

Submitted On	Name	In your opinion what should be done with the Monuments	Message	Keep	Remove	Add Context	Add Monuments	Relocate	Specific Suggestions/Notes
10/08/2017 9:35:22	Sidney Negus	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue.	When will a decision be made to decide the fate of the Richmond statues? The march last night (10/7/17) in Charlottesville shows that these remain a flashpoint for white supremacists. We need to remove this flashpoint.		x				
10/09/2017 8:26:26	Patsy Anne Bickerstaff	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>There is sound fiscal reason to leave the monuments as they are. The first is economic. One may trivialize "Tourist dollars," but not long ago, Travel magazine ranked Richmond, Virginia as the third most popular travel destination in the WORLD. Visitors from everywhere (with the apparent exception of the new US Secretary of Education) have heard of the American Civil War, and all have their own opinions of it, but they all want to see Monument Avenue. For 110 years, the Confederate leaders, in the form of monuments, have been "earning their keep" by providing Richmond with revenue in the form of income for hotel and restaurant owners and managers, souvenir shops, automobile rental agencies, public transportation and more, including paychecks for designers and decorators, sales clerks, wait staff, chambermaids, tour guides, taxis and public transportation operators, and more. Taxes from all these enterprises support schools, public safety, maintenance of streets, public buildings, and everything else which is part of the city, including the City Council itself. Removing this valuable source of income would impose the enormous additional cost in terms of creating a place for the statues, and rebuilding the streets after the removal. In addition, it would do nothing to improve relations among Richmonders themselves, or with those of other places.</p> <p>More importantly, consider this: In light of recent reports from government cybersecurity agencies, the United States is under attack from adversary nations, using social media to interfere in every possible controversy, encouraging disruption and hatred, and weakening the United States. It would not be surprising to learn that those adversary nations were interfering in this issue. What a prize it would be for them, to bring down the status of a small US city which ranks so highly among visitors! What a victory to sow hatred and division among the people of the United States! How much easier to divide and conquer! The great cities of the world maintain the monuments to their history. Paris has monuments to the French Revolution, to the monarchs who were overturned by the French Revolution, and to Napoleon. England has memorials to every civil war that has occurred there since at least 1066. London does not tear down the Tower of London, where so many people were tortured and killed. Rome still has the Coliseum, where people were thrown to lions or required to fight to the death, for entertainment. No one disputes the fact that the end of legalized slavery was a good result of the War, but destroying its history trivializes the importance of that result.</p>	x					
	Margaret Minton		I'm not a Richmond resident but I am a Virginian and Richmond is the Capitol of my state. I have no quarrel with new monuments being added anywhere in the state as long as they are erected for the purpose of remembering and honoring someone who deserves honor and remembering. But I wish to point out that just in case you haven't noticed, the more Confederate monuments are desecrated, the more determined people are to put the Southern history out in view of everyone. Thousands of people are flying Confederate flags, wearing patches and pins and Southern clothing, displaying Confederate stickers on vehicles, and talking about our true history and the people who made our history. If you must erect more monuments, please do it in such a manner that they are not in direct conflict of the monuments near them, and display in a way that all the monuments can be loved, respected, and cherished for the truth of their existence.	x			x		add monuments that are not in direct conflict with existing monuments.
	Kevan Dann		I have no problem with adding any info about the monuments that already exist or adding additional monuments as well. The only thing that concerns me is people trying to erase our history and knowing nothing about the true history of the people depicted in these monuments. I believe but correct me if I am wrong, but no confederate cannot be removed under the state law. If it offends people, oh well! I see far worst of offensive things and behavior everyday.	x		x			
	CP Shupe		I support keeping all historic monuments. ISIS destroys monuments and history, NOT Americans. To even have this debate is absurd given the context that our history provides each and every one of us so ask yourselves WHY we are having this conversation. Is it because of ISIS or because it will change the past? Democrats should stop trying to alter history.	x					
	Betty Taylor		This city has much bigger issues. Can we focus on schools, roads, raises, etc. before we spend more time and money discussing statues? The statues are beautifully rendered and are a part of our history. Richmond will still be the former capital of the Confederacy. You can't just shove history under the rug. Let's focus on more important issues first.	x					
	Barbara Legaz		I know other cities are taking the monuments down. Richmond is unique in that this is part of its history. Richmond was the capital of the confederacy. The civil war was part of our history and should be represented. These monuments are beautiful works of art. They are impressive to look out especially displayed on the avenue. Richmond is balancing them by having the slave museum and other black accomplishments such as the Tucker statue. I think having both black history represented and white history represented balances the struggle that our country went through, our state went through and what the city of Richmond went through. Keep the monuments.	x					
	Diane Petree		The new statue of Maggie Walker should certainly please our black brothers and sisters. Adding new statues along Monument Avenue that tell more of the history as it relates to ethnicities would not be objectionable. Just leave the statues in place that are already there. Don't decapitate Monument Avenue by removing these statues.	x			x		

	Richaard Askee		People come from all over the country and world "not" to see the latest in historical revisionism that plagues our increasingly weak and ignorant populace but to see the historical remains of the past as they are. The person who sees "evil" sees evil in more than just statues. He or she is infected from within. Where next will the demand be to paint our state capital black to give into pathetic political correctness? That would be pretty so, you should. You can change the "color" of history just not its ignorance. That is left to the weak, ignorant and cowardly. Watch your tourism dollars decline from your shallow cowardice to history.- Sic Semper Tyrannis	x					
	Margie Stetson		You cannot just remove monuments and expect it to change history. Leave the monuments alone and work to explore other ways to heal and enrich Richmond.	x					
	Bruce Bayless		The group needs to not agree to demands of groups related to the make up of the group, the outcomes, or anything else. That way "all" the citizens of Richmond would have an equal chance to be heard. As a Southerner to me these monuments are memorials to the 270,000 men who died fighting for the South. The majority of which had no slaves and most of them themselves stated they were fighting for independence and states rights (Also see Ken Stampp's book "The Causes of the Civil War" and Marc Engal's "Clash of Extremes: The Economic Origins of the Civil War" for other significant causes of the war. It would be shameful and a disgrace to take down these monuments of these men who fought and died for their country!	x					
	Mary Jane Stidham		I believe the monuments should be left as they are. I think the Mayor is right that more could be added but none removed. This is our history and removing them won't change the fact that slavery was part of it. Where would the funds come from to remove these monuments? Richmond already has a money problem. Use the money to fix the schools so our children have a better future. Removing them won't make anyone feel better and it could keep a lot of tourists away. Maybe I don't live in Richmond but I live close enough that I believe I have the right to make these comments.	x					
	Paul Alexander		I am truly angered where I hear and uninformed person try to compare General Robert E Lee to the Auschwitz prison camp. Please remind the individual what the South and Virginia did with Libby prison. A notorious Union Military prison. We tore it down after the war. People need to be informed of the true historical significance of who Robert E Lee was and what he did at the beginning of the Confederacy. Remember he voted against secession. Paul Alexander. 804-402-4034	x					no stated position. Inferred Keep.
	Diane Petree		We're known as the City of Monuments. It would be a tragedy to remove the statues. With everyday life changing at a breakneck pace, it's a comfort to see those statues and hopefully know there are some things that don't/won't change. It doesn't seem right that a group of people can have the power to change a major part of the face of a city. Let's all calm down and not do something rash.	x					
	George Munford		If needed I do have a few names that I can give. Please don't overlook these messages						
	Amy Baker		Please leave the Monuments alone. My family fought on both sides and my family honor all of our family from Revolutionary war to current war. So please don't.	x					
	George Snead		Leave the monuments alone!	x					
	YOLANDA CURNUTT		My Great grand father fought for the Confederate Army. He was captured and was imprisoned in Maryland. He did not fight for slavery but because an enemy army invaded his Homeland. He was a share cropper. If you are going to remove monuments from Monument AV. Then take them all including Arthur Ashe. Make a No Monument AV. Do not favor one or another group.	x					

	Walter Ring 3rd	<p>First I would like to say that I am angered-FURIOUS-that this commission and it's purpose even exists. Mayor Levar Stoney has exceeded his authority by forming this commission to 'advise' him what to do about the Confederate Monuments in Richmond. He has said that he is personally offended by these monuments. I am not only offended, I am incensed by this statement. I was born in Richmond. These monuments are a part of Richmond's history. According to Virginia State law, it is illegal to remove or alter these monuments or any other war memorials in any way. However, let's assume that it is legal to add context to these monuments. Who will write this context? Mayor Stoney? This commission? The NAACP? How is their viewpoint going to be the whole story or even the truth? The purpose of these monuments is to honor the sacrifice of the Confederate States military. That is it. There is no 'false narrative' that Mayor Stoney says exists. Read the text of every Confederate Monument in Richmond. There are no false statements on any of them. They honor the military men that fought and died. The North placed Union Monuments across their states at exactly the same time as Confederate Monuments were placed across the South, which means that the children and grandchildren of the ones who fought the Civil War were the ones that placed them. This is consistent with the placement of monuments from most wars. If we are to add context to Confederate Monuments, we must also add context to all the monuments in Richmond. The Martin Luther King Bridge would certainly qualify for context, above all other monuments. Let's examine HIS false narrative by saying that his real name was Michael King. He was not a reverend or a doctor. He associated with known communists, was a plagiarist and a philanderer. and was considered a total degenerate by many prominent people of his time, including the president and his wife. Wherever he went, there was violence and riots. He was a proponent of preferential treatment of blacks over Whites, which is discrimination and occurs today in all aspects of life. As we see there were many dark aspects of this black hero's life that no one wants to talk about because it puts him in a bad light. However, we are falling all over ourselves to do nothing but talk trash about my White ancestors. How about the slave memorials that are in Richmond? Will context be placed on them telling the story of Africans selling their own people into slavery? Without the tribal African leaders' willing participation, this type of slavery could NOT have existed. Will this be placed on the upcoming slave memorial here? For most of my adult life I have heard that we must be TOLERANT of other people's viewpoint. TOLERANT of homosexuality. TOLERANT of race mixing. TOLERANT of Islam. TOLERANT of Hispanics. TOLERANT of other cultures. Well, no one is being TOLERANT of White heritage now that they have the opportunity to do so. Leave the Confederate Monuments alone or expand the commission's purpose to include what to do with ALL of Richmond's monuments. Singling out the Confederate Monuments is racism, INTOLERANCE and persecution.</p>	x					
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	Virginia Defenders	<p>Open Letter to the Monument Avenue Commission</p> <p>As Richmonders who have long called for the removal of the Confederate statues on Richmond's Monument Avenue, we would like to express our views on this matter as your commission begins its process of public engagement. Our concerns focus on three issues: The limited mandate of the mayor's commission; the commission's composition; and the artificial separation of the issues of memorializing Confederate figures while failing to commit to properly memorialize the history of Richmond's Shockoe Bottom, once the epicenter of the U.S. domestic slave trade. When Mayor Stoney established the commission, he said that taking down the monuments was not an option: "I wish these monuments had never been built, but like it or not they are part of our history in this city, and removal will never wash away that stain." (Richmond Times-Dispatch, June 22, 2017)</p> <p>Limiting the mission of the commission to merely providing "context" to the statues of slavery-defending figures is unacceptable. These monuments were erected to rehabilitate the image of the slavery-defending Confederacy and so culturally re-establish the principle of white supremacy during the worst post-slavery period for Black people in U.S. history. The statues on Monument Avenue were only the grandest part of this nearly 100-year campaign to turn the former capital of the Confederacy into a virtual shrine to the Lost Cause mythology. Richmond's first Confederate memorial, to Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson, was erected in 1874, in Capitol Square - just nine years after the end of the Civil War. Reconstruction in most of the South lasted 11 years, but was ended much sooner in Richmond. It would be another 16 years before the towering statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee would be unveiled on what would become Monument Avenue, but others followed in rapid succession: Gen. William Carter Wickham in Monroe Park (1891); Gen. A.P. Hill at Laburnum & Hermitage (1892); Richmond Howitzers at Harrison, Park and Grove (1892); Confederate Soldiers and Sailors at Libby Hill (1894); Gen. William "Extra Billy" Smith in Capitol Square (1906); and Gen. J.E.B. Stuart (1907), President Jefferson Davis (1907), Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson (1919) and Admiral Matthew Fontaine Maury (1929), all on Monument Avenue. Finally, just to let everyone know that nothing had changed, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee in Monroe Park (1955). And then there are the city's many streets, squares, bridges and buildings named after Confederate figures. Mayor Stoney had it right when he described the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue as "Equal parts myth and deception ... a false narrative etched in stone and bronze more than 100 years ago — not only to lionize the architects and defenders of slavery, but to perpetuate the tyranny and terror of Jim Crow and reassert a new era of white supremacy." Clearly, statues and monuments are created to honor a person or cause. And they are taken down when those in power no longer want to continue that honor. This is why there are no statues of Adolf Hitler in Germany. In fact, it's illegal to display even a fascist symbol in either Germany or Italy. Other U.S. cities understand this: New Orleans, Orlando, Tampa, St. Louis, Charlottesville all have taken down or are in the process of taking down their Confederate statues. Other cities are renaming streets, parks and buildings. But not Richmond. Richmond wants to add "context." What is most revealing is how Richmond deals with its brief, three-and-a-half-year Confederate past as opposed to its three decades as the epicenter of the U.S. domestic slave trade. It took a nearly 10-year community struggle to force the state of Virginia to remove a Virginia Commonwealth University parking lot from the city's African Burial Ground. It took a bitter two-year community campaign to stop former Mayor Dwight Jones and the powerful business coalition Venture Richmond from building a baseball stadium in the heart of the Shockoe Bottom slave-trading district. (Jones also is on record as opposing taking down the statues.) That fight forced Jones to begin a project to memorialize just one of nearly 100 slavery-related sites in the Bottom, but the present mayor is resisting the overwhelming community demand for a more inclusive - and less expensive - nine-acre Shockoe Bottom Memorial Park. The most disturbing thing about the way the City is handling these related issues is its utter insensitivity to the Black community. What kind of compromise can be reached between those who still honor the men who defended slavery and the descendants of those who were enslaved? Do you really think that some signage will make it less painful for the descendants to walk, cycle or drive past those tributes to the men who fought for the right to keep their ancestors enslaved? Whose sensitivities matter more here? Whose matter at all? The mission of the Monument Avenue Commission as it now exists is unacceptable. It begins with a decision to compromise on the question of what to do about the Confederate-honoring / Lost Cause Mythology-promoting statues on the avenue before any public meetings have taken place. The mayor has said that taking the statues down is off the table. Not one of the commission's 10 members has publically called for their removal. Several previously supported the effort to put a stadium in the Bottom. And the commission is preparing to shepherd a discussion about Monument Avenue while apparently ignoring the parallel issue of Shockoe Bottom. Therefore, we are calling on the members of the commission to do the following, before their first public hearing, scheduled for Aug. 9: 1 - Publicly declare that taking down the statues is one of the options to be considered. 2 - Invite onto the commission Richmonders who already have called for the statues to be removed. 3 - Invite New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu to speak at the first public hearing. His eloquent statement on why his city has taken down its Confederate monuments has become a classic argument for their removal. Sincerely, Ana Edwards - Chair, Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project Phil Wilayto - Editor, The Virginia Defender</p>		x				
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			Dear Mr. Stoney: I am not surprised that you did not reply to my e-mail regarding your stance on Monument Avenue. Let me challenge you one more time. Do you believe in Capitalism? Do you embrace it wholeheartedly, or do you have reservations? I assume you are aware of the effect that slavery had on the evolution of Capitalism in this country. Perhaps you are also aware that the African Americans, Irish, Chinese, Italians, children (remember child labor?), and virtually every other minority were exploited horrifically in the Industrial North in the interest of Capitalism. I'm sure you have noticed that the substance of religion has been distorted to conform to the tenets of Capitalism—that Capitalism has, in many ways become a substitute for religion in our country. Finally, and perhaps most important, have you noticed the allusions to the philosophy of Ayn Rand, mainly by Republicans, as part of their final-stage interpretation of Capitalism. You live, work, and benefit (?) in this context, Mr. Stoney, I suspect without questioning the implications of the society of which you are a part. It is possible that someday a more self-actualized generation will transcend the inequalities of a society based on Capitalism. If they do, they will judge us exactly the same way you have judged nineteenth-century whites. The only difference is that you will be one of those judged, simply because of your tacit acceptance of what will be perceived as a cruel, unjust government based on an inhumane economic system. Are you prepared to be judged in that way, out of context, in a system that has so many flaws—and very few avenues of escape for the average citizen. Be mindful of your own hypocrisy when you pass judgement on others, especially those whose historical context is so very different from your own. I tried to explain to you that there are many facets to one's response to his/her society. To boil the nineteenth century down to one characteristic is not only unfair, but dishonest to the extreme. Jim Spraker	x					
	JAMES SPRAKER								
			History cannot be changed. Richmond played a huge role in the Confederacy and these statues represent that and nothing more. Politically correct, revisionist history is a slippery slope, akin to burning books in Nazi Germany. As a lifelong Richmonder, I am opposed to any action concerning these statues. Further, any action to remove them will drive a deeper wedge between the races. Monument Avenue would lose its charm and the tourists who come by the thousands each year to see it. Lastly, Richmond cannot spend more money that it does not have.	x					
	Doug Hudson								
			The fact that we are at a point in society that we are discussing the removal of war memorials and monuments is appalling, these statues have been in place over 100 years and now there seems to be an issue with a small percentage of population. In mayor or congressman that is favor of Thisbe should not be allowed to run for a dog catcher position and there city should be boycotted. I will never step foot in New Orleans.	x					
	Herbert Michael								
			Leave the Monuments on Monument Avenue alone. I've visited and read the plaques on the statues, they appear to be facts. It is the Mayor with his "context" charge that is trying to push the alternative facts agenda. The other statues listed in the works seem to accomplish telling a more complete story. Leave Monument Avenue out of your political over-reach.	x					
	Charles Smith								
			I am not a Richmond native but my Mother and her ancestors were. Is there any way that ALL Virginians can vote on what happens to Monument Avenue statues? After all, these statues represent the Civil War history as we know it. Please do not change attempt to change our history. For other groups of monuments, they should be erected on a different block or address in Richmond. Thank you.	x			x		add monuments at a different address
	Ruth Edwards								
			The city cannot afford to have these statues on public property. It sends a terrible message to residents. The Monument Avenue statues portray the Confederacy as heroic. We must ask ourselves how this affects people psychologically. The most disadvantaged residents already have a hard time believing that society cares about them, how do you reach out to them with a straight face when you use their tax money to heroicize Confederate soldiers?			x			
	John Hewitt								
			The History of Richmond does not only effect the residents of Richmond but the whole State of Virginia. The History is what it is and should stay just that with NO altering of Monument Ave. It is history and it can't be changed. The War Between the States was NOT about slavery. It WAS about preserving the Constitution and States Rights. The South DID NOT rebel against the North. It was Lincoln that sent 75,000 troops to invade the South and wage war. The South was defending itself. There was never a Southern flagged slave ship...they were all from the New England states, yes...up North! Leave Monument Avenue just as it is. It is for all Virginians, not just residents of Richmond.	x					no altering of Monument Ave.
	James Shirley								
			I am writing to express my support for this initiative to add context to the Confederate Monuments. I think the city should add stories of enslaved and free African Americans' bravery during the Civil War. However, my top priority is to support this initiative, as I know a small group of people will loudly oppose it.	x			x		
	Benjamin Paul								
			Dear Mayor, I am in favor of keeping the monuments on Monument Avenue and else where in Richmond. Richmond is so rich in history. I love driving down the street to see beautiful works of art. I don't think the monuments have anything to do with race. Black and whites both fought in the war.	x					
	Linda Wynne								
			Monument Avenue is fine as it is. No need to appease those who do not agree with history. If you can find other men or women that have given as much to Virginia, add them with your version of their contribution and leave those monuments already there to the interpretation of the viewer as intended. People do not need to be told what to think. They should put forth the effort to form their own conclusions.	x					
	William Stafford								
			My family and I have visited Richmond and drove and walked along Monument Avenue. It was such an enjoyable day and there was time enough that we could stop and share the history of each of our Southern heroes. It is a sham and a shame that for political purposes ONLY that these monuments come into question as to their bearing and presence. These monuments represent men who if we as a society today would reflect their principles many of the problems we have would not exist. They are true heroes.	x					
	Jonathan Varnell								

