writing in support of Ord. 2020-154. Richmond's Confederate monuments have always been symbols of white supremacy. In fact, these monuments to men who took up arms against the United States were erected many decades after the Civil War during a time of extreme racial violence, and they were meant to send a message of fear to our city's black residents. No longer should parents have to explain to their children why they have to walk to school in the shadows of racists and traitors. It's time to take them all down.

Thank you,
Molly

From: [Mary-Helen Sullivan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monument Avenue monuments
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:25:21 AM

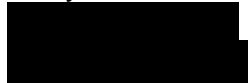
CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Clerk,

This is to advise you that, although I am unwilling to enter City Hall for the meeting Monday, I want the city to know that I wholeheartedly endorse removing all city-owned Confederate monuments in Richmond. (I am aware that most of them have already come down!) It is past time to cease honoring and elevating Lost Cause symbols.

Thank you for your attention.

Mary-Helen Sullivan



From: [Stuart Ruiz](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for City Council Special Meeting on August 3rd
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 3:52:56 PM

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Hello Clerks' office,

I am writing in support of the immediate removal of all confederate statues in Richmond, VA. For too long they have stood as symbols of divisiveness and been an embarrassment to our residents. Their continued veneration (and a prominent statue, no matter the context, is always in a place of veneration) has prevented generations from learning the true history of our nation and our state, and allowed an ignorance of what they stood for to persevere in our collective consciousness. The men these statues honor fought and died for a cause of hate and to allow them to stand is an insult to all of us.

Thank you for your time,
Stuart Ruiz

From: [Brian Nilsson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: mlborjon@hotmail.com
Subject: Written Comments for Aug. 3 Public Hearing
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:47:50 PM
Attachments: [2020-07-31 FMS Letter to Richmond City Council.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Reid,

Please find attached a letter that I am submitting on behalf of the Executive Committee of The Fontaine/Maury Society as public comments on Agenda Item 1 - Ordinance 2020-154 - for the City Council's Special Meeting on Monday, 3 August 2020, at 5:00 pm.

My full legal name is Brian Henry Nilsson; as noted above, I am filing these comments on behalf of the Executive Committee of The Fontaine/Maury Society. Our Society has no economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation on which we are commenting.

Should you need anything further from us at this point, please let us know. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments.

Best regards,

Brian H. Nilsson
Librarian and Executive Committee Member
The Fontaine/Maury Society
www.fontainemauryociety.com

cc: Mary Borjon, President, The Fontaine/Maury Society

THE FONTAINE/MAURY SOCIETY

c/o 969-B South Rolfe Street
Arlington, VA 22204-4538

31 July 2020

Candice D. Reid, City Clerk
City of Richmond
900 East Broad Street, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23219
CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com

SUBJECT: Public Comments for 3 August 2020 City Council Special Meeting

Dear Ms. Reid:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on Agenda Item 1 – Ordinance 2020-154 - for the Richmond City Council’s Special Meeting on Monday, 3 August 2020, at 5:00 pm. Our comments are on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Fontaine Maury Society (hereinafter “FMS”), a 501(c)(3) organization of almost 500 members comprised of descendants of the Fontaine and Maury French Huguenot families and others with an interest in French Huguenot history. The ordinance under consideration will not have any economic or professional relationship impact on FMS.

Bottom Line Up Front

FMS recommends that the City of Richmond return the monument of Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873) to Monument Avenue with proper historical context. Of the four monuments on Monument Avenue that were on city property, Maury’s is the only one placed there for his world-renowned scientific achievements. The other three were placed there to memorialize their Confederate roles. Of the four men, only Maury opposed slavery, as documented in his extensive correspondence with his Abolitionist cousin, Mary Minor Blackford. Maury’s revolutionary mapping of the Earth’s wind currents – as shown on the globe as part of the monument – is the foundation of modern oceanography, navigation, and meteorology. Eminent scientist, Baron Alexander von Humboldt, who mentored Maury, credits Maury with creating the new science of oceanography. After the Civil War, of the two of four memorialized men who survived the war, Maury and Jefferson Davis, only Maury had a national role, as he was a much-sought speaker across the country, both North and South, on the need for uniform weather reports. Maury’s work is still used today, from every aircraft flight path to every nightly weather report. By returning the monument to Monument Avenue, together with a balanced and objective explanation of Maury’s role in U.S. history, the City has a unique national leadership opportunity that can help move the entire country forward to the needed next step in addressing and resolving the important issues raised in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Background

Matthew Fontaine Maury was a native Virginian who was raised in Tennessee. He joined the United States Navy which was his life-long love. After a debilitating 1839 accident that crushed his leg, leaving him permanently disabled, Maury was relegated to a desk job in Washington. This misfortune provided his greatest opportunity, when he became the first superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory. It was

THE FONTAINE/MAURY SOCIETY

there that he undertook an analysis of thousands of retired ship logs, noticing patterns in the recorded weather data in those logs. It was this analysis from which he mapped the wind currents of the Earth. This discovery had a revolutionary impact on oceanography, navigation, and meteorology. The world-renowned scientist, Baron Alexander von Humboldt, who mentored both Maury and Charles Darwin, credited Maury with creating the new science of physical geography, now called oceanography.

