

Submitted On	Name	In your opinion what should be done with the Monuments	Message
12/03/2017 21:27:47	Mike Sarahan		<p>I just want to add to the record a Back Page column I wrote for Style Weekly that was printed in the March 24, 2015 edition, with the title, "Peddling the Past." Jason Roop worked with me to find the right place for a particular paragraph that heaps a (full) measure of derision on the Jefferson Davis Monument and on Jefferson Davis himself, as they became the centerpiece for the UCI Road World Championships to be held in Sept. 2015. I imagined what we would be showing off to our visitors from around the world. This is what came through in the column.</p> <p>"Imagine the head-scratching by our foreign visitors upon learning that the monument memorializes the great Civil War president. They might ask, 'Oh, is he the man who freed the slaves?' No, that would be the other guy. 'Is he the one who preserved the Union and kept the country together as the United States of America?' No, that would be the other guy. 'Is he the one whose words live on in the memory of a nation?' No, that would be the other guy."</p> <p>I am attaching a copy of the entire column, but I especially liked this one paragraph. The rest is history, as they say, and the history of the monument is as despicable as the man.</p> <p><a href="https://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/peddling-the-past/Content?oid=2188951">https://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/peddling-the-past/Content?oid=2188951</a></p>
12/06/2017 7:28:19	Sarah Pace		<p>I would like to know if a member(s) of the commission can speak at a meeting of the Henrico County Historical Society meeting to be held on March 4, 2018? Thank you.</p>
12/06/2017 7:44:39	David Plush	Add context to the monuments., A	<p>Monument Avenue should be our grand avenue in town long term. If the current statues could be replaced with more accurate statues of similar quality that would be best. Even though the current statues don't feel accurate or relevant they look opulent. Out of town guests seem to think it's both incredibly strange to celebrate the Confederacy and interesting that they have landed in a totally different place. If the current Confederate statues remain there should be more context there. Most people I know have no idea what the statues are about except for Robert E. Lee. They just like the amazing mansions there!</p> <p>The current ones could be located to a museum(s). I think Henrico should add relevant statues as well to their side of Monument Avenue as that side seems forgotten about. We are grateful for the Arthur Ashe statue, he was a friend of my fathers growing up together in Church Hill.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and efforts to heal Richmond!</p>
12/06/2017 10:04:09	Alison Kent	Leave the monuments as they are	<p>Please do not remove the monuments. They are part of our history. I think it is acceptable to add context. The history is the history and even if it is sad, it doesn't go away by removing the physical evidence.</p>
12/06/2017 11:24:27	Sean Davidson	Leave the monuments as they are	<p>Richmond was the capital of the CSA. Nowhere else can claim as much intimacy to such uniquely important events in US history than this city. I don't see any reason to take the monuments down, and I don't think these statues actually bother anyone. What would removing them accomplish? I think certain people are projecting other issues onto the monuments, and want to use perceived prejudice as an excuse to impose their beliefs on others as part of a larger agenda.</p>
12/06/2017 18:53:19	Robert Wood	Remove the monuments from Mon	<p>I am writing to ask you to remove the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue immediately. Richmond should not celebrate men who killed their fellow Americans to keep human beings in chains. These monuments were erected during the era of Jim Crow to celebrate white supremacy. Now they are an invitation to fascists to bring violence to our cities. I do not want what happened in Charlottesville to happen in our city. These monuments must come down.</p>

12/06/2017 19:16:21	Leslie Waters	Remove the monuments from Mor	The monuments should be removed immediately because they are offensive to many Virginians, including many members of marginalized communities and all those who objects to commemorating men who instigated and led a war to preserve slavery. Let's not forget that Robert E. Lee and his ilk led Virginians to their slaughter to protect their own narrow economic interests. Those who argue that the statues commemorate confederate soldiers who lost their lives in the civil war are missing the point -- these statues do not commemorate the rank-and-file but rather the worst of the Virginia planter class. Furthermore, these are not war memorials and they should not be treated as such. They were constructed decades after the conflict by white supremacists to legitimize segregation and justify the violence being inflicted on the Black community in the era of Jim Crow. Today, unsurprisingly, it is again white supremacists/white nationalists/fascists who most loudly call for the statues' preservation. And, as we saw in Charlottesville in August, they are actually using the statues as a justification for instigating violence on Virginians. As long as the statues remain, the possibility that these racists will show up in Richmond and assault our people remains. Don't let aggressive, dangerous, and privileged white supremacists intimidate you into preserving them. Get rid of them. Do it in the dead of night, no fanfare, no announcement, just get them out of our city, and do it immediately.
