

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I regret not being able to attend the meeting last night. I wanted to comment on two issues - the Appomattox statue and the inscription at the Hotel Monaco (the former site of Marshall House).

APPOMATTOX STATUE

At-Large Committee Member Moly Fannon has previously advocated adding context to Confederate Monuments. But it's pretty difficult to provide context to the Appomattox Statue which is in the middle of busy intersection. The monument actually contains a historical error. James Jackson, the owner of Marshall House, was never member of Confederate armed forces but he is falsely listed as a Confederate soldier on the monument's inscription.

Yet there is a larger practical dilemma that transcends arguments made by both the pro and anti monument factions. The dilemma relates to the unsafe location of the monument in the middle of the busy thoroughfare at Washington and Prince Streets.

When the statue was erected in 1889 statue was gated with a spacious green lawn surrounding the statue. Prince and Washington were cobblestone streets. Although the automobile was invented in 1886, horse-drawn carriages were the main form of transportation at the time the statue was unveiled. City planners apparently didn't have the foresight, at the time, that fast moving cars would replace equestrian modes of transportation.

During the decades that followed, the gated buffer has disappeared. The statue is now threatened on a daily basis by cars which crash into it. The lives of drivers are also threatened should the statue topple on top of a car during a crash. There have been discussions in the Alexandria City Council about such accidents which have occurred over the years. Tourists are another menace. There are few safe vantage points for tourists to capture images of Appomattox. Tourist typically stand in the middle of intersection and snap phone photos.

These tourists assume the risk but the City should eliminate this unsafe spectacle. As an issue of public safety - for the good of the statue and for the good of protecting human life - the statue should be moved to a less hazardous location. A natural alternative location is the Lee-Fendall estate in Arlington. There, appropriate context which Committee Member Fannon favors, could be added.

Another practical issue to address is the fact that the removal of the statue requires the approval of the Virginia General Assembly. Yet, the decision on where monuments are placed in the City of Alexandria should be decided by Alexandrians, and more specifically by the City Council with the input of VDOT and City planners. Why should politicians from as far away as Roanoke and Chesapeake decide on a critical local issue that does not affect the constituents? What business is it of theirs? Since the Republican Party platform disfavors Big Government, Republicans in the state legislature should be in favor of allowing local leaders to decide the fate of a statue that sits within City limits. Therefore, the Ad Hoc Committee should recommend that the General Assembly pass legislation to cede authority over the Appomattox statue to City officials.

MARSHALL HOUSE INSCRIPTION

At the beginning of the American Civil War in 1861, Marshall House was the site of the killing of Colonel Emmer

E. E. Swarth and James Jackson during the Union army takeover of Alexandria. The current plaque highlights only the martyrdom of James Jackson in his quest to preserve private property. It is a biased pro-Confederate account. Yet, there is much more to learn from the story including the involvement of Abraham Lincoln in directing E. Swarth to remove the Confederate flag from the rooftop of Marshall House. It is an interesting story that has not been told in that spot. See <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/ewswarth.htm>

Therefore, the Ad Hoc Committee should recommend that additional context should be provided in the form of a visual panel that includes illustrations and textual captions of the confrontation at Marshall House in 1861. The visual panel should be constructed at that same corner at King and Pitt Streets and it should tell the whole story of the Marshall House incident, not just the one-sided martyrdom version that is currently displayed on the existing plaque.

For your reference below is the transcript on the Monaco Hotel (formerly Marshall House):

The Marshall House
stood upon this site, and within the building
on the early morning of May 24, 1861
James W. Jackson
was killed by federal soldiers while defending his property and
personal rights as stated in the verdict of the coroner's jury.
He was
the first martyr to the cause of Southern Independence.
The justice of his story does not permit his name to be forgotten.
Not in the excitement of battle, but coolly and for a great principle,
he laid down his life, an example to all, in defence of his home and
the sacred soil of his native state
Virginia

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 12, 2016 10:27:55 Success: Ema Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

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Yet there is a larger practical dilemma that transcends arguments made by both the pro and anti monument factions. The dilemma relates to the unsafe location of the monument in the middle of the busy thoroughfare at Washington and Prince Streets.

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These tourists assume the risk but the City should eliminate this unsafe spectacle. As an issue of public safety - for the good of the statue and for the good of protecting human life - the statue should be moved to a less hazardous location. A natural alternative location is the Lee-Fendall estate in Arlington. There, appropriate context which Committee Member Fannon favors, could be added.

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the sacred soil of his native state
Virginia

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Apr 12, 2016 10:30:50 Success: Ema Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I attended the April 11th meeting and spoke during the public comment period. I would also like to submit a statement to the Advisory Group in writing:

- the issue before the advisory group, City Council, & our community is about the "window dressings" of our community, symbolic statements that we make to one another and to visitors about who we are and what we value
- we are living with "window dressings" that act as what John Stewart described as "racial wallpaper" after the June 17th Charleston Church shooting, that represents choices made in the past that have no place in Alexandria today
- the Confederacy was formed to preserve a social, economic, political, and cultural system premised on terror, oppression, and violence
- the changes under consideration offer an opportunity to give a symbolic gesture of remorse, healing, recognition, and respect
- the monetary costs of the changes (by one estimate less than \$150,000 for a large set of Confederate street signs in the City) is a very small price to pay in relation to what the African American community has endured in our community and society for decades and centuries, from slavery to Jim Crow and discrimination and lynching and redlining and harassment and police brutality; African Americans have great reserves in the Bank of Justice from which to draw upon
- the argument that something is too expensive or takes too much paperwork is always a poor excuse for failing to do the right thing; the argument that the changes would create a "tsunami" of paperwork (resigns, deeds, etc) and a vicious cycle of increasing bureaucracy rings hollow
- we name things to honor them and represent the best of our history and community. we should consider honoring Samuel Tucker (who orchestrated Alexandria's 1939 library sit-in), Douglas Winder (the first African American Governor in U.S. history), Richard and Mildred Loving (whose Supreme Court case overturned interracial marriage bans), George Thomas (a Virginian who served as a Union General), and so many others who have pushed the moral arc of the universe toward justice

In summary, I strongly support: 1) moving the location of the Appomattox statue out of the center of Washington Street; 2) changing the name of Jefferson Davis Highway to Route 1 or another more appropriate name; 3) changing the names of streets dedicated in the City as being named after Confederates; and 4) the ban on flying the Confederate flag already adopted by City Council.

Sincerely,
Andrea Hamre
Lynhaven Neighborhood Resident

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 12, 2016 15:50:27 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I encourage Council to remove these memorials & street names quickly & completely. Replace them with honors & tributes to people of color particularly Native American & African American leaders from Alexandria who actively advocated & fought against the enslavement, persecution, torture, rape & killing of themselves & their people. Let's honor the Alexandrians who advocated for liberation, education & freedom of all people instead. Let's honor the people who thrived despite the color lines. That's the right type of tourism to promote. Thank you for your work on this group.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 12, 2016 16:26:14 Success: Email Sent to: craig.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Dear Friends,

Keep the monuments and names; good Virginian Men and Women fought the what they thought was right; judging them by 21st century standards is not only wrong, but would set a bad precedent for future monuments like Washington, Jefferson, and others.

Jayson Ater
Alexandra, Virginia

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

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Apr 12, 2016 20:08:48 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

If you erase h story, you are doomed to repeat t...

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Confirmation Email

Apr 13, 2016 08:00:31 Success: Ema Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Please don't remove the statue "Appomattox" from its present location on Washington Street. In my opinion, as a 15th generation Virginian and the great-grandson of a Confederate veteran, the statue does not glorify slavery - certainly not "white supremacy" - but rather honors those who fought to protect their families, property and themselves from an invading army that burned, looted and ransacked their way through Virginia and the South. I implore you to look at photographs of Northern Virginia from that era to fully appreciate the devastation the Union forces wreaked upon Northern Virginia. Most of these men were not slave owners but they were compelled to fight, thereby, for their own lives.

