

Submitted On	Name	In your opinion what should be done with the Monuments	Message	Keep	Remove	Add Context	Add Monuments	Relocate	Specific Suggestions/Notes
11/09/2017 14:51:11	Morgan Carey	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I think Richmond should look to Philadelphia as an example. Monument Lab is a project centered around the question "What is an appropriate monument for the current city of Philadelphia?" We can't change the story of what Richmond was, but we now have the opportunity to decide who we are today. It's definitely worth looking into: https://why.org/articles/celebrating-philadelphias-collective-consciousness-monumental-way/		x				Look to Philadelphia with what they have done with Monument Lab.
11/13/2017 6:54:49	Fritz German	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Hello, make similar to the city of Hamburg/Germany/Europe : https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dammtor#Kriegerdenkmal 2C_Gegendenkmal_und_Deserteurdenkmal https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deserteurdenkmal_(Hamburg) Sincerely		x				Make it like the city of Hamburg, Germany
11/13/2017 10:02:43	Marta Powers	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I advocate for removal of the Confederate monuments on Monument Avenue as they continue to stand as a reminder of a failed revolt against our United States, placing those who fought in that war in a glorified and honored status. Along with that status, they serve as a reminder of the battles to keep people enslaved and to continue the profitable (for some) trade in human trafficking. In their place, a contextual explanation of the monuments original placement, funding, intention and City planning of Monument Ave - similar to the Slave Trail placards which put each place along the trail in context from the perspective of those experiencing it both today and in the past. Understanding the slave trade and its impact on Richmond specifically and the Southern slave regions is most important to fully understand the misinterpretations of "states rights" and exactly what those rights were - the right to enslave humans for unpaid labor. Abhorrent and unacceptable to turn a blind eye to their true and intended meaning.		x	x			
11/13/2017 12:05:55	Wendy DeGroat	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I am submitting two responses so that my remarks lend themselves to grouping more easily. This response concerns funding and funding priorities. If the monuments are left as they are and contextualized, the fact that their installation was funded by private citizens should be noted, along with references to notable people who contributed, and a statement about the people whose voices rose in dissent or who were absent from the decision-making process. I am concerned that public funds needed to ameliorate the unequal systems perpetuated by the racial, economic, political, and social divides symbolized by the monuments - such as the persistently underperforming and underfunded Richmond Public Schools - will be diverted to fund whatever actions the commission prescribes in regard to the monuments. This would be a civic and moral failure. At the same time, relying only on private funds avoids responsibility that these public monuments are our collective problem. Perhaps a combination of public and private funding could be explored for whatever actions are prescribed by the commission. These monuments are symbolic of much deeper, much more disruptive and harmful divides within Richmond and the surrounding region that must be closed - now, not later. The citizens disadvantaged by these divides have waited much too long already for these inequities to be addressed in a multi-faceted, meaningful, and sustainable way. Hopefully this conversation can be the catalyst for significant and lasting improvements.						
11/13/2017 12:20:43	Camden Whitehead		Storefront for Community Design and the mObstudiO are conducting a national design competition that will open for registration on April 1, 2017. This competition has the potential to assist the commission in finding both a more civil basis for discussion but also to allow a more nuanced conversation about the next steps on Monument Avenue. Design, by actually proposing a physical manifestation rather than a speculative solution allows both the questions about the statues to be refined and more nuanced and multivalent solutions that might allow all five of the options above. See you on tuesday evening. Camden Whitehead						
11/13/2017 12:32:48	Barry O'Keefe	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	The Slave Rebel MADISON WASHINGTON is a much more inspirational story than Nat Turner. He commandeered a slave ship from Richmond, killed only one person, and sailed to the bahamas where over 200 slaves were freed. He escaped slavery once, but returned to virginia to rescue his wife. He is an amazing candidate for Monument Ave. Ralph White, former director of the James River Parks system is another great candidate.						

11/13/2017 13:16:15	Wendy DeGroat	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>I am submitting two responses so that my remarks lend themselves to grouping more easily. This response concerns monument removal and relocation.</p> <p>To facilitate our region's progress to a more equitable, just, and sustainable future, the Monument Avenue monuments to Confederate leaders should be sold at auction and removed by a minority-owned American company headquartered in the South. The resulting funds should be given to the City of Richmond, perhaps to establish an endowment that supports public schools and libraries, public transportation, public works, and minority business development. If the Commission's recommendation is to relocate these monuments without selling them, then the monuments should be moved to a nearby Civil War site like a portion of the Richmond National Battlefield Park or Petersburg National Battlefield Park.</p> <p>To Be Sold Relocating the monuments without selling them, particularly if that relocation includes public funding, risks placing a portion of the related financial burden on the people historically exploited and oppressed by the Confederacy and related policies, laws, and practices that persisted after the fall of Richmond -- potentially compounding injuries already visited on these same Americans. By contrast, if the monuments were sold at auction, then private citizens or organizations passionate about the monuments' preservation could purchase them at a cost that would cover removal and relocation, and provide the City of Richmond with additional revenue. Other details to consider would be whether the monuments should be sold as a block or individually, and whether buyers would need to be Americans.</p> <p>Removal of Monuments Should any contract be granted for dismantling, removing, and/or relocating the monuments, then the Request for Proposal (RFP) parameters should specify that the bid be awarded to a qualifying minority-owned American business headquartered in Virginia (or another former Confederate state). Further, if a separate contract is awarded for amelioration of these sites after the monuments are removed, those RFP's should include the same parameters.</p> <p>Disbursement of Resulting Funds The proceeds from the auction should benefit the City of Richmond and its residents, particularly those historically disadvantaged by the practices, policies, and systems that were the legacy of the Confederate occupation of Richmond. Since the city's revenue and growth is hamstrung by existing state legislation, new legislation should be drawn up to prevent the influx of such funds from diminishing future state funding. To that end, perhaps auction proceeds could be used to establish an endowment that supports public schools, public transportation, public works, and minority business development.</p>						
11/13/2017 13:19:31	Catherine Trammell	Leave the monuments as they are.	We cannot rewrite history to appease the easily offended. History is history! Only ISIS would destroy to promote their ideology!						
11/13/2017 15:06:23	Debbie Rowe	Relocate the monuments.	<p>The monuments are hurting the POC in the metro area. They should be relocated to a more appropriate place like Hollywood cemetery or a museum. It would be impossible to add context where they are because no one would see a plaque and it would create a safety hazard.</p> <p>Adding more monuments would look foolish like an afterthought that doesn't change anything.</p>						
11/13/2017 15:07:26	Kelley Libby		<p>Dear Commission Members:</p> <p>As many of you are aware, I am the creator and producer of the public media program UnMonumental, a way to do community storytelling around history and identity in Richmond. In its first iteration, UnMonumental was a weekly radio series that aired throughout Virginia on WVTF/Radio IQ and featured 15 stories, including one by Commission Co-chair Christy Coleman. One of the stories made its way to NPR's All Things Considered, and a short documentary was broadcast on PBS stations across the country. The series ended with a live storytelling event held at The Hippodrome.</p> <p>UnMonumental is in the process of partnering with local organizations to teach audio documentary skills to scholars, librarians, archivists, and students who are already collecting oral histories and doing work around public memory in Richmond. The goal is to amplify those stories so that more Richmonders come into contact with each other in productive ways—through radio/podcast, social media and other digital environments, and real life interaction.</p> <p>If Commission members see a place for community storytelling and public media in its work going forward, I'd be very happy to meet with you and share more about UnMonumental.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelley Libby</p>						

11/13/2017 20:58:34	Sheryl Baldwin	<p>Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.</p>	<p>Monument Avenue is ranked in the top ten best streets in America precisely because of its history, beauty and the many community uses of the street. To destroy this history will bring irrevocable damage to the community, both to our social fabric and to our economy and the city's tax base, as property values would drop. But there is another way that I believe can add value to our city, and demonstrate that we have found a better way forward, that we are not a Charlottesville.</p> <p>I have been participating in the Monument Avenue Commission Town Halls and have some recommendations that I believe will work for all parties. I think we should rebrand Monument Avenue to tell the Story of Virginia, not just of the Civil War. I propose historically accurate stories of the African American experience in Virginia, which is really quite unique among the former slave holding states. I have researched this from resources at the Virginia Historical Society. About 60-70% of Virginia's African American population are descended from the Ibo people of Western African. They were Christians, not Muslim or indigenous religions. Horrifically, Virginia came to have this large distinct population because conditions further south and in the Caribbean were apparently so cruel that these intelligent sensitive people committed suicide rather than endure it. Virginians figured this out and gladly accepted the Ibo people. One slave owner wrote that if the Ibo were well treated they were intelligent and hardworking and as loyal as anyone in the condition of slavery could be expected to be. The population thrived in Virginia and expanded due to natural increase, not due to additional slave ships arriving in the 17th and early 18th centuries. Virginia did however send them further west and to Tennessee and northern Georgia, and elsewhere. It is a complex story, but these Virginia slaves were actually in demand because of their perceived quality as workers and as Christian believers. Ironically and sadly, their very desirability resulted in Virginia becoming second in the slave trade. Virginia slaves were sold into Tennessee, North Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, and further west. This is a painful but poignant story and is unique among the former slave holding states. Slavery was driven by economics rather than being a racist institution, although racial beliefs were used to justify it. Abraham Lincoln even believed the black race to be inferior to the white race. After the Virginia Company failed, many subsequent English immigrants to Virginia fled the Puritans after the English Civil War. Royalists sought haven in Virginia. Second sons were another group who settled. The first Africans came via a Portuguese slave ship that sought provisions and traded some of the Africans they held for provisions. Some became slaves but some became indentured servants. Indentured servants from England made up much of the work force in the 17th century, but the British began sending convicts, so that fact, and the advent of the plantation economy, caused the change to African workers and the use of African American slaves to support the demands of the plantation economy. In 1705 slavery was codified into Virginia law. Then it became institutionalized. There was also a Virginia law requiring care for old slaves "if a slave becomes old and can no longer work, that one is to be cared for the rest of his natural life." After Nat Turner's rebellion, onerous additional restrictions were added to Virginia law. Black churches were required to have white ministers, but that was the least of the new repressive laws. Any freed slaves were required to leave Virginia. Worst of all, education of slaves was outlawed. This constituted a second enslavement: enslavement of the mind.</p> <p>There is more but, this is a unique and remarkable part of the Story of Virginia that has not been widely known, and I think, is a story that should be told. And it should be told on Monument Avenue, ideally in historic panels located exactly opposite the one monument purely about the Confederacy: that of Jefferson Davis, a scoundrel who refused to accept Lee's surrender. Ultimately, we should bring the story into the 20th century, with the 1989 election of Douglas Wilder as Governor, and twice voting for President Barack Obama. This is a story well worth telling.</p> <p>I believe we should have several panels covering the history of African Americans in Virginia, from the beginning to the present, both the good and the bad, including the election of Gov. Wilder (no statue erected till a more appropriate time) and the fact that Virginia became a purple state, twice voting for president Barack Obama. I think Governor Wilder's role is crucial, for without Douglas Wilder, I doubt there would have been a Barack Obama. But I think rebranding Monument Avenue to tell the Story of Virginia instead of being just about the Civil War tells Virginia's true history and tells who we are as a people. It will also tell a story of victory and hope. I obtained this information from resources at the Virginia Historical Society. I will provide references upon request and would like to help create the content for history panels.</p>						
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11/13/2017 21:13:32	Sheryl Baldwin	<p>Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.</p>	<p>Monument Avenue is ranked in the top ten best streets in America precisely because of its history, beauty and the many community uses of the street. To destroy this history will bring irrevocable damage to the community, both to our social fabric and to our economy and the city's tax base, as property values would drop. But there is another way that I believe can add value to our city, and demonstrate that we have found a better way forward, that we are not a Charlottesville.</p> <p>I have been participating in the Monument Avenue Commission Town Halls and have some recommendations that I believe will work for all parties. I think we should rebrand Monument Avenue to tell the Story of Virginia, not just of the Civil War. 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After the Virginia Company failed, many subsequent English immigrants to Virginia fled the Puritans after the English Civil War. Royalists sought haven in Virginia. Second sons were another group who settled. The first Africans came via a Portuguese slave ship that sought provisions and traded some of the Africans they held for provisions. Some became slaves but some became indentured servants. Indentured servants from England made up much of the work force in the 17th century, but the British began sending convicts, so that fact, and the advent of the plantation economy, caused the change to African workers and the use of African American slaves to support the demands of the plantation economy. In 1705 slavery was codified into Virginia law. Then it became institutionalized. There was also a Virginia law requiring care for old slaves "if a slave becomes old and can no longer work, that one is to be cared for the rest of his natural life." 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To: Mark Connor, Provost
Washington and Lee University
204 West Washington St.
Lexington, Virginia 24450
USA

cc: Will Dudley, President
Don Chidress, Rector

Dear Mark,

I recently read the letter of the W&L English department to students affirming a commitment to making W&L a safe space for difficult and serious discussion. I applaud that goal and am certain in that goal the English department has the support of the entire W&L community behind them. The letter, however, was not well reasoned and has numerous shortcomings. The author of the letter publicly referenced on the W&L website two odious organizations, the KKK and neo-Nazism thus, either wittingly or unwittingly, giving them an importance and presence that is totally unacceptable. To give a public acknowledgement of their existence is to give a platform and voice to their odious ideas, validates their existence and in so doing is as despicable as the ideas those two groups espouse. Such action is totally unacceptable and the entire W&L community should severely condemn it. The KKK reached its zenith in the 1920s and 30s becoming almost indistinguishable from the Democratic party, and then declined into the insignificance it has today. Let it stay there. The English department should not be aiding and abetting the KKK by publicly advertising its existence and it should never be associated in any way with W&L. That act was reprehensible and the responsible party for it should be duly reprimanded. In the business world such an act would have resulted in immediate termination with cause, an action that would not be totally inappropriate in this case. To be silent is to be complicit in the result.

Additionally, the English Department's letter's emphasis on white supremacy is extremely narrow in scope and misses the much larger issue of understanding the depths and causes of racial disparity and the historical beliefs surrounding it. Without understanding there can be no solution.

Repugnant as it is to us today, we must acknowledge the historical truth that based on the best scientific and anthropological beliefs of its day the concept of a continuum of superiority to inferiority among human beings based on race and skin color from light to dark respectively has been a prevalent belief throughout the world for centuries and in America well into the second half of the 20th century. This odious belief prevailed in The Union, Britain, Europe, The Middle East, Africa, South America, Asia, so it should not be surprising that it would also have also existed in the Confederacy during its short span of existence in the 19th century. British and European colonization around the world in the 18th, 19th, and 20th century was based on it. The subtitle of Darwin's Origin Of A Species in 1859 was "The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life" and, though use of the word race may have had a double entendre, it reinforced that racial belief.

In the early 20th century Mahatma Gandhi, publicly stated in South Africa that Indians were "infinitely superior" to black Africans, affirming his belief of the racial superiority-inferiority continuum. I don't think anyone would call Gandhi a white supremacist. Because of this belief the federal government's WPA and FHA housing policies in the 1930s and 40s explicitly kept races separated in Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, and numerous other American cities. Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin respectively wrote about their experiences in New York City during the 1920s and 1940s resulting from that widely-held racial belief. In Asia, today it is a deeply entrenched belief and will be so for centuries if not millennia to come, racial inclusiveness being antithetical to Asian thought. Tying these racial beliefs as unique to the four-year span of the Confederacy narrowly focuses on one data point and ignores the entire population of data both in time and space. The racial continuum belief is the critical issue that the English department should focus on, understanding its historical origins, its worldwide acceptance for centuries, its enduring legacy today and ways to mitigate its effects. To do less is to waste time and energy and accomplish nothing.