12/06/2017 19:50:05	Wendy Boynton	Remove the monuments from Mor	These confederate war statues are an abomination. They are an insult to the population of this city and a stain upon its moral and ethical fiber. To memorialize and put on a literal pedestal symbols of white supremacy and the enslavement, rape, torture and kidnapping of our fellow human beings was disgusting enough at the time they were erected, but it is unconscionable now. The fact that there is even debate about keeping these statues at all, when so many more important problems that are hurting the people of Richmond remain unaddressed, is nothing short of gross negligence on the part of all elected officials. The statues should be removed, melted down, and sold for scrap. We should then use that money, and the money saved by not having to maintain these monstrosities, to make our city better for those who are still treated as lesser citizens. Tear them down today. There is no other moral choice. We, the people, are watching you.
12/06/2017 19:51:25	Phil Shepard	Remove the monuments from Mor	The monuments should be removed immediately and we should all feel ashamed that we've let them stand for so long.
12/06/2017 19:52:48	Kelly Hinnant	Remove the monuments from Mor	Although my ancestors are Confederate veterans, I believe that the removal of monuments for Confederate generals on Monument Avenue would be the best course of action for the city. The current statues whitewash the history of the Civil War and ignores their role in protecting slavery in the United States. While some others may argue for added context, the fact is that no plaque would be able to match context that these men are placed, exalted, in positions of power on literal pedestals. I would not be against the relocation of the statues to a more appropriate location. Replacements could include Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Bowser (hopefully together), and Oliver Hill,.
12/06/2017 20:08:24	Mitchell Kinard	Remove the monuments from Mor	The Confederate Monuments are symbols of white supremacy and cannot remain in the public. They must be removed immediately to prevent them from becoming a rallying point for white-nationalists, neo-Nazis, and the KKK to espouse their disgusting genocidal ideologies and threaten the peace of Richmond's multicultural population. Every day the Confederate Monuments stay in place the city signals that it accepts white supremacy, and that message is unacceptable. Remove them immediately.

12/06/2017 20:26:59	Thomas Boynton	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>Richmond's monuments to confederate generals were erected by the KKK during the Jim Crow era specifically to show support for white supremacy. The men they memorialize were monstrous in their immorality; willing to slaughter to preserve their own wealth, itself built on the subjugation of slaves. If hell exists, they surely inhabit it now.</p> <p>The best change I have come up with to "contextualize" the monuments is that their pedestals should be replaced by mounds of tormented Africans. This would represent those who were killed, raped, and forced into subjugation so that the aristocrats of the "Old Dominion" could continue to enjoy their tea and cakes. I don't think this would make anyone happy however, so instead I advocate removing the monuments.</p> <p>Adding context is and always was a cop-out. It is a compromise which will make neither Richmond's liberals nor its white supremacists happy. I urge you to throw out this milquetoast sop and damn the torpedoes. It will feel good, I promise. If you can't bring yourselves to advocate illegally tearing down the monuments, at the very least advocate fighting the laws preventing removing them.</p>
12/06/2017 22:42:19	Christopher Sloce	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>In order to talk about the why the monuments need to come down, let's begin by talking about what really constitutes a city. This is entirely a note about removing the monuments. It offers no other answer than removal, because what replaces them, as long as they're not continued monuments to one of the most evil causes in history, would be better. Giant fire hydrants for everyone's dog to use would serve a greater purpose to the city than racists, cast in bronze and lionized.</p> <p>If we define a city by its buildings and streets and transit system, then there's not an argument for or against the statues. But what's important in a city are not those things. What is important is the people who live there and their relationship with the above listed at large and how that relationship constitutes their day to day lives.. A citizen's experience of the city makes the city; it contributes to the atmosphere.</p> <p>This is a majority black city that everyday, part of their psychic makeup is the looming of a series of statues there to remind them that America has never given black people a fair deal and, unless changes are made, refuses to. In order to achieve true equality in America, where systemic racism ends, we're going to have to see a shifting of both economic materials and cultural ones. Tearing down these statues achieves both.</p> <p>No longer will we be wasting money protecting the monuments. We can repair our schools, we can repair our roads, and we can build a Richmond for the real Richmond. But most of all we won't have to think about kids looking up and know that statues represent a real and disgusting legacy of white supremacy being consecrated by monuments and we can begin disassembling the greatest opponent of their continued livelihood and liberty.</p>