Maury continued in his role at the United States Naval Observatory for eighteen years, until 1861 and the coming Civil War. He was a strong believer in state rights but was opposed to slavery. His long-time correspondence with his Abolitionist cousin, Mary Minor Blackford, documents his desire to filter out slavery in the United State and Brazil (with some historians misinterpreting his views on slavery in Brazil). Maury worked hard but in vain to find a Northern governor to serve as mediator to avoid secession and war. He was forlorn to resign from the United States Navy he loved but felt an obligation to his native state. At that time people's sense of origin was their state and not their nation.

Maury served in the Confederate Navy in which he applied his scientific knowledge and then served as a Confederate purchasing agent in Europe. His views were unorthodox for the time, particularly his anti-slavery views, and he was despised by the Confederate leadership, a feeling he reciprocated. Maury was sent to Europe in part because Jefferson Davis wanted him out of the way. Upon his return to the United States in 1868, he taught physics at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). During this time, Maury was invited to speak across the country, in both North and South, about the need for uniform weather reports, highlighting the nation's acknowledgement of his role as a scientist. The same cannot be said of Jefferson Davis, the only other man of the four with monuments formerly on Monument Avenue who survived the war. Maury died at VMI in 1873.

Maury is known as the Pathfinder of the Seas, as prominently inscribed beneath his statue. He remains one of the most decorated Americans in U.S. history, believed to be second only to Benjamin Franklin. His honors included an honorary degree from Cambridge University in England. His geography textbook, the *Physical Geography of the Sea*, was one of the first standard textbooks for American children for almost 50 years – before, during, and after the Civil War.

The City Council's current deliberations on the final fate of Maury's monument began with the City's Office of the Council Chief of Staff ordinance/resolution request that recommended initiation of the removal of *Civil War* memorials (emphasis added). The resulting ordinance lists ten monuments to be removed, including four on Monument Avenue -- for General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Major General J.E.B. Stuart, and Matthew Fontaine Maury. Of these four, however, the Maury monument is the only one that is not a *Civil War* monument. It was placed there to honor a native son's scientific achievements, not his role in the Civil War.

Stonewall Jackson's monument was unveiled on 11 October 1919, with an extensive front page article in the next day's *Richmond Times-Dispatch* entitled "Jackson's Statue Unveiled and High Tribute Paid Hero" with a sub-title of "Speakers Tell of Characteristics of Southern Warrior at Celebration," with the article citing the assembly of Virginians there to pay tribute to the Confederate chieftain. The monuments for Jefferson Davis and Jeb Stuart were unveiled on the same day, on 3 June 1907, at what was the largest reunion to date of

THE FONTAINE/MAURY SOCIETY

Confederate veterans. The date was selected because it was Jefferson Davis's birthday and Confederate Memorial Day.

The Maury monument was unveiled on 11 November 1929, not a Confederate holiday but a U.S. national holiday, Armistice (now Veterans) Day. A *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article of 29 October 1929 announced that the Virginia governor would deliver an address at the Maury event but says nothing about Maury's Civil War service. It does provide an account of the national attendees expected, including the United States Marine Band from Quantico and an Assistant Secretary on behalf of the United States Navy. The extensive *Times-Dispatch* coverage of the unveiling ceremony published on 12 November 1929 was entitled "Monument to Maury Is Unveiled Here: Impressive Ceremonies Feature Dedication to Memorial to Pathfinder" – with no reference to commemorating his Civil War service. The article includes a summary of his service in the Confederacy as part of a brief biography.

The statue depicting Maury is dressed in civilian clothing, and the globe behind him is comprised of images of water, land, and sky, relating to his achievements in oceanography, navigation, and meteorology. In contrast, the other three statues either depict the men in Confederate uniforms, in the case of Stonewall Jackson and Jeb Stuart, or in front of a prominent Confederacy monument, in the case of Jefferson Davis. Fundraising for the Maury monument was led by the Matthew Fontaine Maury Association and the Ladies Garden Club of Richmond and not by Confederacy-related organizations as in the case of the other three.

There is voluminous information published about Matthew Fontaine Maury. We recommend reviewing a brief biography entitled *Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas*, written and published by the U.S. Government's National Geospatial Intelligence Agency which continues to make the publication available for free on its [webpage](#). We also recommend review of a brief 2018 blog article published by the Library of Congress entitled "[Scientist of the Seas: The Legacy of Matthew Fontaine Maury](#)."

Recommendation

FMS recommends that the City of Richmond return the Maury monument to its place on Monument Avenue but with the appropriate context – like the markers that have been recently added – that highlights the scientific achievements of a native son together with his other views to cast him in the appropriate light for his time. The City has a unique national leadership opportunity to put together a balanced and objective portrayal of U.S. history with the Maury monument that can help move the country forward to the needed next step in addressing and resolving the important issues raised in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Sincerely,



Brian H. Nilsson
Librarian and Executive Committee Member
The Fontaine Maury Society

From: [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#)
To: [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Anderson, Lawrence R. - Council Chief of Staff Office](#)
Cc: [Brown, Haskell - City Attorney](#); [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#)
Subject: FW: Matthew Fontaine Maury monument
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:35:09 PM
Attachments: [2020-07-31 FMS Letter to Richmond City Council.pdf](#)

Do you all have a copy of this for the record?