			<p>The property owners, residents, business owners, and artists of Monument Avenue, the fan, and the Monument Avenue Association reject any alteration or additions to Monument Avenue. As a National Historic Landmark, we recognize its beauty, elegance, and harmony, through the masterful balance of historic art, mansions, and expertly crafted landscapes that line this celebrated avenue. We see and welcome the numerous international tourists who freely wander the block every year. We are the hosts of thousands of participants of civic events such as the Monument Avenue 10K, House Tours, Garden Week and Easter parade. We witness the hundreds of Richmonders who walk their dogs and stroll down the peaceful green median every day with their families. Our collective investment in Monument Avenue as well as the internationally recognized significance of this National Historic Landmark, supersedes the obviously biased political opinion of the current Mayor and the unproven corporate marketing plan and social agenda of the American Civil War Center. We recognize that the inflammatory language of the Mayor, and corporate and political motivations behind it, does not represent Richmond, the history of Monument Avenue or the intent of the Monuments as uniquely Confederate. As Virginians we recognize the financial benefit of Monument Avenue to the tourist industry and reject any attempt to take away from the experience of international travelers to freely marvel at and learn from Virginia's significant history. They come here to see the most beautiful block in America and to see the Confederate Statues as a testimony to an era and war. This would not be possible without the art created by the former Confederate soldiers, sailors, marines, statesmen, and citizenry. Richmond boasts one of the most prestigious art universities in the nation, as well as a living and breathing art eclectic all across the city with unique murals, and statues. Freedom of artistic expression does not need a disclaimer on the basis of political correctness in those contexts or anywhere else, including Monument Avenue. We will not place a disclaimer on each and every mural, statue, and sculpture in Richmond. We will let art speak for itself. We reject supplementing new monuments that would trivialize the uniqueness of Monument Avenue as a Confederate memorial. Adding new monuments will degrade the integrity of the avenue as a National Historic Landmark that encapsulates not only Richmond's significance during The War Between The States, but represents the entire South as the former Confederate States Of America. We further state that 90 days is not a realistic time frame to study anything, much less something of this magnitude. We realize that like the city council of Charlottesville, there is no real intention by the mayor or the commission to accept a critical analysis of their suggested course of actions from the public or property owners. We recognize the Code of Virginia that protects these memorials and monuments from any and all disturbance or interference with or encroaching upon any aspect of this National Historic Landmark. Signed, Raymond Rooks</p>	x				
	Raymond Rooks							
			<p>I was wondering when and where the 2 public hearings will be held. By the way, there are two informative perspectives recently in Time magazine and the Smithsonian magazine. Many thanks for the update</p>					
	Peter Buckley							
			<p>Why try to change history to get a few who are trying to destroy this country and all it stood for. Slavery was not the beginning of the war even Lincoln said he had no desire to interfere with the institution of slavery until later in the war when he made it about the very thing he was not going to interfere with. We cannot change history by destroying monuments and what built America great.</p>	x				
	Ruby Harris							
			<p>The Monument Ave. Civil War statues are a very strong tourist draw. Especially since Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. There is nothing to be ashamed of in honoring our past. In fact, it should be lauded. Especially if it brings money into the city. My friends who live in surrounding counties vow they will no longer patronize businesses in the city if the statues are tampered with. I see no reason to add additional statues of anyone as Monument Ave. is dedicated to the heroes of the Civil War. Why would you want to diminish its value?</p>	x				
	Susanne Hillier							
			<p>Leave the monuments alone and I disagree with your position letter</p>	x				
	Lewis Rash							

	Dustin Tanner		<p>Good Evening, Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion on the matter at hand. Regarding Item 1, "Adding Context" to the current monuments on Monument Avenue is unnecessary. It seems Mayor Stoney has been misinformed on the true cause of the Confederacy. Slavery was not the main focal point of the War Between the States. It played a part, as this was a day and age where agriculture dominated the south eastern United States. I feel after establishing this commission, Mayor Stoney will realize the true history that went along with the War Between the States and not what is currently taught in the public school system. Everyone knows "Spoils go to the Victors" ... In this case they can write or rewrite history to shine a better light on the union. They were dealing with some of the same issues that we currently deal with today with "Big Government" ... which lead to the select states seceding from the union. . Mayor Stoney suggesting that these beautiful monuments needing context is absurd. These men were patriots of Virginia, and are some of the greatest Virginians to ever live. Suggesting these men put their lives on the line to defend slavery is insane. Most white men of the day and age did not own slaves. These monuments are not about slavery. Any person who is offended by the Confederacy, these monuments or it's cause has been duped by the Education System and other uneducated individuals into believing such nonsense over time... I feel after establishing this committee that the Mayor will reach the conclusion that these monuments are a beautiful piece of Richmond and Virginia history. I am not familiar with the individuals on the committee, but anyone who has studied the War Between the States, The Union, The Confederacy, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses Grant, Abraham Lincoln, Etc... Can come to the conclusion very fast. As far as Item No. 2, adding more monuments to express other history that has taken place in Richmond or Virginia, I believe is a great idea. Honoring history is one of the best ways to teach youth and to showcase our pride in this great state. I believe many individuals throughout Virginia and Richmond's timeline should be honored. Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to express what I believe is the right thing to do. I know that you will have many opinions coming in on these topics and I am honored to provide mine. I am not a citizen of Richmond, but Monument Ave. is greater than Richmond, it is the pride of Virginia and I feel every Virginian's opinion matters. If you could e-mail me back upon reading of this I would greatly appreciate it. Happy 4th of July, Regards, Dustin C. Tanner</p>	x					
	Shannan Hillier		<p>I don't want anything added - I want to preserve the historic period and fear greatly of the Monument Avenue mall/median becoming too cluttered. Richmond was the Capital of the Confederacy, and The Fan is a designated historical neighborhood and one of Richmond's greatest tourist attractions. This is our history. People come here to see and study America's history. The monuments honor men who fought for states' rights. I was never taught that the Confederacy was about fighting for slavery, but rather fighting for state's rights, and I've never understood how people have come to the belief today that it was about slavery. I don't believe in slavery, nor do I believe that anybody today would ever advocate for such an atrocity. Regardless of whether my understanding of the Confederacy is right or wrong - I think it depends on who's teaching the history - I don't believe you can judge yesterday by today's standards or norms, or try to change or whitewash our history. I believe these people had to have been brave, were fighting for what they thought was right at that time, and we shouldn't try to take away from or change history. My hope for Monument Avenue is that it continue to represent history, retain its beauty, and certainly not get too cluttered. I do believe in honoring great people, and that all people are created equally and deserve equal respect and kindness. Just please keep our historic neighborhood historic, and with a historic focus that's in keeping with the period.</p>	x					
	REV. DR. J.P. BLANKENSHIP		<p>I am strongly against the removal of any statues that are currently in place on the Avenue.... they are part of our history and whether we are proud of it or ashamed of it WE CANNOT CHANGE history...it is what it is. There are those who are offended by the statues and those who feel they represent heroes.....we live in a diverse society and we need to learn that there are many areas in a free society where we will disagree BUT learn to respect the opinion of others who may agree or disagree with us.....Monument Avenue is a history of who we are as a people and I am in favor of putting other monuments on the Avenue to make that history more representative....I was most pleased that they placed a statue of Arthur Ashe on the Avenue....I would have liked to see a statue of Maggie Walker placed on the Avenue.....but understand why it was put where it is.....Monument Avenue should reflect the diversity of our history including those who have been part of our history whether they are personally our heroes or not. I personally feel and strongly feel that we have taken political correctness to a point where there is no respect at all for the opinions of others who we might disagree with. It is time we stop demonizing those we disagree with. Monument Avenue is a historical treasure that we should all be proud of.....and one we should always look to add to not tear down those things we disagree with. I am most interested in what is going to happen to the avenue and plan to be actively involved in any way that I can as a citizen who is proud of Richmond.....it's past.....its present and its future.</p>	x					

	Hilda A Cates Cates		The real story of the monuments has already been told. Please leave the monuments alone. Thank u!	x					
	Joseph Gahan		Intimidating confederate monuments and flags glorify a government that was instituted for the sole purpose of perpetuating the racist institution of slavery. Since racism is one of this country's biggest problems removal should be a "no brain er," but the local media will say only some blacks are offended. Really, anyone who knows american history is. I don't need to be Jewish to be offended by the German swastika.			x			
	Edward Peebles		I've taught Spanish at the University of Richmond for over 20 years, and it never ceases to be a source of embarrassment when take visiting scholars or job candidates for a tour of the city and have to explain the continued existence of these memorials to the Confederacy. My friends from Spain, in particular, are left flummoxed: they never fail to remind me that in the 40 years since the death of the fascist caudillo Francisco Franco (who ruled Spain from 1939-1975). Spain has managed to rid itself of the omnipresent image of that dictator (whose face even appeared on all coins minted through that time!) and has mostly renamed streets and avenues that paid homage to people and events from the fascist period – even as there are still many people alive today who served under that regime. How the losing side in the 4 year aberration that was the War of Secession in the USA continues to be enshrined on the streets of Richmond is a mystery to them, and to me.			x			
	Jeffrey Brown		Please do not put any "context" on the statues. In today's politically charged atmosphere, the monuments will only be subjected to presentist interpretations that are just as wrong as that of the mayor. I am opposed to the hate and bigotry exemplified by the mayor in his campaign to alter the monuments. In fact, according to Virginia law, it is illegal to change, alter or remove any monuments. How about leaving them as is, and let those who visit them take away their own impression with out being forced to accept the hateful views of modern intolerant politicians.As for adding figures, instead of political figures or figures designed to appease identity groups, why nothonor Virginian heroes from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam or the Desert Wars? There are thousands of worthy Richmond natives and Virginians who could be honored.	x					
	Sojourna Cunningham		I am relative newcomer to Richmond, having been here since 2015. I travel for my job and end up talking to my colleagues from all over the US. When I mention where I live, the usual reaction is, "Isn't that where those Confederate monuments are? Do you feel safe there?" That is what is attached to Richmond. Not the growing diversity and financial stability of Richmond. Not the food culture or the great mix or urbanism and outdoor living. I know the history of the monuments, the fact that they were put up without any context and without an understanding of the larger effects on racial history in the South. I find them disturbing and not a reflection of the full history of Richmond. I think should be removed and if not removed, then they need to be reevaluated and put up with additional signage.			x	x		
	Steven Walker		Leave monument avenue as is. Why it was put there we already know. If you put another monument there it should be someone from Virginia.	x				x	add someone from Virginia if you add monuments
	Margaret Avery		The monuments honor the history of this country, the good and the bad. History is there to teach lesson on things that should not be repeated. Maybe additional monuments or plaques could give context or further explanation but the current monuments should never be removed.	x			x		
	Kelly Bowman		The monuments are MOMUMENTS. They are historical representations of moments in history. To tear them down would be a grave disservice to the city, the culture and fabric of America--where we came from and to commenorate moments in history. To add more monuments will only make them less important and make them lose their value. While there certainly could be room for adding some monuments for notable Richmond alumni -- I can't think of anyone who deserves a monument that doesn't have one already. The individuals who are commemorated with monuments are nationally known for their accollades and as such should be immortalized with a monument. In my opinion, there just hasn't been anyone worth of commemorating with a monument in several decades, whether they're a political figure, a war veteran, or a civil rights activist. I couldn't think of someone else to add. They should be left alone.	x					
	Wesley Hedgepeth		We cannot sanitize history. As a career social studies educator, I never shy away from teaching the tough subjects--these are usually the subjects that most engage students. It would be a dangerous day-- and a very slippery slope--when we rid ourselves of everything in which we disagree.The Monument Ave statues are beautiful, yet do reflect a tough time for Richmond. These statues stand asa constant reminder of where we've been. A positive consequence of these statues is the reminder that we have more work to do. Taking down these monuments would be a huge mistake.Instead of removing statues, how about we continue to add 20th and 21st century outstandingRichmonders? Let's first begin with moving Maggie Walker to Monument Ave!	x				x	add Maggie Walker among others
	Jon Moore		We have the greatest street of Monument in the country, please do not take them down. Add context, add educational markers or plaques, but please let them stand. There is room for more monuments on the street stretching all the way to Horsepen Rd. Do not further divide our city and misuse taxpayer dollars to pay for a removal now or in the future. Name some new schools after prominent Richmond women and minorities, but please don't take the statues down. I want the city to move forward and embrace diversity and change without destroying things from the past. Adding to Monument Avenue is the answer, not taking away from it.	x			x		
	Jason Hall		LEAVE THE MONUMENTS ALONE!!!!!!	x					

			I suggest that the Commission recommend that the people of Richmond be contacted directly via a ballot initiative on the question of what to do about the monuments created to memorialize individuals who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Some insist that these monuments memorialize part of our actual history, which is true. Some insist that these monuments memorialize men who fought to preserve a way of life dependent on enslaving black persons, which is also true. There is no objectively "right" answer. Perhaps the ballot question could offer three choices: Leave the monuments as they are. Leave the monuments where they are but add signage to provide "context". Move the monuments to a museum or other less public location. Given the polarization inherent in the question, putting the decision in the hands of the people who live in the area in which these monuments are placed is the most American way of addressing this problem. This approach may not change many minds. But how could either side object to a democratic process that put the decision in the hands of the people most affected by the presence of these monuments. I have been a Richmond resident for 54 years and am fond of Monument Avenue. But that fondness is second to the need for reparations.						The Commission should ask Richmonders via ballot
	LORETTA O'DONNELL								
		Thomas Peyser	Some of us want the statues on Monument Avenue moved to places like museums. Others of us are opposed to their being moved from their traditional home. The first group feels it's not too much to ask admirers of the statues to go out of their way to see them. The second group feels it's not too much to ask those offended by the statues to go out of their way to avoid them. A compromise would be to leave the monuments in place, but surround them with some striking structure, open to the sky, that would obscure the statues to passersby, but still allow those wishing to appreciate them to enter and have that experience. The enclosure might be some play on a colonnade, say, with columns embellished with photographs of slaves or inscribed with words taken from slave narratives, or simply names of slaves (as at the Vietnam memorial). There are two impediments: the lack of space around all but the Lee statue, and the great height of the Lee monument. Part of the solution would be to keep the statues, but demolish the plinths. Bringing the men down to earth would be a symbolic way of conceding something to both sides: we recognize the importance of these men in our story, but we do not make them out to be demigods. The Jackson, Davis, Lee, and Stuart statues (Maury seems irrelevant), minus their bases, could all be arranged inside the Lee roundabout, surrounded by a screen as described above. I am skeptical of more conventional ways of providing context. At a Library of Virginia panel discussion in February, Professor Thomas Brown of the University of South Carolina history department said he could not think offhand of a single instance in which signage and the like had been used successfully. Anything of a propositional character (e.g. "the War was fought to protect the institution of slavery" or "the monuments were erected as emblems of white supremacy") will give rise to endless, bitter refutation, some, of course, very ill-informed. But you cannot refute a face or a name engraved on a column. Personally, I would not want to have any ancestor of mine forced into the company of the men memorialized on Monument Avenue between Boulevard and Lombardy. (It is possible many people feel similarly.) I also fear that the execution of a statue, to be successful, would have to navigate a very difficult course between sentimentality and stridency. I would prefer no more statues be erected there. The presence of the current ensemble for such a long time has turned that corridor into anything but a place of honor. Putting the Confederates behind some sort of screen would be a sufficient revision, in my view. But if we are committed to adding another statue (and I hope we're not) I hope that it would be an African American of the Civil War era, perhaps a representative figure or figures if no suitable historical ones can be decided upon—perhaps a family about to launch their lives together as free people. But Monument Avenue still seems like the last place to honor black Americans. A monument doing so should be placed in some spot either historically or currently linked to the black community. It would be nice if a monument to black Virginians were located somewhere many black Virginians would see it regularly. A glance at U.S. Census tracts 404 to 407 suggests Monument Avenue is not the place.	x					Put Jackson, Davis, Lee minus plinths all on Lee circle surrounded by a screen that obscures the view from those who do not want to view them. I you have to add monuments that honor African Americans do so near where they are. Monument Ave is not the place for such a monument.
		Josh Pugh	Please keep the monuments! They are apart of our history wether or not people take offense to the history they represent. I like the idea of adding to the monuments. If people feel so passionately about a historical figure then they should request to get a monument of that person. In this manner we will expand an already nice area of Richmond instead of destroying one. I also feel that there is some misinformation about these men featured on monument ave. Slavery was nation wide. These men were fighting for states rights. Slavery was NOT the only reason for the civil war. I really feel that if that message was conveyed then there would be a whole lot less animosity between Americans of African decent & supporters of the confederates. There might even be some support. The confederates did not like to be told what to do. They wanted to make their own decisions & do what they felt was best for their locality. I KNOW that a lot of people from all different backgrounds can appreciate this idea. No one wants to be told what to do. I can not speak for everyone so I will only say that for myself the confederacy stands for personal responsibility. The ability to say that this is my decision & I am prepared to suffer the consequences of it. This applies to the state level all the way down to the personal level. The Confederacy suffered the consequences of its decision to support slavery...it no longer exists. People such as my self appreciate the monuments for reminding us of people that not only understood personal responsibility but were willing to fight and die for it. There will always be racism in the world because there will always be ignorance in the world, BUT I do not believe that these monuments are the source of the ignorance.	x					
		Charles Swinford	Monument avenue could be made a monument for all richmond and indeed all Virginia by adding more statues, sculptures and public spaces that are representative of our citizenry and our hopes for the future. Personally, I want to see the full of monuments to who we are and then many different places we've come from. The avenue should be so full of monuments that people come from all over the world to see it.	x				x	Add monuments that represent our diverse citizenry and our hope for the future

