

Submitted On	Name	In your opinion what should be done with the Monuments	Message
05/01/2018 2:28:18	Anne Foard	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	There is no 'real story' to be told with regard to the existing monuments. The monuments tell a particular vision of history that was valid to the people who erected them and are therefore history themselves, as are the specific places they were located. That is their real story - Richmond was the Capital of the Confederacy and the people depicted were its military and governmental leaders; that's it. If there is more to the story of the Confederacy that needs to be told vis a vis Richmond, there is a great deal of available space on Monument Avenue and elsewhere in Richmond to do that. Hopefully any additions will be done with as much artistry as the ones that currently exist; the residents of Monument Avenue would greatly appreciate that.
05/01/2018 12:27:46	Deborah Brown	Leave the monuments as they are.	All Virginians should be able to vote in this decision. Richmond is the capital of our state. This effects all of us, not to mention the tourism that will be lost forever!
05/01/2018 14:41:44	John Stones	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments are part of our history. To alter them or remove them you are cutting off your nose to spite your face. These monuments are not hurting a single person, nor have they ever. If you bow to political correctness and remove or alter them you are trying to change history. You cannot do that regardless of your actions. These monuments were placed to honor the individuals depicted on them. If it is your desire to honor others then by all means do so! But not at the expense of the current monuments. Thousands of dollars are coming into the coffers of the city by tourists coming to view these monuments. Squandering these dollars is foolish as there are numerous projects that are funded by them that are benifitful to everyone! If you choose to remove or alter the monuments because someone is "offended" is again foolish. I am offended by a great many things but it is part of maturing to grow beyond the things that offend you and grow into being a well rounded individual to accomplish great things instead of maintaining the status of being a perpetual victim.
05/01/2018 14:50:20	Bendy Giddens	Leave the monuments as they are.	I believe Monument Avenue is a national treasure, it's what makes Richmond special. It's fine art as well as a history museum. They are tributes to dead veterans, half a million people perished in the war, many in mass graves marked unknown. The inability to compromise lead to the war itself. Adding monuments is acceptable, destroying monuments disrespects veterans and their ancestors.
05/01/2018 15:29:47	James Jones	Leave the monuments as they are.	My people died in this war against the government that broke our constitutional RIGHTS for the state runs the state
05/01/2018 16:32:41	Niesa Wilhelm	Leave the monuments as they are.	Keep them!
05/01/2018 19:27:13	Jane Bermijo	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave them alone!
05/01/2018 19:34:59	Jeremy Maul	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The monuments on Monument Avenue tell a story of Richmond. Right now the story is incomplete. I love the Confederate monuments and I think they should stay. I do think to complete Richmond's story more monuments should be added. I'm not a Democrat but a monument to Doug Wilder would be a great addition. Bottom line the monuments are history and should be left alone! Thanks!
05/01/2018 20:58:45	Susie Price	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Those monuments are a part of American history. Adding context to them is certainly welcome. More monuments should be added as well; ones that will counterbalance the existing ones and everyone will be included.
05/02/2018 0:12:34	Julia Samaniego	Leave the monuments as they are.	Don't change a thing. These communist attacks must be prosecuted.
05/02/2018 13:26:57	James Ligon	Leave the monuments as they are.	DO NOT NEED CONTEX

05/02/2018 14:15:10	Deborah Perez	Leave the monuments as they are.	These are our ancestors memorials/headstones & graves. What is wrong with these people? They are sick and evil! They are an organized communist hate terrorist group. There is lots of proof!
---------------------	---------------	----------------------------------	---

I will begin by noting the legal opinion summary provided last Nov. that states that adding context in historic panels that did not obstruct the view of the monuments should be permitted under existing law, without threat of legal risks. That is the approach we should take. It is already legal to do this. The legal summary is on this web site, but I include it below for convenience.

Monument Avenue Commission Legal Review
Summary taken from MAC website.

The City Attorney issued a legal opinion to the Monument Avenue Commission for the November 14th work session.

"To summarize my conclusions, no such monuments may be removed except at the risk of exposure to legal liabilities until either the courts or the General Assembly provide clarity to certain generally applicable state laws. Some monuments, including the Monument Avenue statues, may not be removed without still further action by the General Assembly to negate restrictions contained in the City Charter. Finally, placing permanent markers near the monuments that provide contextual information about them, and do not either disturb the monuments themselves or interfere with the ability of reasonable people to view them, would likely be viewed as being consistent with state law without further action by either the courts or the General Assembly."

City Attorney Allen Jackson

Based on this legal situation, I believe we should add context to the monuments in the form of historical panels telling The Story of Virginia. Virginia's history spans over 400 years. The Confederacy was 4 years, less than 1% of her history. I believe making that change and including the story |the good, the bad and the ugly" as mayor Stoney has stated is the best option. That history begins rather innocuously and one point that must be clearly made is that slavery was not the consequence of so called "white supremacy". a pseudoscientific fallacy. Slavery developed because of economic drivers. The advent of the plantation economy brought about slavery because of the need for labor. Slaves were HIGHLY VALUABLE, a source of great wealth! At its peak, in the 19th century, there was more wealth in the form of very valuable slaves than in all of America's banks!!! FACT! If there had not been an economic benefit, slavery would not have survived. I think the myth of white supremacy needs to be debunked, not by arguing with anyone, but by a big yawn and pointing to the science. Those trying to debate the issue just give some credence or recognition to those espousing a scientific fallacy. Those arguing about evolution as "survival of the fittest" are using arguments that developed a hundred or more years ago. NOW we have the true science of MOLECULAR GENETICS, and with the completion of the human genome in 2006, it was proven that there is no "gene" for race. Groups of people who evolved in similar geographical locations developed different sets of physical attributes that helped those humans adapt to the distinct environments in which they and their ancestors evolved. These different sets of adaptive traits identify groups of people by the regions in which their ancestors lived and developed. That's all. And, of course, we are ALL descended from a primordial Mother "Eve", who was an African woman. Eve and some of her sisters left Africa thousands of years ago and spread out across the Middle East, Asia and Europe. Clusters of genetic groups developed in geographic regions. The Seven Daughters of Eve, by British geneticist Brian Sykes tells the story admirably. The Human Genome Project (1990-2006) <https://www.genome.gov/> demonstrated that there is no race gene, but these clusters of attributes that evolved in different environments. So modern science has proven that there is no race gene. that should put an end to any talk of "white supremacy", which should be ignored and not dignified with debate. If anyone persists in such arguments, send them a copy of the Human Genome Report at the link listed above. I believe full information about the economic drivers behind slavery and the modern science of the human genome should end any notions that slavery was caused by white supremacy. I don't want all the little children hearing such arguments that might plant some seed of doubt about their self-worth. Slaves were HIGHLY VALUABLE. So, let's move on. Acknowledging our history, but recognizing the actual economic drivers, puts things into an impersonal cause and effect. It was a business matter. An ugly, pernicious institution, but It was about the need for labor

05/04/2018 12:00:55	E B	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave them the way they are. I will not take the time to tell you why because I know your minds are already made up. I just wanted the record to show that there is opposition to what you are doing.
05/04/2018 15:06:50	Caitlin Hanbury	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>Did any of Richmond's monuments go through any type of approval procedure that resembles the process we now use to vet the installation of public art? Run a relentless public campaign in the news to bring that story to light in detail (how the land was acquired, the source of funds used to bring those monuments to existence, the source and value of current funds used to maintain them). Then we will have all the facts. And, my guess, it will be undeniably apparent what should happen.</p> <p>Also, inventory all of Richmond's monuments--is our city represented in them? Does it show diversity of background, thought, experience? Does it promote Richmond as the place we know it to be?</p>
05/04/2018 19:51:18	Diane Patrick	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I would like to see historical monuments remain with additional signage to show context and balance--and also to see monuments honoring slaves and Yankee leaders. --sll sides honored in an objective, historical way.
05/04/2018 21:45:43	Leigh Matich	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>This issue impacts the entire Richmond metro area, not just Richmond City residents. I'd say the impact even goes beyond this area; it's part of the history of the area, and a tourist attraction. When I first moved to this area from NJ, I had a negative view of the confederate statues; they seemed to represent the feeling that southerners couldn't accept losing the war. After living here a long time, I've come to appreciate their presence as a part of the rich history of this area as the capital of the Confederacy and the Civil War era. Also the fact that they are on Monument Avenue... a unique feature of this city.</p> <p>Monument Avenue could be enhanced by adding more statues. I always thought the addition of Arthur Ashe was a great idea. I'm not sure if it's appropriate to honor someone who's still living with a statue, but Douglas Wilder would be very appropriate. Other suggestions: Bojangles Robinson, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Oliver White Hill, and any of the major figures of the Revolutionary War that were from the Richmond area. I believe their should be some diversity ... women and people of color are underrepresented and could help balance out the statues that may be perceived as racist.</p>