But getting back to the English department's letter, the time to celebrate Lee's contribution as an educator, however, has not past as the letter proposed. It is now. And I would add to that the celebration of Lee's progressive ideas on race compared to his contemporaries.

The statement that Robert E. Lee's primary association around the world is with white supremacy is factually wrong and any intimation of such should be corrected and condemned. Today certain political elements in American society are trying to create that false belief but it should be condemned forcefully for the falsehood it is. I would urge the English department at Washington and Lee to take the lead in that action.

More books have been written on Robert E. Lee and Abraham Lincoln than any other two figures of the Civil War era. Though both were born in that dark era of history the historical record acquits Lee rather well on the issue of slavery as being much more racially progressive than his contemporaries. Lee condemned slavery as an evil, and during the war advocated that the Confederacy not only abolish slavery but make newly freed slaves citizens of the Confederacy. Those are not the thoughts and actions of white supremacy or racial superiority but to the contrary. It is for these reasons and others that FDR said about Robert E. Lee,

All over the United States we recognize him as a great leader of men, as a great general. But, also, all over the United States I believe that we recognize him as something much more important than that. We recognize Robert E. Lee as one of our greatest American Christians and one of our greatest American gentlemen."-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Turning to Lincoln the halo on his head tarnishes quickly when, contrary to the myths surrounding the man, one learns he supported and advocated legislation prohibiting free blacks from settling in his home state of Illinois. Like Gandhi in the 20th century, Lincoln's belief in racial superiority in the 19th century was so engrained that he accepted it as a truism publicly proclaiming:

"there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."-Abraham Lincoln. He further expressed his belief, "in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."-Abraham Lincoln.

In his first inaugural address in 1861 Lincoln quoted from one of his many speeches when he declared that "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so." Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this, and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them."-Abraham Lincoln.

And Lincoln's white nationalist resettlement plans to remove the "black race" from the United

11/13/2017 23:24:39	Eric Huffstutler	Add context to the monuments.	<p>It is ridiculous to remove the monuments since it is history that can not be changed but can be left as a learning tool.</p> <p>Also, they are works of art and have value (the Lee statue is assessed by the city as being valued at over \$1-million alone.) and the community was built around the statues...which would hurt real estate values as well.</p> <p>The city does not embrace its history to promote tourism but there is no denying that Richmond was the Confederate Capitol and there are more than statues with names related to slavery. Even the city of Richmond, laid out and given the name by by William Byrd (and Byrd Street), was a slave trader and owner.</p> <p>It would cost a lot of money to remove the statues, money the city does not have and, where would they be moved to?</p> <p>The easiest and cheapest way would be to install metal historical markers with new text explaining why the monuments say what they do and what they mean now.</p>						
11/14/2017 5:21:24	Linda Lowe	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>I have been a local resident for 73 years. I love the South in general and the City in particular. The monuments are a work of art and all people have differing ideas about that subject. To remove art because it offends some is sad and divisive in itself. We have lived all these many years with beautiful monument ave. It has grace, dignity and it tells our history. If you remove history as Isis does you are bound to repeat it. Please leave the city as it is.</p>						
11/14/2017 6:21:22	William Armstrong	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	<p>We are not Charlottesville! please do not let events in other parts of the country affect our beautiful city..... students don't work or pay taxes and should not be in charge of the media representation of these events</p>						
11/14/2017 6:32:44	tom jordan	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>My idea is to build a wall around the monuments (and a concrete top). I would make them TIME CAPSULES to enable future generations the opportunity to decide what should be done. I would hate to be the generation that future generations would say... "what were they thinking?" We could mount plaques on the walls to express the differing views and of course one that would say to not open (take down the walls) until the year 2218. It may be that there is a solution we just are not thinking of at this time.</p> <p>I also think building walls would be a cheaper solution than removing them and storing/displaying them somewhere else.</p> <p>Please let me know this has been read. Thanks for your time taken in reading this suggestion.</p> <p>Tom Jordan</p>						
11/14/2017 7:15:47	N Lally	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	<p>Removing the Monuments is absolutely the WRONG thing to do. Small historic informational plaques are fine.</p> <p>Monument Avenue does NOT exemplify racism. This whole thing has been blown up by a few people who have nothing better to do with their time. Recently I was lucky enough to visit one of the Monuments one Sunday afternoon. There was a small group of white and black folks sitting with their signs 'Save the Monuments'. One of the black gentlemen was explaining to a young white man (in his 20s) how he had marched with Dr Martin Luther King in the 60's and Dr King absolutely did not want the Monuments taken down, how he hoped one day the blacks and whites would walk hand in hand. He told the young white guy that he had 'been there!! He had lived it so don't try to change history! And all this was coming from a black man who has seen a lot in his lifetime. KEEP THE MONUMENTS WHERE THEY ARE!!!!</p>						
11/14/2017 7:52:40	Lynn Murphy	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>Relocate if desired.</p> <p>I think ALL of the confederate monuments should be removed as they were designed to serve as a real estate advertisement and intimidation during the Jim Crow era.</p> <p>At the VERY LEAST some need to be removed.</p> <p>I don't believe "adding context" would make any difference.</p> <p>I have no idea at all if anything should replace them.</p>						
11/14/2017 7:54:38	Julian Gordon	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>We should also consider altering the monuments, for example removing the soldiers and keeping the horses.</p>						
11/14/2017 9:17:08	Hayley DeRoche	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>As monuments stand to laud their subjects, I believe it is in the best interest of Richmond to cease lauding the works of men who did terrible harm. I believe that if people truly want to educate others with the monuments that they ought to go in a museum, a place more traditionally reserved for learning, and where they will not be seen as celebratory. Leaving the monuments where they are continues the harm they do to all of us.</p>						
11/14/2017 9:28:24	Peter Rozsa	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>The longer the statues stay up the more they become a rallying point for racists. The argument that it's too expensive to remove them is unfounded when there are constantly many more public works projects happening all over the city. They can be replaced with other statues that aren't glorifying racism.</p>						
11/14/2017 9:41:43	Moriah Berger Allen	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>I have lived all over the U.S., in Indiana, Minnesota, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Washington State and DC, New York, and Pennsylvania. I moved to Richmond in July 2016. In exploring the city as a newcomer, Monument Avenue was one of my first excursions. I was shocked -- and that is not an understatement -- at the grandiosity of the display of affection for the confederacy, and felt immediately unwelcome and isolated. In no other hometown in the U.S. had I felt so out of place. These monuments appeal to a very small subset of Americans; for the rest of us they are an embarrassment, and even a source of pain. They should not be the public face of Richmond any longer, particularly in an increasingly global and diverse community.</p>						

11/14/2017 10:00:22	Amber Hendrix	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Context is insufficient. These monuments were erected in the decades after the Civil War with a clear purpose - to maintain and further a message of white supremacy. They are an ugly reminder of an ugly time. Anyone thinking that time is a distant memory need look no further than the actual physical representation of this well maintained mythology. That racism is so pervasive and present is no surprise to many. But for any who doubt, the events of the last few months serve as confirmation. Institutional racism should remain a prime target, but these monuments are an unavoidable off shoot that need to be dealt with. Richmond should be distancing itself from all semblances of "Lost causism" and reverence for the Old South. Removing the monuments is an obvious, straightforward start.						
11/14/2017 10:03:13	Charles Witham	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	How dare you even consider erasing Richmond's history. You cannot change Virginia's past no matter how much you wish you could. Where's the LUMPKIN'S JAIL Monument. It's a parking lot. Disgusting!						
11/14/2017 10:59:22	Caroline Orlando	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I believe the monuments should be removed from Monument Avenue. When I moved to Richmond in 2003, I found the monuments jarring, even frightening. I still do. I do not think adding context while keeping them in place is sufficient. On Sunday I walked by each of them and read the plaques. I was particularly struck by the Jefferson Davis monument, which is a monument to the Confederacy itself. I think Monument Avenue will retain its beauty and majesty without these monuments. I was struck by a comment former Governor Doug Wilder made in September. He said, "when I was a kid, I knew what it represented, what it meant, I knew it was where I was not supposed to go, not supposed to live." Frankly, I get the same feeling. Thank you for taking the time to address this important issue.						
11/14/2017 11:01:30	Cynthia Oliver	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Monument Avenue tells the architectural history of Richmond as it expands west. There are currently walking tours that describe this history. Make those tours more known so people can partake of them. Monument Avenue is a special feature for Richmond, hosting races, parades, etc. and is a tourist destination. When all other cities have destroyed their statues, Richmond may be the only place to come see the majesty of these sculptures. When one sees a picture of the tree-lined cobblestone street, you know you are looking at Monument Avenue. How many cities can claim such recognition? Very few. Would anyone ever consider destroying The Arc de Triomphe on the Champs-Élysées? (and there is some sketchy history with Napoleon!) Never! Richmond needs to embrace these sculptures the same way.</p> <p>I think there are many people who should be honored in Virginia history. It may not be possible for them to be on Monument Avenue. The story of the many contributors to history deserve their own place. For example, just as the Virginia Holocaust Museum has its place, a dedicated museum to African descendants & their contributions should be built. I think each region of the State should submit suggestions of people to be included in this narrative. Recently, so many were surprised to have never heard of the women of "Hidden Figures" and their contributions to NASA. Here is a perfect example of stories that need to be heard. Share stories of educators, healers, innovators whose voices have not been heard, especially from the rural & remote areas of the state.</p> <p>It may be impossible for either side of the "stay/removal" debate to be convinced of the other side of the story. There is a lot of misinformation & erroneous commentary being said. How can people of the 21st century truly judge the actions & customs of those in the 19th century? Good men did things that were acceptable at the time; but times have changed & those actions are looked upon differently today. We can't paint these men with one brush & disregard all the other positive contributions they made in their lives. The statues must remain. This does not have to be an either-or decision. I'm all in favor of statues to honor the contributions of all people of Virginia. Now is the time to proceed with the building & development of Shockoe Bottom & a museum there.</p> <p>Thank you for your time & commitment to this council. I only trust that you will choose to protect these magnificent sculptures that Richmond is so fortunate to have.</p>						

			<p>I highly recommend working with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. We reached out to them about participating in the process. Here is the proposal:</p> <p>On Race and Public Consultation: Sites of Conscience in Action</p> <p>Overview More than 150 years after the end of legalized slavery and violent civil war in the United States the legacies and wounds of both remain unresolved. Memorialization is a key part of coming to terms with difficult pasts through its role in truth telling, empathy building, and developing inclusive identities. Memorialization is a powerful tool that can enable societies to address their histories, empowering them to build better futures. However, the memorialization of the history of slavery and civil war in the US has been developed and repurposed, both in the past and present, to further narratives of exclusion, reinforce divisive identities, and enable unjust power structures.</p> <p>Monuments like those in Richmond simultaneously inspire reverence, bring solace and threaten violence yet to come. They bring people closer to their ancestors while also constructing false narratives of who those ancestors were, and promote conflicting narratives of who we were, who we are, and who we want to be.</p> <p>The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (the Coalition) is eager to work in collaboration with local elected officials, community leaders, artists, activists and other stakeholders in catalyzing collective decision-making processes on the future of these monuments and the civic spaces that surround them. It is precisely for moments such as these that the Coalition was founded and its singular methodology developed: how do communities mark and memorialize divisive histories, and how should communities respond to these histories as their understanding of them evolves over time.</p> <p>The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is a dynamic global network of museums, historic sites and memory initiatives that inspire millions of people each year to explore the parallels between past and present, build bridges of understanding, and take action on pressing social issues. Since its founding in 1999, the Coalition has grown to include over 230 members in 55 countries, working across regional and thematic networks to facilitate collaboration, exchange and action. Members of the Coalition – ranging from grassroots organizations to well-established institutions – commit to interpreting history through memory projects, engaging in programs that stimulate dialogue on emerging challenges and promote humanitarian values, and encouraging opportunities for the public to take action. The Coalition accomplishes its mission and supports members across the globe in the following ways:</p> <p>members;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Offering financial grants to members to support innovative projects; •Overseeing regional networks for members to share best practices, exchange information and undertake joint projects; and •Promoting and advocating for memory initiatives around the world. <p>Methodology The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is the only network of museums and historic sites that connect past and present to foster dialogue and action on critical contemporary issues. The Coalition’s approach is distinguished by its use of historical lessons as an often less threatening entry point to difficult conversations in the trusted educational and community spaces provided by members. With US and global expertise and almost two decades of experience, the Coalition is singularly positioned to engage communities grappling with divisive questions.</p> <p>In working with Preservation Virginia and their partners in Richmond, the Coalition could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Design and Facilitate Internal Conversations and Planning The Coalition works with organizations to design internal processes for planning and decision making around contested histories that develop institutional understanding and consensus, and help transform periods of adversity into periods of opportunity. As Preservation Virginia and its partners work to design public programming around the memorials, the Coalition can also serve as facilitators for internal processes, allowing internal stakeholders to fully participate without reservation. Additionally, as public history professionals with experience in exhibit development and design, Coalition facilitators can advise on physical design, language, and implementation of onsite interpretive elements. •Design Ongoing Public Programs and Prepare Local Stakeholders to Facilitate Them The Coalition brings facilitation design and training experience from more than fifty countries around the world. Coalition staff work with sites to design public programs that allow community members and public officials to engage in authentic conversations about the past and the future. The Coalition has trained more than 10,000 professionals in dialogue worldwide and can help staff prepare to facilitate their public programs. •Facilitate Public Programs In addition to assisting in designing public programs, ICSC staff often serve as facilitators for public programs the Coalition has helped design. Bringing years of experience, ICSC facilitators can help guide a program to be as productive as possible, allowing staff to participate as observers, learners, or stakeholders. ICSC staff often co-facilitate with site staff where it is most beneficial. <p>Sample Coalition Experience: Shaping Dialogue to Catalyze Action Eastern State Penitentiary</p>						
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11/14/2017 12:26:28	Royal Robinson Sr.	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	The monuments represents, honoring traitors and enemies of the US government. I think the monuments should be in a museum. We do not have monuments of the British Generals and Flags flying openly in our cities and country. They are part of our history and heritage, as well. We also have to be clear and honest, that you can't honor both the American flag and the Confederate flag concurrently. The two flags are in opposition of one another. we have to make a choice and place history where it belongs, in museums and history books. My prayers and hope that we as a one people can come together in love and stand up and make the hard decision. Truth and integrity are seriously needed in our city and country. Thanks for the opportunity to share my input. I'm a 61 year native of Richmond. I should have to see the monuments in public, nor on roadways which I pay taxes towards. Thanks again.						
11/14/2017 12:27:09	Amanda Rhodes	Leave the monuments as they are.	Our history is our history. Leave them be!						
11/14/2017 12:44:26	Charles Smith		<p>If the desire is to tell the political story about the monuments, go ahead, just be sure and mention names, dates and political party. Actual historical facts, not just the mayor's one-sided opinion. If the desire is to promote modern-day racist identity politics, which is what this whole thing stinks of, shame on the whole lot of you for the unnecessary cost of money and reputation to Richmond.</p> <p>I know he is still alive, but Doug Wilder would be a great addition, perhaps at the Staples Mill intersection, facing West with a welcoming gesture. Mr. Wilder is not considered a racist and was popular with most locals.</p> <p>I do not favor removal and relocation. If you move the statues to a cemetery, it is like you are censuring culture, hiding Richmond's history and ignoring tourism. The statues are great works of art depicting very real and significant historical figures and should be treated with respect. Besides, what are you going to replace them with, who gets to decide and who has to pay (all divisive issues that could be avoided). Trying to remove the statue in Charlottesville backfired, attracted the worst on both political extremes, killed people and soiled that city's reputation. Why do that here?</p>						
11/14/2017 13:22:03	Trey Jackson	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	<p>Removing the monuments will not solve anything at all. I'm a native of Richmond and grew up not far from Monument Avenue. As a school teacher, I know what needs to happen in schools and how much it costs. For the city or any governmental agency to spend one penny on this is a waste of valuable resources and will do nothing at all.</p> <p>History is history and can't be undone. Removing the monuments will not change anything at all. What happened is what happened, regardless of what people think are the motives of erecting those statues and monuments.</p> <p>If anything add context to the monument on an area that is either near or around the monument. Educate and do not remove.</p> <p>Put the Maggie Walker monument on the Ave. Oh wait, it was put on Broad Street. Bad location. But, whom ever is memorialized on the Ave., make sure that there are absolutely no "skeletons" in their closets. Oh wait, everyone has one or two hanging around some place.</p>						
11/14/2017 13:35:01	Bob Cornett	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>The monuments on Monument Ave. need to stay. They are as much a part of Richmond as anything you can think of.</p> <p>Those monuments contribute to Richmond's tourism more than anything else. Richmond already suffers from a lack of money. Just look at the school system.</p> <p>The war these men became so famous in was not about slavery. The Corwin Amendment would have made slavery a permanent part of the Constitution. It did not bring the seceded States back into the Union.</p> <p>The Corwin Amendment was proposed in March of 1861. It read: No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.</p> <p>Robert E Lee only owned slaves for two years when his father in law left them to him in his will. The will made him keep them for two years before he could release them.</p> <p>Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson maintained a Sunday School for slaves, even though it was against the law. He would send money every pay day for the Pastor to continue that school. I think removing these Statues serves no real purpose and would cause financial harm to the City of Richmond and the Commonwealth.</p>						
11/14/2017 14:09:03	ALICE BALDWIN	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	ADD HONORABLE DOUGLAS WILDER, FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN GOVERNOR IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS GREATER TO BUILD THAN TO TEAR DOWN! THERE IS ONLY ONE MONUMENT AVENUE IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!						
11/14/2017 14:18:56	Gail Small	Leave the monuments as they are.	Don't use my tax money for this, use it on schools						

