Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names
 c/o Craig Fifer, Director
 Office of Communications and Public Information
 301 King Street
 Suite 3230
 Alexandria, VA 22314

April 7, 2016

Dear Ms. Lyman and Group Members:

As April 11, 2016 will be the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group, our chapter would like to reiterate our proposal regarding flags at Prince and Washington Streets, and our position regarding the Appomattox Statue.

Our chapter had a long-standing agreement with Alexandria to fly the 1st National Confederate flag (not the Battle Flag) on the three light poles at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets on Robert E. Lee’s birthday (January 19) and on Confederate Memorial Day (May 24). The city council, with no notice to us before or after, voted to suspend the agreement. Courtesy would have dictated a phone call or a letter. We realize the Ad Hoc Group had nothing to do with the council’s display of disrespect.

We propose that the Virginia flag be flown on Robert E. Lee’s birthday. If January 19 falls on the same day as the commemoration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King (which it quite often does), we propose the flag be flown on the state holiday, Lee-Jackson Day, which is the preceding Friday. We will supply the three Virginia flags.

On May 24, we propose that the 1st National Confederate flag once again be flown along with the United States flag. The 1st National Confederate flag is a historic flag that would have been present in the city on that day. It was displayed as early as April 17, 1861, when James Jackson installed a huge Confederate flag atop his establishment at the Marshall House (Alexandria Gazette, April 18, 1861). One of the local militia companies, the Mount Vernon Guard paraded with it on April 23, 1861 (Alexandria Gazette, April 23, 1861). This would have been the flag the five local militia companies would have carried with them when they evacuated at 6:50 a.m., on May 24, 1861.

Flying both the 1st National Confederate flag and the United States flag would comport with UDC flag policy which dictates if the 1st National flag is present the United States flag must also
be present. A former chapter member who now lives in Hawaii informs us that until the late 1980's both flags were flown together. She further indicates the city only wished to fly one flag.

Much was made in the press of black city employees being required to place the Confederate flag. The city's own flag policy indicates that if a black employee does not wish to do it, she is not required to.

As for the Appomattox Statue, it is protected by two state laws. It shall therefore remain in its current location. As stated in our previous letter, we wish to install a replica of the early 20th century iron fence around it and also install up-lighting. The statue is private property. We are responsible for its care and maintenance. This statue was conceived as, and is, a memorial to the men who left Alexandria in defense of their state, but did not return. It was never intended to be anything other than a memorial to fallen soldiers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Mullins
Chapter President
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