Kristen Nye Larson

Richmond City Council Member, 4th district
kristen.larson@richmondgov.com
cell: 804-503-1313
Facebook: www.facebook.com/KristenNLarson/
Twitter: @kristenrva

From: Mary Borjon [mailto:mlborjon@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Larson, Kristen N. - City Council <Kristen.Larson@richmondgov.com>
Subject: Matthew Fontaine Maury monument

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Larson,

Attached is a letter from the Fontaine Maury Society that pertains to the Matthew Fontaine Maury monument. Although this letter has been submitted to Ms. Edison in accordance with the city's protocol, it is hoped that providing you with a copy before your meeting, will allow you time to read our submission and become more familiar with the life's work of this widely acclaimed and world renowned scientist. We appreciate any time that you can dedicate to reviewing the information provided to assist in your important decision making on Monday, August 3, 2020.

Sincerely,

Mary Borjon

Mary Borjon, President
Fontaine Maury Society
sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Rita Schiff](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 9:21:30 AM

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Rita and Jerry Schiff are opposed to removing the statue of Robert E. Lee and the very concept of defunding police is beyond comprehension. Law abiding citizens will be the ones to suffer. Please consider our input.

Sent from my Jitterbug

From: gfluffy136@verizon.net
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting August 3rd
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 2:25:05 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am Richard Gentile a member of the Italian American Cultural Association, and I fully support the Italian American Cultural Association's request for securing the Columbus Statue for temporary storage until a permanent location is found.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Richard Gentile

From: [Nikki Rovner](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Take the monuments down and keep them down
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:43:09 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Thank you to Mayor Stoney for removing the Civil War monuments. It's long past time to get these off our city streets. They should be given away to whoever wants them, and A.P. Hill should also be removed.

Nikki Rovner



From: [Tim Raiford, Jr](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Candice D Reid, city clerk's, RE: Columbus statue disposition
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 5:09:52 PM

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> August 1, 2020

>

> To:

Candice D Reid

> *city clerk's office*

> *Richmond, VA.*

>

> From:

> *Timothy E. Raiford, Jr.*

> *5079 Sandy Valley Rd*

> *Mechanicsville, VA 23111*

>

> *To whom it may concern,*

>

> *I have been a member of IACA for a number of years, I have participated in the beautification and upkeep of the aforementioned "Columbus Statue" that was torn down by vandals only 2 days after several members, myself included, had just been cleaning the monument and surrounding plants and vegetation.*

> *I was appalled at the destructive forces tearing it down and dragging into the lake. I felt not much better to find out the city had taken all the statues to the "waste water treatment plant". After considering that might be the last place anyone might go to find them, maybe that was a good choice.*

> *Either way, I fully support Mr John Corritone and the elected staff of IACA in their effort to take possession and storage of the statue.*

Signed,

Timothy E Raiford, Jr.

>

>

> *Sent from my Verizon Motorola Droid*

From: [Bill Busch](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statue of Columbus
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:14:39 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

As members of the Italian American Cultural Association (IACA), we both support the wonderful assistance that one of our members is offering: to take possession of, transport, and store this statue free of charge. In recent years, IACA members have unselfishly turned the area where the statue was placed to a beautiful tribute to our Italian-American heritage. They worked tirelessly to weed, mulch, plant flowers and shrubs and water on a regular basis. Even when there was no water connection, they carried their own. We ask that this statue of Columbus be returned permanently to IACA. Thank you for your consideration. Helen and William (Bill) Busch, IACA members

From: [Sheri Lovett](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2020-154
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 10:43:50 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I would like to give my opinion on ordinance 2020-154 being heard in special session on August 3, 2020. My name is Sheri Lynn Lovett, I do not represent any political or private parties, and I will not have any economic or professional relationships affected by the adoption of this legislation.

I feel strongly that this ordinance should not pass. I do understand and respect the viewpoints of the African-American community of their feelings on which these statues represent however, you cannot deny the history of which these statues come with. History is both good and bad, we should not be able to pick and choose the parts that we teach.

I believe we should not only return the statues to where they were, we need to appropriate funding into building statues of African-American historical figures of the time and display them in prominent places in Richmond. Let's tell a more complete version of history, not remove the parts you don't want to look at and pretend never existed.

There needs to be an equal balance instead of a wide tip of the scale to one side or the other. The protesters showed the scales were tipped on one side, By removing all the statues you have just tipped the scales over to the other side. We need to find a center balance point on this teeter totter. I implore you, as City Council, listen to all voices speaking on behalf of this ordinance and follow what the majority public asks that you do.

From: [Kirk Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Confederate Monuments
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:12:14 AM

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Thank you for allowing the public to speak on this issue.

My name is Kirk Johnson I was born and raised in the Richmond and surrounding area. The statues on Monument Ave should be placed back on their pedestals where they were so hastily and illegally removed. Some people that own property along the Avenue where they were specifically purchased their property because of the statues Presence. Richmond is full of history, some good some not so good. Not unlike any other locality. A lot of people visit our great city each and every year specifically to learn about its history and view the monuments. We will suffer tremendously as a city as people sell and move away. Tourists will stop visiting and spending money that so many local residents and business count on to survive. As a child I can remember riding past the monuments and I knew they were from a civil war. I knew one part of it was slavery a bad thing. I also knew that wasn't the entire basis for the war. These men fought for each and every Virginian! They stood up for the people. I believe they were only removed as a political stunt for the Mayors personal agenda. The only state of emergency as he described was brought on by his lack of management. None of the destruction that has taken place in the last few months would of happened if the Mayor had done his job that he promised the citizens of this great city he would do. In a few months he will leave the city of Richmond On to a new chapter in his life while the rest of us are left with the destruction he orchestrated and performed.

I want to thank you all for reading and also let you know we appreciate your service to our great city! I also hope you do what the majority of Richmonds population wants and restore Richmonds history.