11/14/2017 14:34:26	Miles Keller	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>(1) How do you best add context and tell the whole story of Monument Avenue?</p> <p>Swapping out some of the existing statues for others that celebrate Richmond's successes might help. See #2 and #3 below.</p> <p>(2) What persons or events would you like to see added on Monument Avenue?</p> <p>I would defer to others for the individuals featured, but it would be great to see a Monument Ave. celebrating individuals/things that have or are adding positivity to the world. Entrepreneurs, artists, leaders, service personnel, scientists, etc., and regular people that have made a positive impact on the city, our country, or the world. In the place of the Jefferson Davis statue, I'd love to see a diverse group of Richmonders (doesn't matter if famous or not) celebrating our differences while acknowledging our shared Richmond heritage.</p> <p>(3) Do you favor removal and relocation?</p> <p>Yes, the American Civil War Museum is an ideal place for these monuments. I'm sure there are space issues there, so a statue garden or the like might be necessary. There may be a place for some of the existing statues on the avenue, but they should not dominate the conversation or landscape.</p>						
11/14/2017 14:36:23	J C Nunnally	Leave the monuments as they are.	Use tax money for schools, leave our history alone.						
11/14/2017 14:37:54	Karen Schwartzkopf	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I've written before and I have another suggestion. I just read the story of the Comfort Women and their statues in South Korea as well as other parts of the world. I was inspired by the way these women were memorialized and thought something similar to this could be launched in Richmond to remember the enslaved people of the Confederacy. In the same way, people erected statues to unnamed Confederate soldiers decades ago, we could inspire cities and towns across the South to put up our Unbound statues. The Richmond arts community could launch a contest to submit a design (or a series of designs of men, women, and children) and we could erect a number of the memorials all over RVA. In this way, we serve as a leader of the New South and engage other communities all over the region to come to terms with the horrific institution of slavery in this tangible way. (You're welcome!)						
11/14/2017 14:48:07	Jose Martelino	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I work in Richmond city. I would like the monuments to remain on Monument Avenue.						
11/14/2017 15:07:42	Eric Williamson	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	They have to go. It's not a question of if but when. The statues were built to inflict violence and only will continue to do so. The madness of neo-confederate nazis parading the streets will continue until they no longer feel empowered. These statues represented their white supremacist power that has a strangle hold on Richmond. If the city wishes to move beyond it's inherently racist existence then the statues must be removed and a reconciliation commission must be initiated to quell the cities racial divide. This reconciliation cannot happen with these statues still up, with police treating black as inmates, and should not be appropriate for any child. If Richmond wants to transform then let's do it. Otherwise we will face another civil war started by our city. Don't let the nazis win. Let's end this once and for all.						
11/14/2017 15:08:26	BT Birchett	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	My suggestion would be to move the monuments to a place that is suitable to all - somewhere like an open area where they can all stand, together, without the pedestals. Possible Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, or similar.						
11/14/2017 15:26:51	Lucy Dacus	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Then, we could commission new monuments for Monument avenue of those important to the rise and community of Richmond and the area. Then, at the pedestals we can put QR codes on each side North/South/East/West that offer a variety of information about the previous monuments, their content, and even allowing someone to hold their phone up and see how the old confederate monuments used to look, using the QR code.						
			The statues are not only symbols of white supremacy they're also just bad for business. Consider that richmond is 60% african american and wants to attract young creatives and represents a place to learn history then tell me that leaving up the monument statues (which internationally are now represented as hate symbols) is a good idea. You can't, why? Because they were built many decades ago during the civil war during a time when the klan was huge and jim crows laws instated. These statues ONLY represent white supremacy. There is no conceivable redeeming quality. This is no opinion but truthful interpretation. Those who wish to leave the monuments up are the ones who embody discrimination and hate. There opinions are distraction from creating a peaceful world. Dont listen to them. Its not worth it. As long as the statues stay up, richmond might as well kiss the idea of a tourist destination and new hip urban city goodbye. Not to mention the legacy of people on the commission will forever be deemed racists and appealing to white supremacy. But hey its our future and your legacy.						

11/14/2017 15:35:09	Charlie Diradour	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	The commission has only one job tonight. To decide how to remove these statues. Any option for negotiation has been lost since the election of Trumpism. If the statues remain it is likely that violence will continue to rain upon the city. Considering that monument ave is lined with million dollar homes I don't think they will find this encouraging. To stop white supremacy will require more than tearing down the monuments but its a good start. Richmond's entrenched history of racism must be dealt with today. We cannot continue to live in fear of the old blue blood racists that control this town. If we do not stand up and claim the city anew then all progress in the last 20 years will be lost. I say 20 because anything before was considered a crime ridden town run by institution white supremacy. The institutions remain but we hope that now with elections we can change them. It is literally up to you to implement this change. To leave up the statues to reify the white supremacists as the rulers of the south. Lets take away their power.						
11/14/2017 16:14:04	Mary Larson	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Add context for historical value. Add more monuments to represent the diverse history of Richmond						
11/14/2017 16:43:14	Jessica Watkins	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	I think they should leave them up but they need to tell the whole history.What these men stood for and what they were fighting for. I think there should be some African American war hero statues as well on Monument						
11/14/2017 16:45:53	Alexander Cerrone	Relocate the monuments.	These monuments are of valuable historical significance. They should be part of a national theme park dedicated to early American History. The theme would be a major tourist attraction.						
11/14/2017 16:55:38	JoAnn Carlino	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	Hello I came to Richmond in 1999 from Long Island NY and the Northern NJ area. I found the city to be RICH with history and AMAZINGLY quaint and BEAUTIFUL with CULTURE and DIVERSITY. I LOVE the way it makes it me feel with eyes wide open in AWE of the MAGNIFICENT HISTORICAL STATUES. No matter who likes it, the history is what makes us who we are today. Its' incredible what we take from the past to learn from and move forward for all the right reasons, AND there on Monment Ave we can reflect and APPRECIATE FREEDOM FOR ALL. We can not change history and it is very important to teach not disregard ot disrespect. I say the statues stay along with all the Historiactal Homes and Buildings that make Richmond a Welcoming Learning Experience.						
11/14/2017 17:04:57	Austine McCloud	Relocate the monuments.	Put them in a Richmond museum. It satisfies both sides and it is Virginia's history. Regardless of whether or not our state was fighting for slavery, it is still our history. It maybe doesn't belong on monument avenue as it almost makes that our city endorses their actions. However, putting it in a museum makes it clear we don't endorse those particular historical figures, but we recognize that they are history.						
11/14/2017 17:10:08	Robert Bauer	Leave the monuments as they are.	Dear Monument Ave Commission Monument Ave is a uniquely American, historic, artistic treasure and an official National Historic Landmark. The avenue should be promoted as a historic tourist attraction. There are already dozens of people on any given day from different states and nations who tour Monument Ave to see the monuments despite the City of Richmond not promoting this unique historic landmark. No context should be added other than state historic signs explaining when the monuments were started and completed, the names of the sculptors and designers and the unique physical and architectural elements. State historic signs would be an improvement. Adding the dedication dates would put them in context for those who have no idea when they were erected. There should be no context demonizing or condemning the monuments or the veterans who answered Virginia's call to duty or their widows or their family members or the men, women and children who donated money for construction and attended the dedications. Adding PC context to portray the monuments or the above mentioned as racist or as symbols of white supremacy or Jim Crow would do nothing more than insure vandalism, their eventual destruction and make them virtual official monuments for racist groups who would use them as rally points. As far as additional monuments no one seems to have a problem with that as long as the new monuments do not interfere with the original design of the Ave. While the Confederate Monuments may always offend someone, removal or condemnation would offend even more and do great damage to Richmond's tourism industry. Best regards Robert Bauer Member Civil War Trust (formerly APCWS) since the 1980s and lifelng Virginian and Richmonder.						
11/14/2017 17:10:59	Larry Williford	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Place the Confederate monuments in the Confederate museum. The people who want to see them can go there and the people who don't want have to see them want have to.						
11/14/2017 17:12:49	Kimberly Bown	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I think the monuments are good for tourism but additional information historical needs to part of each monument. When was it made, why, who made it, why?, etc. If the monuments are removed they need to go to a museum in Virginia.						

11/14/2017 17:16:47	Kristen Konate	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	These monuments were erected during the Jim Crow era in order to oppress African Americans and further discriminate against one particular race of people. Robert E. Lee was the one who advised of NOT putting up statues to honor a lost cause. Monument Avenue should be renamed "Lost Cause Avenue" in lieu of this fact. The south needs to stop the inaccurate romanticizing of the civil war - this was a war based on preventing the eradication of the enslavement and brutalization of African Americans. Removing these monuments is NOT erasing history - we certainly didn't need statues honoring Adolph Hitler to learn of his crimes against the Jewish people, and we do not need to see these confederate statues honoring Jim Crow era ideologies - lynching peaked during the times that these statues were erected. Richmond will never be the capital of the confederacy because they lost - this is not about erasing history, it's about respecting the dominant African American presence in our city. Move these statues to a museum - perhaps then RICHMOND could generate some revenue from the confederate loving visitors, most of whom reside in the counties, not the city proper. It is long overdue to "right" what is so "wrong" with the city of Richmond - it's time for a change that represents ALL of us and RESPECTS all of us - we do not need these Jim Crow Era statues on Monument Avenue - who will not be afraid to actually make a new chapter in history and turn the page on this false southern narrative. Human lives are priceless - these statues are not. Remove them and show some long overdue respect to our African American brothers and sisters. Make history by taking down these Jim Crow statues that were erected by racists in order to further subjugate blacks. There need not be anymore discussion on this - it has boiled down to who has the courage to remove them - REMOVE THEM.						
11/14/2017 17:21:31	Kenneth Schroeder	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Remove these Jim Crow statues. Enough is enough. Make it right. Put these things in a museum and make some money. These statues are doing nothing but providing a place for white supremacist groups to hold rallies and endanger our citizens - take them down. Auction them off. The south lost and they need to stop trying to romanticize a war of treason and persecution against African Americans.						
11/14/2017 17:22:02	Gladys Chamberlayne	Leave the monuments as they are.	To take down these beautiful statues would ruin Monument Avenue						
11/14/2017 17:23:42	Linda Jones	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	In my youth I traveled quite a bit and on several occasions, whether in America or even overseas, people would say, "you live where you have a STREET of monuments!" when I told them I was from Richmond. Don't take that away. It is a tourist destination and a reason for pride for some. Going by research done by Style Weekly, many of these monuments were erected in 1800's and early 1900's (Stonewall Jackson, 1919, Robert E. Lee, 1890, Matthew Fontaine Maury, 1929, even Jefferson Davis, 1907) so these were not a response to Segregation, but a tribute to those fighting a war for his state. History teaches us how to live in the future. Wipe out that by removing these monuments and we are destined to repeat it. Add other monuments along Monument Avenue, but don't remove those already there! As for giving the monuments context, I have an idea: why not let the schools teach about it!!! Didn't we have a sickening feeling when the Taliban desecrated the Buddha monuments? How would your plan of removing our monuments be any different to some? I humbly and respectfully submit my opinion.						
11/14/2017 17:26:17	Linda Jones		See my previous submission as regards the monuments. JUST SUBMITTED MOMENTS AGO...						
11/14/2017 17:27:26	Oumar Konate	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	As an African American, from Ivory Coast, West Africa, I find it reprehensible that this city continues to leave statues up of rebel soldiers - this is wrong and would not be tolerated in my country of origin. This is offensive to ALL Africans and Black Americans, as well as our Caucasian counterparts who support us. No longer should anyone be subjected to view statues from your Jim Crow era of lynchings. If you do not show your children photos, in school, of lynchings, body burnings, beatings, mutilations, KKK rallies, then why would you keep these Jim Crow statues up that stand for these very things? Remove them. I live here with my wife and children.						
11/14/2017 17:49:03	dave adams	Add context to the monuments.	i lived in richmond for over 26 yrs and im from up north and when i 1st moved to rva i was kinda shocked but i think it is history as long as its done like the reb museum.. show the horrors of slavery...im further up north this time but i keep an eye on richmond..its a beautiful city with awesome old buildings educate dont obliterate..i seen the reb museum when i 1st moved to rva and it showed the slave part..seeing rawhide was fastened to flesh ..just a comment						
11/14/2017 17:57:26	Melissa Stowe	Leave the monuments as they are.	No additional comments necessary.						
11/14/2017 18:04:10	Doran Goodwin	Relocate the monuments.	How about adding real hero's of WW11 or Vietnam and not traitors to the Union.Called rebels for a reason.						
11/14/2017 18:06:40	Debbie Morris	Leave the monuments as they are.	Monument ave is the heart of Richmond. Monuments should stay						
11/14/2017 18:08:31	Bob Gray	Leave the monuments as they are.	The money to remove them would be better spent on schools or finish the project on Broad Street that you are behind on.						
11/14/2017 18:14:55	jill harrison	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	These monuments have been here since I was a girl. They are iconic and part of one of the most beautiful streets in the country. I have no problem with adding more monuments that tell more of our area's history. It's a long avenue with plenty of places to add more. Y'all pick...don't care...even add context, factual context that focuses on more than the fact that these folks owned slaves which was a cultural norm for that time. I fell like you are letting a small angry part of an entitled generation destroy something that will never be able to be replaced. What next? Tear down the monuments in DC? People are offended by everything these days. Get over yourself and realize that society is not about pleasing you. It's about the greater good. Those monuments have been there for almost 100 years and all of a sudden this generation woke up and decided they were offensive....uggghh...it's infuriating!!						