			Choosing to make war against the Confederate monuments that line Monument Avenue in Richmond and against the thousands of descendants of Confederate Veterans that they represent and honor, diverting precious resources and taxpayer money away from the real and pressing matters facing the Capital of the Confederacy, and creating division and disharmony in our community is a fool's errand. These monuments have everything to do with honoring men who answered the call of the Commonwealth to defend hearth and home from invasion. We have parallels in history at attempts to remove truth. The Nazis burned books because they didn't like the content and it flew in the face of the ideology of one group. It was a travesty then and will be a travesty now. Mayor Stoney and the Monument Avenue Commission would do well to look to Charlottesville, where City Council voted to destroy the Robert E. Lee monument, in violation of state law, and in the process plunged the city into chaos and racial division that locals say is unlike any they have seen in decades. Of the three councilmen who voted to remove the monument, disgraced Vice-Mayor Wes Bellamy has lost his teaching position with Albermarle County and his position on the State Board of Education, Kristen Szakos has announced she will not run for re-election, and Bob Fenwick, who cast the deciding vote, recently lost his bid for his party's nomination for his council seat. Why stop at the removal of statues? Richmond was the Capitol of the Confederacy, why not change the name of the city? Let's go all the way!	x				
	Donald Silberbauer							
			The monuments represent an important dimension of the history of our region. They belong in a setting which celebrates and preserves their presence within a broad context of the social, military, political and regional influences which resulted in their creation and placement within Richmond. This setting is not in public places funded by public tax dollars. It should be within a museum space that can properly highlight their significance and their connections to the various segments of local history and society. I strongly support efforts to remove these monuments to a more appropriate location that is historical in context and funded by sources not tied to local government.			x		x put them in a museum
	Robert Mesnard							
			Since the Mayor of Richmond decided to appoint a commission to reinterpret the Confederate monuments on Monument Avenue, shouldn't they examine the Lincoln statue at the American Civil War Center at Tredegar? Well.....let me help them! He is responsible for the death of almost 700,000 people. He locked up Maryland's legislature so they couldn't vote to secede. He illegally blockaded Southern ports. He put anyone in prison that disagreed with him. He wanted anyone of African descent removed and colonized to another country. The "Great Emancipator" did not free one slave. He is responsible for changing the dynamic structure of the Federal government and its relationship with the states.					This person is interpreting the Lincoln statue at Tredegar
	Tamara Zaccagnino							
			Leave Monument Ave EXACTLY as it is. Use a parallel street for your "new" monuments and history. Monument Ave is the most famous road in Richmond, imo. Why??? Because of the Confederate Monuments. If you change that, it won't be the same. You think I'm stupid, but seriously, how many people go to see these monuments for the Civil War history. Most everyone. Those that complain about them only complain because it's an issue to bitch about. They don't care. They don't visit. They never will. It's a "I'm right, you're wrong" situation. If you change the markers to further explain the history, the history buffs will ignore it. These people know the history and battles of The War of Northern Aggression better than anyone. The Civil War was about slavery, yes. But, it wasn't the main issue. Asking to explain the reason for the War in one word is like asking to explain the Revolutionary War in one word. It can't be done. Neither can you describe a person in one word. I'm proud having lived in Virginia my whole life. I've come across people (including relatives) that believe that just because I'm from the South that I'm ignorant, backwards, redneck and a hillbilly. Lately, I've been called racist, white supremacist and a traitor. Which I find entertaining in that I had 2 relatives fight on the side of the North. THIS is one of the reasons I advocate for the Confederate Monuments. We are Southern. We are proud. We don't care what others think of us. Because we know that we live in the best part of the country. Let Richmond be known for its Monuments. The original without the "added history." Because no one can appreciate it like we can. The good, the bad and the ugly.	x				
	Bonnie Alexander							
			I have ancestors on both sides of the civil war. My northern ancestors in the late 1700's had slaves. My southern family did not. The confederate statues do not represent slavery. The statues represent the bravery of whites & BLACKS who defended their homeland from northern domination. Don't touch the monuments!	x				
	Tom Phillips							
			I don't recommend removal of the statues, but agree that the venue can better reflect the history of those not now represented who have contributed to the City by addition. As well, the context and history of those now represented could be explained as well. Confederate history has different meaning to different citizens. It is the Commission's charge to satisfy diverse points of view. It's not easy. Do not be infected by presentism: the judging of the morals and mores of the past by the standards of today. Too many on each side of the issue suffer this malady. The reputations of those represented by the statues, especially the Virginians, have stood the test of time in their spheres of expertise in science, education and the military, several of them in more than one sphere. And they will yet survive long after Mitch Landrieu, Nicholas Zeppos, Wes Bellamy and Levar Stoney are footnotes in the history of their public service.	x			x	
	Dexter Oliver							
			The Confederate monuments along Monument Avenue in Richmond do not represent anything like what has been said by the Mayor's office, columnists etc. The monuments have nothing to do with racism, white supremacy, or any kind of false narrative. They are there to honor native southern Americans who answered the call to defend their homeland. Numerous documentaries about the conflict have pointed out that when asked to the rank and file southern soldier, why they were fighting, they responded, "Because you are here." Do you as the Mayor really believe what you have said? The statement is ludicrous on its face. I would be honored to have a one on one discussion with you at your convenience. My email is not to criticize but to have a frank exchange of ideas and beliefs. My email is dcartlonbailey@gmail.com and my home phone is 804-598-4656.	x				
	David Bailey							

	Pamela Tedder		Please continue to educate rather than erase History. to know our past completely as we can, is to embrace who we are as a people. Save the monuments	x					
	Ernest Johnson		These are monuments of US veterans. It is illegal to remove them. Please leave them alone and stop trying to brand my ancestors as racist. This is a false narrative and will not be tolerated by the community. Thank you	x					
	Welton H Jones Jr		After all of the time these monuments have been in place I don't quite understand the, "explaining the monuments that currently exist,,"What I find disturbing, the City of Richmond is going to hell in a hand bag and you are concerned about statues that have adorned, what use to be a great city, for decades. Surely you have greater issues to tackle. The PC police must have really gotten to you.	x					
	Robert Davis		Leave the Robert E Lee monument alone.	x					specifies only preserving Lee
	Jamie Sams		You can't erase history. The thousands who died who were from this city from this state can't be erased. These monuments should stand tall for the. Rave they represent, not just the ones who stand atop the monuments but the thousands they represent who gave their all for this state.	x					
	Meade Haufe		I would like to ask you to please leave our monuments alone! Please leave them in peace. It is dividing the city more than ever before, and this does nothing to help our community. We don't need political correctness. How about fixing our local economy, bringing in new jobs, and reducing crime? Let's focus on a positive thing. These latest measures proposed by our mayor only promote negativity. Thanks!	x					
	Jack Black		We just relocated from Durham NC to this wonderful city. We hoped to leave the hostile political culture behind. Monument Avenue is amazing in its story of white male confederate generals (+Arthur Ashe.) The story of the confederacy needs to be adjusted to include women and African Americans. Thank you, Mayor Stoney, for bringing this into the light.	x			x		Add women and African Americans
	Don Blake		There is very limited background information on these listed members of the Commission. It is likely that those who have an opinion favorable to the " Lost Cause" point of view will have not a single voice on the Commission. Surely there should be equal representation from the " Confederate" point of view. Put some Virginia Sons Of Confederate Veterans , United Daughters Of The Confederacy and the Virginia Flaggers on the Commission so that in the end all will know that whatever is done everyone was part of the discussion						Suggestions only about adding pro-confederate voices to the Commission. No mention of monuments.
	John Sauls		Why does the left continue their assault on war monuments, here is my opinion. Because they are easy targets, why is it you don't set your site on the largest symbol of slavery to this day and that is the modern day working plantation. You don't dare touch that subject because of the revenue it still brings to your state to this day. There it is , a plantation that in some instance that employees blacks. So attack the monuments and we will just erect another battle flag on your highway.						Suggest you attack the modern day working plantation instead of Monuments
	Bart Espenschied		Monument Ave is a great tourist attraction and I've often taken visiting family and friends to see it. But both the true history the historical figures represented and that of the statues themselves are poorly presented. Greater public knowledge of both is sorely needed rather than the emotional reactions displayed in the media today. And greater balance is needed. I would love to see Monument Ave extended to include a better representation of our history of the struggle to end slavery in our country. How about the Virginians who served the Union? Ex-slaves and repressed blacks who rose above the conditions of their times and contributed to a greater, freer society and culture in Virginia? So much can be done to teach future generations that a great struggle over slavery nearly tore our country apart. We need to learn from that, not repeat it in any form.				x		Add Virginias who served in the Union, ex slaves and repressed Blacks who rose above the conditions of their times
	Bear McGinnis		Dear Mr Mayor, I can't believe what I am hearing. You want to change, or alter the old Civil War monuments and memorials in downtown Richmond? Shame on you sir! We must honor those brave men who gave their last full measure and called Richmond their capital! DO NOT CHANGE ANYTHING!	x					
	vernon ETHERIDGE		please leave the civil war monument alone.... their not hurting anyone or anything.... i had 3 great great grand fathers that fought under the confederacy.. i think it is a sin and shame to removed them.. please leave them where they are.. thank you... for any support you can give ... vernon etheridge	x					
	William Moore		The monuments need no contextualuzation. We don't need a lecture on slavery, or any other reason why the war was fought. The Confederate States of America lasted approximately 4 years. Slavery existed under the flag of the USA and Great Britain for 82 prior to that. If you feel the need to put up context markers, then put them on every flag pole.	x					
	Graham Patterson		I was born in Charlottesville, Va. and lived briefly in Richmond, so I am familiar with Richmond, Va. To remove or alter the statues of these great men would be an abomination. They represent the some of the greatest men of the South and men who defended Richmond from the depredations of A. Lincoln and his cretins. Lincoln never freed one black man whereas Lee and Jackson did. These Southern generals represent the South's and Richmond's expression of freedom against tyranny in their hope to create a new nation that truly regarded the Constitution as the law of the land unlike Lincoln who tore the Constitution to shreds by invading states he had no right to, conducting war without the approval of congress, and eliminating the right of habeas corpus and free speech.This commission will be nothing but a "pimp job" for the mayor who will do nothing but tear down the statues of these great men and replace them with black basketball players. This commission is a sham and all of you are aware of it!Graham B. Patterson	x					

	Shane Anderson		The solution to any imbalance in the memorial landscape is not to alter or tear down existing monuments. It is to add new ones, such as the memorial to Arthur Ashe. The Southerners of over a century ago found the money for their monuments during a time of great poverty for the South. Surely we can do the same in a much more prosperous age. It is mean-spirited and divisive and does nothing to heal when monuments are torn down. Far better to balance the picture.	x					
	Shannon Pearson		My degree is in African American History and I feel that we should just leave them alone. Have you read them. Not one glorifies slavery. Majority of all who fought did not own a slave or could afford one. History is a lesson one should not hide from..We are not in Nazi Germany, we should not hide from our past. How about creating a commission on feeding our hungry kids in the summer or finding a way help the homeless wanderers. I fought for this country and those men fought for theirs. Let them rest in peace	x					
	Randy Moore		Hi . My name is Randy . I am begging you to DO ALL YOU CAN , and PLEASE don't let them do ANYTHING to our Confederate Monuments . All these monuments and been there for so many years and have NOT hurt anyone OR anything . Do NOT give in to the one's that do not know the TRUTH about our great state . Don't turn your back on us ! The NAACP wants to erase ANYTHING to do with our history .PLEASE DO NOT GIVE IN ! These men are veteran ! This would be like destroying our vets today headstones . THINK about what you are about to do !!!!!!!!!!!!!	x					
	Donna Tocci		The monuments should stay. Richmond is unique as it was the capital of the confederate states and whether we like it or not that can never be changed. I think the addition of more statues showing a variety of notable persons from Richmond is a great idea. I'm sure there are many to choose from. Adding context to the signage is going to be tricky. I do think it's a good compromise just difficult in the execution. People are going to have to come to the table and have rational, open discussion. As long as everyone respects that a workable solution can be found.	x			x		Add Richmonders
	Garland Almarode		I would like to add to my previous remarks.Going back and trying to rewrite history just to appease or further political careers is not what We shouldbe doing. Everybody in the US understands what monument ave is about. The people of that era made their history statements. Whether one agrees or disagrees many years later is not what its about. Their history speaks for itself. They made the history. Every place has history. I'm not sure why anyone would try to change history no matter where it's found.	x					
	VALERIE KELLEY		Thank you Mayor Stony for the opportunity to comment and for not taking down the monuments. Not only is that expensive and a waste of money - it would not do anything to improve race relations. Put up new monuments by all means - times change but to try and erase history is counterproductive. I don't feel Confederate monuments or Confederate flags are racist symbols and neither should anyone else. Is a Muslim head covering a racist symbol? People need to move beyond this petty nonsense and work on educating our youth and keeping the streets safe from gangs. All this contrived race tension does nothing but keep the people who don't want to take responsibility for themselves victims instead of getting them to act like responsible adults.	x			x		
	MaryAnn Morrow		I suggest adding an ethicist from the Jepson Schhol of Leadership faculty to the commission to facilitate a thorough discussion on the issue of the statues on the avenue. This commission not only needs information but also help with perspective. Volatility needs to be tamped down in discussions.						Suggest adding an ethicist from Jepson School of Leadership. No position on monuments.