Respectfully ,
Kirk Johnson

From: [freddy.corritone](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: c. columbus statue
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:40:56 AM

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i fred t. corritone residing at [REDACTED] am a long standing board of directors member of "sons of italy" and the "italian american cultural association" both located in richmond, va. i am in full support of our clubs decision to be responsible for the return and safeguarding of the columbus statue by both groups. thanking you in advance for your time and consideration in the culturally sensitive matter.....fred t. corritone

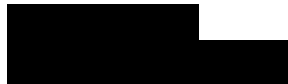
From: [Elliott Kurtz](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statement supporting removal of confederate statues
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:43:10 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am sending this email ahead of the City's public hearing on removing Confederate monuments Monday August 3rd and would like it to be considered as a public comment for the meeting. I am voicing my support for the removal of these statues. The monuments, which were erected after the civil war to promote the "lost cause" narrative were intended to white wash history and to venerate men who rejected the ideals of our country. Removing these monuments will allow for the community to start healing and for the true story of our City and our Country to be told. We can't move forward as a community without understanding the legacy of our past and working to heal the wounds of history.

Thank you for your time,

Elliott Kurtz



From: [John DeMajo](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Columbus statue
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 2:25:11 PM

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As a first generation Italian-American, I would like to see the Richmond statue preserved. Whether or not the the statue's presence is important to the leaders of Richmond, it does have great importance to the Italian-American community in this city. I would therefore suggest and support any plan to turn it over to the Sons And Daughters Of Italy In America, Giuseppe Verdi Lodge, for safe keeping and for possible future installation at a place where it can be appreciated.

John DeMajo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Anthony Scalora](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: The Columbus Monument
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 2:48:25 PM

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City of Richmond,

As a board member of the Italian American Culture Association of Virginia the Columbus statue has come to represent and signify appreciation for the Italian American contribution to Richmond and the United States. And for that reason, I support the monument of Columbus now held by the City of Richmond be released to the appropriate Italian ethnic organization in Richmond.


Respectively Submitted,
Anthony Scalora

Sent from my iPhone

From: [STANLEY BALDUCCI](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Columbus statue disposition
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 3:31:53 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Candice.. I wanted to support IACA and Giuseppe Verdi lodge to have care and new placement of the Columbus statue that was recently torn down at Byrd Park. I'm a member of both organizations and have helped plant/care for the shrubs and perennials at the former Columbus statue grounds.. sincerely Stan Balducci, grandson of Italian immigrants Umberto and Vienna Balducci.....



From: [J.C. Hallman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Commentary -- Ordinance 2020-154
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 4:16:51 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Below please find my public commentary for the public meeting to be held tomorrow, August 3, in re: to Ordinance 2020-154.

Thank you,
J.C. Hallman

My name is J.C. Hallman, and I write in response to Ordinance No. 2020-154, providing for the removal of monuments in Richmond. I am an author. I have written for Harper's Magazine and the Montgomery Advertiser about the monuments to Dr. J. Marion Sims in New York and Montgomery, respectively, and I have vociferously advocated for the removal of the Sims statues, one of which was removed in April 2018. However, with equal fervor, I now write in favor of the retention of the monument to Matthew Fontaine Maury in Richmond. Maury is a peculiar case. Unlike Sims, or any of a number of Confederate generals, Maury's renown stems neither from an exploitation of a vulnerable population, nor from actions that directly resulted from a decision to betray his country. Rather, Maury is remembered—not just in the United States, but around the world, as well—for innovations he made in perceiving the motion and action of the oceans, saving countless lives and property by advancing the science of navigation. In addition, he made great contributions—and again, achieved an international reputation—in astronomy. Most of what Maury is remembered for comes from a decade or more prior to the Civil War. To be clear, Maury and the broader Maury family were slave owners, and no history of he or his family should omit this fact. However, there is no evidence that Maury or any of his family hunted runaway enslaved persons, as is true of Washington, and there is no evidence that Maury or any of his family fathered children by enslaved women, as is true of Jefferson. Similarly, Maury did, in fact, resign his commission and serve a role in the Confederate Navy, albeit ineffectively. His greatest contribution to war effort was likely the life of his son, who appears to have been snatched from a sentry post and executed behind enemy lines. In fact, late in the war, Maury came close to abandoning the Confederacy completely...

Maury is not a perfect man. But, as an author who has spoken frequently and loudly in favor of the removal of unseemly monuments, it is my opinion that the statue of Maury should be retained. However, no memorialization of his life should be presented to the public without

the contextual caveat that, despite his major contributions to the modern world, he was also capable of being wholly on the wrong side of history.

J.C. Hallman

--



From: [Mary Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Aug 3 Council Meeting/Statues
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 4:34:48 PM
Attachments: [Letter to City Council.docx](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Please accept my email attached regarding the Statues.
Thank you,
Mary Louise Smith

I grew up in the City of Richmond and until recently was proud to be a part of it. I currently reside in Hanover.

The City Mayor and Council put the cart before the horse! Not a good idea! Though informing the public that these statues were being removed and placed in a secured location, it is despicable that they lay in a field with a tarp instead of in an enclosed building. For years the City has been trying to get these removed so why have they not had a contingency plan as to where they would be relocated. Would YOU move without having a plan as to where you would be relocated? There are many Counties in Virginia that have local and National parks, Hanover being one where battles were fought, that could house these statues but they need time to plan. I suggest you work with all counties in Virginia to make this happen. Regardless that we do not like war, they happen and all wars are history and no one has the right to try and erase history.