11/14/2017 18:16:47	Steve Mitchell	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	This is the "City of the Monuments". If they are removed, what will the city be known for. Tourism is very important for all of us. I am proud of their beautiful art. These are the crown jewels of Richmond. Will anything change if they are gone? No, just the economic/tourism effect. I proudly show off Monument Avenue to out of town guest. This is our history, good, bad or indifferent. Please keep them for our heritage, history and pride. Please keep them clean and maintain them.if removed, the cost of moving them and a building to house them would be enormous. Put that money into the schools, better roads and infrastructure. That would be real smart and the whole city would benefit not just a small select group. When did these little groups tell our beautiful city what to do? Have a spine and do the right way to handle this.						
11/14/2017 18:17:48	Art Hanlon	Leave the monuments as they are.	While I think the monuments should remain, at least the military, removing Jefferson Davis from that colonnade and putting a statue of someone less offensive is a compromise I support along with signs providing context...						
11/14/2017 18:21:31	Penny Jessup	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Pls do not take away our historym.I am all for adding to it in anyway but Monument Ave is beautiful.						
11/14/2017 18:41:11	Charlene Marcussen	Leave the monuments as they are.	Either leave ALL the monuments or take ALL the monuments down. History cannot be erased, nor should it be. If any monuments are removed then lets be fair and take Arthur Ashes down and any others in the city that portray any person past or present, black or white. It's ridiculous where we have arrived as a society.						
11/14/2017 18:45:13	joanne oliver	Leave the monuments as they are.	i have lived here all my life and I could not imagine going to the city and not seeing those works of art.						
11/14/2017 18:54:19	Richard Millar	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	We shouldn't immortalize and honor people that helped support hundreds of years of oppression against a certain race. I personally think they look beautiful but those spaces visited by so Many people in our city should show off something else, not symbols of Alavert and hate. They never should have been built, but now we can make it right. Let's set an example that we are not stubborn and we will adapt and progress with the modern world.						
11/14/2017 18:56:40	Lawrence Terry	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Keep and preserve the monuments. Relocate Arthur Ashe to Boulevard or even in middle of Monument and Boulevard and rename the Boulevard to Arthur Ashe Boulevard. But preserve and promote our heritage and the City's legacy with additions of more recent notable monuments. Let's own our history so our tomorrows will be better.						
11/14/2017 19:03:36	Tom Johnson	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Leave the statues. They are what they are, a part of the context of the city and the postwar period. Educate our children, both with the funds that would be saved by not razing the statues and with the contributions of those in the community who have differing views on them. Any one of many significant figures could be added to the line of statues on Monument. Sojourne Truth comes to mind, so does Frederick Douglass. I wish I knew my history better to suggest more. As for context, permanent plaques beside the statues, several in some cases, could add much visible information. An internet site could be a trove of facts and opinions about the statues, the avenue, and the history they display.						
11/14/2017 19:05:16	Susan Betts	Relocate the monuments.	We do not need to use funds merely to destroy, money can also be used to educate and broaden our viewpoints. Leaving the statues in place as reminders may, one hopes, prod future Richmonders and visitors to think carefully about our past.						
11/14/2017 19:29:15	Teresa Diggs	Leave the monuments as they are.	This road should have monuments on it, but they should be statues of the men who won the war, not the ones who LOST! Put up a big statue of General U.S. Grant on his horse and the matter should end there! Richmond City has so many problems and the Monuments have noting to do with them. Disgusting housing, murders, poor schools and roads. Richmond is the Capitol of the Confederacy and brings a lot of money and tourist to the city.						

11/14/2017 20:03:57	Barbara Condrey	Leave the monuments as they are.	Richmond has been known for it's rich history...including the monuments. People from all over have visited this city to SEE the monuments and other historic locations. It is bizarre that monuments that have stood in peace for so long...quickly become a problem and offensive because of a moment in time...that will fade into another trend quickly. Has anyone thought of the resentment others will feel when and if the monuments are removed? Will ALL monuments be removed from the city...or just certain ones? Who decides that issue? This is a tragic time that this would even be considered. Does anyone really believe that removal of the monuments will stop people from being all of a sudden offended by their city's history? We have already seen the tip of the iceberg ...streets, parks, attractions, bridges...where will it stop? We will be forever changed and for a movement...a movement in time that has nothing what so ever to do with these monuments. Instead of following the noise from this offended crowd....Richmond should be leading. Leading in education and learning all of history with understanding...not with rumor and speculation. Many souls died in our past and Richmond was always a proud beacon to the richness of the South and North and its efforts of time gone by and those who chose to remember the people, places and events. Any city that starts removing their history, monument by monument...brick by brick, will end up empty...a skeleton of what was. This is not a proud moment for Richmond...this is quite the opposite. Not only will this accomplish the end of a proud city rich in history, but will further widen the chasm of ignorance. Instead of meetings to talk about meetings etc..and gutting Richmond...the meetings should be about finding ways to come together on some common ground and learning about the past. The bottom line is the past is OVER and gone...many years ago. Removing or changing historic items will not change history...not ever. The conversations to be overheard will be about what Richmond used to have, what used to be here. Agendas should be eyed carefully before a city and it's history is changed forever. Respectfully submitted B Condrey						
11/14/2017 20:10:09	Lana Estep	Add context to the monuments.	I do not believe that any of the monuments need to be moved. I feel that if new plaques were written and replaced adding context to why these particular persons had monuments dedicated to them. Explain how the times when they were erected were different from now and why that affected the choice of subjects. Also I think that additional statues should be erected to honor other famous Richmond natives, Maggie Walker for example. Statues to other minorities and women would be very heartening to many citizens.						
11/14/2017 20:24:34	Linda Bannister	Leave the monuments as they are.	PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! Let this issue go. Our state laws protects these statues. Let's move on to more important issues that exist in the City of Richmond. You will never make everyone happy whatever is recommended. All it does is stir up everyone's emotions and cause turmoil.						
11/14/2017 21:20:28	Luis Fernando Ruiz	Leave the monuments as they are.	"The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future." I read this at the National Archives in DC. The fabric of a people and a nation are woven by the threads of our collective history. I am Colombian and when family visits we walk down Monument Ave. I explain to them the history of this nation and feel proud we can be open about the rights and wrongs. The monuments are static and depict a history of what used to be; and a platform for where we want to be. We cannot just sanitize history for the sake of forgetting. Keep them as a reminder of where we came from and where this city wants to go.						
11/14/2017 21:37:30	Jason Martin	Leave the monuments as they are.	I would appreciate the statues left alone, they are my heritage. Having family members who fought for state rights I feel that it is not your place to remove them. I'm offended by Arthur Ashe being with those monuments, I don't agree with homosexuality but I'm not trying to have his statue removed. Why is it people feel that these statues remind them of hard times in our country but want to build slavery museums. Is this really the reason,they want them gone. People need to be reminded, Robert E. Lee fought to free slaves. Also people need to be reminded that the Democratic Party started the hate group KKK.						
11/14/2017 21:38:09	bobby hall	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Please just leave them alone! Its simply history. I was a college student at John Tyler years ago and I majored in history. Robert E. Lee was not a bad person. He actually did not believe in slavery. The one and only reason he sided with the south was he felt like he didn't want to turn is back on his home state of Virginia. He was a brave and very smart tactical general. Leave all the statues alone. I think we should add a few more and renovate monument ave. To try and make it more of a tourist attraction.						
11/14/2017 21:50:36	Tami Stallard	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Richmond is an historic city that should honor its history, specifically significant Virginians. We should leave the monuments where they are, but especially those individuals from Virginia. I would be in favor of adding to Monument Avenue other important Virginians. I think it is unfair to judge the actions of individuals who lived a hundred or two hundred years ago by the moral standards of today, lest we be judged by those who come after us and try to erase us from history as we will surely be judged just as harshly.						
11/14/2017 21:58:20	Marti Du Domenico	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is history. Leave them be. Funds needed so many other important places.						
11/14/2017 22:07:11	Kimberly Stokes	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	I think the monuments should be removed from Monument Ave. and a museum should be created so we remember that part of our history.						
11/14/2017 22:07:57	Sherry Estridge	Relocate the monuments.	Relocate to a museum like area						

11/14/2017 22:14:46	Marshall Buckles	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I am a native of the Bristol, VA/Bristol, TN area who has been living in the Richmond, VA area since 1979. I am somewhat of a history buff, so to speak, enjoying studying history and the like. Anyway, since coming to the Richmond area I have long felt, way before the current "brouhaha" about the monuments, that Monument Avenue should be caused to live up to its name. I think that the Monument Avenue Commission should be a joint commission between the City of Richmond and the County of Henrico. It should be a permanent commission with members appointed by the Richmond Mayor or City Council and the Henrico Board of Supervisors. It should develop standards for the planning and erection of monuments and the financing of them. The Commission should have the authority to approve proposed monuments with final approval given by the City Council/Mayor or the Henrico Board of Supervisors depending on the location of the monument (whether it is in Henrico or in Richmond). The financing should be required to come largely from private sources. with the locality involved able to contribute public funds if that should seem appropriate. As for the current monuments, I think that they should remain. It seems to me that simply putting up signs which state, in whatever words may be used, that we do not celebrate what these people represented by the monuments, did for the Confederacy. We acknowledge their contributions to our national life before and after their Civil War activities (at least for Maury, Lee and Davis) and also warn future generations about what could happen when our nation develops deep divisions among the population. Oh, and also, I think that the children should be removed from the Ashe monument so that it does not look like he is trying to beat the children with his tennis racket and so that people will stop asking why he is trying to beat the children. Then, as time goes on, additional monuments could be erected which would honor various persons deemed worthy of honor at the time. These could and should be erected between the already existing monuments and then all the way out Monument Avenue, eventually, to Horsepen where Monument Avenue ends. Monument Avenue could become a world class tourist attraction even more famous and more visited than it is now.						
11/14/2017 22:25:22	Charles Hunter	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Over 6 million Jews died at the hands of the Germans. Over 100 million Africans died during the slave trade. Do we want a glorious monument to Hitler erected in the heart of a major German city? It's unthinkable. Please explain to me what is the difference?						
11/14/2017 22:25:58	E Kurtz	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	We all learn from history, to take them down would be a mistake and we would not have the basis to keep moving forward. There are public things that offend me, but I would not ask that they be taken down.						
11/14/2017 23:04:35	Kimberly Fontaine	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave them alone. Its our history. The monuments have been in Richmond for decades and now all of a sudden they are offensive. I feel if on statue is removed then remove them all. You can't pick and choose which ones to keep.						
11/14/2017 23:13:30	Linda Stein	Relocate the monuments.	They should be placed in a confederate museum.						
11/14/2017 23:24:11	Steven Hanna	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	I believe tearing down, removing, or otherwise relocating the Confederate monuments is a very bad idea. Keep them and add context. This was the mayor's original idea and he had it right the first time.						
11/14/2017 23:31:33	Deanna Smith	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	People need to be educated on the soldiers that are portrayed as they were in their time and how it reflects today.						

11/15/2017 0:05:17	Ryan Bonney	Leave the monuments as they are.	To the Monument Avenue Commission: As a Richmond resident and descendant of men who served the Confederacy during America's Civil War I am repulsed by the recent events here in our Commonwealth that have sadly given a voice to Neo-Nazis, racists, fascists and leftist thugs across the board. It is tragic that the racial divide in our country has grown worse over the past 8 years, not better. I believe that critical thinking is at a deficit in our partisan and polarized society. The Monument Avenue statues do not represent hate or oppression to me. They represent history, art and beauty. No statue ever attacked or otherwise harmed a person of color in our city. Those actions were taken by men, men now long dead and men who were themselves possessing of flawed and at the same time brave characters. It is foolish to eliminate the things in our culture which inform future generations of their past and their heritage. Every nation, every culture, every people on earth has at various times and in various ways both suffered and inflicted cruelty and injustice by and on another group of people. It is a Human condition, not the property of one race, or one faith, or any one nationality. People have enslaved and butchered one another on every continent on earth, yet we Americans are often told that we are the only ones who have committed historical injustices and this conversation needs to be changed to reflect positivity and constructive efforts to educate our people about history and spur honest and open communication about what our history, good and bad, represents and what lessons we can all learn from our shared past. The statues on Monument Avenue have been fulfilling this role for over 100 years. Were they to be removed, our past would be whitewashed and the ugliness of the Civil War and the vital lessons that our Nation learned from that conflict will continue to be forgotten as they have been, incrementally, ever since then. If you don't learn from History, you are doomed to repeat it. I don't wish for our people and our society to be torn asunder by another internecine conflict as that we experienced from 1861 to 1865. I fear, however, that given the aforementioned rifts and hateful partisanship that we see gripping our society, that we are headed in that very direction. I don't want my 2 year old son to have to fight and kill his fellow Americans in a new, devastating civil war. By removing these beautiful, historical works of art, which cannot be replaced, you would be inflaming supporters of one side of this debate in order to placate the other side. That is un-American and undemocratic. We need to have a truly open and honest discussion in America that is no-holds-barred regarding race and history in our country. How we get to this conversation from where we are now, I have no idea. No one is listening to each other anymore. Both sides would rather demonize each other than have an actual discussion. Either everyone who loves and defends the Monument Avenue statues are bigots and Nazis or everyone who would destroy them are race-baiting whiners. The truth lies in between those lies and is far more complicated than a bumper sticker slogan. Please preserve and PROTECT our Statues and keep them on Richmond's grand Monument Avenue. Bronze and stone cannot hate, they are only metal and rock. It is human hearts that must change human minds that must learn. Otherwise our American Experiment will be short lived and history will be repeated in all of its tragic and dark depravity. Thank you for your consideration and God Bless! -Ryan S. Bonney-						
11/15/2017 0:36:35	Victoria Fels	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	Do not erase the history of our great city... and the tourism and revenue it brings! "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." -George Santayana With the abundance of technology, develop a self-guided walking tour via app or otherwise of all the history RVA has to offer, from Monument Ave to the Canal Walk, All the "Hills" of RVA, etc. There is so much we can offer, so much people can learn, young and old!						
11/15/2017 2:02:52	Sheila B.B. Williams	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I think the Confederate statues should be placed in the Confederate cemetery.						
11/15/2017 3:15:23	Lisa Saintsing	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	In keeping with the design of the statues, a bronze plaque placed on/at each statue explaining Richmond's true roll in the Civil war. Using the funds it would have taken to remove the statues to add monuments that reflect the heroics of others (black citizens) that fought against southern culture. I would suggest consulting with the historians at the Civil war museum. Mayor Stoney should be commended for his open minded approach to this difficult decision. Thank you.						
11/15/2017 5:07:49	steven Curry	Leave the monuments as they are.	we should keep the monuments. They are our history and we should not try to change it.						
11/15/2017 5:11:19	Kenneth Dawson	Leave the monuments as they are.	Stop messing with History . We need those monuments for future generations to know what happened in our past.						
11/15/2017 5:12:52	Jeremy Stokes	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	These monuments are monuments to men who fought to destroy the United States of America. Whether the issue was slavery, states rights or economics they fought to divide our country. I believe that the monuments should be moved to Civil War Battlefields or Confederate cemeteries or museums. This way if people want to learn about that part of history they can do so. No African American parent should have to drive on a state funded road and have to explain these monuments to their children.						
11/15/2017 5:18:20	Christine Finnegan	Leave the monuments as they are.	As a homeowner in the City of Richmond, and a taxpayer I feel that the monuments on Monument Ave should stay as they are. They generate revenue for the city of Richmond thru tourism, the majority want them to remain in place, property values would be decreased if they were removed, they are a part of our history, and the cost to remove them would be excessive.						