12/07/2017 10:27:40	Scott Murrah	Remove the monuments from Mor	The monuments should be removed immediately because they are offensive to many Virginians, including many members of marginalized communities and all those who objects to commemorating men who instigated and led a war to preserve slavery. Let's not forget that Robert E. Lee and his ilk led Virginians to their slaughter to protect their own narrow economic interests. Those who argue that the statues commemorate confederate soldiers who lost their lives in the civil war are missing the point -- these statues do not commemorate the rank-and-file but rather the worst of the Virginia planter class. Furthermore, these are not war memorials and they should not be treated as such. They were constructed decades after the conflict by white supremacists to legitimize segregation and justify the violence being inflicted on the Black community in the era of Jim Crow. Today, unsurprisingly, it is again white supremacists/white nationalists/fascists who most loudly call for the statues' preservation. And, as we saw in Charlottesville in August, they are actually using the statues as a justification for instigating violence on Virginians. As long as the statues remain, the possibility that these racists will show up in Richmond and assault our people remains. Don't let aggressive, dangerous, and privileged white supremacists intimidate you into preserving them. Get rid of them. Do it in the dead of night, no fanfare, no announcement, just get them out of our city, and do it immediately.
12/07/2017 10:40:37	Lauren Payton	Remove the monuments from Mor	There is no reason to celebrate traitors of America. These monuments were unveiled during the Jim Crow era to intimidate black people, and they are used today for the same purposes. There is no true history to protect; the era was rife with codifying racism and white supremacy into law, and the monuments were one step in revising history. Remove them.
12/07/2017 10:43:06	Anthony Casamassima	Remove the monuments from Mor	The monuments are from a dated and barbaric era. Remove them or put them in your backyard.
12/07/2017 11:01:10	Alexis DeJesus	Remove the monuments from Mor	At this point, the monuments on monument avenue should be removed due to their representation of those that fought for slavery, especially in Richmond, which used to be one of the largest slave trades in the United States. There is also the fact that Confederate monuments are now a beacon for trouble and picketing, as we can see from what happened in other places that were debating removing the monuments. While I also think that history shouldn't be hidden, these monuments were put up with the specific intent to glorify them. I believe that most of the Confederate monuments should be changed to represent Richmond as it is today, and maybe one monument to represent not the leaders that lead the Confederacy, but the collective Confederate footsoldiers, made with a different intent than those put up in the Jim Crow era.
12/07/2017 11:37:39	Julia Laing	Remove the monuments from Mor	I don't think it's really possible to contextualize having monuments for people who took up arms *against the United States* to defend their right to own human beings. The idea that this fact should be some kind of footnote when we remember these "great men" is insulting to me, and to many others. It is a crucial fact in the legacies of these men, whether they themselves owned slaves or not, whether they fought in defense of their own holdings or out of loyalty to a state. It is wrong to honor these men. Removing the monuments will not "erase history," nor is it a rejection of southern identity. It only erases the myth of Confederate greatness, and rejects the valorization of the aggressors in the bloodiest war in American history.
12/07/2017 12:09:08	Cole Oberman	Remove the monuments from Mor	The confederate monuments are a blight on the city of Richmond. They are unequivocally symbols of white supremacy, erected during the post-war and Jim Crow era. They were and are still, intended to celebrate white supremacy and intimidate people of color. No one will forget the Civil war if they are removed, but if they remain, they continue to preserve a legacy of slavery and anti-black racism. This is a brutal and grotesque legacy.  The monuments should be removed immediately. Preferably to be melted down and recast as statues honoring the generations of people lived and died enslaved in the state of Virginia. Or those who fought against slavery or literally anyone who actually fought to make our society more free, just, and equitable.