Dear Commission members:

My view on the Monument Avenue statues is to think in terms of what can we do to EDUCATE and CREATE. EDUCATE by adding context to the monuments and adding monuments to recognize slaves, abolitionists, prominent African Americans and civil rights leaders. This effort has begun with the Maggie Walker monument and Brown's Island Emancipation Monument that is in progress. In this way we build up rather than tear down. However of equal importance is, I suggest, creation of "living" hubs of activities which educate us about slavery (especially in Richmond but beyond too), the pain of the American Civil War for all, and about prominent slaves and African Americans from Richmond and elsewhere. As former President Obama stated with regard to plans for his Presidential Library Center: "[CREATE] something that is alive, that is a hub of activity for the community, for the city..." U.S. News article by Gabrielle Levy, May 3, 2017. I suggest the following be created:

1. Create a sports and cultural corridor along the Boulevard to include a new state of the art Arthur Ashe tennis facility and a new first rate indoor/outdoor track facility.* The cultural assets and activities are already in place with the Science Museum, Children's Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts and Virginia Museum of History and Culture. A sketch of a plan and funding ideas are below.

*Note: Although not connected to the Monument Avenue statues, I urge that this sports corridor also include a renovated or new ball park. Ideas for its funding are included below.

2. Create a Richmond Slave History Museum or a Museum of Slave History and Center to Abolish Slavery Everywhere in the area where Gabriel was hanged and slaves were sold. A sketch of a plan and funding ideas are below.

3. Create a Mini-Central Park and a "to go to" farmers market in the Bottom in around the location of the once proposed ball park. A sketch of a plan and funding ideas are below.

Sketch Plans and Funding:

CREATE a Sports and cultural corridor - To the existing cultural assets provided by VMFA, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Children's Museum and Science Museum, add a new state of the art Arthur Ashe tennis facility, new indoor/outdoor track facility together or independently of the tennis facility, and a renovated or new ball park on the Boulevard, north of Broad Street.

Connect all with pedestrian pathways and assure that existing or modified public transportation is available. The pedestrian pathways could have time lines on various historical events connected to Arthur Ashe, and other prominent Richmond and Metro-Richmond sports figures, scientists, historians and artists as the paths near the cultural facilities.

This idea could be a reality in a reasonable amount of time with discussions with the appropriate folks. The tennis and track facilities could be used by Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Union University and the University of Richmond as well as Richmond's Public Schools and Department of Parks and Recreation. What great partnerships! To the extent the facility had time and dates open, it could generate revenue from use for HS tournaments or meets or even celebrity matches.

For the Sports and Cultural corridor - open funding discussions with the three metro area colleges (VUU, VCU, U of Richmond), the City Department of Parks and Recreation, the City Schools, Corporations, foundations, and individuals.

Funding: For the ball park - funding by the Squirrels, corporations, Metro Richmond governments, and colleges nearby if they are able to have use of it.

IMAGINE: I can imagine Boulevard and Broad as a sports and cultural hub of activity for the community, for the City and beyond with pedestrian access and existing public transportation access.

Sketch Plans and Funding

CREATE a Richmond Slave History Museum and/or a Museum of Slave History and Center to Abolish Slavery Everywhere in and around the area where Gabriel was hanged and slaves were sold.

Per a Richmond Times Dispatch article, Saturday October 7, 2017 it was reported that Ken Storey "proposes ... Richmond become the world headquarters for both telling the story of slavery and leading the effort to abolish it [through the establishment of a Center to Abolish Slavery Everywhere [C.A.S.E]". The editorial states that "Some estimates ... place the

05/05/2018 3:53:47	Steve Duresky	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	These monuments to the leaders of a losing rebellion against the USA should not be held in a position of honor and esteem, especially given the cause for which these rebels were fighting - their states' rights to retain their slaves. Their presence is a blight and disgrace on the city of Richmond and the United States. They should be relocated to a museum environment - not to bury or hide the past, but so that future generations can learn from it.
05/05/2018 9:20:13	Daniel Myers	Leave the monuments as they are.	Code of Virginia Section 15.2-1812. Memorials for War Veterans. If such are erected, it shall be unlawful for the authorities of the locality, or any other person or persons, to disturb or interfere with any monuments or memorials so erected, or to prevent its citizens from taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation and care of same. For purposes of this section, "disturb or interfere with" includes removal of, damaging or defacing monuments or memorials, or, in the case of the War Between the States, the placement of Union markings or monuments on previously designated Confederate memorials or the placement of Confederate markings or monuments on previously designated Union memorials.
05/05/2018 12:58:15	Elsa Woodaman	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Context can be added with plaques around the statues, by adding new monuments to the leaders of the abolitionist movement and of slaves themselves- there are many, many options- and even an audio tour that could be accessed on people's phones.
05/05/2018 13:36:38	Mary Burleigh	Leave the monuments as they are.	Focus our tax dollars and our schools, hiring and retaining police and affordable housing. You waste our dollars on renaming schools, funding craft beer, sponsor a rapid bus and redskin training center all that do nothing to support our social issues in Richmond. Ask our future, our children if they even know what the statues represent or if they care about the civil war.
05/05/2018 16:26:42	A Concerned Citizen	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is hypocritical to claim that the monuments on the avenue are an homage to slavery as they do not actively depict enslavement. Furthermore, if we wish to rid ourselves of all things which remind us of slavery, then we should be actively disassembling any and ALL reminders of slavery, including any museums specifically dedicated to slavery. To do otherwise is to present a significantly one-sided view of a large part of America's past.
05/05/2018 19:20:25	Joel Zimmerman	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I'm all for adding monuments along the avenue to honor notable people in more recent history, but I do not believe the monuments should be removed. Like it or not, we were the capital of the confederacy and the monuments on display are an accurate representation of what our city stood for at that time in our history. I think it's amazing to live in a country where people can rebel against their country, lose a war, and still be permitted to keep keep and display artifacts that tell that story. The future is upon us and the world has changed, so erect new statues to display where we are now for future generations. Don't remove the representation of what our ancestors thought was so important in their time. It's their story.
05/05/2018 21:43:50	Candace Thompson	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Tear them down. Confederate flags hang throughout rural Virginia as a symbol of hate and racism. The intent of those flags is clear. It is shameful to come home to my city and see the permanent symbols of hate near my home.
05/05/2018 22:53:25	Douglas Leake	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please look around the city when y'all are down in it. Every direction that is looked apnd is part of the confederatecy. Ask people what is Richmond known for and you will be told "The capital of the confederatecy". The monuments only represent what this city is. Ask Andrew Young what he did when he was the mayor of Atlanta. Richmond should show all the history of the city from slavery, the civil war, and the achievements that the city has overcame to be where it is. People say that it's our heritage, BUT I say it's our southern culture and no one can change the culture of a person. By no means, no one should, so the pro confederate people need to except the slavery monuments when their built as the non confederate people should except the monuments as they are.