As for the Columbus Statue, due to the Mayor demanding a Stand Down in protecting this statue that was given to the City as a gift many years ago, sculpted by an Italian, it is the City's responsibilities to have it restored and seek a new home for it. I am aware that the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America have written a letter to the City Council viewing this destruction as a "hate" crime. Where does the City stand on Hate crimes, regardless of race, color, creed?

The City welcomed these statues many many years ago and although over the years the Council has changed, it was under your watch that they be protected as is all other statues located in the City are protected and they all deserve respect "Friendly protest" to provoke riots and destruction should not have been allowed and been used as means to remove these statues. This was a coward way of having them all removed. Shame on all of you and may God forgive you all.

Mary Louise Smith/Hanover resident.

MLSmith912@comcast.net

Former Resident City of Richmond

From: [debbie.corritone](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Columbus statue
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 6:56:52 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good day members of the City Council.

My name is Deborah Corritone and I am a member of the Italian American Cultural Association of Virginia.
Do you like Italian food???

There....I hope to have grabbed your attention!!!!

I have worked diligently at the monument's home at the entrance of Byrd park for the last 8 years.

What I have seen evolve over these years is a continuous contribution of our members' hard work as well donations of plants from their own back yards to beautify the site as well as make it a small Italian Garden.

Next time you drive into Byrd Park circle around the round-about. You will see rosemary bushes and 2 fig trees, that often can be used in our delicious meals, as well as many flowering trees and bushes from our yards.

The Columbus site has been very important to us in keeping the entrance to one of the important sites in the City of Richmond looking beautiful.

Please allow us to take possession of the statue so that we can find a home for it in the future.

Regards,
Debbie Corritone

From: [debbie.corritone](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Columbus statue
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 6:56:52 PM

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Please allow us to take possession of the statue so that we can find a home for it in the future.

Regards,
Debbie Corritone

From: [George Hostetler](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment embedded and attached
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:31:06 PM
Attachments: [Reasons to reinstall the Confederate monuments.doc](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

My name is George Dennis Hostetler and I reside in the city's Fan District. I represent no organizations nor do I have any economic or professional relationships.

I am against removing Confederate monuments.

I am for restoring some of the Confederate monuments but not all of them.

It appears that a very small minority is trying to set the terms for a large majority of citizens.

Our government officials do not seem to be able to apply due process and rule of law.

I request that the Council defer action on this matter and not ratify the mayor's illegal actions in removing the monuments until the litigation is concluded.

I believe a vote by the citizens of Richmond and not by the politicians is the best way to resolve this matter.

Monument Avenue has only told half the story for over 100 yrs.

We need the whole story to counter the confederate monuments by adding African American monuments which could be in confrontation or as a counter point or counter balance to the existing monuments.

I am for a Public Art Commission to plan for the future of Monument Ave and other locations with in the city.

I understand that African Americans feel oppressed by confederate monuments and hope that their story could be told in an uplifting manner.

The Monument Ave Commission submitted recommendations 2 years ago, but no action has ever been taken. Had the mayor taken action maybe we would avoid the current unrest.

All of the citizens of Richmond share the city, perhaps its time to share Monument Ave, with statues that represent all Richmonders.

I am concerned that with the monuments gone, some of us citizens will believe that with the easy work done, the hard work of racial equity and economic justice will not be done.

Who belongs on Monument Avenue? Abe Lincoln and his son Todd?, Maggie Walker?, Harriet Tubman? and many others who are worthy?

If we can't share Monument Avenue and other public locations, how can we achieve racial equity and social justice in our shared city of Richmond?
Certainly we could come up with a plan that would make all of us proud of our city.
I would not like to end up with a bunch of water fountains.

My name is George Dennis Hostetler and I reside in the city's Fan District. I represent no organizations nor do I have any economic or professional relationships.

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Certainly we could come up with a plan that would make all of us proud of our city.

I would not like to end up with a bunch of water fountains.

From: [Paul Brockwell](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment on Removal of Confederate Memorials in Richmond
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:04:12 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Madam Clerk:

I write to wholeheartedly support the removal of these monuments to the Lost Cause. The time is long overdue to begin healing in this city from a history of racist tragedies over the past three centuries. Today, we unfortunately remain a tale of two cities, and these statues are a stubborn and inconvenient reminder of white supremacy's unchecked status for much of the 20th century. With their removal a foregone conclusion, I also hope their empty pedestals will serve as a reminder for all the work that Richmonders have still left to do.

My only complaint is that this process did not conclude adequately prior to their removal. Don't get me wrong, I am happy they are gone. I do think the mayor's rush to remove them felt more like a political re-election decision than an emergent need. And I also believe that shortcircuiting the state-established process puts the actions of the city on shakier legal ground.

I also write with the hope that our city will not grasp as the visible, symbolic opportunities to signal virtue/change and will continue to dig into the hard work of restorative justice and healing we so desperately need.

Sincerely,
Paul

--

Paul Brockwell Jr.
Richmond, Va.

From: [Allie W](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2020-154
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:18:03 AM

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Hi there,

My name is Allison Wine. I'm a Richmond 7th district resident and I would like to voice my support of removing the confederate monuments from Richmond's public areas, as proposed in Ordinance 2020-154.

Thank you,
Allison Wine

From: [Melina Patterson \(mpatters\)](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statues
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:26:56 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Thanks for removing the statues to Confederate leaders. Please keep them down.