Virginia has always been about its history - please help stop the rising tide that wants to wash that - good and bad - away.

Sincerely,

John P. Williams
Alexandra

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 08:05:17 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

The Confederate States of America was a militant insurgency that took up arms in rebellion against the United States of America. The armies that fought for the CSA included an officer corps comprised of men who had sworn an oath to defend the Constitution yet betrayed that oath and in the process killed more U.S. soldiers than al-Qaeda or ISIS.

When did it become acceptable for us as a nation to honor domestic insurgents? Should we also revere the flag of the Ku Klux Klan or the Aryan Nations? Should we place a statue of George Lincoln Rockwell in our town square?

I urge you to reject any claim that such honors are "heritage" or "tradition" and instead view them for what they were: treasonous insurgents who fought and died for a cause so repugnant that it has been banned by most civilized nations for centuries. These men and women deserve a place in the history books. Nothing more, and certainly not a place of honor in our society.

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Apr 13, 2016 08:06:20 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I am not a native Alexandrian or even a native Virginian. I am a northerner from the great state of Michigan, and after spending 8 years serving in the United States Marine Corps, I married into a family that has been rooted in Alexandria for three generations and have made this beautiful city my permanent home. With a child on the way sometime within the next few days, our fourth generation of Alexandrians will soon be here. As such, I think it's important to point out that it's not the history or heritage of the city that sparked my interest in this debate, but rather my own experience as a combat veteran of Afghanistan. The Appomattox statue does not honor a cause. It honors fallen American veterans. I pass by this statue every day on my commute to work—which, by the way, is for a non-profit dedicated to serving disabled veterans—and I attest to the fact that the words etched into the stone remind me of the profound commitment I made when I agreed to serve my country: "They died in the consciousness of duty faithfully performed." Whether or not we agree with the basis of the wars we fought in the U.S. military, whether or not the people back home celebrate our return or spit in our faces, we carry out our duties as we have obligated ourselves because that's what soldiers and Marines do, even in the face of certain defeat. America may never have paved its path to independence at Yorktown, a flag may never have been raised atop Mount Suribachi, and the Confederacy may not have been halted at Gettysburg if it had not been for the resolve of American military forces dying in the consciousness of duty faithfully performed. Anyone who has experienced combat can tell you, it's exceedingly rare to find a soldier who shoots the enemy to defend the personal convictions of the men who wage wars. Marines don't jump on grenades for the sake of political agendas, they do it to protect the countrymen—the man or woman to the left and right. No doubt many of Alexandria's sons and daughters died in defense of their brothers and for love of their city, and we must still honor the bravery and selflessness behind these actions just as we do for the men and women who serve today.

In this debate, I've heard many references to how Germany has removed tributes to the war dead of World War II. In November, my husband and I visited the small town of Schwäbisch Gmünd in southwestern Germany where his family is from and we found a large obelisk monument dedicated to the city's fallen sons of World War II. Such monuments are actually quite common throughout Germany, and I think they are a very fitting way to honor the service and sacrifice of men who were more than just soldiers—they were husbands, fathers, sons and brothers—without celebrating the heinous deeds of the Nazi party.

I believe to remove the Appomattox statue would be to tell American veterans that their sacrifices are subject to erasure, and frankly no American citizen who lays down their life for country should be disregarded in such a manner. I thank the committee members for their time and what I'm sure will be thoughtful consideration on behalf of Alexandria's military and veteran community.

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Apr 13, 2016 08:34:19 Success: Ema Sent to: cra g.f fer@a exandr ava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Robert E. Lee is from Alexandria, so I feel strongly that streets named after him should retain his name.

I don't care at all about Jeff Davis - go ahead and change the name of Route 1 if you want to. Perhaps Richmond Highway, as the road is named in Fairfax County?

For the statues - it's important that we remember what happened in Virginia so that we do not repeat our mistakes. I sometimes stand in front of City Hall and remember that this used to be a slave market. It reminds me that we have come a long way since then, but we have a long way to go. If we were to remove any reference to what that place used to be, we would miss those opportunities for reflection. If we try to whitewash his story, we are doomed to repeat it.

I would like for the City to find a way to retain whatever history it can while honoring the feelings of those who were harmed by slavery. Not an easy task, but I believe you are up to the challenge.

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Apr 13, 2016 09:22:30 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.ferer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

As a taxpayer in the City of Alexandria, an owner of property in the historic district, and a person who has had family living in the City of Alexandria going back 8 generations (I had family members who fought on both sides of the War), I would think the City would have better things to do with the time and my taxpayers money than this politically correct crap. I find it appalling that educated people would even think of doing something like this. Please stop trying to rewrite history; the Civil War happened, we should not forget that, both the good and the bad aspects of it. Renaming streets, moving statues, etc. isn't going to accomplish anything other than waste a lot of money that could be much better spent.

If you knew anything about history after the Civil War, you'd know that people on both sides put down their weapons and returned to their lives both as Union and Confederates. Many, including the majority of Confederates, had earned exemptions before the War and they continued to do so after the War. Both Union and Confederates lived the War and yet managed to put those differences aside. A good example of this is General Grant and his wife Julia; they became good friends with Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis. And how about Abraham Lincoln and what he stood for? He wanted to bring the country together, not push it further apart; he realized what the country had been through and hoped for reconciliation. But not you folks, you want to push your agenda down people's throats. You have lost sight of Lincoln's and others' hopeful intentions. If you want to do something useful, then you should spend your time and my taxpayer money, teaching people about that. Why not erect a statue or monument to that aspect of the Civil War? What afraid people won't be interested in what you have to say?

Sadly, the vast majority of people don't even know the names of any Civil War generals and who fought on what side or who Jefferson Davis was. They have no idea what the Appomattox Statue stands for; they breeze by without any notice. So don't try to make this into something it isn't. It isn't about the majority of people; it's about a few politically correct whiners wanting to push their own personal agenda. You should be working to do what's right for the majority.

And then what next? After you manage to erase all references to the Confederacy what other groups are you going after with your politically correct witch hunt, because that's what this is a witch hunt. So why do you want to read the word of all references to George Washington? After all, he owned slaves. Maybe you should try to close the places George visited in Old Town and disavow any mention of him because someone might be offended when they hear his name.

And, how would you feel in 150 years (which, by the way, is how long the Civil War has been over) someone tried to erase all memory of your history? Let's imagine that the new politically correct group doesn't like what Martin Luther King stood for and wanted to erase his memory. Would your ancestors find that offensive? I bet they would and rightfully so. So before you start down the path of politically correct censors you should think about the long-term effects of that. Perhaps you should take a look back at how Lincoln and other forefathers would have handled it. You might just learn something.

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Apr 13, 2016 09:43:15 Success: Ema Sent to: cra g.f fer@a exandr ava.gov

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Why now h stor c preservat on or pub c h story groups? Seems ke you stacked the deck for a spec f c outcome. That s not very democrat c.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 10:29:06 Success: Ema Sent to: cra g.fer@alexandria.gov

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I can certainly understand why a monument that celebrates the Confederacy would be offensive, but I don't think the Appomattox statue is and that was not its purpose. Rather, the grieving soldier is a reminder of the lives lost and the regret of a terrible time in our history that should never be repeated. Appomattox is about surrender and shame. Roughly 2% of the population, an estimated 620,000 men, lost their lives in the Civil War. Taken as a percentage of today's population, the toll would be as high as 6 million. The monument stands where it should stand, the gateway to the South, where the roots of the conflict originated and where the destruction occurred. Today, when our country is trending dangerously toward extreme polarization and perhaps another horrible event like the Civil War, this statue should serve as a reminder of the destruction and waste of war. The statue itself is a beautiful and sensitive work of art.