05/06/2018 11:08:18	Dan Tomlinson	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	I am a transplanted Californian. As such I do not share the passions on the topic that many Native Virginians do. However I find it troubling that we would even consider tearing up these historical artifacts simply because some present day citizens impose their 21 century world view on 19th century events. To them I would ask the following question: "Less that five percent of those who fought for the South were slave owners, what were the other 95% fighting for?"
05/06/2018 14:42:45	Jenna Bernstein	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please do not purge our history or revise the truth of the money instigating war that caused so many American Deaths- we must respect the dead! Period and I represent the 12 thousand Jewish American Veterans who served and died for the Confederacy-
05/06/2018 14:48:12	Samuel Fontenot	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave them alone
05/06/2018 15:12:28	Jason Scott	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Leave the Monuments as they are. If anything put up more signs to educate that the monuments are for honorable dead.
05/06/2018 22:24:44	J. Maurice Hopkins		Your recently announced May 10th, 2018 Public Meeting at the Richmond Public Library conflicts with the Mayor's Spring Fling Senior Prom at the Altria Center at the same time. Can this be cancelled and rescheduled to another time?
05/06/2018 22:33:24	Mary Mitchell	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Let's move the confederate statues to a museum
05/07/2018 11:00:25	Perry Matthews	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Hi, Here is my proposal: Remove the current confederate monuments and place them in a civil war/history museum that can preserve the art and provide the proper context. Leave the plinths that the statues were sitting on (and remove the plaques to the museum setting) For at least one of the plinths request a call for rotating artists to install contemporary art every year. This could be set up similar to the National Museum in London at Trafalgar Square that has a rotating program for their 4th Plinth. For the other plinths, use to set up contemporary art that will attract more visitors to a city that has a burgeoning art program. Create a festival to celebrate the arts. Let's focus on art and not argue over people. Let's develop a bold inclusive plan going forward.

05/07/2018 12:56:55	REID PIERCE	Add context to the monuments.	<p>A SERIOUS PROPOSAL</p> <p>The country is engaged in a vigorous and necessary debate about what to do with the Monuments of the Confederacy.</p> <p>"They belong in museums" is a common refrain. I propose that Monument Avenue located in the, one time, Capitol of the Confederacy be designated as that Museum.</p> <p>Those localities that wish to relocate their statues could, upon review, erect them in Richmond where they would become part of a well-curated and contextualized story depicting the origins and demise of slavery as an institution and the bloody Civil War. It would serve as a monument to the progress that we have made as a society.</p> <p>These monuments of confederate soldiers could be joined with new ones of Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King.</p> <p>I do not propose that these stand in a vacuum. There should be docent tours, large and informative placards, lectures and remembrances.</p> <p>A necessary and constructive light on a dim chapter of American history.</p>
05/07/2018 16:15:06	Cari Still	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>In order for our nation our communities and the world at large to grow is through creative change. That requires art. It is my opinion as a daughter of the revolution and the south and the north and almost every muster this nation has encountered. I have also recieved the worst treatment we now by law can persecute with, on going target of the lavender scare, and that is the rageing battle over sexuality, which is just the new form of power struggle from the old form of power struggle because like it or not we will again be a free country. But not until we learn the hard lessons of our collective history. I say add statutes to monument avenue and honor the more than 300,000 lives that came through rva in chans. The vietnam war memorial with the broken soldiers marching, well why not bronses in the the grand mall that honor the literally millions that were subjugated for the riches some families in this area still enjoy. There will be no healing with out truth. The only way to avoid repeating the sins of your father is to truly understand where he as a human came up short. Save our lives our childrens integrity save our nations dignity. Be the place that learns through art that healing trumps every petty thing. Look around you and try and see this nation is filled with humans, people, Flnd a way to represent this city that makes us all proud not that caters to any special interest. It is the change we need. Are you brave enough to tell the truth?</p>
05/07/2018 18:44:07	Richard Harlow	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>History is history, it cannot be changed. Nobody alive today is affected by it, removing, altering, adding to monument avenue is revisionist in the best case and outright idiotic to think one can erase it by moving it. If anyone today is offended by monument avenue they failed to pay attention is school or were taught the wrong lesson.</p>

05/08/2018 14:49:37	Ray Muhammad	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Indigenous American Africans for the last 400 years have been under two types of Oppression, physical bondage and psychological racial oppression. The 13th Amendment abolished physical bondage but the language of phycological racial oppression continued even to this day. False Concepts like mankind being divided into races and the European possessing the Superior or white mind and the African possessing the inferior or black mind have been institutionalized in education government and media and continues toperpetuate that social cancer called racism. Everyone knows the only cure for cancer is removal of a cancerous cells in this instance the words black and white and the false concept of race. From a single pair male and female Allah has evolved Nations and tribes that we might know each other. The United States is a nation of nation alities and tribes. The indigenous American African after 400 years of bondage Allah has evolved a new tribe with its own culture that's reflective of all that it had to endure as a people in America. In 2019 it will Mark 400 years since the arrival of the first angolans into the Jamestown Colony. Our tribe now numbers over 50 million, America's Cash Flow in a plantation economy, the indigenous American Africans people's history is a sacred one what happened by permission of Allah and like when He raised up Moses to lead the children of Israel out of bondage from pharaoh He has produced a generation of indigenous MuslimAmerican Africans speaking truth to falsehood opening the door to psychological freedom. For their people. Removal of those racist statues on Monument Avenue it's just one step. When truth comes falsehood vanishes.
05/09/2018 8:35:14	Jo White	Relocate the monuments.	People say they want to preserve history, and that's OK but history is preserved in many ways. I don't think we need to continue to preserve history by heroizing those who fought for their rights to own other people. The statues were put there to show black people who was still in charged even though they lost the war. The statues still being there in this day and age only goes to confirm that a large portion of white people in this city still see us as less than they are so they enjoy the message that the statues bring. The best message you could give us right now is to remove the statues and place them in a museum. Let's condemn the hatred, not continue to celebrate it. There are many white and black people who have done positive things. Those are the people who should be put on Monument Avenue. If the city can't pay for it, just like private citizens payed for the confederate statues, private citizens would probably come up with the money to pay to have them removed given the option.
05/09/2018 8:38:10	Lisa Fleming	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	I was appalled when we moved here (from New Jersey) and saw the statues honoring the Confederacy, with the token black man (Arthur Ashe) thrown in. The Confederacy is part of our nation's history and should not be forgotten. However, we need to understand it and learn from it, not honor it. The statues should be removed.
05/09/2018 8:41:04	George Crabb	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments to the great men of Virginia's heroic past are not only perfect as they are. But protected by state law. The communist agitation that always ends in division and conflict is not welcome in our state.
05/09/2018 8:46:47	Michael Herring	Leave the monuments as they are.	Do not relocate any existing monument in the City of Richmond. Select new areas for suggested monuments beyond those of Lee, Stuart, Davis Etc.
05/09/2018 8:47:46	Martha Culpepper	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The avenue itself is full and with the improvement of the lee traffic circle, there are almost too many sights. I think tour guides could offer better explanation and as time goes on they can add content that is relevant to the day and talk about past attitudes. New meeting new monuments has always been a good idea, the avenue stretches a long way. Also the boulevard on the axis is a beautiful place to expand and enhance. Columbus at one end and another before the overpass and something in between.

05/09/2018 9:23:02	Claudia Brookman	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	I grew up in Richmond and lived for a few years on Monument Ave. The Confederate treasonous generals need to go. Put them down at the Civil War museum at Tredegar. Give them some historical context but remove them from the public streets. Let's honor our diverse local heroes - Edgar Allan Poe, Maggie Walker, Elizabeth Van Lew, Lila Valentine, Oliver Hill, etc. There are so many wonderful people who did great things here. Let's get rid of our racist past and seek to embrace and welcome EVERYONE.
05/09/2018 9:28:20	Pamela Steele	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave our monuments alone !!! Stop the desecration of our history and heritage. My ancestor's fought and died protecting Richmond!
05/09/2018 9:30:08	Heath Hyman	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Add more Monuments and add more Context to the Existing Monuments, extending to city limits at Staples Mill
05/09/2018 9:33:22	Katherine Weber	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	I briefly looked through the submitted comments and I am deeply saddened by the number of people who want to keep the monuments as they are. I want it to be clear (because I'm not sure it was made clear in my previous submission) that I do NOT want these monuments kept as they are on Monument Ave. These monuments do not represent history. Yes, there was a war and these were generals in that war, but they were fighting for slavery and thankfully they lost. Erecting huge monuments many years later was a way of glorifying a false narrative that they were fighting for a different cause than they actually were. The context that must be added needs to be bold, effective, and complete. My idea that I previously submitted was just one possibility of attempting to meet in the middle by keeping them there but removing them from their thrones of glory. I imagine it would be expensive but I think it would be interesting to lay them on their sides underground and put a glass panel on top that visitors could walk on. It would as I said before, attract people to stop and actually absorb the context. It would provide the actual history that so many of these people claim they want to preserve. Keeping them as they are is preserving a false history. We need to wipe the sleep from our eyes and be willing to wake up and accept the ugly, unscrubbed version of our horrible history.
05/09/2018 9:40:55	Kendall Sterling	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Although I am not a city resident, I am a resident of the Richmond metropolitan area, and as such I feel I have to comment. I have had many friends come from out of state to see our city, and invariably the very FIRST thing they want to see is Monument Avenue. And when they do see it, they are awed and overwhelmed by its beauty. Monument is the only street in the U.S. to be placed on the historic register. The entire reason it is on the register is the beauty of the monuments. I am totally in favor of adding other monuments - Doug Wilder, a son of Richmond and the first black governor in the U.S., certainly deserves to be there. But the Confederate monuments, particularly the Lee monument, are beautiful works of art that should remain. Removal would diminish our city to a state of pettiness. If we are all to march forward as brothers and sisters, there must be acceptance on both sides. Leave the monuments, and let's move forward by placing new ones - and in that way Monument Avenue can tell the entire history of our city, not just part of it.
05/09/2018 9:57:48	Susan Hathaway	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments alone. No removal. No context.
05/09/2018 10:39:47	Kenneth Daniel	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	This whole effort by minority Marxist Socialist Organizations is to destroy our History and Religion. They will not be satisfied with just removal of Confederate Monuments, all Monuments will have to be removed. They follow the instructions of Saul Alinsky's manual on "Rules for Radicals" on how to overthrow our Federal Republic. Suggest putting any decisions up to a vote of the people of Virginia by public referendum. After all you should be subservient to your constituents who elected you to represent their wishes, not a small minority of revolutionaries. You have a fiduciary responsibility to do represent all your constituents who placed you in Public Office.