11/15/2017 5:29:42	David Greer	Leave the monuments as they are.	RICHMOND, VA should have had the slave museum here, not Fredericksburg, but that's Wilders and other corrupt politicians doing. Adding new statues To show the city would be a great way to balance the historical context. Putting Arthur As he up in the early 1990s was a bad idea To place him on monument Ave as he was not a war figure, but deserves a place just as the recent Maggie walker does To broaden our sometimes dark, but also rich history of this region to tell our real history. To remove these war memorials would be as undignified and ss morally wrong as spitting on a vet because you don't agree with the war, remember Vietnam? I understand sadly, how some people narrow down on the race aspect, but there is ignorance on both sides, the civil war wasn't about just slavery. Slavery was just a hot button issue to divide and polarize the common citizen, as wrong as owning people is and I'm glad we have come so far there is still work to be done. The civil war was also a struggle to protect states rights over federal oversight, a fight we still have, many other reason I won't bore you with as anyone who is a fan of history, would never dare remove these statues, but add more everywhere to engage people in history. I hv a young daughter and I can't phantom traveling through the city and state as I teach her American history without these MONUMENTS to be a part of her education. I'm sorry but our public school systems are underpaid babysitters teaching our kids more lies than truths. Perhaps that's why so many millenials are so out of touch with reality and more like politically correct police. Please Please let's look into other ways to preserve and respect the lives of fallen soldiers regardless of whether their intentions might have been deplorable, they did fight and die for their country and hundreds of thousands people did as well. Always respect a soldier, hate the politics or the period in time, not the individuals, who were very wise military men. Thank you, DJG						
11/15/2017 6:12:24	Kathleen Jones	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	In my opinion, anyone who lives in Richmond should know about our history. Being proud of confederate soldiers and the history we are a part of as the capitol of the cnpfederacy does not necessarily translate into being a racist. Information could be added to the monuments yo the nature of how they can be seen as offensive BUT they are historical and important to VA. Monument avenue is a part of everyone in Richmonds lives' and should be treated as such. Thank you.						
11/15/2017 6:20:41	Joseph Simmons	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Please remove the Confederate monuments from the Avenue. As long as they stand, prominence is given to the dark period in American history during which all people we're not valued. These monuments instantly cause me to realize that while progressive efforts have made modern life more equitable, such development is not far from the blatant, if subdued, sentiment of those who would prefer a return to the periods of slavery and Jim Crow. My 5-year-old asks me about these statues from time to time and it grieves me to explain what my role would be as a black man in the society glorified in the statue. If the only defense I receive is a notion that I should "get over it", I reply, "remove them and I'll get over them."						
11/15/2017 6:22:34	Jeanne Jones	Add context to the monuments.	I believe we should keep the Monuments, however, I do think that some history education needs to be added. I am not sure how much education on our rich history is being taught in schools at this point. Thank you for listening, I feel VERY strongly about this issue!						
11/15/2017 6:23:02	Ross Bailey		Two main issues: Will the monuments be exclusively for Virginia natives? If so we could remove non-Virginians like Jefferson Davis and add more African-American, Jewish and other under represented Virginians. If we allow non-Virginians we could add Reverend Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall, Doug Wilder, Justice Louis Brandeis, etc. #2: Will the monuments be focused on the Civil War or other eras of history, like Patrick Henry's famous statement at the Churchhill church, or Virginia's religious freedom, or the originator of the American Bill of Rights. Maybe add a "Loving v. Virginia" statue at Boulevard and Monument recognizing the defeat of racism in Virginia and representing modern Virginia.						
11/15/2017 6:38:22	John Bullock	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Expand efforts to all residents of their opinion to provide input.						
11/15/2017 6:39:38	Thomas Veech	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	As a lover of history, I would be very sorry to see the statues removed. I also think they are aesthetically pleasing. I live in the Fan, and the monuments really add beauty to the overall area. I think they should stay. I have ancestors on both sides of the Civil War, and I appreciate the complexity of the subject. I realize the statues may cause offense or pain to some. However, removing them strikes reminds be of Chairman Mao erasing his purged political opponents from photographs. I think the idea of adding more statues seems like a good idea to add balance to the picture. Add other Richmonders (e.g., Poe, Douglas Wilder) or famous Americans (e.g., Lincoln) . Thanks.						
11/15/2017 7:11:18	Gina Paige	Relocate the monuments.	I believe the statues should be moved to the Confederate Museum rather than staying on Monument Ave. They do represent slavery and oppression and should not be celebrated. As a part of the history of a divided nation, they can tell a story, but they should do so at a place where they show veneration to these ideas and men. The reality is that there is no CSA, and it should not be celebrated. We need to move on as a united country.						
11/15/2017 7:13:28	Nichole Sommer	Leave the monuments as they are.	Our monuments are a huge point of tourism for our city. Taking them down will only hurt the city. History cannot be altered to save 'feelings'. They should be left alone to remind people of the war and what happened... if you take them down, what does richmond have left? The former title of the murder capital of the U.S.....						

11/15/2017 7:21:59	Scott Hasty	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	No one knew better the morality of Robert E Lee and the generals of the Confederacy than Ulysses S Grant who burned their cities and won against them in the Civil War. He and people at the time did not call for the hanging of Robert E Lee and his compatriots. They did not ban the building of monuments to these great men who fought for their "country" against the onslaught of Northern Raiders. Most did not own slaves, but did fight for their land, their family and their women who were being murdered and ravaged by northern armies who cared about nothing but plunder and scorched-earth. We don't erase history; we learn from it and teach it, and to equate 20th century morality with 19th century - litigating again everything that was settled then, is to revise history. And revision of History isn't history, its indoctrination for the sake of political agendas anathema to truth. Keep The Monuments, add context, and stop the disinformation campaign that these monuments are about slavery in which the majority of the people in the South did not participate						
11/15/2017 8:05:06	Les Harrison	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Monuments to confederate generals and slave owners have no place in Richmond in 2017. Relocate them or sell them off and replace them with: Poe, Maggie Walker (move her), John Mitchell Jr., Pocahontas, Relocate the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial (re-do it and put it where Lee is). These are reasonable choices. Once could easily suggest Gabriel Prosser or Nat Turner.						
11/15/2017 8:18:20	Brandon Harding	Leave the monuments as they are.	I urge the Commission to please leave the beautiful Monuments "as is". They are a historic part of this beautiful, historic and diverse city.						
11/15/2017 8:22:20	Brandon Harding	Leave the monuments as they are.	I urge the Commission to leave the Monuments "as is". They are a historic part of this beautiful, historic and diverse city.						
11/15/2017 8:28:40	Erika Forsack	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I've lived in Richmond for 10 years now. I grew up coming into the city, playing with the security guards at VCU while my mom taught classes. I remember seeing the monuments as a child and being overwhelmed by the size of them, and mostly the horses. What curious kid doesn't like horses? I've always had an out of context association of Richmond with these monuments. I mean it's still used on some city logos, including the public schools logo on the Arthur Ashe center on Boulevard, which seems pretty disrespectful once we get into the knitty gritty of this. I was very much on team lets-move-them-to-a-museum until I heard Christy Coleman speak at the VCU Presidential forum. I worked at the Edgar Allan Poe Museum for a bit, I know what museum resources are like, and while it seems like the easy way to appease people it's not what makes sense fiscally. I absolutely think that they should be removed from Monument Avenue. I don't think that folks should have to see them every day and be reminded of what they stand for, what they were built to represent and remind people of. For people from out of state to come and rally around and cause million dollar scenes at the cost of the city and state. I had to work that remotely, and was not one of the folks being paid to work, but provided support to RPD monitoring online threats. This situation impacts me daily, as a person who works in social media for a state agency, looking for threats. Not just looking for threats, but seeing how much pain these things are causing members of our community, and it's heartbreaking. I don't have a great answer. But I know this is a dire situation and we have a lot of smart folks equipped to help with the direction we choose to go in. I think it's time to start taking steps to remove Confederate monuments, plaques and named things that we have to see and interact with every day and be more inclusive to the diverse voices of our community.						
11/15/2017 8:29:48	Karen Seal	Leave the monuments as they are.	I believe history is what it is. I have lived here all my life there are other statues going up in the area that can remind people of slavery yet nothing is being said about them. Not all history is fun to remember but it is just that history. It is sad that more people can't see we don't have these issues today and move on. It would be sad to see such a beautiful area destroyed and all that money spent when Richmond has so many more important things to spend that money on. Schools are a major issue workers salaries etc. Let's spend more time on improving the things that draw people to richmond for its historic value.						
11/15/2017 8:31:00	Doug Weston	Leave the monuments as they are.	Let the people of Richmond vote on it because people have different opinions what these statues mean to them.						
11/15/2017 8:31:48	anthony gorham	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave them alone - They are a very visible reminder of where Richmond came from. We should preserve every opportunity to be aware of that history, both good and bad. best,						
11/15/2017 8:37:22	Cyrus Kump	Leave the monuments as they are.	We have much more that needs to be resolved in our city than wasting time and money on changing history. Please decommission yourselves and lets take care of issues that affect us all like deteriorating schools, high murder rate, low graduation rate, high unemployment, awful roads and infrastructure, inefficient government, high taxes. These are what are important to people's lives. You are just stirring up division in our communities with this discussion. Please stop.						
11/15/2017 8:46:41	Charles Weindel	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Put them in a park or at battle fields around the area. The roads are congestion more than when they were first installed. This creates problems going forward into the future. Also the generals lost the war. Its the only moment in our past that is celebrated like a victory that ended in defeat.						
11/15/2017 8:48:48	Denise Gentry	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments have been here for over 100 years and just now they are a problem. You are pandering to snowflakes if you consider removing them. The cost to remove the monuments could be better spent on Richmond's failure of a school system.						

11/15/2017 9:05:12	Anne Hall	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Richmond is unique in American history as many people come here to see/study much about the Civil War. It would be a crime to remove or relocate the statues on Monument Avenue. They are very much "part of the story". The statues also are connected to the economy of Richmond because of their place in drawing tourists to the area. That affects jobs, hotels, restaurants, etc. The cost of moving the statues or of relocating is simply not worth the collateral damage to the City in terms of significant potential damage to our economy. In terms of history, American slavery is not unique. It was/is a world wide issue. Many who are making it a huge issue with regard to the Confederacy do not think beyond their own sphere of life. For example, Plato, one of the greatest philosophers in world history, was a slave holder. The Greeks are not taking down statues of Plato. The same applies to Italian statues of Roman emperors or generals whose conquering armies made slaves of territories they captured. Their monuments stand all over Italy. Elihu Yale, a wealthy slave trader, gave Yale University financial stability in its early years. The President of Yale says a name change is not on the table for the school. Brown University has a similar repugnant situation in its history. Many Virginians and Southerners, in general, fought on the Confederate side because of love for their State not because of maintaining slavery. Lee famously said, after resigning his commission in the US Army, that he would not raise his sword "save in defense of his native state". The Confederate leaders on Monument virtually all felt the same. Lee may be even more unique in American history (possibly world history) because he was offered command of both the Union and the Confederate armies. He is possibly the only military leader to be offered command of two opposing armies. Critics seem to forget, or do not know, that President Lincoln offered Lee that Union command. Finally, most Confederate soldiers were not slave holders. For many the War was about Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, South Carolina, etc, etc. not about keeping slaves they did not own. We need to consider the statues on Monument Ave in their totality and not on a narrow emotional level. They are part of Richmond and its rich history.						
11/15/2017 9:06:24	Sarah Parham	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	The monuments to the confederacy are nothing more than statues honoring traitors of America. We would never put up a statue of Nazis or those who sat on the English throne while America fought for independence. So why keep monuments to those who fought against America and lost?						
11/15/2017 9:12:08	Dale Wilson	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the Monuments they are part of history						
11/15/2017 9:16:10	Heather Millar	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I do not agree with removing the monuments from Monument Avenue, but I do agree with adding context to teh statues and adding more monuments that represent Virginia's history - on Monument Avenue.						
11/15/2017 9:18:12	Mary Puryear	Leave the monuments as they are.	You cannot change history. Leave them where they are. You cannot change the past. Don't turn a blind's eye but instead discuss history as an educated adult.						
11/15/2017 9:21:55	Linda Terry	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Richmond is the city of monuments. Slavery is a part of our heritage from which we cannot Escape. Let's be inclusive and sensitive and add historical context and more statues to our beautiful Street.						
11/15/2017 9:25:35	Tyrone Dyer	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	These monuments remind us of a dark time that occurred in America history! They should be removed and relocated to a museum! In a place like this, they would be greatly appreciated by a diverse community!						
11/15/2017 9:28:17	John Foster	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I am a born Pennsylvanian, who went to Virginia Tech, graduated, moved to Richmond and currently resides on Monument Ave. Growing up in the "keystone state", what I heard about a lot in school was that the "South" wanted to keep slavery alive. The "South" were bad people who hated equality and wanted to oppress people. What I learned quickly through one history class at Virginia Tech was that this view was elementary. As I personally continued to study subjects on this topic (reading historical books such as April 1864, Hidden history of the Civil War, etc), I came to the realization that this wasn't necessarily true. Yes, I am sure that some people in the 1860s fought to keep slavery alive, possibly even a majority (for economic reasons), but what I came to realize is that this part of American history is taught with limited context by teachers who have themselves been given limited context on the subject. I think that most people would agree that Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and many other current citizens' past relatives may not have been right to fight for slavery. Some would even argue that they are evil for standing up for an injustice like this. Most people do have the right to this point of view. I don't and wouldn't argue with this on them. We can use these monuments to tell our people, yes these Virginians, who made mistakes, but they fought for what they believed in. Some of them even went on to reconcile for their mistakes and become great Virginians afterwards (Lee). Inform people how they fought for their rights as a state, and why they made the decisions they did at the time they did, but also inform them of their mistakes. If we remove our past, this is only going to divide us further, but we need to be aware of our past to move forward.						