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1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

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1. Please provide your feedback:

I've heard a lot in these meetings about the need to preserve history; how we must not ignore, erase, or whitewash history. How we need to understand history as products of the times. That's true. But they are a rhetorical feint, intended on purpose to stage an unrelated argument that the confederacy was not about hatred, how slavery was not its primary motivator, and how racism is not inherently a part of that heritage, and how memorials to the Confederacy are meant on purpose to honor the heroism of the participants of the civil war: poor white farm boys fighting to protect the native land.

That's actually a misobjectively false. It's the conjunction of a century and a half of mental gymnastics on behalf of rehabilitating the Confederacy in our collective memory. When we judge the Confederacy on its own terms, by its own words, we see that the entire endeavor ranks among the most repugnant, bogoted evils ever instituted upon the face of this earth. In the Confederate Presidential election of 1861, where a white man was allowed to vote, Jefferson Davis, the first and only President of the Confederate States, was elected by unanimous agreement. Davis won every single electoral college state. Not a single protest vote was cast. Among the presidents of the United States of America, only George Washington can claim the same achievement. Not Lincoln, not FDR, and not Reagan. So to pretend that Jeff Davis does not represent the Confederacy is akin to arguing that George Washington does not represent the United States of America. It's an historical fact, that Jefferson Davis, without equal, was and remains the individual who most broadly and very elegantly represented the Confederacy and the views of its people.

So what did Jefferson Davis think of people of African descent?

"We recognize the fact of the inferiority stamped upon that race of men by the Creator, and from the cradle to the grave, our Government, as a constitution, marks that inferiority."

That seems clear enough. But hey, that kind of thing can be taken out of context. I mean, he could have been talking about any race, right? Wrong.

"We do not think that whites should be slaves either by law or by necessity. Our slaves are black, of another and inferior race. The status in which we have placed them is an elevation. They are elevated from the condition in which God first created them, by being made our slaves. None of that race on the whole face of the globe can be compared with the slaves of the South. They are happy, content, uncomplaining, and utterly incapable, from intellectual weakness, to ever give us any trouble by their aspirations."

I know what my detractors are going to say: that I'm oversimplifying, and that history isn't as black and white. And they're right, because his bigotry extends to all of us too:

"Among our neighbors of Central and Southern America, we see the Caucasians mingled with the Indian and the African. They have the forms of free government because they have copied them. To its benefits they have not attained, because that standard of civilization is above the race."

But it's not his racism that we want to honor, some may say. He was a man of honor, who fought to uphold the law as he understood it. Well, maybe. At least until somebody disagreed with him. Since those who preached about nonviolence were protected by the first amendment, he recommended vigilante justice:

"This my friends, is what was called in good old revolutionary times, Lynch Law. It is sometimes the very best law, because it deals summarily justice upon those who would otherwise escape from a other kinds of

punishment."

So, I think that about sums it up for Old Jeff Dav s. But maybe I'm wrong. Maybe slavery and white supremacy weren't as important to the Confederacy as they were to the Commander in Chief.

Why then did the confederate states secede? On April 17, 1861 Virginia stated in its Ordinance of Secession that the federal government had perverted the constitution "not only to the injury of the people of Virginia, but to the oppression of the Southern Sovereign States."

Virginia didn't elaborate on that much, but there's no getting around the role slavery plays in that declaration. Virginia's clear sympathizing with the grievances of the other states that had seceded. In December of 1864, South Carolina was the first state to secede, citing as the reason "an increasing hostility on the part of the non-sovereign states to the institution of slavery," and because "the states north of that line have united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery."

In January of 1865, Mississippi took it a step further: "Our cause is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery - the greatest material interest of the world. It's labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of commerce of the earth. These products are peculiar to the climate verging on the tropical regions, and by an imperious law of nature, none but the black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun. These products have become necessities of the world, and a blow at slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization."

In March, Texas seceded, saying this: "We hold as undeniable truths that the governments of the various States, and of the confederacy itself, were established exclusively by the white race, for themselves and their posterity; that the African race had no agency in their establishment, that they were rightfully held and regarded as an inferior and dependent race, and in that condition they could be rendered beneficial or to erab e. That in this free government all white men are and of right ought to be entitled to equal civil and political rights, that the servitude of the African race, as existing in these states is mutually beneficial to both bond and free, and is abundantly authorized and justified by the experience of mankind."

So if Virginia exercised brevity in the reasons for secession, it was only because they had no interest in elaborating a point which had already been made abundantly clear. These words, the words of the Confederacy and its representatives, merit no place of honor, and no respect in our society. If we are to remember them at all it should be only as a reminder of what depths of evil we are capable of, so as to inspire us to overcome the iniquities of our past, and create a future more in line with our ideals. To keep in place these memorials, either from a misunderstanding of the history that they represent, or from a simple fear of change, sends a message to anyone who finds the institutionalized bigotry and hatred practiced by the Confederacy abhorrent, that this place is not for you, that our history is not yours, that our beliefs do not include you, that our fractured past matters more than our shared future.

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Confirmation Email

Apr 13, 2016 11:13:09 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.ferer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

My ancestors on both sides of my family were Virginians. I had family on both sides, Union & Confederate. Therefore, I think I have a right to say that The Confederate Memorials and street names stay right where they are.

Patricia Beard Lambert

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

One lesson American history has taught us is that we should not make judgments about people as a group. Rather, each person should be evaluated on personal merit. Nor should the record of history be purged of the unpleasant. A mistake that occurred in the past brought us to the point where we find ourselves today.

To judge those of the Civil War era solely by the design of the flag that flew over them is to repeat errors of the past that led whole groups to suffer injustice. Not everyone who fought for the Confederacy did so keep shackles around the wrists of their countrymen. Not every Union soldier who fired a shot in anger did so in a plan to end slavery. In fact, racist attitudes prevailed North and South, then and now.

Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, believed slavery was wrong but saw the only solution to be colonization of the Freedmen to Central America. The Emancipation Proclamation only "freed" slaves in areas that Lincoln did not control and left in chains those in areas he did control. Should we purge the record of Lincoln for his racial bias or judge him by the totality of his life's work? Which president did not harbor racist views?

I led the successful effort in the late 60s to read the University of Texas at Arlington of its Rebel Theme-- Confederate Flag, Fraternity Slave Auctions, Johnny Reb, Miss Dixie Belle, Old South Week, and the University Fight Song (Dixie). Such things had nothing to do with recording history and everything to do with perpetuating institutional racism. I would remove every publicly-owned Confederate flag because the flag is a symbol appropriated by modern white supremacists. But I would not displace the statue of the Confederate soldier on Washington Street. I would commission a statue of Samuel Tucker for the north end of Washington Street. The primary site should be memorialized.

The purpose of examining the past is not to undergo a Stalin-like rewriting of history. History should not be erased or forgotten. But names that have no history in Alexandria can be discarded. There is no reason for a highway in Alexandria named for Jefferson Davis or General Beauregard. But the names that are part of our history should not be discarded unless they are offensive.

I would be rid of the name "Redskins" because it is a racist and derogatory word. I would not remove George Washington's name from Washington Street even though I am offended by the idea that he was a slave owner. The former has no place in history; the latter does.

Jm

Jm McCrean, PhD
Professor of History
Dean of Liberal Arts
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Apr 13, 2016 12:02:07 Success: Email Sent to: craig.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

The war goes on in Alexandria. What year is it? 2016? Really? I just cannot understand why some few white citizens adamantly refuse to see the offense in honoring a cause that subjugated people, that fought to continue to subjugate people and the glorification of which has been used to continue to suppress the rights of those people up to the present day. I cannot understand why some refuse to listen to the few white citizens whose ancestors and families have been so offended. Is it a blindness/deafness? Is it a lack of empathy? Is it denial that something so wrong is part of Nation's glorious history? Is it a bow to one's pride to admit that? Is it a fear of losing power by admitting to the wrongdoing of one's ancestors? Is it a fear of losing power by acknowledging a minority?