05/09/2018 10:52:36	Steven Hanna	Add context to the monuments.	A great number of our citizens have been swept up in the social fever of wanting to tear down or remove various monuments. The mayor's original plan to add context along Monument Ave. was reasonable and should be pursued.
05/09/2018 10:57:53	Thomas Morris	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave Monument Ave alone
05/09/2018 11:00:08	Raymond Rooks	Leave the monuments as they are.	The most beautiful part of Richmond is Monument Avenue. This historic beautiful area needs to be left alone. Any move to change will result in blithe and boycotts of the city. Richmond does not need this.
05/09/2018 11:03:58	Jeannette Glasheen	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Richmond is a wonderful city with many new residents, new businesses, and others wanting to make it even better. Monument Avenue is one of the most visited places in the city, both by residents and non residents We need for it to be diversified, but not destroyed. Leave the monuments where they are. Consider adding some other well known non-whites to the scene. Remember we do have the Black History Museum, Library of Virginia which hosts non-white events, Diversity Richmond, and of course, Black History Month. The street could easily accommodate 4 or 5 new statues. This would certainly add to the charm, inclusiveness, and community interests. We can't change the past - we can direct the future. Let's be a city that invites all, welcomes all, includes all; and let us do it in a way that is peaceful.
05/09/2018 11:07:17	Bob Morazes	Leave the monuments as they are.	These monuments are memories of the valiant soldiers who gave their lives for what they believed in. They were mostly farmers and loyal sons of Virginia, much like Robert E Lee. They believed that the North had advantage of the South far too long. Secession was what was needed and if it came to war, they defended the land they loved. These monuments honor them and their sacrifice, not some white supremacy lies. Please respect and honor the proud Virginians and leave the monuments as they are. Thank you
05/09/2018 11:10:04	Will Bonner	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave monuments alone. Enough is enough!
05/09/2018 11:10:21	Eric Brown	Leave the monuments as they are.	All culture and history should be preserved in original state and without opinionated context.
05/09/2018 11:10:31	Fred Wilhite	Leave the monuments as they are.	Stop Dividing folks!!!
05/09/2018 11:11:06	Mike Armistead	Leave the monuments as they are.	One of the most beautiful and Monumental Avenues in the Country. During last years hurricane in Florida while walking the Avenue I came across a family who, while in Richmond to stay out of the storms path were taking in the splendor of the Ave by touring the monuments and even from that many states away were concerned about a commission to modify or move these magnificent works. No better men to be found then these to grace our City !
05/09/2018 11:12:36	Debra Weidman	Leave the monuments as they are.	You cannot CHANGE history by destroying it. That is what ISIS does. You also can NOT judge one era by the standards of another. Leave our war memorials ALONE.
05/09/2018 11:16:46	C Schmidt	Leave the monuments as they are.	Stop tampering with history.
05/09/2018 11:17:24	Kathy Hause	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments as they are

05/09/2018 11:24:22	Antonio Carini	Leave the monuments as they are.	You are only stirring up a fight where it does not presently exist. Why are you fanning the flames of discontent . The only thing I can see is some people on city council trying to make a name for themselves. Leave all of us alone . We all have to figure out how to live together in this city and get along and we don't have a choice so y'all need to quit stirring up tensions ! Any change you attempt is starting a major fight between people that are at peace .
05/09/2018 11:25:53	Trevlin Utz	Leave the monuments as they are.	Do you want a Charlottesville-style confrontation in Richmond? Well, this is a sure way to get it! Look at C'ville's loss of revenue and damaged reputation - Is THAT what the mayor wants for Richmond? Mayor Stoney and his crew of Social Justice Warriors will bring more trouble and loss on us all with their uneducated and disingenuous pandering - Leave Richmond's history alone, PERIOD! The more you push people to believe as you do, the more they will resist you!
05/09/2018 11:27:01	Charles Whitman	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments were there before I was born and should be there forever unchanged!
05/09/2018 11:29:58	Jenny Harris	Leave the monuments as they are.	I am from Richmond, recently moved to Farmville for work. I believe history should be left as is. These monuments didn't offend anyone until the liberal media and democrats decided to make it a mission to destroy history. No matter who was right or wrong these men fought for their homeland and should be recognized for that contribution.
05/09/2018 11:33:13	Todd Kern	Leave the monuments as they are.	Its wrong to judge yesterday by todays perspective! Also wrong to judge by a half true false narrative, learn of the facts!
05/09/2018 11:43:08	William Armstrong	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	Please do not remove this history from our beautiful city, and no more monuments are needed
05/09/2018 11:47:56	Brian Landrum	Leave the monuments as they are.	As someone who lived on Monument Avenue for two years, I found great joy taking my morning runs up and down the avenue. Monument Avenue is the oldest planned boulevard of its kind still in existence. Removing the monuments would be a huge mistake. The current social upheaval will not be solved by tearing down - it can only be solved by building up.
05/09/2018 11:49:47	Brandon Carter	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The Monuments are national treasures. While these men fought against some ideas we now cherish, they were complex people, just as we are today. They also had any number of wonderful qualities, and both good and bad should be highlighted. Additionally, as our city's story continues to grow, we should add more monuments, including those of people like An Bui.
05/09/2018 11:50:03	Brenda McDonald	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments where they. The are historical treasures and works of art which don't need a soul to explain them or a revisionist context attached.
05/09/2018 11:53:29	Randy Jarreau	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave history alone. These are historical works of art that stand on their own, and no additional context need be added. Use money that would be spent moving these on building any new statues you desire - somewhere else.
05/09/2018 11:54:40	Jonathan Varnell	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments as they are where they are.
05/09/2018 12:06:27	MARK CAMPBELL	Leave the monuments as they are.	LEAVE HISTORY ALONE !
05/09/2018 12:11:13	Jeff Barbour	Leave the monuments as they are.	I like driving down Monument Avenue BECAUSE of the monuments. They are our history. They complement the homes along Monument avenue. I'm sure some of the tourism in Richmond is because of those monuments. My ancestors came to Virginia in 1635.
05/09/2018 12:17:23	Stephanie Chandler	Leave the monuments as they are.	Do not remove the monuments. Do not add context. Unlike Mayor Stoney, most people can read history and interpret it for ourselves...we don't need him to "explain" anything to us except why this much time and money is being put into something this trivial in a city with HUGE problems starting with understaffed schools, crime and homelessness.