		<p>Mayor Stoney's remarks on the Monuments will, no doubt, trigger emotional, ideological and political response far and wide. I am sure the City will also receive pressure from outside the local and surrounding areas to act in one way or another. I hope (though doubtful) that the will of Richmond area residents, and not the pressures of politics will ultimately prevail in the eventual outcome. Whenever I consider the choices made by Virginians to "pick a side" before and during the Civil War, I try to imagine what consequences they had to consider before making that choice. So many Virginians were members of families that spanned the physical and ideological divide. Though many tried, the events unfolding would not allow anyone to abstain from that choice. They literally had to choose a side knowing that one day they may face the unfathomable, split-second decision to kill, or be killed by, their brother, cousin, uncle, neighbor or friend. I believe most decided, by default, to defend their land, their wives and children, their property and their way of life. I pray that I may never have to make such a decision. The men memorialized by the monuments in question were forced to make that dreaded decision. Based on their own letters and witness accounts, it appears each of them were deeply stressed by having to make the choice. If these men were the staunch "defenders of slavery" as some believe them to have been, I do not believe the choice would have been so hard to make. Unfortunately, I believe these men have been assigned this label by people who prefer to summarize history, rather than analyze and understand it fully and with an open mind. If every mention of slavery and the civil war were removed from the biographies of these men, and if they had been allowed to live their lives free of the choice they were forced to make, I believe the monuments would still have been erected. These were highly honorable, respected and intelligent men who were destined for greatness. Anyone who has studied either of these men further than an elementary school textbook understands this. The virtues of these men should grant them respect of the generations that follow. If either of them were alive today, I believe they would be leading the effort to unite those that are divided by the mere thought of their name or sight of their monument. It is for this reason, I implore the Monument Avenue Commission, the Mayor and the public to leave the monuments as they stand. The institution of slavery is an important part of American history and needs to be told. However, altering the existing monuments or adding what has been deemed the "whole story" will only have the exact opposite effect. Instead of inspiring the observer to learn more about the men depicted in these monuments, the observer will be persuaded to believe these men did not struggle with the decision they were forced into making. Does the world or the City really need another villain? Do we really need another reason to divide? I view this issue much as Robert E. Lee viewed the Civil War. It "...was an unnecessary condition of affairs, and might have been avoided if forbearance and wisdom had been practiced on both sides."</p>					
	Jason Gill		x				
	Garland Almarode	<p>The commission does not represent me or Virginia. We all know why the monuments are there. They defended Virginia against an unrighteous invasion. The whole country realizes this, not just the South. Sensationalism in the form of always talking about slavery and race relations in the South is nothing but propaganda. You could have those discussions in any state and world wide. Racism will not end, and the talk of one Richmond is just plain silly. The educational system is a joke, off-air tales. Nothing deep or meaningful. Until the north and its terrible hate and monetary motives are researched. With the verdict being they were wrong. The South needing reparations are researched. The truth you speak of will continue to be a joke. The nation as a whole, realizes the South had a right to secede. Nothing can change the minds that enlightened Americans "now" realize the truth.</p>	x				
	Betsy Williams	<p>I fully support the addition of monuments on Monument Ave to show the plight of the slaves during the civil war. The side of the South is clearly represented in the statues in place. The city needs to magnify the horrible side of history too.</p>			x		suggest the plight of slavery be shown in additional statues
	Neil Newman	<p>I would like to see the monuments, the street names and park names to remain the same. I think it is a great place for all kinds of gatherings not necessarily those of the confederate Venue but maybe art shows and things of that nature.</p>	x				
	Jo White	<p>BRAVO! Finally somebody that said something that made sense. I actually send a letter to the Richmond Times Dispatch asking for the same thing you are suggesting but they didn't see it worthy enough to publish. Yes, if you're going to tell a story, tell the WHOLE STORY! The current monuments only tell half the story, let's get more monuments up that tell the other half of the story. THANK YOU</p>			x		add statues that tell the Whole story
	David Tatum	<p>What exactly is the "False Narrative" that is given by the monuments, as they stand ? http://atruconfederate.blogspot.com/2017/06/it-wont-stop.html</p>					no stated position
	Carol King	<p>As an original Virginian I know the truth about the message of the monuments. The message that is carried from the foundation of America. You speak of a false narrative. You speak of social events that happened after the Civil War. The context of today is not true to the 19th Century. The context of today should reference the political groups who are responsible for your claims. My ancestors placed these monuments and I will stand for the truth.</p>	x				
	Paul Alexander	<p>I am a 64 year old, white, fifth-generation native Richmond and believe in the historical value of Monument Avenue. I believe the whole story should be told of the Valiant men who defended Virginia during a time of states rights. I also believe that the full story of slavery needs to be told as is being done in downtown Richmond. I believe Monument Avenue can expand the opportunity to tell more history of more Richmonds and Virginia's who had a profound effect on the nation's history. I commend mayor Stoney on putting this commission together and hope for the best results of all. Beat regards Paul Alexander</p>	x				expand Monument Avenue to tell the whole story. Include Richmonds and Virginians who have had a profound effect on US History.

	Gregory Gay		<p>You can't erase history. Why are blacks still playing the race card and slavery? That was 152+ years ago. I had an African American history teacher in the 10th grade (1969). This was shortly after desegregation. She informed us that on a test if we put the "Civil War was fought over slavery" we would receive an "F" grade. The war was fought over segregation of states. Of course slavery was an underlying cause. It's time to get over the past and get on with the future. These statues were a sign of "those times". We currently have very different views of equality of all races. I don't see why these statues should offend anyone. Richmond was the Capitol of The Confederacy. You expect these statues to exist here. That should make these statues a non issue. My opinion is people should get over the past and worry about bettering themselves for the future. I had several relatives fight for "The South". Some were wounded and spent upwards of 4 years in a Yankee prison camp. That was then. I didn't know them and it means nothing to me. I don't carry an attitude toward anyone of any race about The War of Northern Aggression as Southerners call it.</p>	x					
	Elizabeth Gill		<p>I want the Monuments to remain as they are. It is a historical landmark that many Americans come to visit each year. It is also a tourist attraction that brings much needed revenue to Richmond. If we continue to remove history we will erase history permanatly. We need to continue to educate our community especially our children on the facts of history not try to change history to appease a few. If tell the truth about our history and not erase it than we will not repeat past sins. Who is going to pay for the new statues or signage? With all that is wrong in the city and no budget shouldn't the mayor be focusing on more pressing issues like crime and infrastructure on our roads bringing good jobs to our community? We dont have the resources to add signs to the current monuments. We pay the most taxes for the least return. This is a distraction from the real issues of Richmond Va.</p>	x					
	chris landrum		<p>I was born in richmond and have always been very proud of my city and especially monument ave.I truly feel efforts to remove or modify our history is the wrong thing to do,my feelings are that the soldiers depicted by these statues were brave honorable men who only wanted to defend their home state.I feel like recent efforts by different people is political correctness run wild,most people would realize slavery as the horrible thing that it was as well as the difficult times that followed for people of color,however to state that the statues was some grand plan to keep African Americans in the past is incorrect and quite a reach by Mr stoney. If anything at all would be considered to give differing viewpoints I would say some plaques at either end of the area would be sufficient but they should only state others opinions of fact and not that that's what these brave sons of va represent</p>	x		x			Place plaques at either end of the area to show other opinions of facts and do not alter what these brave sons of VA represent
	RONALD BEASLEY		<p>I suggest leaving the monuments alone. This is the USA not ISIS. Removing monuments solves no problems but is a cause for concern and upset. If Richmond would concentrate on black on black crime and education, the city would be better off. My great, great grandfather, George Washington Brooks from Essex county enlisted due to the invasion of the North not slavery. Neither he, nor his family had slaves. He fought and died for Virginia, nothing more. If there is any consideration to remove one statue, than it is only fair to remove all statues including Arthur Ashe.</p>	x					
	Bobbi Steele		<p>Men and women for centuries have fought and died to have monuments like these to remind us of past mistakes and hopefully prevent repeats of same.Your plan to remove any monument is a disgrace to men and women of America of all races and religionswho have shed breath and blood to have their descendants be proud and live a better life.Your city, like many others, have made money off these memorials for years. And now that some crybabyhas chosen to say "I am offended", they are being defaced and destroyed. Oh, that was not PC was it?Well this action you are planning OFFENDS ME!Hoping you do not going to do as you originally planned,and do add more respectful memorials to those soto remind us of important Americans who fought against past mistakes and hopefully prevent repeats of same.</p>	x			x		Suggestion to add respectful statues of important Americans who fought against past mistakes

	Kenneth Talbert		<p>The proper context of history is not one tainted by perspective or framed in a more palatable rendition that supports an agenda but the proper context of history is one of demonstrable and inarguable fact. The men who died in the service of protecting their homeland against a malicious invading army were American veterans. Their service is recognized and honored as equivalent to US veterans by act of congress. The recent campaign to denigrate these men and to reinterpret their motivations is a disservice not only to those who served and the families who sacrificed and suffered, but to future generations. The narrative that the war was fought over and about slavery is easy to dispel with a few simple questions. 1)If the war was fought over or about slavery then one must explain why Lincoln himself stated that it was NOT fought over or about slavery. 2)If the war was fought over or about slavery one must explain the existence of Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri, all slave states that were represented by the union forces. 3)If the war was fought over and about slavery why was the slave state of West Virginia created within the union during the war? 4)If the war was fought over and about slavery why would Lincoln not free the 1 million slaves within his jurisdiction during the war, and why did he explicitly preserve their enslavement within the text of the Emancipation Proclamation? 5)If the war was fought over and about slavery why was the Emancipation Proclamation not issued until 1863? And why was it met with such anger by both officers and enlisted men within the union ranks? 6)If the war was fought over and about slavery why is it impossible to find any quote from any participant on either side to support the claim? 7)If the war was fought over and about slavery why were offers made to forever legally preserve slavery in any state that would be willing to rejoin the union, and why were these offers declined? The answers to all of these questions is that the war was not fought either to free the slaves or to preserve the institution of slavery. Any suggestion otherwise is not supported by facts. This misconception could be cleared up by adding educational markers to counter this popular myth. It is no doubt true that the prospective fear of abrupt emancipation by federal decree was a factor in the secession of the initial states prior to Fort Sumter as it is mentioned in their ordinances of secession., BUT the same cannot be said for Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee, all of which seceded in response to Lincoln's actions following Fort Sumter, not with slavery as their motivating factor. To align the reasoning of these states with those that preceded is intellectually dishonest and is a large disservice to the men of these states who in no way fought for slavery. The thought that men would risk their lives leaving their families behind to defend the right of the 4% of slave owners to maintain their dominion is insultingly asinine. If the goal is unity and harmony quit fanning the flames of division and animosity with inaccurate rhetoric. Maybe erect some memorials to the many black Americans who bravely and willingly served in the confederate army. This effort to frame history to neatly fit in with a politically correct agenda is extraordinary and sad. In your aim to protect the feelings of those who don't know their history, you are endeavoring to change history to suit their ignorance. It is especially a shame that the mayor seems governed by emotion and timely political opportunity rather than reason. I fear this public invitation to contribute thoughts is only a token gesture precipitating another intentional and unnecessary divisive dishonor to these veterans and the families of their lineage.</p>			x			Suggestion to add markers to dismiss the popular myth that the Civil War was fought over the issue of slavery. Also erect monument to the Blacks who fought willingly for the Confederates.
	Daniel Townsend		Run the gov't leave our memorials alone, it was put there for a purpose. Gov't has plenty of duties, if someone in government can't see their way clear, I'll send a job description or write one. I'm a proud american and it is certainly not because we destroy the good memory of those who came before us. Daniel Townsend 336 882 5677	x					
	JACK SMITH		<p>WHAT'S NEXT ??? I AM A VIRGINIA NATIVE SON AND A G/G/GRANDSON OF A DECORATED CONFEDERATE CAPTAIN, WHO SADLY LOST HIS L/LEG AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG 3 JULY 1863.HIS SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING FOR OUR BELOVED STATE OF VIRGINIA, SHOULD NOT BE ERASED FROM HISTORY.HE NEVER OWNED SLAVES BUT AFTER BEING SEVERELY WOUNDED HE WAS RELEASED FROM A UNION PRISON CAMP, RETURNED TO HIS HOME BURNED AND DESTROYED, WITH NO TRACE OF FAMILY.ON ONE LEG HE STRUGGLED HIS WAY THROUGH MEN STILL FIGHTING IN GEORGIA, TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE AS A BAPTIST MINISTER IN NORTHERN FLORIDA.ALL THE GOOD HE DID FOLLOWING AND PREACHING OF GOD, ALONG WITH THE OTHER FINE THINGS HE DID IN HIS LONG SUFFERING 90 YEARS DYING IN 1915.I AM THE LAST OF HIS FAMILY TO TELL HIS STORY.WITH THE REMOVAL AND DESTROYING OF THE HISTORY ON MONUMENT AVE. WILL BE MEN LIKE HIM, AND WHEN I PASS, MEN LIKE ME, A VETERAN MARINE OF VIETNAM HAVING NEVER EXISTED.THE PLANS OF MAYOR STONY SHOULD BE STOPPED. BECAUSE "WHAT'S NEXT" MONUMENTS OFGEORGE WASHINGTON, T. JEFFERSON, OR EVEN ABE LINCOLN, BECAUSE SOMEONE DID NOT LIKE WHICH SIDE HE DEFENDED,OR WHY NOT ERASE THE MEMORY OF MY BROTHERS ON THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALL BECAUSE IT OFFENDS SOMEONE? THIS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN FOR ANY PC REASON OR ANY OTHER.I AM PLEADING AND BEGGING YOU WITH TEARS IN MY EYE'S DO NOT ERASE HISTORY. THERE IS A REASON AND A NEED FOR IT TO BE WHERE ALL GENERATIONS IN THE FUTURE, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE TO SEE.I DO NOT BELIEVE BUT FEW WOULD OBJECT TO AN ADDED MONUMENT ON THE AVE.TO LEGITIMATELY AND HONORABLY EXPRESS ANOTHER VIEW. Capt. Jack SmithUSMC Retired</p>	x			x		Suggest additional statue Legitimately and honorably express another view.
	Connie Gardner		Why spend money on adding monuments instead of revitalizing the city. It's a waste of money. Leave our heritage and the city as we all know it. We are the South no changing that. How would you feel if another nationality such as hispanic decided we should put up all Mexican statues. No one wants to deny African Americans their right to be a part of America. But the reason visitors come to Richmond is to see history. No changing it. Leave our statues alone.	x					

	Katherine Woltz		<p>Hi, heard Mayor Stoney's remarks on NPR 88.5 this morning. Just wanted to share that the first time I visited Richmond, I was stunned by the statues on Monument Ave. Felt sorry for the local black population especially, and the insensitivity of these statues to them. There they were, poor blacks living within blocks of these statues in houses that probably should have been condemned; sitting on the steps because there was no air conditioning. What a sad legacy. Nonetheless, after careful thought, I think the statues should remain because they serve as a reminder what America should NOT do, and with the Mayor's contextual plaques and additional statues that will tell both sides of the story (ie. both black and white stories, and also how the North shared in this shameful legacy whereby fortunes on both sides were built on the backs of blacks), is a fantastic idea and I hope this will be enacted. By the way, I am white and my grandmother kept a photo of Kennedy and King in her kitchen and always stressed to me that black people needed to be respected, and how we all should follow the examples set by Kennedy and King. Probably due to her influence, this is a subject that has always been close to my heart. Our family left Virginia after the Civil War (some of our ancestors), but others, notably one Confederate General in particular, remained. They all fought on the side of the South and some remained devoted to the "Cause," while others disapproved. Grandmother's ancestors although from the South were against the war and were early advocates of abolishing slavery. Fortunately for me, Grandmother's stories and admonishments designed to protect me from possible influence vis-a-vis hateful rhetoric and acts stuck! Good luck with this commission.</p>	x		x	x		
	Dave Morin		<p>Please stop being stupid. Half of this town are descendants of Confederate soldiers. I would not tell you how to honor your family please stop trying to tell me how to honor my family. I am proud of Richmond's heritage. All your doing is causing race problems. All of the generals were good Virginia men. We have bigger problems in this town than statues from 100 years ago. The North burned down all of Richmond remember. I LOVE the CONFEDERACY and RICHMOND I am asking you to stop being stupid.</p>	x					
	Michael hauser		<p>Trying to erase history is the new agenda. Those monuments have been there for ages, with never a problem. Now with the fiasco in New Orleans there seems to be an agenda to remove or destroy all things of our history and heritage. Whether you love it or hate it...it's our history, and the men and women who fought in Lincoln's war should be recognized, if not honored for their sacrifices. There's a lot I don't like, but I deal with it. I don't riot, cause destruction, or even whine about it. Theses leftists need to do the same, or just leave, and do everyone a favor!</p>	x					
	Charles Moore		<p>Hi , My name is Charles . I am begging you to DO ALL YOU CAN , and PLEASE don't let them do ANYTHING to our Confederate Monuments . All these monuments and been there for so many years and have NOT hurt anyone OR anything . Do NOT give in to the one's that do not know the TRUTH about our great state . Don't turn your back on us ! The NAACP wants to erase ANYTHING to do with our history . PLEASE DO NOT GIVE IN ! Theses men are veteran ! This would be like destroying our vets today headstones . THINK about what you are about to do !!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>	x					