11/15/2017 9:35:54	Julianna Carl	Leave the monuments as they are.	History cannot be erased or changed to fit one group of citizens "feelings". This city was the capital of the confederacy and retelling to teach hate towards these men, who at the time were trying to defend their rights, land, and homes...their lively hood, does not make each one a racist bigot. It is a time of history that is important to America's story and should be protected and taught honestly, not how a bunch of SOL tested non free thinkers want it to be told! They learned bullet points, they did not learn the thick richness behind it all. It's ironic that these men's history is being erased, when it was them who fought for what they believed in and for the lands that they loved! It is not all about slavery, and maybe that should be taught in school instead.						
11/15/2017 9:37:31	Lisa Kaplan	Leave the monuments as they are.	I have lived in Richmond all of the 56 years of my life. I do not see the monuments as a representation of slavery or anything to do with slavery. They represent the part that Richmond played in the history of the Civil War. Taking down the monuments would mean taking down history. I am also Jewish. I visited a former concentration camp in Munich Germany many years ago. The people of Germany want the camp demolished, but other (the USA) want it to stay as a reminder of what happened so that something like that did not happen again. If those who think the monuments represent slavery want them gone because they think that is what they represent, ponder what I just wrote about Germany. History cannot be erased, but we can learn from it.						
11/15/2017 9:38:13	PAT BISHOP	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	It is part of Virginia history, right or wrong, it is what it is. We need to use our history and learn from it. The "monuments" are part of our history. Please do not remove "history"						
11/15/2017 9:42:28	Ben Gates	Relocate the monuments.	Unlike many, I don't support the immediate removal of the statues, nor do I support them remaining forever. The statues would be more valuable as a history lesson if they were in a museum. The Virginia Historical Society is only a couple of blocks from from Stonewall Jackson. It would be a great place to which these could eventually be relocated. The Civil War Museum at Tredegar and Hollywood Cemetery are other options. I also don't want to see these pieces of art (they are aesthetically appealing, despite their controversial subject matter) to be removed or covered with a tarp. If instead of a plan for immediate removal, we could establish a replacement plan where we don't relocate a statue until we have a replacement in place, I feel that we could have a long-term plan in effect that would offer an indefinite solution rather than a stop-gap short-term removal that would leave us with ruins or tarps for years or decades.						
11/15/2017 9:44:53	Amanda Scantling	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I have a measured suggestion. Why not compromise? Leave some and remove others. Remove Stuart. Leave Lee. Remove Davis, and put something in his place. Leave Maury, remove Stonewall, and put something in his place. Relocate the Davis and Stuart statues to Hollywood Cemetery, and relocate the Stonewall statue to a proper location at the Chancellorsville or Antietam Battlefield Parks where he fought his greatest battles. Then, at the beginning of Monument at Stuart Circle put up a monument commemorating the history of Virginia and how important Richmond was- possibly a curved slab, almost a complete circle following the curve of the road, front and back, depicting all the famous Virginians who have done something good for this country and highlighting important historical events that shaped the city. Make it the beginning of a walking tour down Monument highlighting the history of the street and Richmond's checkered past. After Lee, where Davis used to be, put something nice, like a fountain, and historical markers highlighting more history in the area. It's a huge space to put something beautiful and commemorative to replace that gaudy monument. Past that, where Stonewall used to be, put up a monument commemorating Gabriel Prosser, Nat Turner, Dredd Scott and the fight for freedom from slavery over the years in Virginia. Then finish with Maury and Ashe. We have the opportunity to create something new while avoiding the erasure of history and a massive expenditure of tax dollars that could be better used elsewhere. Have VCU students compete to design the three new monuments/memorials. Make it a community and media event - the grand reopening of Monument Ave. Show the rest of the nation that the Capitol of the Confederacy can bring people together and honor our past while remembering it the right way and looking towards our future. We can rewrite history, however painful, and create an opportunity for people to learn and grow from seeing such a timeline put into the right context.						
11/15/2017 9:57:19	Robert Pope	Leave the monuments as they are.	They are part of our history and heritage. Leave them alone						
11/15/2017 10:01:03	Hannah Whisenant	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Confederate monuments celebrate slavery and should be moved to the confederate history museum or Hollywood cemetery. Replace the monuments with real American heroes that have made this country great whether it be in the arts, sciences, technology, helped in the fight to end slavery, etc. Our monuments should honor heroes. The history of the confederates is a stain on our history. An ugly past. The Birth of a Nation is an ugly thing to honor.						
11/15/2017 10:10:26	marsha rogers	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	Richmond is a CONFEDERATE city....there were MANY confederate battles here and in areas surrounding Richmond. Since we are the capital of the former confederate state... WHY should they be removed. to be perfectly honest...removing them will do NOTHING. The hate, the protests, and all other issues will STILL be here...it will just be focused on something else. If people have such a problem with them.....WHY DO THEY LIVE IN A STATE WITH THIS KIND OF HISTORY? Removing them won't change the history behind them and why shouldn't people be reminded of how things USED to be. Besides...if you remove one you should remove them ALL...that includes the ARTHUR ASHE monument. If you give in to this bad attitude and temper tantrums...what ELSE will you have to give in to? Where will it end? I can tell you that....NOWHERE.						

11/15/2017 10:14:40	Jacky Sommer	Add context to the monuments.	I do not believe in hiding history nor pandering to people that could fight a better cause, but I agree if it is offensive to some you could put up a description eg this man was a great general, lead his troops but believed..... etc etc. I do not think information should be made up or pro / against one side of the views. The information needs to be detailed as history. If we do not then anyone will declare anything as offensive eg I am from England and could say the VA flag is offensive to English people etc But I understand that that was how it was at the time. it is history! many people do not even know who the statues are of, what the flag etc signifies.						
11/15/2017 10:18:25	Priscilla Taylor	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is our heritage						
11/15/2017 10:18:48	Mike Sarahan		At the meeting last night, Christy Coleman mentioned that letters had been received from the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of the Confederacy. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting that I be provided a copy of each letter, within the applicable time limit. I don't anticipate that there will any significant expense in regard to this request, since it was indicated that all the letters are right at hand and that there is a searchable data base. If you intend to try to make any significant charge, however, please advise me of the intended expense before you produce the documents. Thank you for your help in this regard. -- Mike Sarahan						
11/15/2017 10:22:14	Jennifer Hurst-Wender	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Hello! I attended last night's meeting. One of the main points I gleaned was the emphasis on artists helping to interpret and add context to the statues and for the City. As I was driving home, I was listening to Radio IQ. They were interviewing Titus Kaphar, and specifically talking about his views on the monuments. I am sure that you have listened to his TED Talk, "Can Art Amend History" but if not, here is a link: https://www.ted.com/talks/titus_kaphar_can_art_amend_history						
11/15/2017 10:30:58	Lynne Tatum	Leave the monuments as they are.	Removing the monuments won't change our history. These men were good citizens and they served their country well. Slavery was only a part of the reason the Civil War broke out. It was just the way the south worked at the time and not all slaves were abused. These statues can also used as a reminder of how our country had changed for the better. Please let them remain a part of Richmond history!						
11/15/2017 10:36:15	Sheena Marshall	Relocate the monuments.	Place them in a museum or a more remote location so those who want to revisit their history can do so as they feel. Richmond can't move forward if it's stuck looking at it's troubled past, or spending months trying to determine what to do with it. Perhaps if more time was spent analyzing WHY these monuments were erected in the first place, and more empathy was shown for all parties involved, then the solution would become clearer.						
11/15/2017 10:42:53	N. R.	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Please consider context and adding more monuments. The following historical figures have some relation to Richmond VA. Admiral Richard E Byrd Lewis and Clark explorers Gov. Linwood Holton walking Anne Holton into school Brooker T. Washington Virginia Minor Maggie Walker Bojangles						
11/15/2017 10:43:48	Greg Thompson Jr	Leave the monuments as they are.	Unfortunately history can not be erased, these pillars of history should remain to remind Richmond and our country how far we have come and how far wd still need to go. Thank you.						
11/15/2017 11:17:42	Cynthia Croxton	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	Richmond is too rich in history, which we are to learn from, to remove from where they sit. All aspects of the Civil War should be acknowledged. We have the various museums, Hollywood Cemetery, etc. that all teach us valuable lessons. If one starts erasing the history by hiding the ugliness, then it surely will be repeated. I have read so many things from various people, and it is apparent we have not learned enough. Honestly, some have no idea what they're talking about. Please leave our monuments, they are part of Richmond's rising up, not hate symbols.						
11/15/2017 11:37:57	James Harris	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments alone, spend the money to update city schools and help the citizens.						
11/15/2017 11:46:21	Chris Baisey	Leave the monuments as they are.	Removing monuments will be a financial disaster. Spend the money on the failing Richmond educational system. These schools need help now. Thank you						

11/15/2017 11:57:47	Anne-Marie McCartan		<p>None of the above -- they are all-or-nothing options. The City should plan a multi-faceted approach, along these lines.</p> <p>Treat each statue individually. For instance, start by taking down Jefferson Davis. No need to wait to decide what to do with the entire monument -- just relocate the statue to his graveside. Over time the monument can be redesigned with landscaping and removing of the engravings. Next, publish an RFP from organizations interested in acquiring the Stewart, Jackson, and Lee monuments. (If no organizations, museums, clubs offer new homes for them, then clearly they are not that valuable to those who support the Confederate cause or to historic organizations.) As far as adding context, obviously explanatory plaques will be read by few, for logistical reasons. An alternative is to add signs simply with a phone number that can be called to hear a recording about each monument. Over time, the statues can be relocated.</p> <p>One aspect of this controversy that has struck me is how few African-Americans have been in the forefront of asking that the monuments be removed. When I (a white person) have asked A-A friends why this might be so, most give the same answer: Of all the vestiges of slavery, Jim Crow, resistance to integration, and so forth, this does not rise to the top of the list of what needs to be rectified. More training and good jobs, decent schools, adequate transportation -- all this trumps the fuss and expense of removing the monuments. So the City should explicitly tie the decision not to "tear down the statues" to directing comparable resources to those more pressing needs.</p> <p>Thanks for asking for citizen's options.</p>						
11/15/2017 11:59:38	Kimberly Kleski	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>I would like to keep our History Be nice to walk my Grandchildren and See their History How can I explain that to them that someone came long one day.And Said we do not like The History and those people take it away?</p>						
11/15/2017 12:03:07	Derrick Wimberly	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>Consider why the statues were put there in the first place. Consider the era in which they were put there and the message that it was meant to send when they were put there. The statues are a rallying point for hate groups for a reason. Having those statues on Monument Avenue is a celebration of the attitudes that led to the Civil War. I cannot recall anywhere in history where the losers of a war were allowed to continue to promote their platform. These statues continue to promote a white supremacist platform/attitude.</p> <p>In relation to tracking the number of people for/against the statues, I do not believe asking people to speak up will accurately represent who is against it. People of color are usually the least reliable in representing their opinions about things that bother them. Being downtrodden puts you in the mindset that nothing will change even if you try. So taking a poll will not serve the purpose meant.</p> <p>In relation to the cost of removal of the statues, it is only a matter of time that the amount spent cleaning vandalism off the statues and the money spent on police security (during protest) will easily outpace the amount it cost to remove them.</p> <p>Many people will say these statues only represent history, and we can't erase history. History will remain whether the statues do or not. There is plenty of history (in history books) that isn't represented on Monument Avenue, so having them there is certainly not a necessity. I will venture to say that not ONE of the people making the argument FOR the statues will say they like it because it reminds them of a time when they had more control and could do whatever they wanted to black people. But I also am willing to bet that is the mindset of some. My point is that "some" people who want the statues, will come up with any excuse to keep them despite there being an underlying (or hidden) reason. For many of us, those statues represent the desire to keep a people in slavery.</p> <p>If a neighbor is playing extremely loud music and it offends 20 neighbors, all 20 may not speak out against it. If police only receive one phone call about that loud music, does that mean the music volume shouldn't be turned down? The number who record their offense to it shouldn't matter. Those statues are offensive. Please remove them. Thank you.</p>						
11/15/2017 12:20:34	William Bryant	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Lived my whole life in Richmond and never once have I associated the Confederate Statues with slavery or anything racial. They have always been awesome works of historical artifacts that fit the beautiful landscape of the area.</p>						
11/15/2017 12:59:52	Eileen McDermott	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Add the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Grant, on horse back, and larger than Lee if possible since he was the victor and a two term President, AND was a powerful supporter of African Americans. 2. Add a monument recognizing slavery, given Richmond had the largest slave trade in the world. 3. Relocate the beautiful existing statue of Lincoln and his son, which is currently hidden from view behind Tredegar, to Monument Ave. Come on, he is the most revered President in most parts of the world. <p>No one could accuse you of erasing history! You would be completing it. And I bet private funding would be forthcoming.</p>						

11/15/2017 13:06:18	Chris Iguchi	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>The monuments in their current state are an ugly reminder of our past. I know it's tough for the "sons and daughters, blah, blah, blah" of the confederacy to move on from their defeat but the monuments' connection to the confederacy are in every way not pro-American and do not represent who we are as a nation and most definitely do not represent Richmond today. If it were up to me, I'd have them removed; don't care what becomes of them as I'm sure some pro confederacy person would love to have them in his/her backyard. Why not remove them and sell/auction them off to the highest bidder and put that money towards our schools (an issue far more important)? I'm fine with and I think it would be a great idea if the monuments ended up in a completely private museum— then the great folks who will miss them along Monument Ave can visit them in one convenient place anytime they choose.</p> <p>I realize removing the monuments completely is a challenge and will be a fight. If this ends up being completely out of the question then yes, add some context with plaques that clearly state how they were part of our history and what they really meant to all everyone involved then and now, but make crystal clear this is not connected to how we as a great, modern city feel now by putting confederate leaders who were on the wrong side literally on a pedestal.</p> <p>What new monuments to add is a good question? Number one for me would be something music related . Maybe not necessarily one band or person, but something collaborative paying homage to our great music and artistic town that we are. Next, I would choose a giant donut and a beer related monument.</p>						
11/15/2017 13:19:06	stephanie ruffin	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>is there a way to stay informed about what the MAC itinerary is for the upcoming months? is there a way to get an email about meetings, hearings, public forums, etc? we missed the meeting last night because we weren't even aware it was happening. thank you for letting me know if there is a way to sign-up for communication from the MAC.</p>						
11/15/2017 13:25:24	Thomas Hesch	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>If we start here by removing them I see 2 problems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who decides on replacements. 2. What other monuments in the city will be next. Richmond is known as the "city of the monuments". I have watched countless people stop and look at them in cars and tour bus's. 						
11/15/2017 13:56:29	Valerie L'Herrou	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Although I personally believe the monuments should be relocated to a museum, I know that may not be possible given the current climate. Therefore, I think that Monument Avenue should have the existing monuments contextualized, including the reason why the monuments were erected (not as a war memorial, but instead, as an act of defiance), and information about Virginia's, and Richmond's, troubled history with slavery and race, including 20th century history with redlining, lynching, massive resistance, etc.</p> <p>In addition, monuments recognizing the contributions of Virginia women, African-Americans, and native Americans should be added. Although these types of monuments have been added elsewhere in Richmond, they have not been added (with the exception of the Arthur Ashe statue) to Monument Avenue, which is a National Historic District, major thoroughfare, and tourist attraction, and therefore should reflect ALL of Richmond's history -- not just incorrectly venerating its most shameful moment: its treasonous act of secession, and its inhumane continuation and defense of slavery.</p>						
11/15/2017 14:01:13	Polly Cooper	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>We would respect a generic statue commemorating the Black man who came to VA as a slave, and after freedom worked hard to become a worthy U.S. citizen. He should be a handsome, simply clad muscular man, resting or leaning on bales of cotton or tobacco - no larger than his Monument fellows on horseback, but significantly placed. It should be simple, and beautiful.</p> <p>Secondly, a statue commemorating the American woman whose only right before 1914 was the opportunity to marry and raise children. Many suffered long and hard under marital bondage or worse, and were eventually joined by black women in seeking the right to vote . This statue too should receive prominent placing. (Maybe a white & black woman holding hands beside a coffin of an infant)</p> <p>Monument Ave is known worldwide for its monuments - it has become a destination for folks who want to see pieces of history glorified and memorialized. That they mostly depict Civil War leaders who defended the city and state during a certain period has never detracted from their relevance. Richmond should embrace our attraction, but also display how we've moved on and value our history beyond these white men preserving their way of life - This makes Maggie Walker an especially valued Richmond citizen in our effort on Monument Avenue; a more glamorous depiction of her at her desk or at some task would be worthwhile..</p> <p>I can't think of another deserving individual at present - (Let's never portray any future individual who is undeserving of our deepest respect, please.)</p> <p>I really don't think there is much context we need to portray - a lot of signing and verbiage will never be read. We can install several 25 cent vending machines along the way offering a brochure that says what we want folks to see - that we can change overtime!</p>						
11/15/2017 14:32:37	James Hyman	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Adding context to the existing monuments will add clarity to history, not censoring history. Then add more historical monuments pertaining to Richmond and/or VA (ie Maggie Walker, Edgar Allan Poe, Booker T. Washington, Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan etc.)</p>						