05/09/2018 12:21:35	Tom Cook	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments in Richmond are for all Virginians; they are revered men of our past history and should not be tampered with by the tiny individuals on the Richmond City Council--most of whom are of doubtful United States origin--wogs, not Almericans; never served our country in our armed forces, and use their position to cause diversiveness and malaise; bad people. Yes, I served, and have personal decorations.
05/09/2018 12:31:17	Dewey Barber	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave them as they are. They are exquisite works of art
05/09/2018 12:35:59	Capt Phil Walters	Leave the monuments as they are.	I have blood ancestors that DIED & SHED BLOOD upon Virginia soil in defense of Virginia. Stop wasting time & money because COMMUNISTS (ANTIFA, BLM) are demanding such stupid, divisive actions. Get a spine, learn history and STOP THIS BS NOW!
05/09/2018 12:42:41	William Holt	Leave the monuments as they are.	No reason to do anything with the monuments as they are there to honor Virginians and those that chose to honor Virginia during the Civil War.
05/09/2018 12:44:12	Patrick Mulligan	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave Monument Ave alone. Quit trying to divide our City. Help Richmond by attacking the high crime rate, not just ignoring it.
05/09/2018 12:45:18	Concerned Citizen	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave monuments alone
05/09/2018 12:46:15	Lisa Bruner	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave the beautiful, historical monuments as they are. Thank you.
05/09/2018 12:48:53	David Irvin	Leave the monuments as they are.	Acknowledge all our forefathers
05/09/2018 12:50:42	Suzanne Townsend	Leave the monuments as they are.	I do not live in Richmond proper - I live in Chester. But I was born and raised in Richmond and think that it is a travesty that anyone would even consider doing away with the monuments on Monument Avenue. It would have a detrimental impact on the economy and the residents of the Avenue, not to mention the tourism. A few people, who have been told that they should be offended by the monuments, did not even pay any attention to them until they were told to do so. The monuments were erected by sons and daughters of the Confederate veterans and they were only trying to honor the veterans, not intimidate a race of people. This "politically correct" act would have a definite negative impact on the City, my hometown.
05/09/2018 12:54:13	Meade Haufe	Leave the monuments as they are.	I cannot make the meeting this week, but I just wanted to show my support for preserving Monument Ave. It is a wonderful place where people from all over the world come to visit. I believe it would be a grave mistake to alter it in any way. It is a historical landmark. I pray that you will seek God's council on this, and move to other matters which concern our city such as poverty, crime, homelessness and, pot holes in our streets. Please do not remove our statues. Monument Ave is a living museum and testament to our past. We can move on from this and address issues that are actually important.
05/09/2018 12:57:12	Betty Luck	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments are testaments to the people's love and admiration of Confederate heroes. They were not put up with racist thoughts in mind, but as a means of memorializing beloved heroes. That being said, there are other folks in Richmond and Virginia's history that are deserving of monuments as well. If those are put up, they should be put in a separate place, such as a park where they could be enjoyed. No monuments from past eras of our history should be removed or have "modern" contexts added to them.
05/09/2018 13:02:02	Randy Moore	Leave the monuments as they are.	LEAVE the monuments where they are .IF people don't like them DON'T LOOK at them . How stupid can some people be ? I am so sick of all this statue , monument crap . It is a JOKE . They have been there for over 120 + years and now idiots want to bitch . LEAVE them alone and shut up about them !

05/09/2018 13:03:49	Charles Carlson	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>"What a glorious world God Almighty has given us. How thankless & ungrateful we are, and how we labor to mar his gifts." - Gen. Robert E. Lee</p> <p>Yes, I can see why so many would want a monument to a man who held such thoughts destroyed; it might remind us of just what kind of people we are and cause us to consider what poor examples of humanity we are.</p>
05/09/2018 13:06:50	Myra McCain	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>My guests from other states normally want to tour Richmond to see Monument Avenue and other civil war sites. I normally bring them for a day or weekend, spending tourist dollars in your city. If you remove the monuments, we would likely go to another venue such as Virginia Beach for the day or weekend. Those of us who love the monuments wonder why you would want to destroy such a beautiful street? It seems stupid, in my view.</p>
05/09/2018 13:23:22	Roger Crane	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>These monuments are part of our heritage. To attempt to later them in any way, including removal, is a slur and insult against those within the community who share this heritage. It is a form of cultural genocide, something repugnant to all .</p>
05/09/2018 13:23:36	Gladys Ligon	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>They don,t heart anyone ,leave them as they are.</p>
05/09/2018 13:34:56	Fletcher Mayton	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Keep the monuments as they are, they honor the men who fought for state rights. They are war veterans.</p>
05/09/2018 13:36:40	Joe Lively	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>The very thought that anyone attempting to whitewash our true heritage by destruction of historical monuments is offensive to me as a Virginia resident and U.S. Army veteran. These monuments were set up to remember our Virginia veterans, who shed their blood in defense of our Virginia soil. It is historical fact that some of them were white, some were black and some of them were immigrants from afar. All were and are recognized by our Federal government, as veterans. The presence of these monuments has brought significant, international tourism, along with their money, to our Commonwealth. The very thought of destroying them or removal to another site is both illogical and fiscally counterproductive. Any political officer or party advocating destruction/removal of these monuments is publicly demonstrating not only their historical ignorance, but unprecedented arrogance to advance a personal agenda for creating hatred. If successful in their radical endeavors, they will surely face the very real torment of conscience and protracted litigation for violation of Federal law. Leave our monuments alone. Spend your efforts to make our Commonwealth known for excellence in education, trade, caring for our veterans, feeding the helpless and stimulating research into curing dread diseases at our health centers.</p>
05/09/2018 13:43:52	Roberte Lee	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Leave the existing monuments as they are!!!! Add any you wish.</p>
05/09/2018 13:57:08	Jo Ann Fickling	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>As the Capitol City of the state we, all citizens of the state have to remember the history of this state the good and the bad. You can't erase what happened in the past. Removing the monument doesn't just make it go away.</p>

05/09/2018 14:32:29	John Lee Cahoon	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Comments so far seem to be nothing more than racial hatred, which will only increase if this part of history is destroyed to appease a temporary view of history by an extremely ignorant portion of our population.</p> <p>Reviewing the commission's background, I have no illusions about their neutrality, that they fully understand the buildup to the war and that they are not narrowly focused on sending some message about slavery. We all understand its evils as did the founding fathers and later Virginians so honored by these statues. Context reveals the seemingly inconsistencies until further studied and one understands that they all wished to end slavery but could not find a way that would not produce the social and economic disasters which we still deal with today. Dr. Henry Brands, Professor Jack S Blanton Sr. Chair in History, U of Texas argues that only a date be shown and then one must study the period to understand how and why the statues got there. It was not as the hate mongers proclaim, in order to keep blacks subjugated or to impose Jim Crow which actually began in the North. There were issues prior to the Constitution that drove non-slave holders to rebel against what they regarded as a tyrannical government</p> <p>The monuments do not represent today's opinions or the political position of the citizens of Richmond any more than does an MLK stature or any other so named edifice, represent my position in its entirety. The monuments simply represent what some group of citizens believed and chose to do at some point in history. We should editorialize and engage in vigorous dialogue but not take down statures for a hateful revengeful reason.</p> <p>As the statues come down do not forget to shout, Sig Heil and sing the Horst Wessel song John Lee Cahoon</p>
05/09/2018 14:35:53	George Gelner	Leave the monuments as they are.	Quit cowering to the few and leave the monuments be. They've been there for decades and likely few have complained. How can these monuments offend anyone not alive during that time....you can't change history
05/09/2018 14:51:50	JC Hale	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	It is against the law to remove or desecrate National War Memorials.
05/09/2018 14:52:43	Winnie Rymer	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave history alone.I do feel we can add other monuments on Monument Ave Doug Wilder,Maggie Walker a confederate black soldier Emily Winfrey
05/09/2018 15:06:59	Anne Repp	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	<p>Add context. Using bricks made by slaves, and with slaves' names carved on them, pave the grass around the Robert E. Lee statue. A small marker could point out their significance and also where the online interpretation could be found (see below).</p> <p>Provide online context --in fact, a digital historical tour--to each statue through our cellphones. Oral and visual history that is easily accessible and brief, but pointing to where each listener could get more info if they wanted.</p> <p>The history of slavery in Richmond should be remembered at the Lumpkin Jail site.</p> <p>City money should be spent on the Richmond City Schools, not moving statues. Our schools are our outward symbol of the racial climate today-- and they should be a tribute to the distance we have come. Our statues are an outward symbol of our attitude over 100 years ago, a reminder of our historical racial prejudices. Taking down a statue won't change anything -- improving our schools will!!!!</p>
05/09/2018 15:17:48	Tamara Yahley	Leave the monuments as they are.	Confederate Lives Matter