12/07/2017 12:50:49	Sarah prefer not to answer	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>I've lived in Richmond for more than a decade. I live on the block where Monument Avenue terminates into Franklin St, and I walk past the JEB Stuart and Lee statues every day.</p> <p>I love Monument Avenue itself-- the wide cobblestone street, view down the avenue, and median where people can gather. But its beauty is marred by the statues of the Confederates there. These statues glorify men who did terrible things. They owned people as property, fought and killed Americans and Native Americans. The Confederate army set fires during their retreat that burned down 25% of Richmond (Mike Wright, City Under Siege: Richmond in the Civil War, 1995). We've put on a pedestal those who literally destroyed our city, who represent the worst of Virginia's past.</p> <p>The existence of such statues is even against the wishes of the men they depict. Lee and Davis both anticipated that perpetual displays of Confederate symbols would create ongoing contention between citizens, similar to what we see now. To leave these statues up disrespects the men they were crafted to honor. ( <a href="https://www.snopes.com/robert-e-lee-confederate-monuments/">https://www.snopes.com/robert-e-lee-confederate-monuments/</a> )</p> <p>Those asking that the statues remain in place have a right to remember their heritage. But the rest of us do that by going to cemeteries or museums. There is no legitimate reason for certain peoples' "heritage" to be literally elevated in a public square. For that reason, I suggest we remove the Confederate statues and their nameplates and donate them to a Civil War history museum. The statues don't need to be GIVEN added context, they need to be PLACED IN the appropriate context. And that context is with other memories of the Civil War.</p> <p>The remaining pedestals should be filled with some other display of art. This would preserve any attraction of Monument Ave as a tourist spot, and would resolve concerns about diminished property values for those living on/around Monument Ave.</p> <p>"I think it wisest 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." (Lee's letter to Gettysburg identification committee, 1865)</p> <p>"My pride is that that flag shall not set between contending brothers; and that, when it shall no longer be the common flag of the country, it shall be folded up and laid away like a vesture no longer used." (Davis, "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government," 1881)</p>
12/07/2017 12:51:02	Ryan Persaud	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>I am writing to ask you to remove the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue immediately. Richmond should not celebrate men who killed their fellow Americans to keep human beings in chains. These monuments were erected during the era of Jim Crow to celebrate white supremacy. Now they are an invitation to fascists to bring violence to our cities. I do not want what happened in Charlottesville to happen in our city. These monuments must come down.</p>
12/07/2017 23:29:15	Steve Duresky	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>The Confederate monuments, glorifying the losing side in a war against the United States of America, and honoring the leaders of that war which was fought primarily to preserve the Southern economy based on slavery, have no place in the prominent location where they presently stand. No amount of "context" would diminish their dominance and misplaced "glory" as they currently stand. While it is proper to make these beautiful works of art "tools" to remind us and teach future generation of the mistakes and horrors of the past, this effort is best done in a museum or "sculpture garden" setting, as part of a larger display. Only then can Richmond lead the way to the continued healing of our entire nation as we continue to put this dark chapter of our history further and further into our past...</p>

12/09/2017 16:26:21	Katra Ginsky	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>I sat this morning reading the news, states away, and fearful for my friends. I know that the city didn't want to cause a huge stir like the last time these CSA II idiots showed up, but after seeing the trauma and the pain brought upon my dear friends in Charlottesville, the thought of them facing another unprotected white supremacist demonstration had my blood running cold.</p> <p>That's worth considering, I think. In light of Charlottesville, we spent well over \$500,000 making sure everyone stayed safe in September. In December, we put lives at risk rather than blow the budget. This is the position these statues put us in.</p> <p>If there is any doubt in your minds about what side of this has more support in the city, take a look at the crowds today. Take a look at the crowds in September. Which side were they on? As I said, we can either repeatedly divert hundreds of thousands of dollars from far more valid needs like our city's schools, like subsidized lunch programs for students, much needed improvements and upkeep in public housing, shelters for the homeless in the winter... the list of things we could have if we got rid of those statues goes on, and it only gets longer with every rally these people hold.</p> <p>We could actively improve the lives of thousands with the money we've spent placating a handful of people convinced that their heritage will evaporate if some stone comes crumbling down...</p> <p>My only question is... whose side are you on?</p>
