

**From:** VMP <virginia.monument.preservation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 8:39 AM  
**To:** PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** Monuments Ordinances Removal-City Charter-§ 15.2-1812

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June 21, 2021

Dear Matthew J. Ebinger  
Secretary to the Planning Commission  
Planning Commission

r.e. Ordinances-Monuments

The City Charter *explicitly* prohibits destruction or alteration of structures listed as a Virginia Historic landmark and or registered historic landmark or structures that “contribute to the significance of a registered historic landmark.” “No Exemption” will be made.

**Section 26-607 (A)**

*“Demolition of certain structures.* For substantially rehabilitated commercial or industrial structures or other improvements, **no exemption** shall be allowed if the substantial rehabilitation is achieved through the demolition and replacement of any structure either registered as a Virginia Landmark or determined by the Department of Historic Resources to contribute to the significance of a registered historic landmark, regardless of any changes in ownership or of any changes in the boundaries of the parcel, either or both, that may occur after the demolition, whether any such change is achieved by splitting such parcel, combining such parcel with another parcel or otherwise.”

Monument Avenue is a National Historic Landmark District, a Virginia Registered Landmark, and an “Old and Historic District.”

All of these monuments reside in “Old and Historic Districts,” and “contribute to the significance” thereof.

**Sec. 30-930.5:21. - Monument Avenue Old and Historic District.**

**Sec. 30-930.5:13. - Hermitage Road Old and Historic District. (AP Hill Monument)**

**Sec. 30-930.5:27. - St. John's Church Old and Historic District. (Soldiers and Sailors Monument Libby Terrace)**

The criteria for Old and Historic districts, define the relevance of these monuments.

**Sec. 30-930.4. (D) - Process for establishment and regulation**

Added to this fact is the numerous public admissions of ARC, UPC and Department of Historic Resources of the significance of Monument Avenue in these agencies *printed* materials and 1997 Application for NHL status to the US Department of Interior.

See “Old & Historic Districts,” “Handbook and Design Review Guidelines.” Page 15 Monument Avenue.

*“The most prominent architectural features of the Avenue are, of course, the monuments.”*

[http://www.richmondgov.com/CommissionArchitecturalReview/documents/Old\\_Historic\\_Dist.pdf](http://www.richmondgov.com/CommissionArchitecturalReview/documents/Old_Historic_Dist.pdf)

The Planning Commission and the above listed entities subscribe to the higher calling of the US Department of Interiors standards of Historic preservation. The codified mandates of historic preservation of the PC, ARC & UPC should not subscribe to destructive political whims or extreme opinionated biases.

§ 15.2-1812 state code of Virginia prohibits the “alteration” or “destruction” of these monuments. Any attempt to separate the pedestals from their bronze counterparts are prohibited by § 15.2-1812.

Of special note is the Letter of Senator Reeves clarifying the intent of the monuments law, § 15.2-1812.

These monuments represent the highest of artistic achievements during the “City Beautiful Movement” and are significant to the artistic legacy of Richmond and America. Their artists and foundries no longer exist. The Soldiers and Sailors monument is an exact replica of Pompey’s Pillar in Alexandria, Egypt.

Removing these monuments destroys the international relevance of Richmond in art history and artistic achievements forever. The legacy of art in Richmond and this cities prominence in art internationally will be reduced to ashes.

The bogus attempt by the city administration within these applications, to suggest these monuments cause riots as impetus for removal is ridiculous, nor credible. The “quelling of riots” is obligatory on the city administration and police; both failed miserably.

I hope today, that the Planning Commission will abide by its higher calling of historic preservation and not submit to politically motivated extremism, falsehoods and destruction or alteration of Richmond's artistic legacy that are fundamentally a part of these "Old & Historic Districts." In fact the city's codified mandates of historic preservation prohibit this. § 15.2-1812 prohibits alteration or destruction as well as biased contextualization.

Sincerely,

Ron Moore  
Virginia Monument Preservation Taskforce  
Artist

**From:** Emely Taveras <emelymtaveras@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** PDR Land Use Admin  
**Subject:** Planning Commission 6/21 Meeting - Support for Pedestals to Remain

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Good Morning,

My name is Emely Taveras Robbs. I am a resident of Union Hill. I am an architect and a member of the American Institute of Architects.

I'd like to express support for the beautiful historic pedestal on Libby Hill **to remain**. The offensive statue has rightly been removed but the pedestal deserved to be rededicated to this city. Not only is it a valuable piece of art, unlike anything else in the city, it will serve as an example of the city learning from the past and moving forward.

A competition can be held to design the new statue if it is deemed necessary. Otherwise, the pedestal can remain as it is, with new signage to provide context and let visitors and residents alike know what happened here.