05/09/2018 15:33:29	TERRY SMITH	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	No relocation of ANY Confederate Monument ...in fact I recommend that the city of Richmond ADD MORE of the same type of monument, with context explaining the REAL reason for honoring these men who helped to form an important portion of today's Southern history. Whether you agree with it or not, it's the TRUTH & it should be told.
05/09/2018 15:49:39	H D Campbell	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments are proper and should remain as they are.
05/09/2018 15:52:11	Ronald Ammons	Leave the monuments as they are.	You cannot change history ..the war wasn't about slavery ..it was about the right of secession ..you only create animosity by continuing such activity ..slavery was an anathema by 1860 and educated people knew it ..
05/09/2018 15:53:29	Alison Katzman	Leave the monuments as they are.	Enough with the vitriol. This destruction by the left is not going to stop with Confederate monuments. It has already spread to vandalism against many notable American historical figures' statues.
05/09/2018 15:54:48	Forrest Young	Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	Unless a prominent message is added to each and every confederate statue on Monument Avenue detailing the full and true nature of their history, similar to the content of mayor Mitch Landrieu's speech regarding New Orleans' statues, they ought to be relocated to a museum where they should be accompanied by such contextual analysis. The public, now and future, deserves to be made aware of how these sculptures of stone have been a source of pain to the persecuted and of pride to the racially prejudiced. As lies that are passed down find their echoes in these mute statues, the latter group will continue to misinterpret treason and mass-murder for heroism and gallantry. Educate in place or relocate where the same can done elsewhere. Stop the decades long pretense that our entire city and its visitors should involuntarily honor those who would have had us all enslaved to ideals of which are racist, unpatriotic, and wrong.
05/09/2018 15:55:39	Melissa Harl	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	Richmond should not continue honoring people whose main claim to fame is that they fought in defense of the institution of slavery, the root cause of the Civil War. Tell their story in a museum, not in our public spaces. The people of Richmond deserve better. Turn the land into green spaces for all to enjoy.
05/09/2018 15:55:50	Ronald Ammons	Leave the monuments as they are.	That war wasn't about slavery ..more about the right of secession ..slavery was an anathema by 1860
05/09/2018 16:10:20	Elizabeth Fessenden	Add context to the monuments.	Donate all Civil War monuments to the National Park Service, or American Civil War Museum. Let the museum provide context both within the main museum/NPS site as well as at each monument.
05/09/2018 16:29:41	Steve Smith	Leave the monuments as they are.	These monuments represent Honorable and Godly people who need to be remember for what they tried to accomplish for their cause; and their cause WAS NOT white supremacy or to enslave people but just to be left alone from a tyrannical Federal Government who trampled all over our sacred Constitution. These statues serve to remind people of the city's rich and diverse history. It would be an injustice to Americans and an important part of our American history to alter their sites in any way. Thank you for the opportunity for me to express my opinions.
05/09/2018 16:46:39	Jerry Keathley	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments are an important part of the history of our country and should be left as they are to help future generations understand the good and the bad about it.
05/09/2018 16:49:15	Tom Lavin	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the Monuments EXACTLY as they are. This effort is insulting to true history and a waste of time and taxpayer dollars.
05/09/2018 16:56:01	Charlotte Clinger	Leave the monuments as they are.	The avenue is beautiful and one of the reasons It is unnecessary divisiveness to even consider moving these beautiful monuments which add to the beauty and history of Richmond. There already has been a welcome addition to the avenue with the statue of Arthur Ashe.

05/09/2018 16:57:06	Robert Bullock	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Me dear, We have always admired those brave men on Monument who fought the War for Southern Independence so that ALL could be free. Perhaps another street for our beloved Uncle Remus, Aunt Jemima & Little Black Sambo. We love them as well.
05/09/2018 17:14:49	Copeland Casati	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I would love to see all voices and context without destroying or moving at great expense. I wonder if a light installation / 3D images + creative signage and icons might tell a better story cost effectively. Use Richmond's creativity, partner with VCU / design agencies. Adding new monuments would help.
05/09/2018 17:20:12	Copeland Casati		I suggest you remove names and addresses when publishing submissions on the internet, thanks!
05/09/2018 17:23:32	Martha Winesette	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Leave the monuments where they are. It's our heritage.
05/09/2018 17:23:41	John Whitley	Leave the monuments as they are.	These are works of art and a great tourist attraction. Please do not remove the monuments.
05/09/2018 17:28:51	Hugh Conway	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is a travesty of intelligent leadership to waste time and resources of the City and its residents with this bowing to the demands of hate groups that seek to destroy America by erasing these monuments of hugely historical events. The Civil War took place in the evolution of America as a nation, which not only eliminated the evils of slavery, but became a champion of Freedom seeking to distribute the spread of civil rights and freedom across the dark places of this world where the evils perpetrated by the same types of anti-American groups opposing these monuments now enslave and murder their citizens.
05/09/2018 17:40:51	Venable Traywick	Leave the monuments as they are.	Adding government-sanctioned context would be politically correct, government-sanctioned vandalism. Those who paid for and erected those monuments have already put context on them. They honor our fathers who fought to defend our country from invasion, conquest, and coerced political allegiance to a corrupted government, just as their fathers had done in 1776, when the thirteen slaveholding colonies seceded from the British Empire. THAT is the TRUE CONTEXT!
05/09/2018 17:43:54	Doug Hudson	Leave the monuments as they are.	You cannot change history. This reminds me of the Nazi's burning books because they didn't like them. The monuments are beautiful, the city cannot afford to move them. If you change or move them, I will NEVER spend a dime in the city again.
05/09/2018 17:45:29	Allesia Hamilton	Leave the monuments as they are.	Anything that is done to change the Ave. (such as adding context) is just going to be a prelude to more and more "change" with the ultimate goal being total tear down. The Mayor (who is not from Va.) and his henchmen are not going to be satisfied. There are numerous other history-related monuments and sites being developed around the area including the restoration of a former slave pen, statues of African Americans, and the Women's Monument at the Capital, which add to our history and promote understanding of various groups and diversity. As a history buff, these are also sites we should learn from. However, the move to "rethink" and "redo" Monument Ave. under the current commission is only done for political reasons and for spite. LEAVE IT ALONE AND DISBAND THE COMMISSION!
05/09/2018 17:47:51	Rick Lantz	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	This is history from a passionate time. It's ok! The more time that passes the less people will be hurt by it! It would be cool if they were still there 200 years from now! BTW the artist for the Lee Memorial is acclaimed! If all else fails it is a worthy piece of art! We will leave our own stamp on Richmond history!

05/09/2018 17:48:57	Robery Henderson	Leave the monuments as they are.	My ancestors (Great Great Grand Father and Mothers) are Virginians and Revolutionary, Confederate, WWI , WWII Veterans. Please let these Veterans Rest In Peace. Thank You Colonel (Retired) Henderson
05/09/2018 18:12:56	Samuel Rugg	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>The Civil War monuments on Monument Avenue have always been offensive to a large segment of our city's residents. We can all agree that, as art, these statues are quite impressive and well executed. That said, we have to consider their symbolism in context.</p> <p>These statues serve to glorify the Civil War from a secessionist perspective. The Confederate forces led an armed insurrection against the United States of America with the expressly stated objective of preserving the institution of human bondage (slavery).</p> <p>I am a white male who grew up in the City of Richmond in the 70s and 80s. I attended Richmond Public Schools starting in second grade when my family first moved into the city. I stayed in Richmond Public Schools through my graduation from high school. I was often one of, if not the only, white child(ren) in my class. Most white families either moved out of the city or enrolled their children in private schools in order to avoid sending them to integrated public schools in the city.</p> <p>I witnessed firsthand my racist neighbors flying the "rebel" flag on Dr Martin Luther King Jr's birthday specifically to send a message to their African American neighbors across the street. It was painful for me to witness. I can only imagine how hard it must have been for our neighbors of color. I fully understand how the symbols of Confederacy have been used to intimidate our African American neighbors over the years. I found it distasteful and unsettling as a ten year old. I find it even more disturbing and disgusting as an adult.</p> <p>The statues on Monument Avenue were erected to glorify racism. There is no room for debate on this issue.</p> <p>The events in Charlottesville last summer, and the follow up events in Richmond have convinced me that we can no longer tolerate these symbols of racism and oppression in their current location and context. They have become, to use an unfortunately vulgar expression, nothing more than shit magnets.</p> <p>It is time to take these outdated monuments to outdated and racist ideals down from their place of honor. We can move them to an appropriate location where they can be displayed with proper context. State law prohibits removing war monuments, but I don't think that the law prohibits relocating them. I think it is possible to solve this without running afoul of or changing existing law.</p> <p>Our city needs to move forward. The monuments to our overtly racist past are holding us back. They are an embarrassment, and they need to go.</p> <p>Thank you for your work on this issue. I sincerely hope we can find a way to honor the best in our collective history while also respectfully considering and acknowledging the darker parts of that same history.</p>
05/09/2018 18:22:00	George Woods	Leave the monuments as they are.	Stop this nonsense and division. Let the monuments be.
05/09/2018 18:56:46	Kenneth Minton	Leave the monuments as they are.	I am a member of both the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I had ancestors on both side during the War Between the States. None were fighting for or against slavery. All are recognized as American veterans. Monuments to them need to stay in public view. If you want to be inclusive add more monuments. If you want to be exclusive move these monuments to our mutual history.

