



City of Alexandria, Virginia

Department of
Transportation and Environmental Services

P.O. Box 178 - City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22313



DATE: APRIL 9, 1991
 TO: TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES' STAFF
 FROM: THOMAS F. O'KANE, JR., DIRECTOR, T&ES *Thomas F. O'Kane, Jr.*
 SUBJECT: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, POLICY CONCERNING
 FLYING OF THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

The City policy concerning the flying of the Confederate flag was initiated by Councilman Ira Robinson and approved by City Council on July 14, 1970. The policy states: "The Confederate flag is flown on Lee's Birthday, January 19, and on Confederate Memorial Day, May 24, at Prince and Washington Streets only."

The City staff's administrative policies concerning this issue are as follows:

- o When the Confederate flag is flown on Robert E. Lee's birthday (January 19) and Confederate Memorial Day (May 24) it will be put up around sunset the afternoons before these dates and removed early the morning after these dates. For example, if Robert E. Lee's birthday occurs on a Saturday, the flags will be put up late Friday afternoon and removed Sunday morning.
- o In years when Lee's birthday (January 19) coincides with the national holiday for the observance of Martin Luther King's birthday, the Confederate flags will be flown the day before (on January 18) and removed by the evening of January 18. Under no circumstances shall the Confederate flags be flown on the Martin Luther King national holiday.
- o No African American City employee shall be required to install or remove any posted Confederate flags.

cc: Vola Lawson, City Manager
 Charles E. Kenyon, Transportation Division Chief, T&ES
 Judy Hansen, Assistant to the City Manager
 Rose Williams-Boyd, Director, Citizens Assistance
 Linda Owens, Assistant Citizens Assistance Officer

CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Special Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 1970 -- 7:30 p.m.

sent: Mayor Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Vice Mayor Wiley F. Mitchell, Jr.,
Councilmen Melvin L. Bergheim, James W. Carroll, A. George Cook, III,
H. Winfield McConchie, Jr., and Ira L. Robinson.

eat: None.

o Present: Mr. Hair, City Manager; Mr. Williams, City Attorney; Mr. Rusch,
Assistant City Manager; Mr. Hall, Director of Public Works; Mr. King,
Director of Finance; Mr. Pelkey, Assistant Director of Planning and
Regional Affairs; and Mrs. Vickers, City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

orded by: Mr. Darrell L. Wines, Court Reporter.

New Business Item No. 1: [Councilman Robinson presented the following Memo from the
City Manager, dated July 9, 1970:]

You have inquired as to the City's policy regarding the flying of the
American, State, City and Confederate flags as a part of our policy of
"dressing the streets" for major holidays.

The City has no firm policy in connection with "dressing the streets", and
the practice has varied over the years. At one time, the City Council considered
establishing the policy, but did not do so. The Traffic Director informs us
that our most recent practice has been to fly the American, State, City and
Confederate flags on Veterans Day. Only the American flag is flown on Memorial
Day, May 30, on Flag Day, June 14, on the Fourth of July, and Inaugural Day
(every four years). The American, State and City flags are flown on George
Washington's Birthday, February 22. The Confederate flag is flown on Lee's
Birthday, January 19, and on Confederate Memorial Day, May 24, at Prince and
Washington Streets only.

Although no officially announced policy has been adopted by the City Council,
I have checked this practice with each of the members of Council and have been
told that it is satisfactory to them.

I trust that this memorandum sufficiently answers your questions. If you
need further information, please contact me.

NO FORMAL ACTION was necessary on this memo, and Council received it as a
statement of policy.