People argue that because of this history we should keep it. We tell a different history. Would they be amenable to a statue of a slave being whipped or a slave family being separated or a slave auction on Washington Street? That is history as we know it. Beyond that, it is not only history, it is our present...and an essential change happens, our future. It is time to let the cause go. Honor the dead in cemeteries. Honor the cause nowhere.

Thank you for your work. I know it is very difficult. I hope it is not in vain.

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Apr 13, 2016 13:32:58 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Robert E Lee said it best:

My engagements will not permit me to be present, and I believe if there I could not add anything material to the information existing on the subject. I think it worse, moreover, not to keep open the sores of war, but to follow the example of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife, and to commit to oblivion the feelings it engendered.

Letter regarding war monuments (1869), as quoted in *Persona Reminiscences, Anecdotes, and Letters of Gen. Robert E. Lee (1874)*, by John William Jones, p. 234.

These monuments deify the Lost Cause mythology and should be removed. Teach real history, not what passes for it in so many schools these days.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 20:45:59 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I was born in Alexandria in 1953, moved to nearby Fairfax County in 1963, but always considered Alexandria my home. I am still a member of Wash. St. United Methodist Church. I can understand not fully grasping the Confederate flag, but please, please, please don't erase our history by trying to bury it. Alexandria is our history and it seems like the powers that be want to make it into an amusement park fantasy land. Please don't move Appomattox or change street names whether they are named after kings, queens, lords or generals. It is OUR history, Everyone's. Thank you

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 21:12:14 Success: Email Sent to: kevin@caporale.com

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

History is important and cannot be changed

Leave it alone!

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 21:15:18 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the City Council and the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names.

I suggest the following:

1. Jefferson Davis Highway should be renamed. Jefferson Davis was a slaveholder and was an unrepentant white supremacist after the War. He was the face of the "lost cause" attempt to redeem Southern justification for the Civil War.
2. Quantrel Avenue between Beauregard and Armistead on the far west end of Alexandria should be renamed. William Quantrel was a pro-segregationist leader "who murdered and burned out Missourians" (James M. McPherson).
3. The portrait of Robert E. Lee in City Hall should be placed in a less prominent location.
4. If the plaque at the Monaco Hotel has not been removed or changed to acknowledge the killing of Col. E. Swarth, it should be. James William Jackson was a martyr for the Southern cause. At the time Union troops advancing into Alexandria viewed secession, armed resistance and fighting the Confederate as an act of treason. Both were considered martyrs for very different reasons.

With regard to changing many of the street names, it may not be necessary. Many of the Confederate names are lost in the dust-bin of history. However, as mentioned above, Jefferson Davis Highway and Quantrel Avenue should be taken off City maps.

The statue Appomattox on Washington Street is in a poor location and difficult to appropriately appreciate. However, it is possible there is no other suitable location. It does slow traffic down and most drivers passing the statue are not familiar with its history. It is historically significant and does commemorate the Alexandrians who joined the Confederacy. The gaze of the soldier is one of reflection and is not offensive.

I wholeheartedly support the general policy of not fighting the Confederate flag on property owned or under the control of the City or on the public right-of-way. No exceptions.

I would like to see the Civil War history presented in Alexandria reflect contemporary interpretations of the Civil War. Alexandria was an important hospital center, a port and transportation center for food and supplies to Union troops, and a place where African Americans sought refuge from slavery. African Americans, men and women, contributed as soldiers, laborers, nurses, domestics to the successful outcome of the Civil War. The contribution of the U.S. Colored Troops in 1863 and 1864 came at a critical time and helped bring an end to a tragic war. One of the earliest civil rights protests occurred in Alexandria regarding the burial of Colored Troops in a separate cemetery. Many of these themes are not well integrated into the promotional material for the City and could, if developed, attract a more diverse group of tourists to Alexandria.

Alexandria needs a more attractive magnet than one stuck in the Confederate "lost cause" past.

City officials and the community should not overlook what happened after the Civil War. In the 1870s the unreconstructed South was returned to power. For the next 100 years African Americans endured racism and legally sanctioned discrimination in voting, education, jobs and use of public and private facilities. Many of our neighbors who are descendants remember being racially discriminated against and unfortunately it is evident today. Hopefully the dialogue on "street names and memorials" will reduce the national reputation for Southern ancestral redemption and be a step towards a more socially relevant presentation.

of oca h story.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 21:16:09 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Why waste the money that Alexandria is so short of?

Why up end so many people's lives by renaming the streets? Most folks don't even realize the streets were named for Confederate generals.

Why relocate a statue that by law prohibits being moved?

I was a business person in this city, and instead of creating an advisory group for this, why not create one that would make Alexandria a more welcoming entity to mom and pop shops?

History is history. It is sad to see it changed to be just politically correct. We have in the past criticized other governments for doing the same. . .

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 13, 2016 23:52:43 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I am for not trying to change history and leaving memorials, street names as they are. I am also for naming new buildings, streets and for putting up new memorials in Alexandria for prominent African Americans.

The two can and should coexist.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 14, 2016 11:53:02 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

Comments:

In my earlier comments, I suggested both Jefferson Davis Highway and Quantico Avenue both be renamed because of the unrepentant views they had towards enslaved people and African Americans.

I would like to add Taney Avenue named after Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney to the list. His 1857 Supreme Court decision was a major turning point that led to the division between the North and South over slavery. His racially intemperate views toward enslaved and free blacks outraged Northerners about onsets and supported slave interests in the South. The decision denied African Americans the right to ever be citizens under the Constitution. The outcome of the Civil War, the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the 14th Amendment reversed the decision and granted citizenship to African Americans.

Chief Justice Taney should not be memorialized on a street sign. It is better his judicial decisions and the impact on the course of history be understood in the classroom and library.

One last comment. Memorials, Confederate flags and street names can adversely influence the impressions of families moving to the area and deciding where they want to live. It also influences the decision of tourists who are drawn by the response to Mercy Street. Instead of trying to expiate or atone for the Confederate legacy, a more accurate interpretation of Alexander's role in the successful outcome of the war would be welcomed.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 14, 2016 13:22:11 Success: Ema Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

To the Ad Hoc Advisory Group:

Setting old conflicts often involves looking forward to the future, or looking deeper to find new meaning in past events. The statue "Appomattox" is more than a relic of Civil War memories, which should not unduly be the focus of our attention; the statue's inscription reminds us of a higher ideal to which we should aspire: "duty faithfully performed." Let us leave this reminder in place, where it can serve to call us to honor the ideal of duty and the principle of service, honorably rendered, to whatever cause might summon us to give that last full measure of devotion. Homage to the concept of duty faithfully performed does not belong in a cemetery but rather needs to be in a more public, accessible place--right where it is--where it can inspire future generations.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 14, 2016 16:26:57 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I am a Virginian and I am very proud of the history and heritage that comes with that! I was raised below Fort Myer and growing up frequented Lee's Mans on aka Arlington House. Statues and roads and school names that honor these individuals were done to do just that, pay respect and honor to them. You cannot erase history or undermine those persons that believed and fought for a belief. A lot died, a lot lost their limbs, and many lost their homes. But regardless of the hardships they faced they were standing to fight the fight. To consider removing statues and changing the name of roads is not only disrespectful to them and the service to Virginians but to those of us born and raised there. I humbly ask you to please leave history alone. As one person said, to forget history, we will be doomed to repeat it.

Thank you,
Robert Brunett

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 14, 2016 20:25:24 Success: Email Sent to: craig.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

WHAT is the matter with you people? Why are you trying to erase something out of our past? IT HAPPENED. Neither side was completely right or completely wrong. If it's the "issue" of slavery, the North benefited far more than the relative handful of slave owners. Also, Abraham Lincoln, of all people, stated more than once that he was OK with slavery where it existed. AND, we were not the only country on earth that had that "peculiar institution". It is STILL being practiced by African and Middle Eastern nations and probably many and China to this very day. Be honest about it. The Northern States were just as dirty with slavery as were the South's. Slavery would've led a quick death without a war in a very few years. It was called "The Industrial Revolution". Lincoln did not call for "volunteers" in 1861 to "end slavery" but to put down a so-called rebellion. If he had called for anything else he would have had very few takers. As it was, when emancipation was announced, many, many, officers and non-coms just quit, Thousands. That was not the real "cause". Plus emancipation did not free all the slaves either. That didn't happen until November 1865, six months AFTER the Civil War ended, with ratification of the 13th Amendment! Read up on your history BEFORE you try to bury what you don't like about it. You are ALL setting a dangerous precedent. Quit wrecking the town I grew up in!