05/09/2018 19:01:57	Heather Bailey	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Relocate the monuments.	I can see them in front of Virginia Historical Society lined up as a walkway, or make a sculpture garden adding context, and have them in an educational /museum atmosphere. I think context is important, monuments such as those were to celebrate heroes and leaders, and they are not seen that way by most. They are painful reminders, and no longer appropriate representation of our community. Sculpture garden and museum context. Thank you. Heather
05/09/2018 19:18:57	Jill Hansen	Add context to the monuments.	Adding context to the monuments sounds like a win-win solution, IMHO.
05/09/2018 19:31:18	Scott Dailey	Leave the monuments as they are.	There is nothing wrong with the monuments. They are works of art and should be left alone. People can interpret them as they wish. It should stimulate people to learn more about history and arrive at their own conclusions.
05/09/2018 19:46:50	Mike LaBelle	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	It seems that some simple facts are continually ignored: The fact that monument Avenue is a listed National Historic Landmark. All the monuments do not belong to the City of Richmond, They belong to the citizens of the city, with the exception of The Robert E. Lee monument which belongs to the state. Then you have state law which prohibits removal of war memorials. These monuments were built on donated land with privately-raised money, and then eventually turned over to the city. Except for Lee, who is owned and maintained by the state. That means everyone in Virginia owns it. And everyone in Richmond owns the rest of them. The cities monuments are a huge part of Richmond's \$1.7 billion dollar tourism industry. These monuments are a part of this nations history, maybe not a pretty part, maybe one that some would wish to forget, but a part of this nations history nonetheless. as are many other parts of Americas history that are not pretty or honorable, but they are again a part of this nations and our cities history. The monuments are an integral part of the city and are a unique part of a sad chapter in our nations history. I am not fond of some statues and monuments myself, but I understand, allow and respect that they are a part of this nations history. To remove the monuments or change them destroys a unique part of this nations and Virginia's history. We cannot change history, but we should learn from it and not make similar mistakes in the future.
05/09/2018 20:04:33	Susan McKenney	Leave the monuments as they are.	you cannot and will not erase history by removing the monuments and memorials to the men who fought for the Confederacy. It happened, they were within their rights to both secede and to try to repel an invading army. Do not judge them by the morals and ethics of today, but by the time in which they lived.
05/09/2018 20:07:35	Mark Corvino	Leave the monuments as they are.	Tradition matters
05/09/2018 20:22:06	Johnny Reb	Leave the monuments as they are.	Anyone who erases American history for their own personal or political agenda is a domestic terrorist.
05/09/2018 20:28:13	Dudley Carl	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Appreciate you do the right thing we really want to wherever anybody wants it leave our Grace around two please God bless you're so think God bless our
05/09/2018 20:32:33	Bob Cornett	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the Monuments alone. There is nothing wrong with them.

05/09/2018 20:42:30	Russell Crawford	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>There are far more stakeholders in these monuments than just city officials and residents. In most cases, cities act as government, commerce, and cultural centers for their surrounding counties. Don't the surrounding counties of a locality have a vested interest in these decisions? In the case of a State Capital, doesn't the entire population of the State? Furthermore, the descendants of the men and women honored by these statues have scattered far and wide from the localities their ancestors represented 150 years ago. Don't they have a vested interest in the memorials built to honor their ancestors' service and sacrifice, as opposed to the current whims of an ever changing populace?</p> <p>As a lifetime Virginian of many generations and history enthusiast, I love seeing/visiting the many small town monuments to our honored dead; Richmond's towering tributes to the titans that led them into the fury of a war of independence; and visiting hallowed ground soaked with the blood and sacrifice of my ancestors at places such as Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania's "Mule Shoe", and dozens of other small towns immortalized for their witness to history.</p> <p>I understand the emotions of those who legitimately find offense in these events, but they are wrong to try and erase these memories. My heritage is no less noble or virtuous than any other. I suggest building new monuments to add context, or to tell other great Virginia stories that remain relatively unknown (George Thomas and Martin Delany for example). Where are the opposition's ideas beyond destroying that which they don't agree with? Building unifies, while destruction only divides. The Old Dominion and the city of Richmond own a magnificent legacy, of great triumphs and great tragedies. No other State or Capital can match their deep reflection of the American experience. We should never submit that grand heritage merely to satisfy anyone's sensitivities.</p>
05/09/2018 21:00:52	Thomas Fain	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave all as is. No context is needed.
05/09/2018 21:05:07	Bryan Townes	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave the monuments alone. I certainly don't object to other worthy monuments throughout the city, but Monument Avenue should stay as it is. Removal or alteration will result in the loss of the avenue's National Historic Landmark status.
05/09/2018 21:18:52	CA Hager	Leave the monuments as they are.	Monument Avenue is beautiful as it is! Leave it alone!!
05/09/2018 21:20:36	Shelby Wright	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is an historical fact that Richmond was the capitol of the Confederacy. Monument Ave is one of the most beautiful avenues that any city in our country has. LEAVE THE MONUMENTS AS THEY ARE! As one of the kids from one of the many housing projects in our city brilliantly recommended, use your energy and concern, not to mention millions of dollars, in a more productive manner by improving the living conditions in the cities housing projects. Get bent out of shape about how many live in unsafe and violent environments where they just try to survive long enough to grow up and get out of there.
05/09/2018 21:24:37	Kevin Downs	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The monuments are pieces of art but the propagate the myth of the noble lost cost. My preference would be to add a few small tasteful sculptures of (maybe black) wreaths or roses in the grass that surrounds the monuments. In this way, the monuments can be seen as symbols honoring those who lost their lives in the Civil War as opposed to allowing for multiple confused and often misguided interpretations.
05/09/2018 21:25:08	Suzanne Silek	Leave the monuments as they are.	Rather than waste money on removing the monuments or adding context to the monuments, you should be spending the money on the public schools system in Richmond. The conditions in many of the schools is a disgrace. I doubt that your children attend Richmond public schools. Richmond will not be able to afford statues of the quality of those on Monument Avenue. The last statues that were brought from China give the subjects an Oriental flavor. Spend the money on the schools.