Additionally, my sentiments extend to ALL the remaining pedestals of late confederate monuments. We have an opportunity to shape the future of our city and have the benefit of existing infrastructure to reuse. Don't let this go to waste by removing and disposing of the beautiful pedestals this city has in abundance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emely Taveras Robbs

**From:** Francis Thompson <francis\_thompson@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 12:58 AM  
**Cc:** Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Planning Commission Meeting June 21, 2021

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Hi Matt,  
Sending this below letter for the Planning Commission meeting June 21 at 1:30 pm.  
Since I have meetings scheduled all day, I'm not 100% I can join but I'll try to and give public comment hopefully before the related agenda items are reached.  
Hope you are doing well!  
-Francis

Hello Planning Commission,

My name is Francis Thompson and I am the JLL Art Program Manager in Richmond, VA living in the Randolph neighborhood district. I've been in Richmond managing a Corporate Art Collection for the past 16+ years and I am a former Public Art Commissioner for the City of Richmond including holding the position of Vice-Chair. I continue to serve the local community as a board member for art departments of two universities and various leadership positions with arts, church, fraternal and volunteer organizations in Richmond, VA.

I was informed that the Planning Commission will be discussing and considering a vote on the pedestals that used to or still are part of monuments within the city (listed related agenda items below). As I understand, prior to any removal or alteration of the pedestals, there was a past discussion with the Planning Commission that the process for the future of these pedestals would include a public forum or meetings. These public meetings would generate ideation from the community, effectively allowing opportunity for the community's voice in potential repurposing of the pedestals. I believe this process for public interaction would help to integrate the future of the sites for these monuments to be reflective of the Richmond community and the city's identity. Today, I ask the Planning Commission that before any vote takes place that may permanently alter the pedestals, that the opportunity for the public to provide its input and ideation in case there are compelling, relevant and valuable innovations for the design process that could potentially have use for the pedestals. The Richmond community has seen what I perceive as great progress for transformation of the monument sites. However, I feel that in this timeline of transformation it is important to continue to include the community's voice. Whatever long term plans are in place for these sites, I feel it is important to also ensure that permanent removal of the pedestals has been under that consideration with those plans as well - in case the pedestals may service part of those future designs. If the step of including the public voice is skipped and this hasn't been discussed with any parties that may have future

contributions to the long term strategy of these sites, I feel that permanent alteration of the pedestals could be a regret in removing assets that might be an important and integral part of the site transformations. It may be determined they are not needed at all, but my question here is to ensure those steps have been taken before making a permanent decision that may skip that process for the public voice.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Francis Thompson

<a href="#">UDC 2021-23</a>	1	15.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a monument and pedestal; 0 N. 29th Street
<a href="#">UDC 2021-24</a>	1	16.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a monument and pedestal; Intersection of Hermitage Road and Laburnum Avenue.
<a href="#">UDC 2021-25</a>	1	17.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of a monument and pedestal; 499 Stuart Circle
<a href="#">UDC 2021-26</a>	1	18.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a cannon monument; 2395 Monument Avenue
<a href="#">UDC 2021-27</a>	1	19.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a monument and pedestal; 2399 Monument Avenue
<a href="#">UDC 2021-28</a>	1	20.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a monument and pedestal; 2799 Monument Avenue
<a href="#">UDC 2021-29</a>	1	21.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a monument and pedestal; 3099 Monument Avenue
<a href="#">UDC 2021-30</a>	1	22.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of a cannon monument; 3499 Monument Avenue
<a href="#">UDC 2021-31</a>	1	23.	Location, Character and Extent Item	Final location, character, and extent review of the removal of various monuments and pedestals; 15 N. Laurel Street

Sent from Franco's iPhone

**From:** Sam Daniel <SWD@danielco.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:21 AM  
**To:** Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR  
**Cc:** Addison, Andreas D. - City Council; Jordan, Katherine - City Council; ann-frances.lambert@richmondgpov.com; Larson, Kristen N. - City Council; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office; Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council; Trammell, Reva M. - City Council; Jones, Michael J. - City Council; Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council  
**Subject:** The Pedestals on Monument Avenue

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Good Morning Mr. Ebinger,

I will make my remarks very brief.

I am Sam Daniel, and reside in the 3200 block of Monument and am in the City Council District of Andreas Addison.

I am writing to make my opinion know as to the disposition of the Pedestals left remaining after the removal of the Statues.

It is my opinion the Pedestals should remain, so their extensive and expensive stone work can be considered for incorporation into the next reiteration of what will be created with Reimaging Monument Avenue.

If the Pedestals are removed, regardless of the amount of care that might be exercised, it is doubtful the pieces will remain intact and surely many of the pieces will be lost and/or damaged. The absolute best way for the extensive Granite Stonework to be reused is for the Pedestals to remain exactly where they are.