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 17, 2016 12:22:52 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

In the April 7, 2016 letter from the 17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7, United Daughters of the Confederacy, President Deborah A. Munn writes, "This statue was conceived as, and is, a memorial to the men who left Alexander in defense of the r state, but did not return. It was never intended to be anything other than a memorial to fallen soldiers."

As I pointed out during my oral presentation to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on March 28, the names on the monument include those who were not soldiers, including that of the infamous James Jackson, the owner of the Marshall Hotel. James Jackson's only claim to fame is as the person who murdered Union Colonel, Emer E. Sworth. Jackson was not a soldier, and obviously never served in the Civil War, having been killed immediately following the murder of Sworth. His placement on the monument honors him only for killing a Union soldier. So, in addition to those who voluntarily took up arms against the federal government, included is at least one cold-blooded murderer, one the Smithsonian refers to as a "zealous defender of slavery" and "a notorious slave abuser."

While some have argued the statue and street names only honor the confederate dead of Alexander, why then are there so many streets named in honor of Confederate veterans, some who apparently never lived or visited the City? It is simply because of the political influence of confederate veterans and sympathizers following the tragic war.

Again, I personally view confederates as traitors to the United States Government, and oppose any standing honor to their memory. I urge the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to recommend to the City Council the removal of the monument, as well as renaming all streets in the City that honor confederate soldiers.

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Apr 17, 2016 18:42:28 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I offer a suggestion on street names that has worked for one major American city: change the people for whom the streets are named without changing the street names. King County, Washington, home to Seattle, was originally named for Vice President William Rufus King. Vice President King was a slaveholder, and in 1986 the County Council voted to change the name of the county to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., instead. The county name remained the same but the honor went to a more deserving figure. While this would not work for all of the city's streets, it could be a good option for some. Lee Street could be changed to officially honor "Light Horse" Harry Lee, Tyler Place for President John Tyler, etc. I am sure that city historians could find appropriate names for many of the streets while at the same time honoring the diverse voices that have shaped our city's history.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 17, 2016 22:18:04 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

To Alexandria, VA Advisory Group
RE: Confederate War Culture, Conscientiousness & Resolutions

Dear Members,

Thank you for raising the issue of Alexandria's conscientiousness by recognizing and rectifying a culture created with misconceptions based on an immoral and unwinnable war.

Romanticizing and glorifying our ancestors' extreme inhumanity and intellectual deficiencies has inadvertently bred a false sense of righteousness among some Confederate descendants, thus creating false heroic myths anything remotely associated with the American Civil War.

Ideologues and accommodations of the Confederacy by citizens and/or Southern states is perceived by many "outsiders" or "out-of-towners" as racist, oppressive, and uncivilized. A change is definitely in order.

Bravo, Alexandria. This certainly is wonderful news.

America loves Alexandria,

Condy Kerr

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 19, 2016 01:18:24 Success: Ema Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Dear Comm ttee Members and Mr. F fer:

F rst of a , I am fur ous w th A exandr a C ty Council for creat ng a comm ttee "to study" proposed street name changes and the remova of the Confederate so d er statue. It a ready seems that the comm ttee has been stacked w th those who seek change, wh ch s probab y what the c ty council wanted n the fr st p ace, so that can then c a m they were "f x ng" a "prob em", and then c a m cred t for t. I have been fo ow ng the same controversy n New Or eans, where the c ty council went through the mot on of ho d ng a few pub c meet ngs, and then gnored any pub c sent ment on the other s de, and voted to remove ong-stand ng andmarks. Accord ng yesterday's Wash ngton Post art c e, a po was conducted show ng the major ty of N.O. res dents were not bothered by the statues, but t d dn't matter, because the f x was a ready n.

As far as Confederate street names go, V rg n a s part of the South, and I take pr de n ts her tage and h story. When I cross the Key Br dge and see Lee Hwy, t s the Southern s de of the r ver and I know I'm home. The street and schoo names ref ect V rg n a's h story. When I am n DC, many p ace names (McPherson Sq., Farragut W & N etc.) rem nd me that I am n "Un on" terr tory, so to speak (LOL). Somehow I do not see Southerners protest ng these names or pet t on ng the c ty government over them w th fe gn ed outrage, nor do I even see protests at the name of "Ma com X Ave". There s even a "Sherman Ave.," wh ch I cou d c a m s deep y offens ve to me w th a fam y h story n Georg a. But do you see me out there protest ng, spray pa nt ng the s gn, and c a m ng that I was made to fee unwe come?

As far as Jefferson Dav s Hwy goes (probab y your fr st target, r ght?), a though I wou d not subscri be to h s rac a v ewpo nt (nor that of many other 19th century eaders), I fee the name s needed for ba ance. I had a augh out of t one t me when a eft- ean ng fr end from CA came here and d dn't want to fy nto Reagan Nat ona A rport because of who t was named for, but had no prob em stay ng at a hote n JD Hwy. Of course t occurred to me that th s was because she was gnorant of who that pres dent was. I a so had a Br t sh fr end p an a tour of the L nco n memor a , and then asked me f L nco n was the pres dent of both the North and the South.

Thank you for your t me and attent on. P ease know that I am just a pr vate c t zen and my v ewpo nt does not represent any group. P ease just get on to so v ng rea prob ems and eave A exandr a n the South, where t be ongs.

A son Katzman (Ar ngton)

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Last Name

Katzman

Title

pr vate c t zen who frequents A exandr a

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Confirmation Email

Apr 19, 2016 12:39:18 Success: Ema Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion on this important matter. I am a 63 year-old woman who was born and raised in and around Washington, D.C. I have witnessed the injustice and the persecution of Jim Crow as well as the joy and victories of the Civil Rights Act and subsequent movement. However, I have never been so perplexed as I am now over what appears to be a crusade to wipe out evidence that Virginia was once the heart of the Confederacy and by doing so, its full, rich and diverse history. Without doubt there is a large population of Washingtonians and Virginians who claim an ancestor of someone who participated, in some fashion, in the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy. Is he or she now expected to feel shame? A statue of a Confederate soldier should not be looked upon as a threat or a carbon copy for some misguided individual. Rather, it should be allowed to part of the intricate tapestry that is our history. It is a marker, an acknowledgement, of what happened in our past and should serve as a learning tool from which to begin a dialogue of what we were and what we wish to become. Nor should we attempt to sanitize the history of our region by cherry-picking what will or will not be allowed to remain in the public domain or to be remembered. And in this vein, who gets to choose? Proceeding down the road of re-writing and redacting history is a dangerous proposition. Please don't erase our past.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 19, 2016 14:02:47 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

If we cannot justify the presence of Confederate symbols here in Alexandria, then we cannot justify the presence of Confederate symbols anywhere.

I oppose renaming streets and moving monuments and statuary on several grounds, including two in particular: (1) the fact that removing them is nothing less than an attempt to impose amnesia on a culture—a condition for which people as individuals receive medical treatments and therapies, and (2) the fact that no one has articulated a position as to the obligations for removing symbols from the public square.

Without such a limit, a symbol will eventually be subject to removal—and that is a serious problem for anyone interested in doing better than a barbarian. Washington's Masonic memorial will surely be next. And after that, any symbol that would conceive of an aspiration will soon follow. Since that covers a lot of the symbols worth having, Alexandria will be a very sad place by then, and there won't be much reason to walk its streets, for you will receive no feedback from the magistracy of those who came before—an magistracy on that was rich with aspirations for civilization, wrought in stone and iron and wood.