12/10/2017 9:24:01	Katra Ginsky	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>I sat this morning reading the news, states away, and fearful for my friends. I know that the city didn't want to cause a huge stir like the last time these CSA II idiots showed up, but after seeing the trauma and the pain brought upon my dear friends in Charlottesville, the thought of them facing another unprotected white supremacist demonstration had my blood running cold.</p> <p>That's worth considering, I think. In light of Charlottesville, we spent well over \$500,000 making sure everyone stayed safe in September. In December, we put lives at risk rather than blow the budget. This is the position these statues put us in.</p> <p>If there is any doubt in your minds about what side of this has more support in the city, take a look at the crowds today. Take a look at the crowds in September. Which side were they on? As I said, we can either repeatedly divert hundreds of thousands of dollars from far more valid needs like our city's schools, like subsidized lunch programs for students, much needed improvements and upkeep in public housing, shelters for the homeless in the winter... the list of things we could have if we got rid of those statues goes on, and it only gets longer with every rally these people hold.</p> <p>We could actively improve the lives of thousands with the money we've spent placating a handful of people convinced that their heritage will evaporate if some stone comes crumbling down...</p> <p>My only question is... whose side are you on?</p>

12/11/2017 9:16:44	Piper Neddenien	Remove the monuments from Mor	Please remove the monuments from Monument Avenue. They are harmful. In the attempts of some people to re-write history not once (when the monumnets first went in), but twice now (in revising the narrative further/adding plaques/opening up more speculative dialogue about what they really "mean"), and it's a distraction from the work that our city really needs to be doing. I moved to Richmond in 2005, and since then, have been always really baffled and offended by the Monuments. In speaking with friends in Baltimore, their city council legitimately removed all monuments commemorating slavery/pro-slavery fighters overnight. I don't know why this is still an issue. It's bad for Richmonders, and looks bad considering the new wave of white supremacy sweeping the nation. People latch onto these images to glorify ways of life that we, as Richmonders, no longer want to live. Ways of hurting people and families and spreading ideas that we actively stand against, and mourn having once chosen. Please, please remove these monuments. Please put them somewhere out of sight, out of the way, instead of glorifying them. Please add a plaque that tells the real story of the Civil War -- that it wasn't about "Rebel Pride" or "Southern Pride" or "States Rights", that it was about white people losing economic power when their rights to buy and sell other human beings were threatened. Please do this. Please don't delay.
12/11/2017 10:19:25	Ashley Collier	Remove the monuments from Mor	Remove the symbols of White Supremacy. It is clear due to the time period, the spirit in which they were erected. It is easy to dismiss the experience of African Americans and their subsequent interpretation of the historical significance of a statue of Confederate leaders because they do not quite represent the same thing to me or evoke such a visceral reaction. That being said, it is imperative to listen to their collective voice and support the removal.
12/11/2017 12:03:03	Jay Cannon	Relocate the monuments.	As the capitol of the confederacy Richmond has a unique opportunity to create a national confederate museum, where monuments can be displayed in the proper context via an interactive experience for visitors. The monuments should be removed from their position of exaltation and placed in the proper historical context. As a Black American I would feel comfortable volunteering in a museum where the whole truth about the Civil War can be brought to light.
12/11/2017 14:23:05	Ashby Bland Crowder	Add context to the monuments., A	I have just read an important essay by David L. Robbins titled "Richmond's Monuments Provide Invaluable Lessons," which is on p. 124 in, of all places, Boomer Magazine (December 2017-January 2018). Please read it, for it pertains significantly to the business of the Commission. I'll quote just one brief passage: "In Richmond, what if the statues come down? What else tumbles with them? The conversation, the testimony, the memory of a wounded community--what happens to them in a hundred years with no physical trace?" Please read this essay.
12/11/2017 20:37:41	DEMSIE Wells	Leave the monuments as they are	I am not a resident of RVA, but live in the Tri-city area of Petersburg, Va. Please preserve our Historical monuments, History CANNOT be erases by removing these beautiful works of art.