Sincerely,
Melina Patterson



From: [kerry mills](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monuments
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:37:28 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning.

I want to voice my support of removing the confederate monuments in Richmond.

Thank you,

Kerry Mills

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Michael Fant](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Written comment related to Statue removal
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:40:56 AM
Attachments: [Speech to City Coucil.docx](#)
[Speech to City Coucil.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Reid,

I have attached a word document as a written comment about the removal of the historical statues in Richmond. I have also attached a PDF version in case you have a problem with the word document.

When submitting your comments by email, be sure to include in your email (i) your full legal name, (ii) any organizations you represent, and (iii) any economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation on which you are commenting.

Michael Fant


I am a property owner in the city of Richmond.

I am a real estate agent that does property evaluation in the city of Richmond for financial institutions.

--

Michael Fant

Dear City council, homeowners and business owners of Richmond. I would like to provide an allegory/word picture of the city of Richmond.

The city of Richmond for homeowners and business owners is like a house that we bought. We do not always know who owned the house before us, but we have now made this house/business our home. In the last 3+ years guests/bullies have entered our homes. These guests do not own property, they do not pay taxes, and when they leave, they will not invest their finances or sweat equity into our house. These guests/bullies include a non-property owner mayor, city council members, rioters, protestors, anarchists and thugs. These guests/bullies have decided that they do not like our home, they have decided they are going to tear down our home. They have decided to paint slogans on house, destroy our landscaping and destroy our interior and they have demanded that we pay for it. They also do not care what our house looks like after they have destroyed it because they will not be living there.

There have been movies and TV shows made about our guests/bullies: Chuckie, Gremlins, for the Black/African American – Cooley High, for science fiction people “the Tribble” in Star Trek. I would ask you to look at these shows.

In all our houses there are items that we have purchased in the past that we may not like now. There are mementos/monuments/landmarks of our past life. Maybe we use to be drug addicts, hated white people, hated black people, maybe we just hated. In our homes we may have said things that are not popular today, we may do/practice things that are not popular today, we may have built things that are not popular today. Why does a guest/bully in our house have the right to destroy what we have worked for, tell us what we need to remove from our house or tell us what to believe in our homes.

The houses that are on Monument Avenue were/are owned by who!!! Should they now be torn down because of their past owner or what may have gone on in them in the past. Should a guest/bully in your home tell you what you must do, how you have to live, what the inside of your house should look like. Homeowners and business owners work hard to pay the mortgage, city taxes, insurance to have nice homes and businesses.

City council members that own property and business in Richmond, council members Addison, Gray, Hilbert, Larson, Lynch, Robertson, Newbille, Trammell and Jones I want to come into your house and redesign it and I want you to pay for it. You must let me tear it up, paint slogan on your walls, use your electricity, air conditioning, heat and water. You must hire police officers to protect me while I tear up your house so that I do not injury myself while I destroy your house. I do not like the way you live so today I am going to come to your house and you are going to pay me to live there while I destroy your house that you have worked for. You must live there while I am doing it and you must say nothing!!!

This is the proposal before you today by a non-property owner mayor, city council members, rioters, protestors, anarchists and thugs.

I ask you to allow homeowners and business owners to come together and let us plan our home. We are willing to make our home welcoming to all people, but we don't have to forget our past. Our past helps us to measure how far we have come. Please remember that under the shadow of these monuments we have elected the first and only Black/African American world leader over the most powerful nation in the world. We have elected the first black governor over the former capital of the confederacy. We have had the first black state supreme court chief justice. We have elected black mayors, US senators, members of the US house of representative, state senators and other leaders in many positions. There are millionaires and billionaires all over this county who made their wealth under the shadow of these monuments.

No statue no matter how large has or can stop US - black, white Hispanic, Asian, native American, LGBTQ, Christian, Muslim, atheist or any other category of people.

From: [Jennifer Surratt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support ORD 2020-154
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:52:48 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Greetings Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of ORD 2020-154 and I am pleased to see universal patronage of this legislation. I would also like to thank our protestors and community organizers for their leadership in this moment and history. The monuments honoring the Confederacy are coming down at this exact time in no small part because of their direct action. I further encourage Council to assess and evaluate all the ways in which white supremacy has impacted our city - not just through physical monuments. The excessive funding of our police department (with a recent 1.7 million dollars in overtime) and lack of funding for schools. One of the highest eviction rates in the country that continues in the mist of a pandemic. The ongoing value placed on corporate interest over the lives and livelihood of our most vulnerable citizens. Those are all monuments too - and they also need to come down. Thank you.

Jennifer Surratt
3rd District

From: [Rebecca Lowe](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2020-154
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:04:09 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I would like to see the monuments taken down and replaced with something all Virginians can be proud of. Thank you for your serious consideration of this issue.

Best,

Rebecca Lowe
6th District Resident

From: [Tyler Wiseman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment on ORD 2020-154
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:13:12 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'd like to provide public comment on ORD. 2020-154 being discussed at tonight's City Council meeting at 5:00pm. My comment is below:

"I've lived in Richmond for 10 years. I have a history degree and give walking tours of historic districts for a local museum, including tours of Monument Ave. While I'm proud of my colleague's and I's work to not shy away from telling the full story of these monuments - that they were erected with racist intent on a street that excluded black folks from living there - I'm excited to one day be able to give tours of this area without the presense of these monuments, where we can focus on our future and speak of the monuments as something truly in our past. I 100% support the removal of these racist monuments, not just on Monument Ave, but everywhere in this city *including* the monuments to Confederates and to Harry F. Byrd on Capitol grounds. Let's not forget that Monument Ave is only the beginning. I'm proud of all the folks on the street that made this happen. And let me be clear - it was the *people* who did this - not Mayor Stoney and not (with all due respect) this Council who have only acted after the people of this city took this issue into their own hands. I look forward to seeing what more we all can accomplish together to create a brighter, more inclusive, and more hopeful future. Thank you for your time."