Whatever particulars the Confederates might have gotten wrong about which men are made in God's Image, what they got right was the proper way to conduct a city. In its streets, squares, temples, homes, and shops, Old Town Alexandria is a fascinating place. I contend that it is the symbols of its past—and primarily those symbols—that make it so. Losing them will only hasten a sterile new dark age.

I am positive that the uncontrolled erasure of Confederate symbols will ultimately erase civilization itself. Indeed, those people so intent of erasing the past have been—without exception of which I am aware—of diminished civilization. Communist purges, barbarian fires, Taliban executions, and ISIS purifications are far examples of those with a justification for the erasurements.

I'm counting on there being enough of a cultural inheritance left in Alexandria for the people to conclude that these particular Confederate symbols deserve a place in our urban spaces, and more generally, that the very notion of "Confederate symbols" is a prerequisite to doing well, and that Alexandrians, of all people, should fight like hell on behalf of such.

As G.K. Chesterton observed, a respect for tradition means "giving a vote to most obscure of ancestors, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about. A democrat objects to men being discredited by the accident of birth; tradition objects to the re-credited by the accident of death. Democracy tells us not to neglect a good man's opinion, even if he is our groom; tradition asks us not to neglect a good man's opinion, even if he is our father."

If the progressive conceits are true that we see more clearly and farther than our predecessors, it is not because we have keener vision or greater height; rather, it is because we are but dwarves standing on the shoulders of giants who came before us. We would do well to remember that.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 24, 2016 21:01:52 Success: Ema Sent to: cra g.fer@a exandr ava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Thanks for this opportunity to comment. I have attended the last two meetings of the ad hoc committee. It has been an eye-opening process. A few thoughts.

I am pleased that the committee seems to be leaning toward changing the name of Jeff Davis Highway. This is the most visible and problematic of the confederate named streets given its visibility as a major arterial in the city, and given that Jefferson Davis is well known as the president of the Confederacy and the secession. Honoring him seems inappropriate in this day. I recall one young woman who testified at a recent hearing. She is not from this area and I believe she represents many young adults' opinions. When she first became aware of this street name her reaction was "Really, in the 21st century?" At this point that name, which we long-time residents have become accustomed to, paints a poor first impression of our city to outsiders. It must be changed.

The other street names present a tougher challenge. Are they really named for confederate generals, or someone else with the same name. Is it OK to honor them if they did something else other than serve as an officer on the Confederate side of the War?

One of the status-quo supporters said something at one of the meetings that was revealing. "These names were selected by officials of Alexander who were elected by a majority of the White men who voted at that time." These decisions were made without the consent or consideration of the black residents of Alexander (not to mention the women) of that time--the late 19th century. It is worth considering that this wrong should be addressed for the sake of the people of the time who were disenfranchised, and for future generations who want to feel that history of this city is accurately and faithfully honored. The people who named these streets for Confederate heroes were not attempting to accurately record the history of Alexander, Virginia or the United States. They had a specific, clear and one-sided agenda in mind which is not appropriate for our 21st century city. Do we need to change ALL the names the coincide with Confederate military figures, no. But we MUST make some attempt to strike a better balance between the revisionist "Lost Cause" narrative of the 19th Century, and the more historically accurate one that we know to be truthful today.

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Apr 25, 2016 09:25:59 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

1. Community values, knowledge, and decisions to discuss and considerations

Comment: Naming Alexandria streets in the newly annexed area after Confederate Generals reflects the attitudes of City officials at the very beginning of the Civil Rights movements of the 50s and 60s. Court decisions were handed down forbidding segregation of trains and buses crossing state lines. Arguments were heard by the Supreme Court in the landmark case Brown v. Board of Education. The overt actions by the City Council at that time reflected the efforts to resist coming changes, but also to preserve for future generations the success on social and racial views of the Confederacy.

The street naming convention adopted in the 50s is part of the legacy left by City officials who retained sectional and racial views long after the Civil War.

The motives behind naming the streets is not who we are today. Alexandria is a diverse multicultural, multiethnic society. Residents are interested and aware of our local history and how it shapes our community values. As a consequence, street names should reflect the names of people who have made a positive contribution to our community, its history and our society.

The preponderance of streets on the west end of Alexandria named after Confederate leaders should not be a lasting legacy of racial inequality. As important as promoting a progressive, we coming image of Alexandria as a good place to live or visit unencumbered by an outdated political culture.

With the interest in the show "Mercy Street" there is an opportunity to provide a more nuanced and balanced interpretation of Alexandria Civil War history. As a community we should not embrace redemption of the Southern cause at the expense of efforts to preserve the Union, end slavery and racial discrimination.

2. Recommendations on actions, if any, the City Council should consider with respect to:

- The Appomattox statue on South Washington Street

Comment: The Appomattox statue is not personally objectionable. It does reflect the place in front of the Lyceum where local militia groups mustered before evacuating Alexandria at the beginning of the Civil War. However, located in the middle of a busy street, it is a difficult place for tourists and residents to appreciate the history the statue commemorates. If there was a suitable area next to the Lyceum, I would suggest the monument be moved to protect it from being damaged but also for those wanting to solemnly commemorate the sacrifice of the ancestors. It is important the United Daughters of Confederacy who own the statue be responsible for the cost of properly maintaining the statue.

- the name of Jefferson Davis Highway in the City of Alexandria

It is disgraceful we have a major street in Alexandria named after the President of the defeated Confederate State of America. He was a slaveholder, the face of the loss cause movement and an unrepentant white supremacist after the War.

- the names of the many streets within the City that are named after Confederate generals and military leaders

The names of most of the Confederate general and officials have been lost in the dust-bin of history. However, there are several street names that should be considered for renaming these include Jefferson Davis Highway, Taney Avenue, Quantrell Avenue and Beauregard.

Jefferson Davis Highway

Jefferson Davis was a slaveholder and an unrepentant white supremacist after the War. He was the face of the "lost cause" movement to redeem the Southern cause and obstruct civil rights for African Americans.

Taney Avenue

Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney is infamous for his opinion in the Dred Scott case. The 1857

Supreme Court decision was a major turning point that led to the division between the North and South over slavery. His racially intemperate views towards slave and free blacks outraged Northern abolitionists and supported slave interests in the South. The decision denied African Americans the right to ever be citizens under the Constitution.

Fortunately, the outcome of the Civil War, the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the 14th Amendment reversed the decision and granted citizenship to African Americans. However, it foreshadowed a period of racial discrimination and Jim Crow laws in the South.

Quantrel Avenue

William Quantrel was a pro-slavery guerrilla leader who terrorized anti-slavery settlements in Missouri and Kansas "who murdered and burned out Missouri Unionists" (James M. McPherson).

The Marshall House Paque

Although the paque is on private property and is owned by the Daughters of the Confederacy, the City should install a waymarker sign on the public sidewalk explaining the history of the paque, who owns it and presenting a more factual account of the events at the Marshall House.

Robert E. Lee's portrait in the City Council Chambers

The portrait of Robert E. Lee in City Hall should be placed in a less prominent location. This is not appropriate space for a portrait painting of an officer of the United States Army who resigned his commission and waged a protracted war against the Country he swore to defend.

The Lee Center

Several generations of Lee family members have contributed to the history of Virginia—Robert E. Lee being the most famous. It would be more fitting if the fire training center be named after an Alexandrian or fire team instrumental in responding to the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon.

North Beauregard

General Beauregard resigned from the United Army in 1861, he commanded the defense of Charleston at the start of the Civil War at Fort Sumter, routed Northern troops at First Manassas and finally surrendered his troops after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

General Beauregard is one of the more famous Southern Generals named on streets in the west end of Alexandria where no Northern Generals are celebrated.