11/15/2017 14:32:50	Suzanne Carlton	Leave the monuments as they are.	We need to preserve our history and learn from it, not try to sanitize it. The civil war was fought on many fronts and for many reasons, slavery obviously one of them. Most of those who fought did not own slaves and there is no one living today who is a slave or slave owner. But we must not forget our past, lest we repeat our mistakes. And this goes not at all to the cost to taxpayers (City of Richmond taxes are already high). The money should be used to improve our public school systems, to pay our teachers and our police. Let's not make the mistake of allowing a few activists to cost tax payers' money that has better uses! Governor Douglas Wilder has expressed the same sentiments.						
11/15/2017 14:36:53	William Guyton	Add context to the monuments.	Some sort of plaque(s) should be placed near each one of the monuments on Monument Avenue stating who designed the monument, who built the base for the monument, when was the base built and the monument placed there, why was the monument placed where it stands, how much did the base and the monument cost, where did the money for the base and the monument come from, and any other relevant facts about the monument. If it is decided to erect other monuments in Richmond, plenty of names to be honored come to mind. What about a monument to William Byrd, the founder of Richmond? Names prominent in early Richmond are the Haxall's and Joseph Gallego, men who created jobs and brought commerce to Richmond. Later names such as John Dooley, his son James H. Dooley, Lewis Ginter, John Skelton Williams, Linton O. Miller, Webster S. Rhoads, the Thalhimers' family, the Sauer family, and the Reynolds could be honored. Each loved Richmond, worked hard to promote Richmond, and worked to bring jobs and commerce to Richmond. Most of these men did a lot of charity work also. I don't know about a monument to any of these men that exists in Richmond now.						
11/15/2017 14:41:51	Malik Brooks	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	I am an African American. I grew up 10 minutes away from the plantations my ancestors lived and worked on. To memorialize men who upheld the evils of slavery, disrespects the humanity of the slaves and their descendants. The monuments must come down in order for us to move forward. To me they disgrace this city and promote racial intolerance and white supremacy. The pain of slavery is still alive for many of us. And we feel the pain, sadness, anger and humiliation of our ancestors.						
11/15/2017 15:23:50	Jesse Brown	Relocate the monuments.	I'm sure the "Daughters of Confederacy" can find an appropriate place for them and by the way they can also charge a fee to take care of them... Jefferson Davis definitely never should have been there in the first place! Traitors have no place in this continuum!!!						
11/15/2017 15:52:35	alycia wright	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Relocate them to a confederate cemetery or battlefield.						
11/15/2017 16:07:44	Gabrielle Defazio	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	I believe they should be taken down. History won't cease to exist when we simply remove the statues honoring that history. We have a higher population of people who see fear instead of admiration when they see these monuments and I believe that should be the deciding factor.						
11/15/2017 16:45:14	Carson Foad	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Factually speaking, the Confederacy and its leaders are an important and real part of Richmond's history - the statues represent real events, concerning real people, not only pre-April 9, 1865, but for the ensuing 152 years. But, except for lonely Arthur Ashe, there's nothing on Monument Avenue commemorating anything else - what an opportunity! It's a long and beautiful avenue which deserves the very best in creative thought and execution of representations of events and people deemed important by Richmond residents. It would cost a lot of money to remove Lee and Jackson; that money, and more generated by the excitement of new art, could be spent in a far more positive way. A thought: Virginia has been home to any number of very interesting people from 1607 to 2017, in many walks of life - adding tributes to some of them in the State's capital strikes me as a great way to go on this.						
11/15/2017 17:26:42	Shauntee McKeever	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	I believe the monuments should be moved because: they glorify people who fought a war to keep other people enslaved, they memorialize people who were traitors to the United States, and, they were only erected to harass and intimidate Black citizens of the United States well after the Civil War had ended. And those same Black citizens pay taxes, some of which probably go towards maintaining these symbols of hate, derision, and indifference to Black Americans						
11/15/2017 17:43:33	Jerry Williams	Leave the monuments as they are.	History is history. It cannot be changed so I feel the monuments should be left as they are. The city and this country have more important issues to address than what to do about monuments that have been in place for decades. The money required to do anything with the monuments could certainly be better used on more important issues.						
11/15/2017 18:14:28	Hannah Robbins		Change the monuments to less controversial people. Take down confederate soldiers and put up statues to honor different people.						
11/15/2017 18:19:26	Michael McGhee	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Leave the monuments where they are. Add more for others who have been influential to the RVA. I'm not saying leave them because I'm a racist or that I worship them because I am neither. I just think there is more to Robert E. Lee than just a Confederate General. I would rather see more money go to the schools and the police salaries before anything else is done on Monument Ave. Thanks!						
11/15/2017 18:21:23	April Steeley	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Keep them and add more. We've had these monuments for YEARS and no one has ever batted an eye at them... now suddenly it matters?						
11/15/2017 18:39:45	Thomas O'Neill	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments as they are! Richmond's history, while tragic in some regards, should not be cast aside.						

11/15/2017 19:05:21	William Drumright	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Please leave the monuments alone and as they are. They are memorials to these men and they do not celebrate any part of slavery or Jim Crow. African Americans actually took part in erecting these monuments as well. I have copies of pictures of them working and posing with them after their completion in the late 1800s.</p> <p>Recall, it was the Commonwealth of Virginia that voted to succeed, not these men themselves. They merely answered the call from Virginia to defend her and defend their own homes and families.</p> <p>City resources can be better used elsewhere, starting with combatting the rampant murder rate. Any form of alteration or removal of the monuments will only foster more resentment and further damage race relations.</p> <p>A compromise was made in the 1990s with the addition of the Arthur Ashe monument. The City need to honor that agreement.</p> <p>Respectfully, Wm. Drumright III</p>						
11/15/2017 19:42:25	Lisa Taylor	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>We are known as a The City of Monuments and a lot of people visit Richmond because of its rich history. Removing the monuments will have a negative economic impact which the City cannot afford. Removing the monuments will not change history. The monuments should act as a catalyst for discussions about history both good and bad. You cannot change history by removing monuments. You cannot learn from history if you edit it to suit your opinion.</p>						
11/15/2017 20:35:34	Thomas Lorraine	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Leave the statues on Monument Avenue alone. Appropriate future statues honoring people of that era is a thought but doing things out of spite and bitterness is not the way to proceed. VCU promoting their social agenda through the art school is not the way to proceed. Additional public sculpture to enhance (not detract or diminish) Monument Ave and the surrounding area may be appropriate. Monument avenue does not need "revisioing" and again leave the statues alone.</p>						
11/15/2017 21:40:46	William Rose	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>The Stewart, Lee, Jackson, and especially the Jeff Davis monuments are offensive in their symbolism and in their very presence. They should be removed because they glorify a shameful legacy rather than provide any positive view of our future. Our city needs more monuments like the recent Maggie Walker memorial which represent us at our best and who we aspire to be.</p>						
11/15/2017 22:04:14	Daniel Murillo	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>I do not want monuments to an insurgent force that was responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of citizens in the name of greed.</p> <p>"I think it wiser, 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." - Robert E. Lee</p>						
11/15/2017 22:19:57	Dominic Orlando	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>The monuments are an affront to all Americans. They need to be taken down.</p>						
11/15/2017 22:27:18	Liz Dorneman	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>They are beautiful and a large piece of the history and story of Richmond. People come here to see these decorations. As a local realtor, I can tell you that this add value and significant culture to our city.</p>						
11/15/2017 22:34:04	Julia Murillo	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>I prefer the removal and relocation of most the confederate monuments currently on Monument Avenue. As they are now, large and out of context, the monuments only convey a misplaced sense of pride toward the Confederacy and the Civil War, projecting out to the rest of the world that Richmond is proud of its history as the capital of the Confederacy. However, I do not believe that Richmond should try to ignore its history, and therefore believe that the monuments should be relocated to a more appropriate venue, such as a museum. In this location there should be the entire context of Richmond's history: as a slave port, as the capital of the Confederacy, as a major city of the South in the days of Jim Crow laws, and as the beautiful city it is now. While Monument Avenue should commemorate and celebrate select Richmond history, it should also reflect the current values of Richmond, which the current monuments do not. If nothing else, there should at least be a memorial ON MONUMENT AVE commemorating the lives of all the slaves who perished under Richmond slave owners, as well as literally ANY other prominent figures in Richmond's history (eg. Edgar Allan Poe, a REAL monument for Maggie Walker, etc.).</p>						
11/15/2017 22:48:23	benjamin winn	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>As a lifetime Virginia resident with ten family members who fought to repel the Northern invaders, I am opposed to the removal of anything related to this war. Anyone offended by anything Confederate needs a Southern history lesson.</p>						
11/15/2017 23:33:56	Ada Clevinger	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Please do not remove or destroy our Monuments. Monument Avenue cannot exist without the Monuments and Richmond will not be the same without our historical Monument Avenue.</p>						
11/16/2017 0:03:06	Trista Rawlings	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>The mayor needs to refocus on the public school system in the city. We moved about 2 years ago from the fan area, where my son was a student at Fox. Although Fox is a great school, it still needed some serious updating and improvements from the city, not just rely on the families of those that attend there.</p>						
11/16/2017 1:38:03	Edward Kosewicz	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Quit trying to erase history. Not to mention the cost to the tax payer which will be outrageous</p>						
11/16/2017 1:58:54	Pam Woodrum	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>You cannot nor should you try and erase history. We should remember and talk about it so we do not repeat it. I think the monuments are beautiful and artistic sculptures that make our street and city unique and do not represent the current oppositions view.</p>						

11/16/2017 8:19:39	Kathy Walker	Add context to the monuments.	<p>I have lived in the surrounding Richmond community all my life and these monuments have always been there.</p> <p>It is a disgrace to see these monuments demoralized when these men were war veterans and part of history. The people today have no respect for history.</p> <p>In my opinion leave these monument alone they are part of Virginia and our nations history; you cannot remove history due to ignorance and stupidity but learn from it. Destroying these monument will not solve the issue. Add plaques with more signage, involve the Historical Societies and museums to best give a description to best reflect each monument. In addition there is room for a few more monuments to reflect Virginia and Richmond's vast history.</p> <p>Frankly we did not live during that time in history and what one thinks is politically correct now was not the case back then. Leave these monuments alone!</p> <p>Regards, Kathy Walker</p>						
11/16/2017 8:27:58	mike sadler	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>these monuments represent all lives lost during the war of northern aggression. they represent protection of the state of va. people tour va because of its history. removing these monuments will only cost the taxpayers money loses in several ways. these monuments have been standing for over 100 years and just now this comes up. political correctness is tearing this country apart. if true history was still taught in schools we would not have this problem. dont listen to what you hear. educate yourself on history. removing these monuments is a total disgrace to southerners and the state of va. past history cannot be changed. this decision should not be decided by a chosen few but by the native people of va.</p>						
11/16/2017 8:34:47	Sarah Perry	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>I think that the monuments are a big part of history especially to this area and that history shaped Richmond. People are making it out like the entire war and all of history was based only on slavery and it wasn't. There is a lot more to it and we should educate people on the facts and on both sides of the story. Of course I think we should note that slavery is wrong and this is not support for it and this is how you learn. If you don't learn from history you're doomed to repeat it. Keep the statues and send people around to schools and public venues and provide information about all sides of the history and end with a statement saying how we can learn from it. Maybe look at Richmond history and look for minority people who have positively impacted history and maybe add statues or tributes to them.</p>						
11/16/2017 11:59:34	Gordon Kerr	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Shockoe Bottom in Richmond is a blight on the landscape. For over 10 years we have procrastinated about doing something about Richmond's slave history. I suggest that before we spend money removing Confederate monuments we spend the same time, energy and money on creating a national slave heritage site in Shockoe Bottom which will be a National pilgrimage and tourist destination site. In addition, add monuments to the existing monuments, create a second "Monument avenue" for more monuments, add context to the existing monuments. All of these actions would be a sensible way forward embracing all the people of Virginia, and Richmond in particular, making us a desirable place to live as well as a top tourist attraction.</p>						
11/16/2017 12:41:30	Austin Buckley	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	<p>Confederate monuments have always been a symbol of white supremacy and part of a mission by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to whitewash history. The suggestions that we add "black Confederate monuments" to the street is an example of how the myths the UDC has created persist to this day.</p> <p>These hateful symbols have no place in our public spaces. Tear them down.</p>						
11/16/2017 13:50:53	Sarah Gilbert	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Keep the monuments and use them as a symbol of how far we've come and the work we still need to do! Add context and let's learn from our history, the good and the bad. Learning from mistakes, bad choices and ignorance is important so that we can move forward and hopefully not repeat these same things.</p> <p>This really is an opportunity for our elected officials to roll their sleeves up and set themselves apart by making thoughtful, real, lasting and positive change for our city and state.</p> <p>Removing them would be an easy "check the box" for our upwardly mobile politicians, but would not solve our problems, the problems that will still be here when they have moved on to bigger and better. Fixing schools, housing, communities and transportation would be the best use of the money that would be spent on removing them. Sadly, this would take more time and planning than our elected officials want to fool with, not to mention the watchful eyes and accountability that would come with actually taking on the hard work.</p> <p>I urge our them to take this opportunity to do the hard work, keep the monuments and make them a positive symbol of the change that our elected officials to make happen!</p>						
11/16/2017 15:20:34	Mike Sarahan		<p>I am writing to make a correction to the FOIA request I submitted yesterday. In the body of my request for copies of the letters, I referred to the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the "Sons of the Confederacy." Of course, as to the latter, I did intend to refer to the "Sons of Confederate Veterans." I don't know how I got off track on that one. I will look forward to getting a copy of the letter you received from each of the organizations. Thanks! -- Mike Sarahan, 11/16/2017</p>						