--

Tyler Wiseman | she/her/hers



From: [Vicky](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statues
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:24:04 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

Please count my vote to permanently remove the Confederate statues from public view.

I do not object to placing them in a museum or showcase devoted to American history though I request that public funds not be used for the purpose of the upkeep of said statues — may private voluntary donations be designated for that sole purpose.

If a determination on what to replace these empty spaces with also comes up I would like to share this opinion: There's a lot of talk and enthusiasm these days about replacing statues of "bad" people with "good" people. Given recent history I am of the opinion that we should not erect statues of ANY people. No human being is perfect and as areligious as I am I agree with the edict "Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth." From the Christian god to Buddha to Ibrahim, the worship of idols was discouraged. I know there is a distinction between worship and honor/respect, but the problem is people don't get it. So let's erect art to celebrate higher ideas or to please the eye, but I'm over the elevation of humans over humility. The human race needs a lot more humility and a lot less hubris.

Thank you for your time,

Vicky Lee
Richmond, VA



From: [NPHC Metro Richmond](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ord 2020-154: NPHC Metro Richmond supports monuments removal
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:25:56 AM
Attachments: [NPHC MR supports Removing Monuments to the Confederacy June 2020.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I would like to submit our previously sent letter of support for removal of Confederate statues on City-owned property to public comment for today's hearing on Ordinance 2020-154. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Freeman Chavis
President
NPHC Metro Richmond
www.nphcmetrорichmond.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **NPHC Metro Richmond** <nphcmetrорichmond@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 10:31 AM
Subject: NPHC Metro Richmond supports monuments removal
To: <rvamayor@richmondgov.com>, <Andreas.addison@richmondgov.com>, <Kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com>, <Chris.hilbert@richmondgov.com>, <Kristen.larson@richmondgov.com>, <stephanie.lynch@richmondgov.com>, <Ellen.robertson@richmondgov.com>, <Cynthia.newbille@richmondgov.com>, <Reva.Trammell@richmondgov.com>, <Michael.jones@richmondgov.com>
Cc: <richard.bishop@richmondgov.com>, <tavares.floyd@richmondgov.com>, <daniel.wagner@richmondgov.com>, <amy.robins@richmondgov.com>, <craig.bieber@richmondgov.com>, <lisa.townes@richmondgov.com>, <aaron.bond@richmondgov.com>, <sam.patterson@richmondgov.com>, <Summer.morris@richmondgov.com>, <Osita.Iroegbu@richmondgov.com>

Good morning Mayor Stoney and members of City Council,

On behalf of the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Metro Richmond, we support the expeditious removal of confederate monuments on city-owned property. The removal of these Lost Cause propaganda statues has long been overdue. We need no further community discussion, we need to do what is right and act without delay.

We strongly recommend an ordinance be introduced at the June 22 City Council meeting to expedite the public hearing process, with the understanding that authority to remove is not effective until July 1. Introduction delayed further into July will extend the timeline of public

hearing due process, and unrest will continue.

Thank you for your commitment to healing Richmond, the Commonwealth, and our country.

Sincerely,
Freeman Chavis
President
NPHC Metro Richmond



NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

METRO RICHMOND

Unanimity of Thought and Action since 1930

Mayor Levar Stoney
Council President Cynthia Newbille
Council Vice-President Chris Hilbert
Councilmember Andreas Addison
Councilmember Kimberly Gray
Councilmember Kristen Larson

Councilmember Stephanie Lynch
Councilmember Ellen Robertson
Councilmember Reva Trammell
Councilmember Michael Jones
City of Richmond

June 9, 2020

Dear Mayor Stoney and members of City Council,

On behalf of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) of Metro Richmond, we support any paper introduced to effectively remove monuments to the Confederacy in and under the lawful control of the City of Richmond.

Erected in the Jim Crow era of the late 1800s and early 1900s, more than 40 years after the end of the Civil War, these monuments have stood for far too long as symbols of oppression. Our history is not one that can be erased and should be discussed through museums, libraries, and in our schools. But monuments existing in everyday public space establish what a community reveres and upholds. As residents, workers and business owners in Richmond, we do not envision it to be a place where remnants of slavery continue to stand tall and dominate our collective thought and signal to our children that the war lives on. We believe removing these statues is an important step to bring healing, not only for our city, but for our state and country as well. Change is never comfortable, but let us be on the right and just side of history.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council was established on May 10, 1930. This national organization is composed of the nine historically black Greek-lettered organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Collectively our organizations share over a hundred year history of promoting scholarship, community service, and social justice. NPHC of Metro Richmond was formally established in 1993 to support the work our individual organizations have been doing in the Richmond community for years. We represent 18 chapters in the greater Richmond metro area with a collective voice of 2,100 members

We welcome any opportunity to discuss this further and look forward to moving forward together.