		<p>A Commentary on Slavery and the War of 1861 Challenging the Propaganda of the Victorious By H. V. Traywick, Jr. www.hvtraywickjr.com</p> <p>To assert the dogma that slavery caused the war of the 1860s sanctifies the North, vilifies the South, glorifies the Blacks, and mythologizes the war. This dogma has been thrown out there as an unchallenged "given" for a hundred and fifty years to put the South on the guilty defensive and keep her there, but it all collapses with one question: How? How, exactly, did slavery cause the war?</p> <p>Slavery did not cause the war. The North itself admitted it in the New York Times (quoted in the Richmond Whig of April 9, 1861): "Slavery has nothing whatever to do with the tremendous issues now awaiting decision. It has disappeared almost entirely from the political discussions of the day. No one mentions it in connection with our present complications. The question which we have to meet is precisely what it would be if there were not a negro slave on American soil...." [emphasis theirs]</p> <p>Yet Lincoln insisted it was the cause, when he issued his Second Inaugural: "All knew that this interest (slavery) was, somehow, the cause of the war." " Somehow!"</p> <p>He attempts to explain precisely how by going on to say: "To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it.... Neither (party) anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease."</p> <p>That was because that which ceased was not the cause. What caused the conflict was United States imperialism, and it did not cease with the Surrender at Appomattox. A moment's reflection will show the fallacy of Lincoln's remarks. In the first place, when the Southern States peacefully seceded from the Union, these so-called "insurgents" could not have been seceding to extend and strengthen slavery, for their very acts of secession automatically restricted it. With their secession from the Union they not only renounced all claims to the Union's territories, they renounced all other claims to any rights under the Constitution. They were simply no longer a part of the Union of which that Constitution was the Charter. In short, all of the issues so wrangled over in the National Councils before the war evaporated with the secession of the Southern States.</p> <p>As for "rending" the Union "even by war," the record shows that the South bent over backwards to avoid war. She had nothing to gain by inaugurating war with the industrial colossus to the North of her, and everything to lose. She merely asked to be left alone. Finally, regarding Lincoln's assertion that the Federal Government only claimed to "restrict the territorial enlargement" of slavery, that issue, too, had suddenly been settled –at least as far as those so-called "Slave States" that had seceded were concerned. Slavery there was not only contained, but contained peacefully outside of the</p> <p>Form Submission -Contact -Slavery and the War Tuesday, August 1, 2017 9:51 AM MAC -Commentary Page 111 2.</p> <p>United States –an even better deal than what Lincoln claimed he wanted! Except for one sad thing: Lincoln refused to let the South go in peace. Why?</p> <p>As soon as Lincoln took office he summarily dismissed all diplomatic overtures offered by the South for a peaceful resolution of all issues in question, launched an armada against South Carolina, and broke the three-month-long truce that South Carolina had bent over backwards to maintain by provoking her into firing the first shot for self-defense against the imminent threat of military subjugation by this US Naval Task Force Lincoln had sent.</p> <p>Why did Lincoln do this? He did it in order to stoke the fires of the North for a war to drive the South back into the Union and under the North's political and economic control. It was a war of conquest and it succeeded. But it destroyed the Federated Republic of sovereign States that had been created by the Founders and turned it into a centralized, majority-ruled Empire under the control of the Northern sectional majority -precisely the sort of thing the industrialized, mercantile North wanted and precisely what the Federative nature of the Constitution had been designed to avoid.</p> <p>Well, then, did slavery cause secession? That point can be argued, but it might be more accurate to say that Radical Abolition caused secession. Slavery is as old as the Book of Genesis, and it existed in all the Thirteen Colonies in 1776, whereas abolition only appeared as a growing political force in the 1830s. But in either case, where is it written that secession –for whatever reason -must cause war, especially in a nation that had its very birth in secession in 1776, and had the voluntary association of sovereign States enshrined (specifically stated in Article VII) in the founding Charter of its being?</p> <p>An objective look at the facts shows it was neither Southern slavery nor Northern abolition, but rather the act of Southern secession itself that provoked the North into inaugurating war against the Southern States, just as secession provoked England to inaugurate war against the thirteen Colonies. Lincoln said so himself. He said he was fighting to "save the Union." What he neglected to add for the history books was that he was fighting to save the Union for Northern financial and industrial interests –just as George III was fighting to save the Empire for England's mercantile interests.</p> <p>Thomas Prentiss Kettell, in his Southern Wealth and Northern Profits (New York: 1860, p. 19) wrote that after the War for Independence, New England inherited the same relationship towards her sister States that England had enjoyed towards her Colonies before the war. The industrializing North –with her growing sectional majority –was turning the Southern States into her agricultural Colonies, but the stubborn Southern States, with their insistence on maintaining the Federative nature of the Union (yes, the much-derided States'Rights) as guaranteed by the Constitution, balked. She had been there before with Old England, and she was not about to do it again with New England. Thus the South was becoming a political nuisance and a stumbling block to the North's centralizing ambitions.</p> <p>But economically, the South had the cotton that the North needed for her mills, the markets that she needed for her manufactures, the supply of the majority of tariff revenues the North needed to protect her industries from established British competition, and control of the mouth of the Mississippi that drained the heartland of the North. Without these things, the North would have to go back to cod fishing for a living or delivering sermons to each other, while the South would prosper in dealing with free-trade England. The North could not afford to let the South go in peace –and Lincoln was her man!</p> <p>So, beyond all the lofty rhetoric -we find the Truth by following the dollar. In Truth, the North</p>		<p>A commentary on the American Civil War.</p>
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		<p>CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS By H. V. Traywick, Jr. The latest Crusade of the Progressives and other Politically Correct to remove all Confederate monuments from the face of the earth reminds me of a recent article by one Patricia Sullivan from the Washington Post concerning the Confederate statue in Alexandria, Virginia, and the Alexandria City Council's unanimous vote to relocate it. The article also noted that others spoke with passion about the need for Alexandria to own up to its past. One assumes they were referring to Southern slavery. No one denies that fact, for which the South is being eternally castigated and is never allowed to forget. What more is there for the South to do? Roll in the dust? Rend her garments? Wear sackcloth and ashes? Sit upon stools of everlasting repentance? Beg forgiveness from the Black Caucus and the New England Pharisees? Alexis de Tocqueville—an impartial observer of Democracy in America in the 1830s—did not blame the slaveholders as much as he did the slave traders who brought them into the New World in the first place, and who were like the drug dealers to the drug addicts today. Who were these dealers in the African Slave-trade? In ancient times, Egyptians pushed southwards up the Nile into the Sudan ("Land of the Blacks") for slaves, and the Hebrews practiced slavery and Slave-trading under their Slave Code found in Leviticus, Chapter 25. Later, Muslim Arab slavers pushed into the interior of Africa for slaves. At the beginning of the Age of Exploration, the Portuguese -pushing down the west coast of Africa -found slave markets already in operation. In his book Anthropology: The Study of Man, the Anthropologist E. Adamson Hoebel gives figures showing that even in the twentieth century Africa was still the home of slavery, with it being practiced in two-thirds of the cultures south of the Sahara. Perhaps it is time for the Jews, the Muslims and the Africans to own up to their past—and/or present, as the case may be! The pious New Englanders got in on it early. They had tried enslaving the Native Americans, but with poor success, so they sold them into the Caribbean—but thereby discovered the profits to be had in Slave-trading. When slavery proved unprofitable in the industrial North, they sold their slaves South before their Abolition Laws went into effect -prohibiting not only Black slavery but in some cases Black residency there as well. But they did not give up African Slave-trading. According to the noted Black educator W. E. B. DuBois, in his book The Suppression of the African Slave-trade to the United States, the first slave ship in the thirteen colonies was built in Boston around 1635. According to the January 1862 issue of the New York Journal of Commerce, Boston and New York were the largest African Slave-trading ports in the world, trading with Cuba and Brazil. According to the book Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery, (written by three writers from the Hartford Courant), the founder of Brown University, when criticized about his African Slave-trading, is reported to have said that there was no more crime in bringing off a cargo of slaves than in bringing off a cargo of Form Submission -Contact -Truth vs. Marxist Political Correctness Tuesday, August 1, 2017 9:51 AM MAC -Commentary Page 114 have said that there was no more crime in bringing off a cargo of slaves than in bringing off a cargo of jackasses. Isn't it about time for sanctimonious New England to own up to its past? 2. In the 1930s, near Mobile, Alabama, the noted Black anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston interviewed Cudjo Lewis, the last known living individual to have arrived in the United States aboard a slave ship—smuggled into a swamp along the Gulf Coast just before the war. The account is found in her book Dust Tracks on a Road, pages 206-12. Lewis told how when he was a young man his African village had been raided by Black slavers and fierce Amazon women warriors from the Kingdom of Dahomey. They killed all the old people and cut off their heads as trophies, while the rest were shackled into coffles and marched to the barracoons on the beach for sale. Along the way, the severed heads started to rot, so the slavers stopped to smoke and dry the heads over a fire. Upon their arrival on the coast, they found the compound of the King of Dahomey surrounded by a wall of skulls, and with skulls stuck on the tops of the posts of the enclosing barricade. Arrangements for sale were made with a slave ship that was anchored offshore, and Cudjo and the other slaves were loaded aboard for the dreadful "Middle Passage." Zora Neale Hurston said that the shocking story dispelled her illusions. In her growing up, she had believed the tales told that white slavers arrived on the African coast, waved a red handkerchief, and captured the curious Africans who came out on the beach to see. She said she was shocked and dismayed to discover that Africans were captured and sold into slavery by her own people. Perhaps it is time for African-Americans to own up to this part of their past as well. It was reported in the aforementioned Washington Post article that eighteen speakers testified in a chamber where a portrait of Robert E. Lee hangs opposite one of George Washington. Let us hold that thought, for it is a perfect justification of Alexandria's -and the South's -Confederate heritage, and a perfect indictment of those who would condemn it, for if the truth be known, both Lee and the Confederate soldiers commemorated on our monuments were defending their country from invasion, conquest and coerced political allegiance -just as Washington and their fathers had done when the thirteen slaveholding Colonies seceded from the British Empire. Secession had many causes, but the war had only one. The historian Barbara Tuchman noted accurately and succinctly—somewhere in her book The March of Folly, from Troy to Vietnam -that it was "The North's War against the South's Secession."With the agricultural South out of the Union the industrial North would suffer financial bankruptcy. It was therefore decided in Northern financial councils that to drive the Southern States back into the Union at the point of the bayonet in the bloodiest war in the history of the Western Hemisphere would be preferable to the loss of a Yankee dollar. However, one will not hear anything about this, because it repudiates our secessionist heritage of 1776 and puts the portrait of Abraham Lincoln on the wall alongside of George III. This, then, is the real reason these Confederate Monuments must come down: They speak Truth to Power. H. V. Traywick, Jr. 804-241-5415 PO Box 9086 hvtraywickjr@outlook.com Richmond, Virginia 23225 www.hvtraywickjr.com</p>						
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The further a society drifts from the Truth, the more it will hate those who speak it." -George Orwell

Secession had many causes, but the War had only one, which was Lincoln's determination to "save the Union", by driving the "Cotton Kingdom" back into the Union and back under the heel of the North's "Mercantile Kingdom," in the bloodiest war in the history of the Western Hemisphere rather than risk the loss of a Yankee dollar. Virginia voted to remain in the Union, but warned Lincoln that any attempt at coercion of the seceded States would mean war. Lincoln did not listen to "The Mother of States and of Statesmen." Instead, he rebuffed all diplomatic efforts by the Confederate envoys and invaded Charleston Harbour to provoke the South into firing the first shot. When he got the war he wanted, he then called for troops to subjugate the "Cotton States." Virginia refused, indicted Lincoln for inaugurating civil war, and immediately seceded.

Virginia and the Confederacy fought to defend themselves from invasion, conquest, and coerced political allegiance, just as the thirteen slaveholding colonies did when they seceded from the British Empire in 1776. But that puts Abraham Lincoln in the shoes of George III, so the Truth must be buried under the incidental war measure of emancipation. Slavery? That inefficient labour system was dying a natural death all over the industrializing world without warfare, and it was dying across the South as well, and would have died out without the legacy of political animosity that political demagogues agitated and created for their own political fortunes -and continue to create to this very day with such agitation as we are seeing here. But Union at the point of the bayonet is slavery, and selling our own children into involuntary servitude with a twenty trillion dollar national debt is also slavery. If you want to put Monument Avenue in context, tell THAT Truth, not the Marxist "propaganda of the victorious"!

Please see below Virginia's honorable stance. Let us tell THAT Truth, as well!

VIRGINIA'S DECISION IN 1861

By H. V. Traywick, Jr.

"If the Union were to undertake to enforce by arms the allegiance of the confederate[d] States by military means, it would be in a position very analogous to that of England at the time of the War of Independence." -Alexis de Tocqueville, from Democracy in America.

On January 7, 1861, Virginia's Governor John Letcher convened the Virginia General Assembly in extra session because of the extraordinary situation of the secession from the Union of the State of South Carolina (followed by six others in the Deep South) at the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency -a

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Carolina (followed by six others in the Deep South) at the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency -a lawyer and railroad lobbyist, and the candidate of a strictly sectional Northern political party. In the evening session of that same date, delegate Wyndham Robertson, who had once served as Governor of Virginia, presented to the House of Delegates what came to be known as the Anti-Coercion Resolution. The following is recorded in the Journal of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia for the Extra Session, 1861 (Richmond: William F. Ritchie, Public Printer, 1861) pp. 9-10, found in the Special Collection of the Library of Virginia:

"Mr. Robertson, from the committee to whom was referred so much of the governor's message as relates to the coercion of a state by the general government, presented the following resolutions:

"Resolved by the general assembly of Virginia, that the Union being formed by the assent of the sovereign states respectively, and being consistent only with freedom and the republican institutions guaranteed to each, cannot and ought not to be maintained by force.

"Resolved, that the government of the Union has no power to declare or make war against any of the states which have been its constituent members.

"Resolved, that when any one or more of the states has determined or shall determine, under existing circumstances, to withdraw from the Union, we are unalterably opposed to any attempt on the part of the federal government to coerce the same into reunion or submission, and that we will resist the same by all the means in our power.

"On motion of Mr. Seddon, the vote was recorded as follows: Ayes: 112; Noes: 5."

When the secession crisis arose, Virginia called a Peace Conference of all States to try to resolve the differences between the two sections and to hold the Union together. But Virginia told the Lincoln Administration in no uncertain terms that, while she thought the secession of the seven "Cotton States" was a mistake and unnecessary, they were fully within their rights, and she would not condone any coercion of those States by his administration to force them to return to the Union, warning him that any such attempt would lead to war.

Lincoln did not listen to the counsel of "The Mother of States and of Statesmen." He listened instead to the constituents of the industrializing North who had gotten him elected, and whose interests would suffer or even collapse if the agricultural South -and particularly the "Cotton Kingdom"-were allowed to leave the Union and out from under the control of their "Mercantile Kingdom." Lincoln, therefore, rebuffed all Southern overtures of diplomacy, and instead sent a heavily-armed armada to Charleston to provoke the South into firing the first shot and get the war he wanted. After the success of his plan, he wrote to the commander of the expedition, Capt. C. V. Fox: "You and I both anticipated that the cause of the country would be advanced by making the attempt to provision Ft. Sumter, even if it should fail; and it is no small consolation now to feel that our anticipation is justified by the result."(Tilley, John Shipley. Lincoln Takes Command [Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1941] pg. 267.)

Lincoln then called for a quota of troops from each of the respective States -without the consent of Congress -to drive the "Cotton States" back into the Union at the point of the bayonet. When Virginia received Lincoln's demand for troops, Governor Letcher was astonished and he emphatically refused to comply. A copy of his response may be found in the Richmond Enquirer, April 18, 1861:

Executive Department

Richmond, Va. April 16th, 1861

Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War.

Sir: I received your telegram of the 15th, the genuineness of which I doubted. Since that time I have received your communication, mailed the same day, in which I am requested to detach from the militia of the State of Virginia "the quota designated in a table," which you append, "to serve as infantry or riflemen for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged."

In reply to this communication, I have only to say, that the militia of Virginia will not be furnished to the powers at Washington, for any such use or purpose as they have in view.

George Lee		As a resident of Richmond all my life, I feel that the monuments are part of the history of this great City and state as are those of any other person or time in the past. You don't see any questions in regards to statues of Martin Luther King, Maggie Walker or any other African American who all were great people of our history. I admire them all for fighting and working on a cause they believed in. To many African Americans today feel this country owes them something for the fact there ancestors were slaves, but remember they were sold into slavery by there very own tribe chiefs. They feel they were the only race that was ever bonded into slavery. Whites and just about every other race had ancestors who were indentured servants or slaves. These great people, Lee, Jackson, Jefferson Davis all believed in a cause that states rights mattered. To add any "signage" to dishonor these people is to forget the accurate part of history. If man would learn from these great people and there time in history we could be assured we would not be doomed to relive it again. The key thought here is to learn from all of our history whether it be black or white and honor all who gave up freedom to fight for a cause they believed in. One last note, in 1957 Confederate Soldiers were granted by Congress status as American soldiers. To void these monuments by adding "signage" would be a grave mistake.	x					Do not add signage to Lee, Jackson, and Davis.
Dan Boyette		My family travels every year to Richmond, staying 3/5 days touring America's city. We enjoy the Olde buildings and monuments! Do not destroy or deface or defame these monuments! Virginia has a very strict monument protection act, that forbids you or anyone else to destroy any portion of, or any monument! Mayor, you are not the final word in anything in this city! Your or anyone else's interpretation of anything in this city during the 18 or 19 century is none of your business or concern!The people that erected these monuments are long dead and pass! You do not have the right or authority to mutilate these or anything else in this city, that you have not helped to build! You say that Richmond Va. is an "All "Inclusive City", but what you really mean is inclusive of only the things that The Liberal every changing mind says is inclusive! You will not succeed in your hate of Richmond and her citizens!	x					
Lemuel Ashberry		LEAVE THE CIVIL MONUMENTS ALONE !!!!!!!	x					
David Irvin		Please stop your efforts to alter history, it is what it was, leave the truth for future generation to know where we were. Thank you	x					
Lisa Bradford		Leave the monuments alone. You can't erase history	x					
Teresa Lam		The monuments do not need any reinterpretation. The men they represent were God fearing Christians and answered the call to defend their homeland (the state of Virginia) when asked to do so. Stop this PC nonsense and leave our history alone. Politicians who try to change or erase history in Virginia learn that their careers take a negative turn, Bob Fenwick in Charlottesville is but one example.	x					
Me Stillme		http://www.politifact.com/virginia/statements/2016/jun/06/levar-stoney/levar-stoney-wrongly-traces-virginia-felon-voting/						Link to politifact. No stated position on the monuments.
Colin Wilson		The monuments bring a great piece of history that nobody else has. I've driven by these monuments very often while in town and always love seeing them. Every time I'm back in Richmond I go to see them because I know it might be my last time and they mean so much to me. Those figures are my heros, those heros fought to defend Richmond. Do not judge those figures by 21 st century standards, what good does that do anybody. Or to rewrite the inscriptions on them, you change the whole meaning of it.Please leave the monuments where they are.1LT Wilson, ColinUS ArmyVMI Class of 2015	x					
Bruce Bayless		The majority of the 270,000 men who died fighting for the South had no slaves and were fighting for states rights and independence. I think these monuments honor these men and not slavery and need to stay. I don't think an explanation is needed for the monuments since most people already know this. If someone wants the monuments to be more inclusive they can add monuments. I don't think there is any basis or justification to try to erase or rewrite history.	x					
Danielle Kulas		This is an overall message about the statues in general.I applaud Mayor Stoney's creation of this commission and think that it is long overdue! Richmond is a greatcity but it has a long way to go to properly address it's history. I drive down Monument every day on my commute and can't stand the reverent nature of the confederate statues. At the very least there need to be more statues of African American men and women, and other people of color, added to Monument Ave.Monument Ave is an iconic Richmond street and thus needs to be more inclusive, if this city is to embody inclusiveness.Figuring out how to add context to the existing statues would be awesome; I'd honestly be fine with themall coming down (minus Arthur Ashe of course) but I realize that would anger a lot of folks who think that their southern 'heritage' is more important than human decency. Regardless, as those folks will say, you can't erase history, so telling a more fair and accurate depiction of the story seems the right thing to do. Richmond needs to acknowledge EVERYTHING that those people did, especially in regards to slavery and human rights violations.Thank you for creating this website and taking comments, this is a contentious issue and you have yourwork cut out for you! I've been trying to find the right words for how I feel about the confederate statues, and Mayor Stoney nailed it with 'nostalgia masquerading as history.'			x		x	This is a suggestion to remove all the monuments except Ashe. If the statues are not removed, the writer suggests the addition of statues of African Americans to Monument Avenue
MICHAEL HICKEY		THE MONUMENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. THEY ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF MEN WHO STOOD UP FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE RIGHT, ATTHE TIME. (INCLUDING A TENNIS PLAYER WHO DIED FROM HIV). NO ATTEMPT OF CULTURAL RELATIVISM BY ADDING SOME SORT OF POLITICALLY CORRECT VERBIAGE IS NECESSARY. IF SO HERE IS AN IDEA " THIS MAN, ESSENTIALLY RAISED IN A SINGLE PARENT HOME, WENT TO TO ATTEND ONE OF THE PREMIER INSTITUTE OF LEARNING IN OUR COUNTRY AND SERVED THAT COUNTRY IN WAR, BEFORE GOING ON TO A CAREER AT A PREMIER INSTITUTE OF MILITARY EDUCATION."	x					Suggested verbage for plaques:"This man essentially raised in a single parent home, went on to attend one of the premier institute[sic] of learning and went on the serve that country in war , before going on to a career at a premier institute of military education."