12/13/2017 3:41:12	Sababu Sanyika	Leave the monuments as they are	<p>PEACE IN... Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your work helping our city and nation to address this issue, with the best concern and best results after due public input and consultation to resolve this matter.</p> <p>These Monuments hold great value in needed attention and efforts to address more than just physical images and other public recognitions of Confederate Heritage.</p> <p>Prayers we all have the knowledge and insight to be honest about the history of all Confederate recognitions as related to origin of color racism being the father of beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of racial superiority by skin tone.</p> <p>Look forward to participation in assisting to bring satisfactory resolution to this public interest matter that will secure public trust and bring honor to public duty.</p> <p>Prayers for success in your public service to reconcile this matter. PEACE IN...PEACE OUT...</p>
12/13/2017 10:41:21	Ryan Barnett	Leave the monuments as they are	<p>I want to see the monuments stay on monument avenue. Tourists come to Richmond to see the monuments. We should not risk destroying the tourism industry in Richmond by removing the monuments. Further, moving the monuments would cost Richmond 10 million dollars. Money that they don't have to spend. In addition, if the monuments are moved a nationwide boycott will be launched against the city of Richmond.</p>
12/13/2017 17:15:35	Sababu Sanyika	Leave the monuments as they are	<p>WHY IS UPDATED MEETING INFORMATION MISSING FROM YOUR SITE???</p> <p>By request : Please email the next meeting date, place, and time to sanyikasa@vcu.edu Thank you.</p>
12/13/2017 18:34:41	joel blum	Add context to the monuments., A	<p>We have begun planning for a Community Forum regarding what should be done with the monuments. This forum would take place at the 1st UU Church of Richmond on Blanton Ave., and it would be a joint, collaborative effort of the Church and the Carillon neighborhood. We hope to have members of the Mayor's Commission in attendance. We will be looking at a time in either February or March for this event. Please let me know if this is an event that the Commission could support and participate in. Thank you. Joel Blum</p>
12/14/2017 6:16:34	Austin Ross	Remove the monuments from Mor	<p>I am 24 years old lived in Virginia my entire life before I learned history I never cared about the statues in any form now I do because I learned about the confederacy the men they were that they had slaves they kidnapped free black men &amp; women putting them back into slavery I learned a confederate general was an early member &amp; founder of the KKK these statues are evil and they say something about our city we have to choose who we are Americans or confederates we can't be both Robert e Lee said all confederate symbols were to disappear forever why do we not listen to him this man did not allow anything confederate at his funeral told people to put it all away because it would be seen as treasonous and decisive that there should be no monuments well if that's what Lee thought why do we have them why were they built during his time &amp; the civil rights era who were the statues for certainly not the black community also for a time confederate symbols did get put away then brought back as symbols against the civil rights movement you have a decision to make about your soul &amp; the soul of this city make the right one</p>



12/14/2017 15:56:22	Paula Saur	Relocate the monuments.	I recommend that the Confederate statues be removed from their pedestals and placed on the Lee Monument grassy area. All the statues would be placed at ground level, with proper signage, and a pedestrian/tourist walkway with barriers would allow the statues to be seen and studied. It would constitute an outdoor "museum". The intersections where the pedestals were removed could be landscaped. Monument Avenue would still retain its name and character, while the statues would be visible but with added context for tourists and history buffs.
12/15/2017 10:24:45	Karen Andrews	Leave the monuments as they are	The astronomical amount of money it would take to move or remove these monuments would be better spent in shoring up our sagging infrastructure. How about paving the streets instead of patching them? How about updating our schools and providing quality education to our children? How about doing something that will actually benefit our residents in the long run?
12/20/2017 9:35:07	Esther Raycroft	Relocate the monuments.	While the statues have artistic value and as such should not be destroyed they should be removed from the avenue. The Lee statue will always be the largest monument (the expense of creating one as large would be too great) and so it will always appear to be the most important. The only context I can imagine that would have the visual impact needed is a line of slaves in chains being whipped encircling Lee. These statues were intended to terrorize American citizens and I believe honoring dead heroes was secondary. In any case these men were traitors to the U.S. and should not be in a public place of honor. There are many battlefields and cemeteries to which they could be moved. Remove the Davis figure to his grave at Hollywood Cemetery and put a statue to the Lovings in its place. They deserve such recognition.