North Beauregard is a major thoroughfare and plans are in the works for a large town center project between Seminary Road and Sanger Avenue. To commemorate the association of a major planned development with a Confederate officer who resigned his commission and fought to protect the institution of slavery, the street name should be changed. Finding an upscale name would facilitate public and private support for the major project. Since many of the properties fronting on North Beauregard are located on parallel streets and do not have Beauregard street addresses, the change in name would likely be less costly and less disruptive.

3. Specific policy on flying of any flags on property owned or under the control of the City

I totally support City Council's actions on September 8, 2015, prohibiting the flying of the Confederate flag on City owned or controlled property or flying a Confederate flag on a privately owned memorial in the middle of a City Street. The City should pursue State legislation to clarify the legal status of a privately owned memorial with a public right of way. I also support City Council actions repealing language that streets be named after Confederate leaders. No exceptions.

4. Additional Comments:

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee has been provided information on estimated costs and possible impacts on maintenance. Attempting to estimate costs is outside the authority of the Ad Hoc Committee. The City Council guidance focused on community values, discussion and comments regarding the legacy of Confederate memorials, flags and street names in public spaces under the authority of the City of Alexandria. Until a proposal or various options for renaming streets is adopted or presented by the Committee for public comment, it is unrealistic to make any estimate of costs or infer any inconvenience.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Apr 25, 2016 20:55:05 Success: Ema Sent to: cra g.f fer@a exandr ava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

"Society is an open-ended partnership between generations. The dead and the unborn are as much members of society as the living. To dishonor the dead is to reject the relation on which society subsists—a relation of obligation between generations. Those who have lost respect for the dead have ceased to be trustees of the inheritance. Inevitably, therefore, they lose the respect of obligation to future generations. The web of obligation shrinks to the present tense." —Edmund Burke

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Apr 28, 2016 11:36:34 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Hello

To those who are working on the subject of Alexandria's slaveholding and confederate legacy:

I happened to read the plaque at Christ Church commemorating the burial of President Washington. I was surprised to see that a Colonel Little and a Mr. Ramsey were pallbearers at his funeral.

And in these years, I thought the name of the street our family has lived on for 40 years was called "Little" because it was a short street!

So when I thought about it, I realized that if George Washington was a slave owner, I can assume that Colonel Little was a slave owner or at least condoned others who owned slaves.

So should we change the names of Washington street, our street and our neighbor's on Ramsey street as well?

Alexandria has a past and a history, some good and some bad.

I don't believe that by erasing the markers, street names or other signs of Alexandria's past, we will eliminate what happened in this city.

History needs to be remembered.

Should we block all memories of The Holocaust in Nazi Germany.

Stan tried to eliminate reminders of Lenin.

The US Army even tore down a statue of Saddam Hussein. His memory lives on as does the war in Iraq.

Common Sense-History Reminders, both positive and negative are what is needed.

Just some thoughts from a resident of Alexandria VA.

Brian McCormick
817 Little Street, Alexandria VA. 22301
571-278-3231

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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May 09, 2016 11:26:30 Success: Ema Sent to: cra g.f fer@a exandr ava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Being born & raised in upstate New York I'm not opposed to the Confederate Cause. I live on Armistead St. and from what I've read Lewis Armistead was an honorable man and I have no problem having a street with his name. However, to get here from I395 South I have to take Quantrell Avenue. I can only assume this is a misspelling of Quantrell. William Clarke Quantrell was in most respects a war criminal. He was responsible for the killing of over 180 civilians in his raid on Lawrence, Kansas. Some of his "orders" included the James and Younger brothers. I think this one really needs to be changed.

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May 09, 2016 14:39:46 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.ferer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

If not to be evaded that point of correctness is raising the standard of Alexander over the historical monument, Appomattox.

.

My response to these Democrats, (and surely the proponents of removing the statue are Democrats) is:

When the Democratic Party, which to this day celebrates a leader of the KKK, Democratic Senator Robert Byrd, apologizes to Americans for institutional slavery in America. And perpetuating it through Jim Crow laws then maybe we can discuss this statue. Until the Democratic Party apologizes, the statue stays perhaps now as a reminder to them of the rich history in promoting racism and slavery in America.

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Jun 05, 2016 12:46:46 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

Comments: June 12, 2016

Draft Report, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, June 6, 2016

General Comments:

1.

Draft Report, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, June 6, 2016

General Comments:

1. City Council Guidance

The draft report is inconsistent with the instructions provided by the City Council, fails to objectively outline the values and ideas presented to the Advisory Group, provides a truncated summary of meetings, and includes language that is divisive and insensitive.

Recommendation

The draft report is a public document. It should either be totally rewritten or the Advisory Committee be disbanded with no final report.

2. Public Comments:

The draft report does not include a narrative on the broad range of community values expressed in written comments and at meetings. Discussion of the values, knowledge and ideas expressed is essential to understand why memorials, street signs and other symbols, e.g., Appomattox, the Marshall House plaque, the painting of Lee in the City Council's chamber, and past history of racial intolerance in Alexandria are out of step with who we are today.

Recommendation

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee should follow the guidance provided by the City Council to discuss the range of values, knowledge and ideas provided at public meetings and in written comments. As currently written, the draft report ignores public comments and characterizes them as "passions ran high". In a separate statement the committee expressed frustration; "It was clear early there was not a community consensus regarding these items, but the group did not expect there to be."

3. Historical Context

The final report should provide the backdrop and context for today's concern regarding the statue and street names. A concern is that Alexandria's history is often inexplicably linked to the Confederacy, the Marshall House incident, the "occupation" of Alexandria by Union troops, the preservation of slavery and racial intolerance.

By defending the Southern view of Alexandria, we are missing the opportunity to attract a larger tourist following by showing Alexandria as a fortress, supply depot and refuge for freedom.

The story of the Civil War including the Alexandria volunteers who gathered on the steps of the Lyceum

before going to Manassas, the r va or dur ng the war, the hasty retreat of Un on so d ers from the batt e of F rst Manassas, Robert E. Lee's fatefu dec s on, the va or of Confederate so d ers can co nc de w th the story of s avery, the f ght to freedom, and the major contr but on of Afr can Amer can's to the Un on v ctory.

Recommendat on

The Ad Hoc comm ttee's wr tten report shou d be object ve, factua and be based on genera y accepted h stor c nformat on. The report shou d not excuse act v t es or dec s ons made n the past that wou d be d sregarded today. Acknow edg ng what occurred s a step to understand ng, acceptance and reshap ng our co ect ve h story.

Other Comments:

1. Street Names

The draft report shou d acknow edge certa n streets are named after Confederate eaders whose rac a v ews are abhorrent to the commun ty va ues A exandr an s share today (Supreme Court Just ce Roger Taney and W am Quantre).

Nam ng A exandr a streets n the new y annexed area after Confederate Genera s ref ected the att tudes of C ty off c a s at the very beg nn ng of the C v R ghts movements of the 50's and 60's. Court dec s ons were handed down forb dd ng segregat on of tra ns and buses cross ng state nes. Arguments were heard by the Supreme Court n the andmark case Brown v. Board of Educat on. The act ons by the C ty Council at that t me ref ected the r efforts to res st com ng changes, but a so to preserve for future generat ons the secess on st and rac a v ews of the Confederacy.

A exandr a s a d verse mu t cu tura , mu t ethn c commun ty. Res dents are nterested and aware of our oca h story and how t shapes our commun ty va ues. The names of Confederate eaders whose names mark the streets on the west end of A exandr a have been most y forgotten; ost n the dustb n of h story. W th the except on of Jefferson Dav s H ghway, Beauregard Street most of the street names refer to re at ve y unknown Confederate off c a s and off cers. It s ke y for most res dents the street names are not a ast ng egacy of rac a nequa ty.

Recommendat on:

The report shou d acknow edge when and why the street nam ng convent on was adopted and that t ref ected act ons of C ty off c a s sympathet c to the Confederate her tage and ma nta n ng systemat c d scr m nat on. It s ke y f a survey had been taken that many res dents are nd fferent to chang ng the street names.