Donnie Martin		These statues are to commemorate the AMERICAN soldiers who died for this country. Their service and the sacrifices they made are for the same principles and values that the AMERICAN soldiers of the Revolutionary war died for. Do not erase my history because someone feelings are hurt. To destroy history makes you no better than Hitler, the taliban and isis, they did the same thing. We learn form history, to erase it, the future generations will make the same mistake.	x					
William kinsey		Keep the Confederate monuments and statues where they are, they are very important war memorials. Do not kiss up to the leftwing leftists liberal tyrannical federal union political system. Don't be a fool.	x					
Kevin Legg		Ladies and Gentelman of Richmond, #1The Confederate Monuments should stay in place on monument row . No "added context" is needed nor should alterations be made to the monuments plaques #2I don't have any ideas on who or what should be added but I'm sure the citizens can come up with something .I would commend the City on not removing the Confederate monuments like the City of N.O La. did .There are literally millions of descendants of Confederate veterans alive today who see these as memorials to their ancestors and to take them down would be a travesty of epic proportions. Taking down one groups monuments and memorials to appease another is a bad idea and would only cause animosity between people . It will never bring people together .I am however all for building additional monuments/ memorials to tell the the story of other great Virginians ,historic and national heroes .Sincerely, Kevin L Legg	x			x	Add monuments that tell the story of other great Virginians, historic and national heroes.	
Ernest Mooney		For a nakedly ambitious politician like our Mayor, the Monuments present an opportunity for publicity that can't be bought. First prove to us that you can cut grass, fix potholes and restore fiscal responsibility to City Hall. Once you have demonstrated your leadership abilities, then tackle these nebulous causes that will only worsen race relations as those who choose to rewrite history run roughshod over our liberties, our history and our traditions.	x					
Mark Jones		Please just knock it off. This city has real problems with jobs infrastructure etc. monument ave is not any part of this. The radical movement against confederacy and heritage is only empowering the GOP. get back on task and abandon this waste Of taxpayer money. Or just resign from office for personal reasons	x					
Anthony Pilgrim		To insult the millions of Confederate descendants by forming this Commision is political pandering at its worst. Leave the Monuments alone. They do not need context by a self-righteous horde meant to defame and belittle our Ancestors.	x					
John Pippin		I go to Richmond once a year to visit the monuments, leave them alone!!	x					
Michael Herring		Having visited Monument avenue twice in my life I came away with extreme pride and admiration of the monuments which honor our Southern heroes. These works of art should endure forever and no contemporary readjusting regarding the message they represent. Southern Pride and Honor.	x					
Tamara Yahley		The Confederate Memorials on Monument Avenue are PERFECT just as they are. Leave the monuments alone. Confederate Lives Matter. TRUE Confederate History Matters. Stop giving attention to the lies of the NAACP and SPLC, who have promoted the false narrative that our monuments and memorials are somehow tied to "racism", slavery or Jim Crow....that is a narrative of LIES! Leave our Confederate Monuments alone!	x					
Dennis Boettcher		Dear SirPLEASE allow the Confederate monuments to remain on their avenue. I have visited and photographed themon numerous occasions. They are our heritage and harm no one. Respectfully,Dennis Boettcher	x					
Edward Sturdivant		I strongly urge you to leave the monuments as they are. Political correctness, trying to erase or cjanhe history os insanity and those who try and do are no better than fascists who burn books. Our history is what it is and no o e can change it. All we can do is learn from it. Leave our monuments and our heritage alone.	x					
Paula Litton		I don't live in the city of Richmond, I have lived in the area since birth over 50 years ago and I do work in Richmond.I understand that the Civil War is a topic that is not popular with African Americans anywhere especially in Rchmond but there were many African Americans who fought for the south so, why not honor them?While I do not have any examples as I write this, I am certain someone on the committee can find some. Monument Avenue should have statues dedicated to Richmonders who have helped to shape the city no matter what color skin.	x			x	This is a suggestion to add African Americans who fought for the South.	
Mike Clifton		I respectfully ask that you do not alter or remove any confederate monuments. As a proud southerner I love to visit the capital of the confederacy. If there's any change to these monuments, myself and many others will no longer desire to visit this city. True historians know the war between the states wasn't because of slavery. Anybody that thinks so has been brain washed by a false narrative and should do their own research instead of accepting what the PC people want others to believe . Thanks for your attention to this matter.	x					
Howard Bareford Jr		if you are going to all this trouble will you include Arthur Ash, Bo Jangles, and all the statue on the governs ground. and will you re name everything with Martin Luther King on it. come on mayor, my grandmother told me if you stick a stick in shit a steer it up it will stink. I am not a rebel minded with man, I am just sick of hearing I owe the blacks something. Irish and Chinese were slaves, we stole the land from the native American's. I can keep both eyes and ears open if you would place me on the commision.						No stated position on the statues. Also an offer to serve on the commission
George Overstreet		The way it sounds you will be joining the ranks of history Vandals with the likes of ISIS. They destroy historical monuments just like you propose to.						No stated position on the statues.

Scott Williams		It is my hope that the commission will not simply be a political tool to brand monument avenue as a tribute to racism. As a lifelong resident and a decedent of generations of Richmonders I ask that you take a scholarly approach to your mission. I know the outcome will not please the extreme on either side. Monument is one of the grandest boulevards in America. Please Keep it that way. Keep in mind that good decent people put these up long ago and good decent people admire them today. Monument is a jewel. Please keep it that way.	x					
Pam P.		Your idea was fine until you said AFRICAN AMERICAN. We are all AMERICANS. How did most slaves get here? Sold into slavery by their own people? Remember the southerners fought for what they believed in. Thomas Jefferson is memorialized in DC, owned slaves, and had false teeth made from his slaves teeth. Not white, not black, not asian, not diverse -- we are one now. It could start with you....But I guess we will always be looking back. So sad when we can move forward.						No state position on the statues.
Nancy Kelsey		Please leave the monuments as they are. This is a part of our heritage and honors our ancestors.	x					
Jonathan Varnell		Stop using history for political gain. Focus on making the city a better place and not making a distraction to cover up the ills that inept leadership has made.						No stated position on the statues.
tamara zaccagnino		Our monuments and memorials need no new "narrative" or "context" added to them, especially one based on the PC false narrative of the NAACP and SPLC. Their meaning is carved in stone and has absolutely nothing to do with "racism, slavery, Jim Crow, or white supremacy", and everything to do with honoring men who answered the call of the Commonwealth to defend hearth and home from invasion. Do not add, change or desecrate any Confederate Monument on Monument Ave. Do NOT add any more statues either! Deo Vindice.	x					
Douglas Leake		I'm a supporter to keeping the confederate monuments. I'm also a supporter for adding more statues to the Blvd. Like the gentleman that went up to take communion in St Paul's Church as a free man. General Lee went up with him. That showed how this city can set aside our difference between each other and to come together. I don't like the mayor saying that Ash is the only winner. Once the truth about the reasons for the monuments come out, he might stop looking at one side only. That's the lesson that Lee and that black man showed on that Sunday morning.				x		
George Crabb		This is a waste of tax payer money. The great heroes on our monuments fought against tyranny and oppression. I feel great shame with how far our society has fallen that we can't understand these wonderful men, and the host of heroes they lead. Nothing needs to be changed, except for people caving to idiot Marxist agitation.	x					
Fred C Wilhite		Thomas Landess writing in the Abbeville Institute said it as well as anyone I have read.--- Fred C https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/blog/the-real-reason-confederate-symbols-are-attacked/						No stated position on the statues. Also a link to a blog article that says the statue controversy is a stunt b the NAACP and SCLC to drive donations for their large staff.
Ray Schmitt		This politically correct bullshit has got to stop. Quit kissing the butts of everyone who takes offense at the slightest little thing.	x					
Mary Jones		The monuments should remain untouched. As a civil war student and history major from William and Mary, I am familiar with the greatness of Robert E. Lee. While his cause was wrong, his intentions were honorable and above reproach. There are scores of young black men who could learn a few lessons from his sense of integrity and honor. Add context? Anyone who knows who the history of these men knows what I stated in the above paragraph. If you add context or even tear them down, will that end the complaints of BLM or white supremacy? I think we all know that answer to that. The mayor and black leaders of our city need to look within their own hearts to see if they can get past racism and bigotry. How about addressing the poverty, homelessness, failing schools, and other ills that plague Richmond? This is a huge waste of time, effort, and money. If removed or altered, neither I nor my family will venture into the city again and spend a dime to support your tax base. Right or wrong, those men fought for what they believed, and you will be saying that all of the confederate dead in Hollywood Cemetery died in vain - despite the sacrifice of their lives. You might as well tear down the Virginia War Memorial because I am sure there are some bigots, racists, and other hate groups represented there by the memorial. I fear you will awaken the sleeping giant if you proceed with any venture to remove or replace any items on Monument Avenue.	x					
Drew Blanton		NOTHING should be added or changed with any of these monuments, and frankly you should be ashamed of yourself for even suggesting it. It's against state law to alter these historical monuments in any way, and I have no doubt you and your city are going to have a lawsuit slapped on you as soon as you try it. I can tell you this... me and my family have visited Richmond and the surrounding area numerous times, just to see the rich history there -- all of it Civil War history. I can promise you that if you try and alter or remove these monuments, or any of the history related items involving our history we will never spend another penny in Richmond. You're playing with fire and catering to the wrong crowd. You need to be concentrating on other more pressing problems... like your crime rate.	x					
John Pigg		Please leave the monuments alone. Some one needs to read the real history why the Civil War was fought. Thanks	x					
Kenneth Harris		I would ask that the Mayor and the Monument Ave. Commission please leave our Confederate Monuments alone, and why are they trying to erase history!?	x					

	CLarence Magruder		With sadnesses I have heard that the new mayor has considered the statues as racist. Richmond has had a grand tradition of not falling into this type of foolishness. The war between the states was fought for independence. Such organizations who try to undermine the true history have their own political points they are trying to score and try to divide the races. The people of Richmond know better and will not be fooled into this. Keep the Monuments left alone and let history stand.	x					
	Tony Lundy		Leave Monument Ave alone .Your motivations are pure hatred and envy because down deep you know that these Monuments you hate so much represent the greatest constellation of heroes of any people anywhere in the world. In truth its the manhood, honor and chivalry that you hate . Leave our heroes alone or better yet study them and see the love and patriotism they felt for this state. Also know that they are still deeply loved and cherished by a majority of Virginians today. It would greatly benefit the character of all Virginians as well as Americans to study, understand and emulate the Christian manhood, patriotism and honor that these monuments represent. What you are attempting to do will set race relations back 100 years and create much strife . Its time for all right thinking Virginians to rise up and stop this politically correct madness.	x					
	Madison Porterfield		I think adding to monument avenue is completely acceptable but to even consider removing the capital of the confederacy's monuments that are decades old doesn't change history and if you think tearing them down will promote unity you're a fool. We need to acknowledge the past to grow from it and tearing them down would make a lot of people who appreciate the history of this city livid. There would be riots and even more issues with race if you tore down our monuments and replaced them with new modern ones. Once they're taken down they are gone for good and that's a disgusting thing to do to the people of Richmond. You already painted over Deadrock, the city is filled with heroin overdoses, crack and cocaine issues and your worry and money will be going towards destruction of history? That is PATHETIC and you all are horrible representatives of the people you're supposed to protect. Your negligence to listen to what the people who live here have to say and want is repulsive and you're all slowly proving how corrupt and horrid our government is.	x			x		
	Floyd Campbell		I am from the Shenandoah Valley and Richmond is known for its beautiful Monument Avenue. I think it would be a shame if they were altered in anyway for the purpose of (political correctness) because they in no way represent slavery but rather the Valor and courage of our men from Virginia. Do the right thing and not try to alter or erase our Virginia history.	x					
	Melissa Hyberger		At your meeting would you please find a way to contact Rome Italy and have them tear down the Colosseum. I'm a devout Christian and I'm very offended at how many Christians Nero had eaten alive there by wild animals. They can place a marker at the spot where the Colosseum stood so people will know why it was torn down.	x					
	Kathy Davis		I would like to see something other than the removal of our past history. The past is what should help us to change the future, but we cannot and should not change our history. Monument Avenue statues were put there for a tribute to the people who fought for what ever reason for their country and should not be silenced or removed because of residents of this area not being comfortable with what it represents. The past should change our future - we cannot change our past. I will definitely be sounding off more if it comes to the removal of the civil war statues. Find another place in the big city of Richmond for the other monuments.	x					
	Dan Saul		Hello, It Makes Me Completely Sick That These Libs and America Haters Want To Take Down Our War Memorials Especially Our Confederate Monuments. These Men Who Fought Are Americans and Should Be Honored As Such. You Libs Who Are Haters Should Leave This Country and Never Come Back You Clowns Are The Ones Who Have Caused All These Problems Going On Today! Why Don't We Take All Black Monuments Down and Especially MLK Monuments No More Black Monuments Either!! This Is All Total Nonsense 20 Years Ago None Of This Was Being Talked About, Now The Little Snowflakes Who Have No Clue About History or Take The Time To Educate Themselves, They Listen To These Lib Professors Who Are Haters As Well And Teach The Wrong Stuff. Well To All True Patriotic Americans Who Love History and Heritage We Need To Fight To Keep These Monuments Up and The History Alive.	x					
	Ronald Ammons		Are not J.E.B. Stuart's remains at base of the memorial to him? ..I have a feeling SOME will not be satisfied until they destroy the sculpture and exhume his remains, to be turned over to a relative later ..not consequential in the mayor's eye ..	x					
	Robert Bauer		Monument Ave is a National Historic Landmark. Virginia and Richmond called those men to duty! Leave them alone! Soldiers answer the call of duty. We must never condemn soldiers or their memorials for the sins of their government, for history has no unstained banners.	x					
	Jamie Withrow		It's a sad day when you want to erase history or change it to suit you. Those brave men and their families believed and fought for FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT!!!!!! It had NOTHING to do with SLAVERY!!!! As far as having the first black man who won a stupid tennis game on the same street as them is not only disrespectful but ashame. No wonder this world is the way it is. Backward thinking people and history is bound to repeat itself!!!! Y'ALL need to turn back to GOD!!!! GOD please help these people see their mistakes and change their hearts toward you oh LORD.	x					
	Todd Woodall		I visit Richmond as recently as last Thursday. I do business with the city parking and the hotels, most recently the Hilton Downtown. If anyone dares do harm of any kind to these monuments to US VETERANS (by law, both state and Federal) I will immediately cease doing all hotel, dining, and leisure (Carpenter & Altria Theaters) spending in Richmond. If I have business in the city I will bring my food and do my lodging in Amelia or another location outside the city limits. In addition to stopping my considerable hotel business (approx. \$200 per night) I will also be researching the individual members of the commission for their political biases and statements and will be sharing such information with the public. Leave the monuments alone.	x					