11/16/2017 15:40:23	Rob Bradley	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	can't erase history whether it be good or bad so i'm in favor of letting them be but not opposed to adding some additional historical context. i am also 100% against using any city monies to fund this effort no matter what direction it goes. not sure if the 'commission' is being paid/funded this way but if so, then it needs to stop. i have kids in the RPS system and have for years and although we attend what it perceived to be one of the good schools, i have seen first hand the brick and mortar issues that exist. i can only imagine the condition of some of the not good schools						
11/16/2017 16:12:57	Mary Dean Carter	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	I'm a native Richmonder with deep family ties on both sides in Virginia. I think the Monuments should be removed because they reflect the City's racist past. They no longer reflect the values and culture of our City moving forward and cause hurt and harm to our African American residents. I have given this a lot of thought and talked to folks who were shocked that these would still be up and it does not give a good first impression of our City. Even the descendants of those who are represented want them removed because they really are decisive. Those who want them probably need to get the history lesson we didn't get here in our schools growing up.						
11/16/2017 16:13:20	Emely Taveras	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	By "Add context to the monuments" I mean add a plaque or something of the sort. I do not mean alter the monuments in any way. Monuments can also be added in other parts of the city, like the Maggie Walker on Broad St.						
11/16/2017 16:35:35	Becky Mitchell Mitchell	Add context to the monuments.	Let's leave the past and move on .Enough!						
11/16/2017 19:11:31	Rachel Komlenic	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I would love to get involved in the On Monument Ave portion of this commission. I have worked with museums and collections in Virginia and Pennsylvania and I would love to help. Thanks you.						
11/16/2017 20:40:49	Charles Davis	Leave the monuments as they are.	With all of your problems, you choose this one? How about worrying about your crime problems, drug problems, citizens living in city government slums, and wasting money on this.						
11/16/2017 21:39:27	James Dickinson	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	It would be nice to see context and maybe some northern leaders/generals to balance it out.						
11/17/2017 0:01:03	Prashant Dhingra	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Please remove all monuments of confederate nature as these only insinuate hate and false pride.						
11/17/2017 6:40:37	Leslie Saul	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Put them in a museum or sell them to a museum. Since moving to Richmond in 1970 I have been appalled by the devotion to icons of slavery in this city.						
11/17/2017 8:39:11	Rob White	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The city should develop a museum in the Bottom that incorporates the slave trail, auction, jail, burial grounds, and Lincoln's walk. The slave trail should be renovated and maintained.						
11/17/2017 10:03:15	Joni Jones	Relocate the monuments.	I feel that the monuments are a piece of history and as such should be relocated to a place where they can be better admired and cared for. I would enjoy the monuments more if they were in a place where traffic wouldn't be impeding the ability to view them.						
11/17/2017 10:06:57	S Patrick Prate	Add context to the monuments.	I went to grade school in LEESBURG, VA. Almost every week, we went on a field trip to visit a memorial or battlefield. It imbued in me a love of history and heritage. I believe that removing the monuments, or even just relocating them is the equivalent of telling people there was no Holocaust. I've travelled for work all across North America. Every chance I got, I stopped at monuments and read the plaques attached. It gave me a better sense of who we are as a nation. These monuments will do the same for future generations, no matter the temporal pain.						
11/17/2017 11:02:50	Cosima Storz	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	While the monuments represent a part of our history, they also uphold parts of our history we are not so proud of. I fear removal of the monuments removes a reminder of what can happen in society. I look to Germany and its respectful remembrances of the Holocaust, the Nazi era, and East Germany. The monuments can serve as a reflection of where we come from, what we did, and where we will go and become a better city, and better humans. I love the addition of the Maggie L. Walker statue and Bill Bojangles Robinson statue. They were people that were real Richmonders and were a part of the Richmond community. I want to see more people like that celebrated here in Richmond.						
11/17/2017 11:23:03	Nadia Kalinchuk		To whom it may concern, Good morning. I work for the City of Austin in the Equity Office. We are currently looking at a resolution to remove confederate monuments and I want to connect with other cities that have undertaken this process to learn from your experience. I would love to set up a phone call to ask a few questions regarding your methodology and definition of what to include in removals (affiliation versus participation in Confederacy). I can be reached via email and my phone number is 713-294-2685. Thank you.						
11/17/2017 14:39:20	Meredith Katz	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	The statues celebrating leaders of the Confederacy is a legacy of hate throughout our city. These statues can be preserved at a relocation site, outside of one of the central avenues of the city.						
11/17/2017 16:29:05	Debbie Simmons	Leave the monuments as they are.	The Confederate monuments are what make Monument Avenue, Monument Avenue. Our teachers should not be teaching our children with liberal flavor. It should be NON PARTISAN. They should teach the facts, the whole truth. I am a blood relative of at least one Confederate soldier. They are part of my family heritage. They are part of Virginia heritage. They are part of history. Removing the monuments from our sight only increases our risk of another civil war. The Confederate monuments are not about hate. People who misuse the Confederate flag should be punished, not the proud people or the descendants of Confederate soldiers.						

11/17/2017 16:43:20	Laura August	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Its 2017. These monuments have no place in our city. They glorify slavery and valorize the people who waged a war to maintain ownership over other human beings. Adding context does nothing but salve the feelings of white Richmonders who would rather not acknowledge this stain on american history. The avenue stands as a rallying point for out and out white supremacists- its a wonder the cadre of white nationalists seen in Charlottesville haven't descended upon our city yet. Furthermore, its quite shocking that the city is even considering debate on the topic with the events of August 12th still in recent memory and having happened so close to home. Continued debate spits in the face of so many Richmonders who protested on the August 12th, of Richmond's Black community and, most importantly, on the memory of the millions of people who were sold, born or died in slavery.						
11/17/2017 17:09:03	Stewart Pollock	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>The monuments to confederates on Monument Ave should be removed. You can put them in a park somewhere else with context or a museum. Or you can auction them off to private bidders as San Francisco did with its cross on a hill which was subject to a federal lawsuit seeking removal. At the very least, add context that notes: (1) those confederates chose to fight on the side of the south and sought to defend the loathsome institution of slavery. Anything else good they did in their lives and which might have been admirable must exist within that context; and (2) the monuments were erected during the Civil Rights era with the intention of intimidating African Americans.</p> <p>But Monument Ave is beautiful in part because of the monuments (although some of them cause horrific traffic conditions) so we should replace any removed or relocated monuments. The replacement monuments should be to people or events that Virginians can be proud of. Any person you erect a monument to is going to have something in their past that's bad, but probably not as bad as defending slavery. There are certainly better options -- Maggie L. Walker, George Washington, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Booker T Washington, James Madison, Missy Elliott, Ralph Sampson, Heath Miller, Nat Turner. Alternatively, make monuments to events so you don't have to weigh any entire life for potential criticism. How about a monument to independence? the constitution? declaration of independence? religious freedom? the abolition of slavery? Richmond's many generations of blue collar workers that built this city and made it prosperous? Or commission art -- a new sculpture to be voted on by the people each year for a decade as we gradually replace the statues?</p> <p>The problem is not the physical statues which are admittedly beautiful. The problem is what they represent. I propose relocation over removal & destruction. But they need to be placed somewhere that doesn't intimidate people or glorify slavery.</p>						
11/17/2017 17:43:03	John Krebs	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be great to add information about the Lost Cause movement which was responsible for creating many of the monuments as well as notable minority rights movements that coincided with the Lost Cause and how the Lost Cause may have been in response to advancements in minority rights. 2. I believe that monuments should be kept specific to local Richmond and/or Virginia history. Also, no monuments should remain in roadways due to the obstructed visibility and danger that results from them. 3. Remove and relocate to a museum. <p>I would ask that monuments that are in roadways be removed at high priority due to the immediate risk they pose to motorists and pedestrians. I live in close proximity to the AP Hill monument and have witnessed firsthand the harm to life and public safety that result from monuments placed in roadways that were not anticipated to contain the current traffic volume and intensity that they do now.</p>						
11/18/2017 9:15:59	Richard Williams	Leave the monuments as they are.	As a lifelong Richmond resident and property owner, I am in favor of leaving the monuments as they are. If additional context is added, I hope it will reflect the conditions and history of the time the monuments were erected. There were different opinions of form and content when they were created. I accept that. I do not wish to see modern political views inserted into any interpretation. The modern narrative is that these monuments were put up for no other reason than Jim Crow. I believe that narrative ignores the memorial aspect of the monuments. From an art and cultural standpoint, Monument is one of the most beautiful avenues in the country. I hope that it will remain as it is so that we can better understand our past.						
11/18/2017 9:29:26	Victoria Clifford	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I would love to see tons of public art by local Virginia artists on Monument Ave - a great way to beautify our city and support local artists. Also would love to see statues of Nat Turner, June Carter Cash, Dr Ralph Stanley, Pocahontas, Patrick Henry. Jefferson Davis must go - he's not even a Virginian!!!						
11/18/2017 10:24:05	Tim Coplan	Leave the monuments as they are.	Spend the money on crime prevention, fixing potholes, renovating schools. This is such a distraction and waste.						
11/18/2017 14:06:45	Mary Henderson	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	The sight of those confederate monuments disgust me every time I have to drive by them. These monuments celebrate the immoral and subhuman institution of slavery. There is no reason for anyone of sound mind and body or any kind of a moral compass should constantly be reminded of such injustice on a daily basis. They should be taken down and destroyed asap.						
11/18/2017 17:36:55	Kathy Blackburn	Relocate the monuments.	Make a museum and tell the whole story.						
11/18/2017 21:20:26	Andrew M	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Being a Virginian who has travelled the world and who is married to a foreigner, I can attest that removing monuments would be robbing future generations of the learnings of our past. Applying contemporary morality to our ancestors with such irreverence and disdain only encourages and empowers those who hold such contempt. We should all pray that what is happening today, holding in judgement those who lived in earlier eras, isn't applied to us by our future generations. I would encourage more monuments which include many of our black heroes who are from right here in Virginia. History is complicated; as were the people.						

11/18/2017 21:28:27	Patricia Saroch	Relocate the monuments.	Relocate the monuments to the daughters of confederate grades and make a sculpture garden. Auction them off for someone to have on their estate. Replace them with monuments that more accurately depict the demographic of rva and Virginia at large Make statues as an ideal to aim for that can appeal across party lines, across value systems. Monuments that stand for all of us, not just some of us.						
11/19/2017 8:49:00	Debbie Simmons	Add context to the monuments.	Please add this to the comment on my original submission						
11/19/2017 13:34:20	PATII BEASLEY	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	CONFEDERATES DEPICTED ON MONUMENT WERE VIRGINIANS AND FOUGHT FOR VIRGINIA.						
11/19/2017 17:37:08	Dr. Rosemary Smith	Leave the monuments as they are.	As an historian I have studied the mindless actions of iconoclasts over the centuries. Indeed, the term iconoclast today is often used as one of derision, indicating ignorance and intolerance. To remove the statues on Monument Avenue would be an outrageous act of iconoclasm which will bring shame to our great city.						
11/19/2017 18:15:12	Jesse Booth	Leave the monuments as they are.	Virginia and Richmond in particular own this piece of history. These are our forebears and they played part in a major formative piece of local and national history and identity. Opinions will change like the weather and actions should not be taken in a fit of ill advised passion because a few vocal agitators don't understand them. We should not try to hide, deny, or correct history (good or bad). These men may not be on the winning side of the text books but a careful openminded study of their collective actions and motivations reveals much to be lauded and better understood by citizens today. In particular, the cry that Robert E Lee represents historic or current day racism is laughable at even the most superficial study of his views and actions before, during, and after the Civil war. Richmond was the capital of this misunderstood time period and monument Avenue is the artistic, aesthetically pleasing outdoor museum for the military and political thought that shaped our nation. DO NOT TOUCH. This sacred space. Further, where does this divisive, destructive thought line lead, shall we remove Jefferson, Washington, or lincoln because they products of their time and ignore their immense contributions to humanity as well?						
11/19/2017 19:20:41	Sadie Wright	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	There is no need for them. Remove them from Richmond entirely.						
11/20/2017 9:51:18	Joan Charles	Leave the monuments as they are.	These statues are of such importance to our city for residents (who spent thousands of dollars in property to be close to our history) other residents who are very proud, and travelers who come from far to admire & photograph them. The money that would be allocated for removal would greatly benefit our school system instead. Please do not remove our history! What would be next? Removing bodies from Hollywood Cemetery??! Outrageous!						
11/21/2017 8:43:32	Jan Edwards		Did I read correctly that a request can be made for some members to attend a session to hear opinions regarding the Monument Statues? We have an AP English class taught by Ms. Nixon who would love to have a member hear a presentation by her students on their opinions and thoughts on this issue. Please contact me and we can talk more about the possible ways we can include our students !						
11/21/2017 20:31:03	Gwendolyn Nixon		I'd like an opportunity to have several students write on this topic, and present to your board. Possible?						
11/22/2017 9:36:43	Monica Chambers	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	(1) Remove Confederate Statues and replace with Union Statues (2) Provide grief counseling for folks who are distraught about the change (3) Remove Confed. Statues and replace with men and women of varying experiences and ethnicities who have been prominent in RVA. (4) Put Confed Statues in graveyard or museum and charge a fee for viewing. Have the process go towards funding education.						
11/24/2017 13:40:08	L Harvey	Leave the monuments as they are.	There are so many problems in the city that need our precious resources, such as housing, poverty, food insecurity, crime, healthcare, drug addiction... let's not spend a dime doing anything with statues which only "hurt" when people attribute additional meaning to them. This is a part of our history - why tear it down? We must remember & learn from our history - not bury it & forget it.						
11/24/2017 20:31:12	Steve Chesher	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments should be left alone. Who enjoys tearing down other culture's monuments and statues? The Taliban, ISIS and radical liberals. If you believe that tearing down another culture's monuments will help anything you are sadly mistaken. It will only cause more division. It will also cost the city millions in tourist revenue from people who travel from outside Richmond to observe the beautiful statues. Do what the majority of people want in every poll and "Save the Monuments.						
11/25/2017 13:22:24	Robin Selby	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	One option should the statues remain is to move them from their high pedestal and place them on a 1ft base so they are no longer monuments but just statues. Then add other statues of Virginia historical figures along the avenue. Put them in cintext						

11/26/2017 15:02:21	Charles Lamb	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>There appears to be two general categories of statuary in Richmond; 1.that related to the Civil War and 2. that related tp notable individuals.</p> <p>Statuary Related to Notable Individuals The Maggie Walker sculpture is the newest. While I don't agree with is location, it seems acceptable to most. The Arthur Ashe statue is important and out of place; it should be moved to a location overlooking the Byrd Park tennis courts, perhaps replacing Columbus. Columbus could be moved o a location overlooking the river, perhaps in Libby Hill Park.</p> <p>Statuary related to the Civil War. Monument Avenue should be developed as an outdoor statuary garden to commemorate this important, unfortunate historical event. The present monuments should be preserved as they are. To represent the Union participants Statues of the notable union officers should be added. There is room; there are several unoccupied spots on the grass median for an appropriate number of the officers and for a commemorative to the enlisted participants . A Lincoln statue should be located across the intersection from the Jefferson Davis monument. Lastly, and most important. the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors monument should be moved from Libby Hill Park to a place of prominence on Monument Avenue.</p>						
11/28/2017 15:41:42	Mario Reveley		<p>Hi,</p> <p>My in-laws live on 2314 Monument Ave.</p> <p>For Christmas and before the icy season, their children are looking to install a hand railing on the front steps (from the sidewalk to the landing).</p> <p>What is the approval process to put in a simple rod iron black railing?</p> <p>Given the scope and nature of what we are trying to do, is it possible for the staff to approve our request or do we need to go through the full process?</p> <p>Thank you, Mario</p>						
11/28/2017 19:00:06	Jon Campbell	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Dear Monument Avenue Commission:</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern regarding suggestions to remove the statues on Monument Avenue. Like the majority of Richmonders, I oppose removing the statues and support adding context and erecting new statues to tell the full story of the American Civil War.</p> <p>These statues do not represent my heritage. Instead, I see them as public art, historic artifacts and economic assets. Taking down these monuments would be tantamount to censorship, destruction of a National Historic Landmark, and detrimental to Richmond's tourism industry.</p> <p>Conversely, adding context and new statues would increase educational value and tourism in Richmond. This process started in 1996 with the addition of Arthur Ashe, which contributed to Monument Ave. as a larger body of work. With proper planning, coordination and compromise, I believe we can turn this threat into an economic and educational opportunity.</p> <p>Let's take this opportunity to collaborate, create and add value to our historic city.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Jon Campbell</p>						