Sincerely,

Freeman Chavis
President
National Pan-Hellenic Council
Metro Richmond

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.	Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Omega Rho Omega Chapter Pi Rho Omega Chapter Rho Eta Omega Chapter Upsilon Omega Chapter	Beta Gamma Lambda Chapter Rho Iota Lambda Chapter Xi Delta Lambda Chapter	Richmond Alumnae Chapter Henrico Alumnae Chapter Chesterfield Alumnae Chapter	Upsilon Nu Chapter Phi Phi Chapter	Alpha Phi Zeta Chapter Sigma Delta Zeta Chapter
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Iota Sigma Chapter	Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Richmond Alumni Chapter	Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Iota Sigma Chapter	Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Omicron Omega Chapter	

From: [Jake Regal](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statue Removal Comment
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:34:54 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council Members,

My name is Jacob Regal and I am a resident of the 7th District. I am writing you today to ask that you vote to remove all remaining Confederate monuments and commemorations on city-owned property.

These celebrations of oppression and white supremacy are not only offensive, but they also were erected with the intent to overtly tell people of color that their presence is not welcome. In order to undo this act of racial intimidation, these statues need to be removed.

Even though this is far from a penultimate act of anti-racism, the removal of these statues will be one gesture that shows our commitment to learn from our history so that we can change the course of our future.

Thank you for your time and your service to the City of Richmond.

Thank You,
Jacob Regal

From: [Scott Coffield](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Columbus statue
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:52:45 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott Coffield** <sfcoffield@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Columbus statue
To: <CityClerksOffice@richmond.com>

Council members,

There have been spurious accounts of Christopher Columbus in the news lately, seeking to use propaganda to paint him in a negative light. For those who care to know the truth about this man there were four published accounts of his four voyages -- three of them written by eyewitnesses, and the fourth written by Peter Martyr, who interviewed Columbus upon his return from his first voyage. After his first voyage when he brought Indians back with him, Queen Isabella commanded that the Indians should be treated with "the utmost courtesy and respect", and Columbus complied. Europe's global exploration was inevitable and he was the visionary who led the way, though he never set foot in North America. We Italians marvel at his daring and tenaciousness, persevering for years to get funding and then defying conventional wisdom to sail across an uncharted sea.

During the last century Italians were discriminated against and scapegoated for a litany of evils or troubles. Now Italian-Americans are the fifth-largest ethnic group in the U.S. May I suggest that you give Indigenous People's Day another date, as each ethnic group deserves its own day. Our one day to celebrate our heritage is sacred to us as a people and as individuals. Don't erase our symbol of pride; give us our statue that we had made and took care of. We have all seen enough destruction and defacement in our "City of Monuments".

Scott Frederick Coffield
Italian-American Cultural Association

From: [Mark Elliott](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: I support the removal of the statues
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:56:35 AM

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A citizen of the city for over 30 years, I want to voice my support for the removal of any and all monuments, plaques, statues, or other structures which in any way celebrate or venerate people or activities associated with the Confederacy.

Thank you,

Mark Elliott

From: [J Lee Watts](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Removal of Statues from City Property
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:58:29 AM

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Julius Lee Watts
Property Owner within the City

I would like to speak to the proposal to remove statues from City property. I am against such action. Monument Avenue is a historic district and the removal of the statues would reduce that historical statue. Monument Avenue is the only such magnificent avenue anywhere in the United States. It is one of the jewels in the crown of the city and attracts visitors from around the world to come and view the monuments.

The monuments should remain. Monument Avenue is an open air museum. It defines the battle lines of the City during the siege. The rioting and defacing of public property needs to end and the criminals held responsible.

If you wish to expand on the historical nature of the Avenue, then add to the statues.

I also want to speak against the illegal actions of the mayor to remove the statues. He cost the city \$1.8 million dollars without the consent of City Council and in violation of State Law. He should be reprimanded and censured.

From: [Rachel Regal](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for Special Meeting this evening
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:00:39 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council Members,

My name is Rachel Regal and I am a resident of the 7th District. I am strongly in favor of removing all monuments to white supremacy in our city. I thank the patrons of this bill. I urge Councilmember Trammell to actively work towards racial equity and liberation in our city by approving this bill, at a minimum.

This is one small step to begin to rectify our history as the capitol of the confederacy. Richmond has a lot of work to do, including not punting the funding to long down the line that is so necessary for the CRB and Marcus Alert. In addition, the demonstrators who should be thanked for bringing this movement to Council tonight are currently being tear gassed and terrorized at the tacit approval of Council. Failing to take action in the Public Safety committee further supports white supremacy in our city. We need to make the statement "Black Lives Matter" a lived reality in our city. We need to fund Black futures.

Thank you for your continued work.

Thank You,

Rachel A. Regal

[REDACTED]

From: [Les Harrison](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for removing all monuments (including A.P. Hill)
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:05:01 AM

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Hello -

My legal name is Henry L. Harrison and I live at [REDACTED]. I'm writing to express my support for the removal of all confederate monuments within the Richmond, VA city limits. In the case of the A.P. Hill monument, I feel there should be no replacement monument and that the base should be removed to improve the safety of the intersection.

I'd also like to nominate the following for replacement statues:

- Edgar Allan Poe
- John Mitchell Jr. (editor of the Richmond Planet)
- The VA Women's Monument (relocate from Capitol)
- Maggie Walker (current monument is not prominent enough)
- Bill Bonejangles Robinson

Best -

Les Harrison

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Les Harrison
Richmond, VA
[REDACTED]