			Richmond VA has a rich history and layers of diversity. Ever changing and growing, but we MUST NOT give up the heritage history. I stand with the VA Flaggers and support them- The monuments are not to the war but to the men and their honor. You CANNOT REWRITE HISTORY. The Virginia Flaggers stand ready to vigorously defend these monuments, and the men they represent, from any and all destruction, removal, and/or alteration, and support for our Cause gains momentum with every petty attempt like this one where a politician looks to make a name for himself and gain political points with a very small percentage of their electorate. Don't waste tax payer \$\$\$\$\$ to disrespect Richmond's history.	x					
	Sharon Popa								
	Debra Weidman		Leave the monuments alone. You can not judge one era by the standards of a different era. Please do not try to 'sanitize' our southern heritage. Please do not surrender to the PC terrorists NAACP and SPLC.	x					
	Carolyn Foran		I grew up in Richmond and even though I no longer reside there, I feel it's still my home. Getting rid of monuments of historical value (whether good or bad) is not teaching us how to love in the future. We need to learn how to live for the future while dealing with everyone's feelings of the past. I like the Mayor's ideas of writing descriptions of the information as to how they came to be. In the future add additional monuments that will be pleasing to the public along with descriptions to go along with them. We can't or shouldn't try to erase history - just explain the best we can as why it happened.	x		x	x		
	Arron Thompson		I don't understand why you would waste time creating a committee to change the propaganda of the confederate statues that line down Monument Ave when committees should be created to address the increasing crime rate and teenage mortality that Richmond has seen within the past year. Why not use that time, man power and money to create programs to keep the children out of the streets or put the money back into the failing school system. No the statues should not be removed, however there are museums where people can learn about the confederacy. You can not change history, you can not change what the confederacy stood for so why waste time. Why continue to glorify sore losers.	x					
	Trevlin Utz		Of all the foolish things to waste time and money on, you pick this?!? Do you really want what's happening in Charlottesville and New Orleans to happen here? I guarantee it will! Quit your historically ignorant virtue-signalling and empty pandering and stop trying to rewrite history to your satisfaction! You will reap the whirlwind with this nonsense - LEAVE OUR HISTORY ALONE!	x					
	Frank Krawiec		Leave the monuments alone!	x					
	Roxanne Norford		I was born and raised in Illinois, and when I moved here I found the statues on Monument Ave. beautiful, and to have them removed in a manner to HIDE from history reminds me of ISIS. So you are an ISIS-like group of terrorist working to erase our history. DO YOU GET THAT ISIS does this, oh wait you democrats want ISIS to take over the world, no matter who suffers. ISIS you are ISIS you resemble, and ISIS is what you are SHAME on all of you, and you are looking for a HUGE fight on this one, WE WILL NOT GO QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT. ISIS commission. We are tired of your hate filled groups erasing our history, good or bad it is our history and WE ARE NOT ISIS.....I will be there to fight this, as a YANKEE and history lover, I am sick of your hate...ISIS lovers each and every one of you SHAME SHAME SHAME	x					
	John Sawyer		Leave the monuments alone!	x					
	Raymond Harris		Leave the Confederate monuments alone!!	x					
	Carlton Mansfield		I'm not from Virginia, but I vacation there regularly. What draws me to Virginia is the history, from Jamestown through the American Civil War. My family often visits Jamestown, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Monticello, and numerous Civil War battlefields, including those in and around Richmond. If Richmond starts hiding, removing or relocating all the landmarks to history, I will no longer visit and no longer spend my money there. I have already placed New Orleans on my list of places I will never go again. Please don't push me to include Richmond on that list.	x					
	John Fox		History is history and it should be left alone. Trying to even form a group to look into removing the statues on Monument Avenue is divisive! please stop and find another way to spend the tax dollars. Thank you	x					
	Brenda Canada		Please leave monuments alone. They mean a lot to the city & draw tourists to area. They are not intended to be racist.	x					
	Mary Rayes		LEAVE THE MONUMENTS ALONE. THIS DISGRACEFUL ASSAULT ON HISTORY AND FALLEN ANCESTORS HAS TO STOP. I THINK THE SOUTH HAS LOST ALL REASON IN ITS RUSH TO FALL IN LINE WITH THE POLITICALLY CORRECT TERRORISTS.	x					
	Shirley Slack		Please leave the monuments and the avenue alone. The history is factual and your commission is wrong to try and rewrite the history.	x					
	Brian Clark		I'm a lifelong area resident that has lived in the city, Henrico and now Midlothian. Do not remove the statues. You can add others such as Maggie Walker but do not disturb the rest of them on this National Historic Landmark.	x			x		Suggest Maggie Walker be added.
	Ann Hardin		I don't want to see anything added or taken away from Monument Ave. It's great the way it is. Leave it be.	x					

	Angela Howerton		I AM OUTRAGED!!! History is history and you CANNOT change it. LEAVE Monument ave alone! Do REAL business for the city. Quit wasting tax payers money on these ridiculous endeavors.We're not stating that time was right or wrong, we're just trying to keep art from centuries ago alive. But also history shows more than what people seem to forget about the war. It wasn't just about slavery.A Ashe is not the only real hero out there. For their side in the war they were to someone at the time period a hero. Richmond is full of stuff from that time period so just quit trying to change it. It is what it is. Go on and move forward with REAL CITY BUSINESS.There's a lot of crime out there from today, why not spend money looking into that.	x					
	Robert Nichols		How do you expect to have context if you remove the statues of J.E.B. Stuart, Stonewall Jackson, and Robert E. Lee? They are a huge part of the context. You could put statues with roundabouts up of Lincoln, Tubman, General Grant, etc.; but we can't have an honest conversation about the world, where it's been and where it's going, by removing all remembrances of our history (be it good or bad). You can't improve the context of the men shown by removing them. You won't improve the understanding of history by revising it because it wasn't perfect. I can still have respect for their [Stuart, Jackson, Lee] leadership and military knowledge while understanding that I wouldn't accept all or any of their reasons for the side they fought for. Acknowledging and understanding history does not mean endorsement for it. Just as those statues do not mean that Richmond still supports the Confederate cause. It simply is part of the knowledge of history. You can't add context by subtracting. Add more statues of Civil War heroes (Union AND Confederate). Tell the history of the Civil War from the historical point of Richmond. You can teach every single person who travels Monument Avenue the profound impact the Civil War had on the development of our nation, and the pivotal role that Richmond played.Also, please remove that horrible Arthur Ashe statue. It doesn't have context on Monument Avenue. Also,when you move it, make it so it doesn't look like he is beating children with books and a tennis racket. He does deserve better than that monstrosity. You could move his statue in front of the Arthur Ashe Jr. Center, make it a grand spectacle that draws the attention of those attending the Center or baseball games in the area. That would be more contextually powerful and an opportunity to give Arthur Ashe a proper monument.	x					Suggestion to add more war heroes Union and Confederate. Request to remove the Ashe statue.
	Gary Levine		Is this really the most pressing priority facing Richmond right now? Schools are literally crumbling. City murders are at an all time high. And the answer to those issues is remove Monument Avenue statues? Good luck with that.						No stated position on the statues.
	Ann McMillan		Thanks to Mayor Stoney for soliciting input in an organized fashion, and for selecting Christy Coleman and Gregg Kimball to serve as co-chairs of the committee. They are extremely knowledgeable and fair-minded people.						Compliment to Ms. Coleman and Mr. Kimball. No stated position on the statues.
	Henry Phillips		The old saying: "If you don't teach history, you are bound to repeat its mistakes." I guess since schools DON'T teach history anymore we WILL repeat mistakes. Democrats have evisorated the City of Richmond for close to 100 years. It has become the Little Chicago of the South. Murders and multiple murders are almost daily events. My wife and I DO NOT step one inch into the city. Richmond is a dying city. ZERO infrastructure, high taxes. Richmond will NEVER change. It is on a crash course to its ECONOMIC DEATH. Adious Richmond.						No stated position on the statues.
	Candace Thompson		I'm so excited to hear that Richmond is considering adding more diversity to monument avenue! I fully support the effort and I hope the group will focus on the needs, thoughts and feelings of rva residents. Please ensure that Richmond city residents' views are prioritized over the opinions of those who have fled the city for 'safer', white suburban areas.		x				
	Maureen Mahaney		I don't actually reside in the city but do own a home there that my sons lives in. So, I frequently spend time there. I am all in favor of 'changing the narrative ' around slavery and Richmonds horrific past. There is shame in placing proponents of slavery on a pedestal and slapping it in the face of those who suffered. I'm ready to join the cause! Things need to change to honor the dignity of ALL. Thanks or the opportunity to comment.				x		
	Marysue Hall		I have lived in Richmond, VA all of my life. I regard all of the monuments as part of history. To consider removing them or altering them in any manner would be a disgrace and is going to result in bringing unwanted attention to our city and our state. They have been where they are for years and should stay there forever. Whatever occurred years ago is in the past and should stay in the past. These monuments are works of art to be recognized as such.My suggestion is to leave them alone and let them stay where they are. If the decision is to take other action prepare yourself for the strong reaction that is definitely going to occur and result in potential violence and hatred.	x					
	Joellen Scheid		Leave them as is and develop more to memorialize non confederates yet famous Virginians	x				x	
	Sonny Williams		The removal of the Confederate Monuments will only hurt the rich History of our city. A city that is built on a very diverse history but it is our History and people come to see this History. To remove the statues would be detrimental to the economic growth in tourism. The statues are of Virginia men proud and true men who sacrificed everything to the preservation of Virginia. Virginia has always been a leader among states lets not start being a follower. There are always different paths we can take that will continue to lead Virginia a state among states. I am very concern over the future of our city and I can only hope that the scenic landscape of Monument Avenue will be safe for everyone to enjoy..	x					
	James Morrissey		Take these statues down. All the other respectable cities of the South have done so or are planning to do do. Charlottesville is brave enough to stand against the KKK - is RVA? Or will we forever consign ourselves to the ignorance of being on the wrong side of history. Do the right thing.				x		
10/09/2017 14:41:24	Christie Bieber	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	The city can't move most of the monuments without permission from the General Assembly. The Republican controlled House of Delegates is never going to approve their removal. Add more context and add more monuments for the time being. This is a political fight that can not be won today.					x	x

			My great great aunt Mary McDonald was married to the developer Otway Allen. They, along with my great grandparents, Beverly Randolph Wellford and Jeannie McDonald, built the houses at 1631 and 1633 Monument Avenue. They were not horrible white supremacist nazis. They were real people who had survived the ravages of a terrible war followed by the ravages of Reconstruction. To suggest otherwise is an insult to this whole city. The monuments were put up as a part of the development of Monument Avenue, which was a successful endeavor and is considered one of the shining points of Richmond's streetscapes. If you remove them you destroy a beautiful avenue and beautiful art work. 1&2) The generals and former U.S. senator of U.S. war department head represented were American military heroes. They were all graduates of West Point. Lee, Jackson and Davis served with honor in the Mexican War. Lee was a superintendent of West Point. Jackson a professor at VMI. Davis a U.S. Secretary of War who oversaw the construction of the dome at the U.S. Capitol Building, the drinking fountain system in Washington and the foundation of the Smithsonian Institute. Their monuments should be complimented with monuments to Nat Turner and Gabriel Prosser, to Pocahontas and to Chief Powhatan. If, however, you are going to call Lee, Jackson, Davis and Stuart white supremacists who were only interested in suppressing slaves, which is embarrassingly stupid to say, then be sure you say Powhatan and Nat Turner were murderers, because they technically were. You can either honor history, or turn it into a joke. Also, please remove Arthur Ashe's statue. He deserves better. He hated Richmond, and he would probably prefer something more tasteful and more realistic near the only place he truly cared about here, the tennis courts. 2) Please remove Christy Coleman from your panel. She is in no way credentialed to speak authoritatively on any of this. She has neither the education nor the background. She is just power hungry and angry, and not to be trusted. It is incumbent upon you to put legitimate scholars and artists on this panel, not some creepy psycho who just likes to see her name in print. Nothing good will come from having her anywhere near this process.	x					
	Ann Drury Wellford								
			I understand the argument for keeping the statues on Monument Avenue. I offer the idea to keep them there, but demote their positions. Not just move them to less prominent spots on the street, but at the circles where they are currently located, remove them from their elevated positions and lay them on the ground on their sides. I also agree that some form of context should be added. But I think it is hard to take context seriously when they are so grand and elevated as they currently are. But if they are essentially "demoted", it will really drive the message of the context home. I think it could be a way to meet in the middle by keeping the statues there, but then adding new, truly monument worthy Virginians to the elevated spots. If the statues are kept elevated and context added, cars will fly by and the message will be lost. This way, you will have to walk and experience the monument and context close up, and really absorb the words to take the message in. And I believe this idea will cause more people to actually take the time to stop and look. As far as who or what should be put in their place, I don't have specific ideas. But Virginians who made a positive impact on history would be a good place to start.	x		x			
	Katherine Weber								
			I'd like to see a monument of BOOKER T. WASHINGTON on Monument Avenue. He was great American with Virginia roots, born and educated in Virginia. As for the Confederate monuments, I think it's important to note that most who fought for the Confederacy were the poor, who had little real understanding of the issues, as with most wars,					x	Suggested that Booker T. Washington to be added.
	Mark Cardona								
			It is my belief that the ultimate goal of this commission is to remove all evidence of the brave soldiers who gave their lives fighting in the civil war and to make their losses irrelevant. If your ultimate goal is such I would suggest you contact Shelby Foote and people of his ilk to in effect place these on hallowed ground ; in national battlefield areas where, unmolested by revisionists, can then be appreciated and held in respect for what they represent . This is my humble and thoughtful position on this matter. I await any opinions on the matter.	x					
	Richard Ledger								
			Does the request for a Richmond home or work address mean that the Commission will only consider comments submitted by people who live or have a work address within the Richmond city limits?						Inquiry regarding people invited to opine on this issue.
	Jon Jewett								
			My Coleman ancestor moved to Richmond from Gloucester in 1730. Two of my great grandfather's brothers were killed in Pickett's Charge. Needless to say I was raised a southern cause sympathizer. However it's been over 150 years since the end of the Civil War and I believe with all my heart that it's time for Monument Ave. statues to stop glorifying the old southern cause. If the statues of Confederate generals cannot be removed, and I would like for them to be removed, at least I agree the message conveyed by these statues needs to change. One of my great great great grandfathers owned 2,000 slaves in Lunenburg County. The reason he had so many was because he wouldn't break up families. When the war ended he gave each family land of their own. He was a man of conscience who was in some measure a victim of the slave system himself. I'm sure he was happy to see the end of it. Perhaps there might be some way to portray slave holders who cared about all people as being also victimized by a morally unsound system. So what I am saying is, it would be wrong to go in the direction of vilifying slave owners: instead, the focus should be on the slave system itself as being harmful to all mankind. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views. I would be happy to speak with board members if that might be helpful.					x	
	James Coleman								
			Personally I would like to see us add and expand on the statues on Monument Ave instead of removing statues. Why not add statues of Dredd Scott, Booker T. Washington or Mary Bowser to tell help tell the whole story. We could also look at expanding the focus of monuments beyond the Civil War to celebrate and honor famous Virginians from all eras of our history.					x	Add Dredd Scott, Booker T Washington, Mary Bouser and famous Virginians from all eras.
	Dustin Kline								
			Let's add some statues to Monument Ave of prominent African-American leaders (MLK Jr. , Malcolm X, etc.) holding guns pointed at all of the Confederate leaders. Right next to the Confederate leaders erect statues of Klan leaders to illustrate to the world how racist the Confederacy was.					x	Add MLK, Malcolm X pointing guns towards confederate leaders. Klan monuments next to the confederate ones.
	Matt Kindig								

	Steven P. Booth		1) Move the Arthur Ashe monument to Byrd Park near the tennis courts and in a prominent place where the Boulevard meets Blanton Ave. This is where it should always have been. Mr. Ashe was certainly a world class athlete and citizen, but Monument Ave. is not the correct context for this monument. 2) In place of his monument (and in exactly the same place on Monument Ave.) there could be an appropriately scaled monument to black federal troops who fought around Richmond and were part of the occupying Federal forces. There should be specific photographic evidence of such troops and their likenesses (in heroic scale, as with the other monuments) could be reproduced exactly. To me, this would add the strong "context" currently sought for Monument Ave. The free blacks and liberated/escaped slaves who fought on the front lines (and died in substantial numbers) were courageous and deserve this measure of respect and "context."						x	Relocate Ash monument to Boulevard and Blanton Ave. In his spot put up black federal troops who fought around Richmond.
	Clemmie Gilpin		I am a retired professor of African American Studies at Penn State University at Harrisburg with an undergraduate degree in History from Virginia State University. I attended Hanover County Public Schools. I have been a long time promoter of the Richmond area. A couple of years ago I organized a bus trip for students from my university to tour historical sites relating to the African American experience in Richmond. I have included a number of books focusing on area history, especially covering the Civil War era, in a library. Last year I visited the African American Civil War in Washington, DC. Near the museum stands an impressive memorial to USCT. I would very much like to see a similar recognition in Richmond. On a personal note, my 105 year old great aunt who is a long-term resident informed me that her father served in the USCT during the Civil War.						x	Add USCT monuments
	Robert Brown		These statues don't represent what Richmond is. A better use of them would be to recontextualize them by incorporating true heroes of Richmond: G.W.A.R. I'd love to see Oderus take on Stonewall Jackson.						x	Add G.W.A.R. lead singer Oderus monument
	Scott Murrah		1) tear them down and replace them with something memorializing the millions of lives lost through the trans Atlantic slave trade and the civil war so that black children, adults, and sensible people don't have to walk near these beacons of fear-mongering. 2) John Brown and Harriet Tubman only after the current ones are torn down because, without that, it is still an outright refusal to come to terms with America's past.		x				x	Add monuments of the lives lost in the trans Atlantic slave trade, John Brown and Harriet Tubman
	Robert Wood		1) These monuments were erected as a testament to white supremacy 2) More monuments not erected to celebrate the subjugation of black Americans P.S. idk maybe just slap "Honorary Americans" or "You Tried, Traitors" in big bronze letters on the front of all but Ashe.		x		x			Add a plaque to all but Ash saying, "Honorary Americans" or "You Tried, Traitors"
	Flora Joyner		While much of the Monument Ave. development was planned to honor the Confederate Generals and their history, A. P. Hill statue was originally placed in a corn field. When friends and family come to visit me in Hampton Roads, I always plan a trip to Richmond, so that they can enjoy seeing beautiful works of art for free. My question for you, the commission members is this: Do you intend to vilify these men, to focus strictly on the topic of slavery, or will you remember Jackson's work to educate blacks, Lee's heroics in the Mexican War, or Jefferson Davis's accomplishments in Congress?						x	Add beneficial context to Jackson, Lee and Davis.
	Christy Lantz		My overarching reaction to our monuments on Monument Ave. was actually felt while visiting Rome. Enjoying the great history of that city included many monuments of not so pleasant events in their history. My heart broke viewing the once dark dank corridors of the Coliseum where innocent animals and Christians were led to their slaughter for the entertainment of the Roman public. As horrific as the memory of this part of Rome's history what would have happened if they had covered it up? Would that historical event have been forgotten? Only accessible in books? Less poignant to me? Yes. Having the opportunity to see with my own eyes burned the story in my mind to never be forgotten and to be a part of MY experience. I don't believe anyone visiting our city sees our Monuments as a group of men WE in our contemporary lives admire. I only wish there were more "monuments" that could support the WHOLE story.						x	Add more monuments in general to support the WHOLE history
	Buie Harwood		I live about 3 blocks from Monument Ave. and walk the Avenue almost every morning, including by the Robert E. Lee statue. To me the Confederate monuments are a part of our history, good or bad, and they should stay where they are within the context of the Fan. I don't think they need signage near them, but a city brochure or website could provide a contextual story for the monuments on Monument Ave. as well as for those in other city locations. As a design history person, and one who had ancestors who fought in the American Revolution, the Civil War, the War of 1812, and World War I & II, I feel STRONGLY that we must preserve and protect our history for now and for those generations who follow. I have lots of family in Louisiana, and what New Orleans did in taking down monuments is totally wrong. From what I understand, no experts were called in to discuss all the various aspects or alternatives, including options for diversity in monuments. As a retired VCU Professor, it is also important that there is diversity on Monument Ave. so that our non-white population sees those representations. Perhaps a monument to a famous VA slave, black Civil Rights leader, black judge, a woman's rights advocate, or similar types of people could be added to various places along Broad St., Jackson Ward, Shochoe Bottom, the Boulevard, or near the Arthur Ashe monument. I don't feel that they all need to be clustered together, but just that these kind of representations are included in prominent parts to the city. Richmond is much more sophisticated in its understanding of diversity than New Orleans and the city should NOT follow the its lead in removal or destruction. We as a city have the opportunity to show other cities what we can do in explaining history, context, diversity, and appropriate representations. We are a state with important people, places, and history and we can serve as a role model for the rest of the country if we do it right! Ed Ayers is a great addition to the commission, and I am sure he will do a wonderful job addressing my points herein.	x			x		x	Have brochuers for context. Add monuments of a famous VA slave, black civil rights leaders, black judge, a woman's rights advocate