2. D v s ve Language

The draft report conta ns language that ref ect s rac a nsens t v ty. The report makes a d st nct on between A exandr a C v War assets devoted to Afr can Amer cans and those devoted to commemorat ng the Confederate cause. The report suggests there are too many Federa memor a s commemorat ng Un on so d ers (nc ud ng cemeter es) and Afr can Amer cans and not enough s be ng done by the C ty to honor the Confederate so d ers. Over ooked are the h stor c cemeter es n the W kes Street Cemetery Comp ex, Ar ngton Cemetery and the Ivy H Cemetery where many off cers and res dents who supported the Confederacy are bur ed.

The report c a ms:

Overa , the c ty of A exandr a has re at ve y few "rea " v sua connect ons to the C v War....

In fact, we have more Federa memor a s and nterpretat ons of s avery here than we do any Confederate

re cs, and we already share more perspectives regarding the experience of the war than most places can. These assets include the Union Fort Ward (to include the post war era we are struggling to interpret), the National Cemetery (which includes not only white Federal soldiers but the African American troops) the Contraband and Freeman's Cemetery, the Edmondson Sisters memorial, and Freedom House, the site of a former slave dealer and slave pen complex. (Italics added)

Recommendation:

This argument pits Union and African American public sites and symbols against Confederate sites and symbols. What is lost is they are all part of the Civil War fabric. This language is racially insensitive and divisive and should be stricken from the report.

3. A or None

The draft report did not provide any discussion or analysis of whether there should be "who else or individual name changes (if necessary or advisable).

The draft report unrealistically takes the position that all streets named after Confederate officers and officers would have to be identified and assumed all would be changed. This assumption led to the reasonable conclusion that such a recommendation would be costly and inconvenient and therefore no changes should be made. The report should highlight and consider changing street names of prominent Southern sympathizers who were known racist and in one case a terrorist.

Recommendation:

The report should include other options other than changing all street names. Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney and gang leader William Quantrill were racist and the legacy should not be forgotten. The draft report should acknowledge the street naming convention adopted in the 50s is part of the legacy left by City officials who retained sectional and racial views long after the Civil War.

City officials may want to acknowledge that the street naming convention approved by a much earlier City Council reflected prevalent social and cultural views of the 1950s and 60s. We are a different society today. However, implicit in our public language are often elements of racial intolerance.

Cost and inconvenience is a factor to be considered by potential officials. The Ad Hoc Committee should consider other reasonable options not just the most expensive option.

4. The Appomattox Statue

There is no discussion as to why commenters believe the Appomattox statue is potentially offensive and be removed. The statue is a memorial to Alexander's who died in the Civil War, but it is also a tribute to the lost cause interpretation of Civil War history. The Lost Cause movement was an effort to redeem Southern pride, glorify Southern generals and erase slavery as the cause of the Civil War. The success of the Lost Cause movement laid the groundwork for regaining racial hatred, renewed discrimination, and Jim Crow laws that disenfranchised African Americans for nearly a hundred years after the Civil War.

(The 17th Virginia Regiment was not formed in Alexandria. The over 700 volunteers who left the city on May 24, 1861 were members of the Alexandria Battalion under the command of Major Montgomery D. Corse—Warfield, page 32. The 17th Virginia Regiment was created later at Manassas on June 10.)

Recommendation:

:

The Ad Hoc Committee report should acknowledge the concerns of those who object to the location and presence of the statue and what it means. A though erected to memorialize Alexander's soldiers who had died, the statue is a symbol of the Lost Cause movement reinforcing racial intolerance. The Ad Hoc

Committee has a responsibility to lay out the differences in opinion and provide a logical, sensitive written explanation for the recommendations to retain the statue.

The statue erected in 1883 is the general area in front of the Lyceum where the Alexander Battaillon mustered prior to withdrawing from the City in May 1861. Although located in the middle of a busy street and not very accessible for tourists and visitors, I agree it should not be moved at this time.

5. Flag Policy

The recommendation to review and fine tune the existing flag policy is a backdoor attempt to undermine City Council's decision prohibiting the flying of the Confederate flag on City property. The existing policy keeps the decision at the City Council level and no justification was provided to change it.

Recommendation:

There were very few comments regarding the flag policy reflecting a lack of interest, knowledge or concern regarding the policy. The advisory committee should recommend no change.

Background Information

There are several street names adopted in 1952 and after that should be acknowledged as being racially intolerant and acknowledged by City officials as not reflecting who we are today.

a. Jefferson Davis Highway

He was a hero, the face of the loss cause movement and an unrepentant white supremacist after the War.

b. Taney Avenue

Taney Avenue is named after Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney.

His 1857 Supreme Court decision was a major turning point that led to the division between the North and South over slavery. His racially intolerant views towards slave and free blacks outraged Northerners about onsets and supported slave interests in the South. The decision denied African Americans the right to ever be citizens under the Constitution. The outcome of the Civil War, the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the 14th Amendment reversed the decision and granted citizenship to African Americans.

c. Quantre Avenue

William Quantrill was a pro-slavery guerrilla leader who terrorized anti-slavery settlements in Missouri and Kansas "who murdered and burned out Missouri Unionists" (James M. McPherson).

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

First Name

David

Last Name

Cavanaugh

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Citizen

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Confirmation Email

Jun 12, 2016 13:45:39 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandria.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

The draft report reflects the public sentiment expressed and should stand as is.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

First Name

Victoria

Last Name

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703

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State

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Phone Number

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Jun 12, 2016 18:59:37 Success: Email Sent to: craig.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I am a 20 year resident of Old Town.

I provided remarks at one of the public sessions and was dismayed by the unhelpful comments made by some non-Alexandria residents.

Allowing these comments on the record was unacceptable.

My principal issue: a history matters...contrary to the remarks by others. You can't write history with an eraser.

The Draft Report is a reasonable balance of the comments I heard.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

First Name

Randy

Last Name

Rando

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Jun 12, 2016 19:24:05 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fifer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

The draft report reflects the public sentiment expressed and should stand as is; listen to the people.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

First Name

Last Name

Title

Organization

Street Address

Apt/Suite/Office

City

State

Zip

Email Address

Phone Number

2.

Confirmation Email

Jun 12, 2016 19:33:22 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

The draft is accurate, thorough and well-written.
It should stand as written.

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

First Name

Ha

Last Name

Hardaway

Title**Organization**

Self

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Email Address

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Jun 12, 2016 23:08:32 Success: Email Sent to: craig.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

You also note you should not remove the Appomattox statue or change any street names. If you do, where would it end? Presumably we'd be re-naming Washington DC since he was a slave-owner? How about we stop pandering and start focusing on some issues that are actually important?

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

First Name

Last Name

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Jun 13, 2016 07:28:54 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

I believe that we are trying at w ndm s f any effort s made to move the Confederate statue on Prince Street. Why try to do something that you know to be doomed, unless t s to make a po t ca gesture?

The draft report s spot on--remova of anything removes our h story, whether t s good, bad, or ug y. The draft report s thorough, comprehensive, and respectful. I th nk t shou d be adopted, after the most m nor of ed ts.

As po nted out n the report, there s a mechan sm n p ace for the re nam ng of streets. If c tzens w sh to re name the r street, they can do so.

Hav ng read n the report--d dn't know th sl--that Jefferson Dav s H ghway s actua y a very short stretch of Route 1 n A exandra, I cou d support a change IF the bus nesses and/or residents approve. They are the ones who wou d bear the yet unknown costs.

Thank you
Yvonne We ght Ca ahan

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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Jun 13, 2016 12:53:15 Success: Email Sent to: cra.g.fer@alexandriava.gov

1. Public Feedback for Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names

1. Please provide your feedback:

The Council should leave the street names alone, the Appomattox Statue should stay in place and they should not change the name of the Jefferson Davis Highway. A lot of which appears to be what the Task Force is recommending.

Townsend A. Van Fleet

2. Please provide any contact information you would like the Advisory Group to receive. All fields are optional.

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