12/21/2017 6:15:48	Jesse Mark	Leave the monuments as they are	Removing the monuments does not serve as a solution to an issue. This is much more likely to further divide the community.  I don't really understand what "adding context" entails, but many of these monuments are Virginia's heroes of old, so I would not like to see them become pedestals of shame.  Thanks for your time.
12/21/2017 7:33:55	Edward Haley	Relocate the monuments.	Statues of Confederate "heroes" should be relocated to appropriate battlefields (or elsewhere) where context can be more fully described. Jeff Davis statue to Hollywood Cemetery. Arthur Ashe & Mathew Maury statues to remain. Removed statues should be replaced with large-print signage explaining why statue removed & where each is now located.

			<p>I propose a kiosk, bas relief plaque or a yet to be determined installation for each monument, which I would design.</p> <p>Example: for the Robert E Lee monument, a nearby design would feature some version of the image viewable at the following link.</p> <p><a href="https://m.facebook.com/Daniel-Calder-Art-64922182256/activity_feed/?type=share&amp;content_id=10154562089487257&amp;ref=notif_textonly&amp;target_story=S%3A_I565173160%3A10155159730818161&amp;notif_t=page_share&amp;notif_id=1514088001269248">https://m.facebook.com/Daniel-Calder-Art-64922182256/activity_feed/?type=share&amp;content_id=10154562089487257&amp;ref=notif_textonly&amp;target_story=S%3A_I565173160%3A10155159730818161&amp;notif_t=page_share&amp;notif_id=1514088001269248</a></p> <p>This image features the iconic silhouette of the Lee statue altered to reflect sorrow or regret. Additional text and information could provide history for both the monuments and the controversy surrounding them. The image is for reference only. In the actual design, the image would be rendered in a yet to be determined manner.</p> <p>The other monuments would have similar treatments, specific to their characteristics. Each instance would be executed in a clean and professional manner, befitting the Commonwealth of Virginia.</p>
12/25/2017 1:39:22	Daniel Calder	Add context to the monuments.	I am prepared to work up a detailed proposal.
12/28/2017 8:59:17	Molly O'Dell	Add context to the monuments., A	<p>Because Richmond has always been a touchstone of struggle, I hope the Commission will focus on using the opportunity of 'reconsidering the monuments' to provide a monumental focal point to experience, promote and facilitate unification. I'd love to see Richmond as the one place where an controversial and inflammatory display is transformed into a cultural walking museum to be enjoyed by all. It's a five mile walk from Stuart Circle to N. Thompson and encouraging all citizens to walk is a good civic plan. The true history of the origins of each monument needs to be revealed. More art should be added from all the struggles and successes in Richmond and/or Virginia, one of the worst being the man who was the state registrar and demeaned many citizens of their birth certificate documentation based on race/ethnicity. There are wonderful stories as well. AND the men who are represented in these monuments were not all bad. These men were men of their time and some had wonderful qualities. The very fact that you are asking for guidance is honorable. Your charge is difficult but your decision could well be one of the most important decisions for this nation. Let it be unifying. That is what we all need.</p>
12/28/2017 16:51:23	George Calvert	Add context to the monuments.	<p>This is an historic avenue as recognized on the National Register of Historic Places (or is it both state and Federal registers?) It is one of the most beautiful streets in American and a tourist attraction. There is absolutely no reason to remove any of them based on current polling or opinions. The War Between the States was one of the most critical episodes in American history and the period and key actors should be studied as a part of history of that period, which ever side of the argument a person wants to take as to whether the prime actors were "rebels" against the USA or exercising a prerogative they thought they had to leave the Union. One also needs to remember that Lincoln himself did not undertake the war to end slavery; that came several years later. VA only seceded when Lincoln asked them to supply troops to go to battle against their own residents and neighboring states that were seceding.</p> <p>The addition of context is sufficient. Many local people acting offended about the statues today have probably driven by them for decades and never even cared who they were or why they were there. They are just piling on because they think that they have to take one side or the other and want to be politically correct in the current debate.</p>