Please vote to retain the Pedestals—and do not remove them—to enable the Pedestals to be reincorporated into Reimaging Monument Avenue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Samuel W. Daniel  
Resident 3200 block of Monument Avenue

**From:** cindy wofford <wofford3@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 20, 2021 1:51 PM  
**To:** Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR  
**Cc:** Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor; Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Planning Commission Discussion on Monuments  
**Attachments:** IMG\_1022.PNG; IMG\_1021.PNG

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My name is Cindy Wofford and I have been a Richmond resident for 39 years.

I request that the Planning Commission deny the request for the removal of the pedestals at this time.

I have concerns that decades from now, tourists and residents alike will question the decisions and next steps that our city are currently considering if the pedestals are removed prematurely.

Richmond citizens define our city. That has been an irrefutable fact both before, during and since the Civil War. Our history, both positive and negative, represents this place and the people who call it home.

Richmond will always be the city which was the Capital of the Confederacy. That fact is historical and no action will ever be able to change it. The question for our city today is how do we transform the previous historic narrative of our city to include the voices of today and the future. How do we, as a city, lead our new narrative of inclusivity and justice for all?

We are a visual society. When future generations look around our city will they see no representation of our role during the Civil War era - and the evolutionary change of its people's desires and dreams which represent our current thoughts and dreams for our city? Are we taking steps now which will limit our ability to tell our full story? Are we erasing pieces out of guilt vs allowing the space for full interpretation?

There are re-envisioning processes and conversations underway throughout our city - conversations regarding the role we have played in the past and the visionary role we can play in the future.

No other city in the country has the opportunity to tell our unique story. We were defined as Capital of the Confederacy. As we boldly re-navigate our destiny with a unified voice for all - how do we tell the 360?

Richmond can and should lead this national conversation - but only if we give this task our undivided attention.

Please do not remove the pedestals before the re-envisioning process is complete. Instead, please encourage robust conversations as a city as we creatively and daringly represent our unique and powerful voice in today's world.



Please see attached the thoughts of Kehinde Wiley regarding the pedestals. There are many fresh ideas yet to be discussed.

Let's not limit our future options with this "intermediary plan". Instead, let's create a space where all citizens and all neighborhoods can participate in the numerous opportunities of creative expressions for the long term.

Our city deserves the opportunity to redefine who we are and retell our full story.

Leave the bases until a final plan is devised.

Thank you

[Done](#)

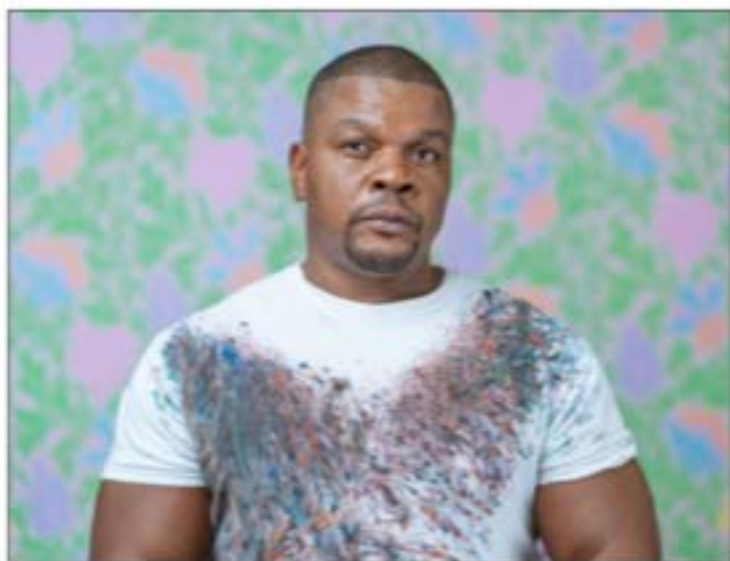
5 of 5



*'Kehinde Wiley on Protest Results:*

*'I'm Not Impressed Yet'*

By Dionne Searcey



[Done](#)

5 of 5

**The New York Times**

Art and Design

September 8, 2020

(continued Pg 2.)



Mr. Wiley would like to see empty pedestals like this one in Richmond, Va., where a monument to Stonewall Jackson once stood, become home to a rotating cast of artwork. Credit...Nichelle Dailey for The New York Times

(excerpt from article)

**DS- What should commemorating this moment look like?**

**KW-** Instead of having one monument that goes up on the spot where Confederate statues were, we should have artists of all styles come in for a period of time where their work is on the pedestal. Then it comes down and other voices go up there.

I like that idea of the pedestal itself as the frame. It's our way of creating a stage, and whomever we decide to shine the spotlight on in that moment is incredibly important.

That's where we as a society are announcing what we believe in. It's incredibly moral.

What should we do with all the Confederate statues that came down?

We need a hall of horrors. You don't have to melt it all down but create a space where we see our terrible past. It's less about should it be in existence but should it be deified. Take it off the stage and put it back where it belongs.