05/09/2018 21:43:54	Margie Bandas	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave OUR HISTORICAL MONUMENTS ALONE!!!!!!
05/09/2018 22:22:54	Kenneth Fleming	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave Monument Ave. as it is and work on problems and items that are real issues for Richmond's residents and visitors.
05/09/2018 22:30:56	Michael Harrell	Add context to the monuments.	Adding context is a middle way that would tell a more honest story.
05/09/2018 23:05:01	William Ward	Leave the monuments as they are.	I am a Richmond native and I was never taught racism. My wife is black and from Kenya...so clearly I'm not a racist. My mother taught me to love the South and to be proud of her soldiers and especially General Lee and Stonewall Jackson. These men chose to side with their " country "...which was Virginia...and folks today can't understand that loyalty to a State, but it was very real back then. Please leave these monuments in place.
05/09/2018 23:22:51	Mindy Bancalari	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I may not live in Richmond right now but my Mother and sister still do. The house is mine and my sisters if any thing happens to my mom. I feel I do have the right to to say something about the monuments in Richmond. I still live in Va. and Richmond is still my city too! I grew up in Richmond. I love Richmond for ALL of its history! You need to stop trying to take away all of Richmond's history. It's Not going to change the racist crap that is going on there. I only see it getting worse if you do take them down.
05/09/2018 23:33:52	Christina Gibson	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave our beautiful monuments just as they are
05/09/2018 23:52:11	Jesse Harrup Jr	Leave the monuments as they are.	These Confederate monuments commemorate the men who fought to save Richmond.
05/10/2018 0:04:08	Betty Aronson	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave our monuments alone!!
05/10/2018 0:12:06	Robert Little	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please do not try to Change History by Removing Any Monuments. They were erected to Honor the Service to their State and should always be included in the Total Education of the youth.
05/10/2018 1:13:08	Matt K	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is absolutely asinine and ludicrous that there is even any question of what to do about the monuments. Mr Lee and Mr Jackson were and are two of the finest humans to have ever walked up on this continent. Men of outstanding and character and virtue. You all should educate the ignorant and misinformed of the outstanding traits of these great sons and defenders of Virginia. I can not believe that there has come time that such things would ever be in question. May the Lord rain down his thunder upon those who wrongly attack these two outstanding God fearing men or any of the other thousands of Southern men for that matter when the Feds came illegally Invading and attacking our Sovereign Southern States.
05/10/2018 2:36:17	Patricia Miles	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments as they are and stop trying to "re-write" history.
05/10/2018 4:09:15	Linda Atwell	Leave the monuments as they are.	These monuments are American history & should not be disturbed.
05/10/2018 4:32:43	Quinn Webb	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments should be left as is. Every city in the world has their own issues to deal with. Will removing the monuments stop people from being racist or speeding in their cars or doing drugs or shoplifting? The list can go on and on. The answer to that question is life will continue as before. History good and bad needs to be protected.
05/10/2018 5:16:28	Susan Carraway	Leave the monuments as they are.	My husband I are Virginia residents, Richmond is our capital. It is illegal to disturb those monuments in any way. We spend slot of money in Richmond and the monuments are one of the sites we love to visit in Richmond. Do not destroy Virginia's history.
05/10/2018 5:39:41	Bob Doerr	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave The Monuments as they are please don't take away our history good or bad it's our history

05/10/2018 5:50:16	John Blair	Leave the monuments as they are.	Va. called upon my ancestors to defend her. Right or wrong they did what was called for to do. Leave the monuments alone.
05/10/2018 6:02:39	Ann King	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments are beautiful and they are history and History shouldn't be bothered.
05/10/2018 6:42:38	David Morris	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	I'd leave the Lee monument. It's a stunning work—with ample room for signage to tell its (representative) story of Jim Crow-ism. I'd replace the Jeff Davis not-stunning work with a statue of Abraham Lincoln (to represent The preservation of the Union & opposition to slavery). Lincoln quotation: "If slavery is not evil, there is no evil." All other confederate generals removed to appropriate scattered sites inaccessible to bro-Nazis. New statues of Arthur Ashe (the current one is awful!), Martin Luther King, & Frederick Douglass as well as important women in the history of Richmond. Monument Avenue Re-Made.
05/10/2018 6:54:36	Deborah Bridgforth	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please consider, that to respect other people's heritage is a two way street. Removing one group of citizen's heritage only serves to cause division.
05/10/2018 7:25:49	Barbara Morse	Leave the monuments as they are.	The monuments are a history lesson for good or bad. Nothing more. And they bring many people to Richmond.
05/10/2018 7:36:47	Scott Williams	Leave the monuments as they are.	Leave the monuments as they are.
05/10/2018 7:37:43	Sue Gorski	Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	Keep monuments as they are and add more.
05/10/2018 8:26:27	Gabriel Fostek	Leave the monuments as they are.	LEAVE the MONUMENTS as they are.
05/10/2018 8:34:33	Billie Earnest	Leave the monuments as they are.	Monument Avenue is a work of art and should be preserved.
05/10/2018 8:58:24	Kristina Gulbranson	Leave the monuments as they are.	Removing these, or any monuments, based on the preference of a few, would be a disservice to those they are meant to edify. Removing them would create a precedent where no monuments anywhere would be safe.
05/10/2018 9:03:30	Wayne Scarborough	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please don't disrespect these, and all Veterans by removing any Statue(s). Respectfully Wayne Scarborough U S Navy Vietnam 1970
05/10/2018 9:13:24	Leonard Sachs	Add context to the monuments.	I feel very strongly that removing or relocating monuments loses our opportunity to teach the next generations. Adding any new statues should be done architecturally pleasing. New monuments should be worthy and not political. Context should be added to each monument. Thanks for your consideration and hope this helped. Please feel free to call me if needed. Sincerely Lenny Sachs. 2023 Stuart Avenue. 540-907-7782
05/10/2018 9:13:30	Debra Cash	Leave the monuments as they are.	Shut this crap down now and forever. Protect our monuments and our history. Support the laws we have in place. You can't change history!! People come from all over to see this avenue!! Don't shoot yourselves in the foot.
05/10/2018 9:25:45	Virginia Galli	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	I think the monuments on Monument Avenue should stay in place. They are a part of History which happened in this city during the Civil War. Every citizen has a right to know and understand the history of their town. Virginia Galli
05/10/2018 9:50:53	Adrian David Canfield	Leave the monuments as they are.	§ 15.2-1812 (excerpt) "...it shall be unlawful for the authorities of the locality, or any other person or persons, to disturb or interfere with any monuments or memorials so erected, or to prevent its citizens from taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the protection, preservation and care of same."

05/10/2018 9:56:00	Jeanette Carlson	Leave the monuments as they are.	Every great nation has it's history and it heroes. To allow a small group of unhappy people to erase American history is an abomination. Never before in the history of the United States have we had such smear to the fabric of our nation. The statues in Richmond honor men who gave their lives defending their country. In our present day, to those who let hatred rule their actions, I would say "educate yourselves on the true history of our nation and if the topic of slavery is foremost on the tips of your tongues then devote your energies to saving the hundreds of thousands of unfortunates who in our present age of enlightenment on our planet bear the title of "slave""
05/10/2018 10:33:08	Carolyn Orr	Add context to the monuments.	As a Southerner brought up on the family stories of the war, I oppose the removal of the statues on Monument Avenue. Those stories told of the hardship and endurance of my family. They also told of the triumph after the war of rebuilding the south under the harsh conditions imposed by the US government. Pennies were gathered to pay the sculptors: Moynihan, Valentine and Sievers who produced works of art to display in our city. These magnificent sculptures became the fabric of Richmond and a symbol of over coming the hardships endured. Modern interpretation of these statues by some have turned them into symbols of hate. My grandmother and her father did not hate. We were taught to care for those in need, especially those of color. If the monuments can be saved by interpretation signs, then put up those signs and tell what ever story you believe, for history changes with whoever is in power.
05/10/2018 10:51:06	Eric Richardson	Leave the monuments as they are.	It is my hope that the city would consider the tax increase implications of any changes to the Monument Avenue National Register Historic District, the potential litigation the city may engender against itself & the broader impact that driving tourists' money/revenue away would have on the city's annual budget battle. You, as an agent of local government, are about to send this city on the path of fiscal bankruptcy. In addition, we risk being labeled as standing against American Veterans during a time of war. I would tend to think that might not go over very well politically. However, this is the hole the mayor wants to dig for himself & our city. It would make for a great tragedy if it were not the reality we are faced with at the moment. Perhaps we should avoid the rush and give the General Assembly our City charter back. Either way, local politics begets state politics which sets our national political process on its head. The US Secretary of the Interior' s guidelines are clear: if you change a National Register District, the tax recession covers the previous twenty years and is attached to the deed and not the ownership. It is heartening to see local politicians wishing to commit political suicide over an issue that is in the purview of the VA Geneural Assembly, the US Department of the Interior, and the state.& Federal court systems. What a Monumental waste of taxpayers' time, money, & attention. Well, if as a politician you cannot fix the problems you elected to address, then the monuments are a good red herring to cover your leadership failure. Let the lawsuits begin! ! The mayor's epithet will be something like he set the city on the path of fiscal bankruptcy, educational failure, and Federal audit. You can visit him & his flunkies in orange jumpsuits in a Federal facility soon.