Linda Shelton		First off, I think Mayor Stony hit all the right marks with his statement about the symbolism, the truth of history, Richmond's history, our future and how we need to continue to educate children and adults about our diverse population. The culture of our community and economic welfare of Richmond is at stake. Pride in our city is important but not at the sacrifice of our integrity for all citizens. How about creating a huge open book with a historic truth of monument ave and a list of famous or infamous citizens of Richmond or Virginia of African Americans, Asians, Spanish, & people's contributions that have made this city what it is today and hopefully what it will be tomorrow, such as the Ucrops & Saur's. Maybe it could be interactive (technology is a wonderful thing) that provides other locations within the city of historic noteworthiness. I would love to see Governor Wilder honored in some manner on Monument.				x			Add an interactive technical way to learn about more famous people from richmond. Including famous and infamous citizens of Richmond or Virginia of african americans, asians, spanish, & peoples contributions.
Helene Negler		I support Mayor Stoney's initiative to increase the diversity of Monument Avenue and place the monuments already there in historical context. In addition to the possible monuments mentioned in his remarks, I would suggest examination of additional monuments without political connotation - perhaps a monument to a leading doctor at MCV, famous artist, and/or other Virginia leaders who contributed to the vibrant life of our city. I would like Monument Avenue to celebrate the great diversity of contribution and talent that formed our community, and that we enjoy today.				x	x		Add a monument to leading doctor at MCV, famous artist, and or other Virginian leaders.
Jefferson Harris		I believe that the Jackson Ward and Carver communities deserve more respect and credit for the economic, social and cultural advancements that have been granted to the Richmond City. With the Eggleston Plaza Apartments now in place of the former Eggleston Hotel, (a popular spot for Black travelers to the city), I feel that a monument in dedication of Richmond's hospitality and creative culture should be put in place, for future generations to understand how vibrant of a community these historic neighborhoods used to be.				x			Add monument in dedication of Richmond's hospitality and creative culture.
Robert Nelson		In my opinion, the memorial to Davis is singularly and particularly objectionable. I can't see how any signage is adequate to balance the impressive monumentality of the Davis site. What chance does the Richmond community have to achieve racial equity and justice when we continue to memorialize the leader of a state created to perpetuate and aggressively expand a regime of slavery. I would urge the committee to recommend removing the Davis statue and moving it to a museum like the Civil War Center. That rather than a Monument Avenue seems a far more appropriate site to contextualize both Davis and the Lost Cause.			x				Remove the Davis Statue
Anthony Bessette		Monuments only tell the viewer one thing: At the time, and in the place they were erected, enough people admired the man or woman depicted. As long as we insist on seeing a monument's continued existence as the city's continued approval, episodes like this are bound to repeat. For the same reason, we have to be careful that our efforts to contextualize don't one day seem just as misguided as the original monument building spree. If more context is needed than the simple "date of erection" on each monument - which tells a lot - then consider a simple plaque, either per statue or one for all of Monument Avenue, that tells the story of how the monuments came to be there. Trying to tell the whole story of the Civil War in monuments was shortsighted then, and it's shortsighted now. The history of the Cult of the Lost Cause itself, and of that period when all those monuments were put up, is a big enough task, and just as worth remembering.				x			
Bill Chapman		Monument Avenue should become a mile-long conversation about history, race, legacy, and public memory. At a minimum, outdoor signage and kiosks should tell the story of the time, and the people who erected these monuments and ask challenging questions, such as: Should we judge people based on the standards of their time or ours? A bigger vision would be for an underground interpretive museum in the median. For a real statement, plant Kudzu around the Lee Monument and let nature take its course. I believe that adding other monuments will confuse the issue...it's either an avenue of heroes or not. It can't be both. Finally, if other monuments are added (and I don't believe they should be), they must be up to snuff artistically. Arthur Ashe deserves so much better than what he got...				x			
Jerry Veneziano		Please consider a new monument, one long overdue, to one of Richmond's lesser known heroes. Mr. Gilbert Hunt. Mr. Hunt was born a slave in 1780, trained as a blacksmith. He is credited with helping to save several lives during the great theater fire of 1811. More information can be found here: http://www.richmond.com/special-section/black-history/article_86021295-						x	Suggested that a new monument dedicated to a "lesser known" hero, Gilbert Hunt. Hunt save several lives during the 1811 Richmond Theatre fire.
Elly Lewis		I wonder why a staff member from the Museum of the Confederacy is not included in the list. It seems to me that the information found in the archives and the library of the MOC would be helpful to gaining a better understanding of motives for building the statues in the first place. Or why isn't there a staff member from the Virginia Historical Society included? I think you are leaving untapped important sources of information.							No stated position on the statues.
Beverly Woodson		I am in favor of putting explanations at each of the Monuments. I would like the Commission to put all of the reasons for the Civil War at these statues. Yes slavery was one of the reasons, but history has been distorted to make it the only reason. Anyone who has a background in history, will tell you there were five reasons for the war: slavery, economy, Federal versus State rights, Abraham Lincoln becoming president and the Battle of Fort Sumter. We must acknowledge that slavery was a dark time in our history, but we must also make sure that the full story is told. Please do not make the explanations at the monuments the full story of the South leaving the Union. As person of mixed race, both sides of my story should be told. My white ancestors had a farm in South Richmond and the slaves on their farm became sharecroppers in the 1840's before the Civil War began. There are many stories of this in VA, my family and the other Woodson's on their farm fought in the War because of the economy and taxation not because of slavery. All stories should be told. This also will stop some of the racial divide.						x	

Alex Davis		Richmond should think of the revitalization of Monument Avenue as an opportunity to enhance the city's collective memory AND represent it self nationally as a center for art. I propose inviting Kehinde Wiley back to Richmond, and commissioning him to produce a large scale bronze sculpture for Monument Avenue, not unlike the work on display at his 2016 VMFA show. Surely, the success of that show proves there is a large, receptive audience in Richmond to work that challenges historical narrative and uses his art "to remedy the historical invisibility of black men and women." https://ideastations.org/sites/default/files/storage/secondary-images/e201606_ds_0116.jpg				x		Suggested that the city should invite Kehinde Wiley back to Richmond, and commission him to produce a large scale bronze sculpture for Monument Avenue.
Bob Swisher		The Confederate statues on Monument Avenue are important cultural artifacts and works of art so it's good that the plan is to keep them. (It would be a crime to remove them.) If there are to be explanatory plaques in front of the statues on each plaque mention the Lost Cause and that it was a nostalgia for the Confederacy. Do not use inflammatory statements about "white supremacy," "racism," "oppression," etc. Such provocative language would only invite vandalism. The addition of a new monument, with an African-American theme, might be appropriate. The public sculpture erected in Richmond in modern times is all second-rate, from an artistic standpoint. (This includes the Ashe monument, though the subject is worthy.) So, rather than a string of mediocre new statues on Monument Avenue what about one really outstanding new piece of sculpture? The U.S. Colored Troops would an excellent subject. Conduct a national fund-raising campaign to attract the best possible sculptor. Hold an international competition for the best design. I am writing to you as a private citizen but my job is tour guide at the Virginia Capitol. We get visitors from all over the world. Many of them come for the Civil War history. I can tell you from experience that Monument Avenue with its Confederate statues is one of the top attractions for both foreign and American visitors to Richmond.	x		x	x		Suggests not to use inflammatory language on contextual panels (to avoid vandalism). Suggests adding African American monument, such as to USCTs.
Elizabeth Reilly-Brown		I am not sure how to add context that clearly shows how the sculptures are bi-products of the Jim Crow era and the oppression of African Americans. But, I would love to see sculptures added to Monument Avenue that celebrate and glorify black culture. The beautiful artwork of Kehinde Wiley comes to mind. Lets create larger than life artworks that show the beauty of African American culture and celebrate that diversity. The other, sad, old monuments will pale in comparison.				x		Suggested that they would love to see sculptures added to Monument Ave that "celebrate and glorify black culture."Also suggests the artwork of Kehinde Wiley.
Laura Lattimer		To help contextualize the statues, I wonder about moving them to Hollywood Cemetery or somewhere similar and putting up new statues of on Monument Avenue itself. In terms of events or people to add to Monument Avenue, Douglas Wilder or Tim Kaine would be fitting. I would also love to see artists (not just elected officials or activists) be considered for this list. A group of people in the abstract, rather than just one person, would also be welcome.					x	
William Wojohn		1) Add historical markers with an academic explanation of the background of their installment. Have Civil Rights statues "Facing Off" with the Jefferson Davis monument, which is the only non-military figure on monument from the civil war era. 2) The Lovings would be a very appropriate statue.				x		

	Barbara Glakas		<p>Dear Mayor Stoney, I live in Herndon, Virginia. I have read it in the news how you have elected to keep the Confederate statues along Monument Drive and how you have appointed a commission to study the accurate history about these figures with the aim of correcting any false narratives. I have visited Richmond many times and I have always thought that it would be nice if Monument Drive reflected both sides of the Civil War. Although Virginians like Robert E. Lee and J.E.B. Stuart may have found it a difficult decision to abandon the U.S. Army in order to serve their state, there were also many other Virginia service members who chose to abandon their state in order to serve their country. Certainly this story could also be told, as well as – and most importantly - the hardship of Virginia slaves. The below website says that "40% of Virginia's officers in the United States military when the war started stayed and fought for the Union." If you scroll down part of the way of this website you will see a list of some notable Union Civil War leaders from Virginia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_in_the_American_Civil_War#Virginians_in_the_Civil_War Although this would be a more expensive endeavor, I hope your commission can look into the possibility of erecting some other statues along Monument Drive that honor Union Virginians. Hopefully such projects could be funded from a variety of sources – e.g., a combination of private donations, and public grants, supported by a variety of non-profits. Below is a short list of some worthy (mostly Virginian) people who served the Union during the Civil War. Sincerely, Barbara Glakas Herndon, VA >Gen. Alexander Brydie Dyer – Born in Richmond, VA. Attended West Point. Was an ordinance officer. Commander of Federal Armory in Springfield Massachusetts at the beginning of the Civil War. Later was the Chief of Ordnance at Washington D.C. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery. >Sgt. William H. Carney - An African American born as a slave in Norfolk, VA. He ultimately escaped slavery and joined the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions involving the attack on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. >Elizabeth Van Lew – Born in Richmond, VA. During the Civil War she worked in Libby Prison, caring for wounded soldiers. She aided prisoners in escape attempts and passed them information about safe houses, sometimes hiding escapees in her out house. She operated a spy ring called the "Richmond Underground," helping the Union. >Gen. Winfield Scott – Born in Dinwiddie County, VA. Famous Virginia Army General who had 53-year career, starting with service in War of 1812 and served briefly in Civil War. He served on active duty as a General longer than any other person in American history. He asked Robert E. Lee to serve as the Union Commander at the beginning of the Civil War. >Adm. David Farragut – Born in Tennessee but lived in Norfolk, Virginia, for a while. His wife was a Virginian. An Admiral, probably the most famous Navy man of his time, of "Damn the torpedoes full speed ahead" fame. An illustrious career. About the Civil War he thought succession was treasonous. >Gov. Francis Harrison Pierpont – Born in Morgantown (then part of Virginia). Governor of the Union-controlled part of Virginia during the Civil War. Gen. Philip St. George Cooke - Born in Leesburg, VA. Was a career Army cavalry officer for 50 years. Considered the "Father of the U.S. Cavalry." Was also the father-in-law of J.E.B. Stuart. >General William Hays – Born in Richmond, VA. Career Army man who graduated from West Point. In the Civil War he participated in the Battle of Antietam. He was wounded and captured and spent some time as a prisoner at Chancellorsville. He was later exchanged and sent to Ft. Monroe, rejoined his unit and participated in Gettysburg.</p>			x		Suggests Virginians who fought for the US during the Civil War. Includes a detailed list of Virginians in the Union from Wikipedia as possible suggestions.
	Tricia Stauffer		I do support the removal and replacement of the confederate monuments on Monument Ave. However, if they are not removed, other monuments I'd like to see added include: Pocahontas, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Edgar Allan Poe, Meriwether Lewis & William Clark, and/or the many other American presidents.	x		x		
	Mary Katherine Gomez Nelson		I would like to see statues added to the western end of Monument Ave. I further believe they should be representative of Richmond's history post-civil war. Maggie Walker could be the next to follow Arthur Ashe and perhaps Ellen Glasgow. I do not think removing statues from our history is the right thing. History, whether it depicts pride or shame, should be related truthfully for future generations to understand and learn from the success and not be destined to repeat the wrongs. Thank you for examining this issue and for considering all ideas. Collaboration and communication are the keys to determining the path forward.			x	x	
	Jon Moore		Oliver Hill and L. Douglas Wilder are the two most prominent figures I think that should be added to the monuments on that street. Possibly even one of Gabriel, the executed slave. Or one of the Native American chief Black Hawk who was interned here as punishment after the BlackHawk War in the 1830s. Or of Chief Powhatan or Pocahontas, the two most well known of the early Virginia natives. William Byrd II would also be deserving as the founder of Richmond. I look forward to the process. Thank you.			x		
	Lillian Dunn		Thanks for tackling this in such a thoughtful and inclusive way, thanks for providing a simple tool for we the people to share our opinions, and thank you for taking the time to read through all of these! 1.) Context. I only recently learned that the statues on Monument Avenue were erected as a sort of Jim Crow era Berlin Wall/propaganda technique - this single fact really smacked it into me how horrible their symbolism is. It also made me realize how sad it is that they aren't presented in this context more often. If any of the Confederate figures remain, I feel that the Jim Crow context should be presented very prominently. 2.) Persons - As a native who adores this city and often stumbles across fascinating stories from our intricate history, I think it would be nice if the new statues focused on celebrating Richmonders. I also feel an effort should be made to include some women on the Avenue. I once read that out of thousands of monuments to historical figures in the U.S., something like only 7% depict female figures. Elizabeth Van Lew would be a great candidate. Her story is so fascinating and relatively unknown.		x	x		

	William Phillips		As a southern-born man raised by northerners, I have no sympathy for current confederate sympathizers, and hold more to the position that the generals and leaders of the Confederacy were traitors that should have been treated as such. While I hold that view personally, I strongly disagree with any notion that bringing the statues down will somehow help cure the pains of our history. Thank you to Mayor Stoney and his team for not offering that option. Whitewashing and ignoring our history will go nowhere toward the healing we still need. Stay strong in this.	x					
	Blaine Lay		I wonder if there might be a way to develop and approach that is both physical and digital. To provide context, you could pull primary source historical documents and bring them to life through quotes and photos. It might be nice to have a digital component that would be accessible via mobile device. I also wonder whether there might be a forum that enables people to have discussions about the meaning of the monuments themselves? I realize a forum like that may need some ground rules (and perhaps some moderation?), but something worth considering. There's an interesting Reddit page called "Change My View" where they establish ground rules for conversation. Some inspiration worth taking a look at. https://www.reddit.com/r/changemyview/ .			x			
	D Foust		Suggestions for inclusion: Elizabeth Van Lew				x		Suggested that statues on Monument Ave should be more inclusive and that there should be a monument for Elizabeth Van Lew.
	Samantha Guss		I would love to see additional art pieces/monuments that sort of surround the existing ones. I don't know what this would look like, but I'm thinking you could definitely do something bold AROUND each one that makes people pause and realize we don't intend to deify these people. Maybe cultivating greenery on or around parts of a monument? I'm sure actual artists can come up with something great (and this has the added benefit of supporting local artists and signaling our status as an art-supporting city).				x		
	Nancy Waldman		I have actually been thinking on this issue for some time and had an idea regarding the statues. Putting historical markers or signs giving additional history to the monuments would only have impact on those who walk up to the statues to read the additional signs. Have you ever tried to walk up to the base of the statues? Super dangerous! So - my thought was that the impact should be visible to everyone - pedestrians and drivers - as they pass by. I love the statues - not because of who they represent - but because they are beautifully crafted pieces of art. Bronzes of that quality are almost impossible to find in modern sculpture today. However, the bases are mostly bare, save for engravings or mounted dedications. Why not use all that negative space for a positive message? A ring of bronze cut-outs can be installed to ring the bases of these statues to give context to the whole. Using the bases of the statues to illustrate the historical foundation of what those statues represented is one direction. Another would be to use the bases to illustrate not only the history of slavery in Richmond, but the future of the city that has chosen to embrace and not hide from that history. Metal cut outs ringing the bases (as mentioned before) - or light installations that cast images onto the bases, or a combination of both? Anyway - that's the idea: use the marble bases as the canvas on which to place new art that gives historical and civic context to these monuments. Make it visible to all who pass by, and not just those close enough to read a printed sign. Make it bold. Make it powerful. Make it start conversations that have been avoided for too long. For every white man immortalized on Monument Avenue, show us men and women of color who also gave to this city, and to this country, a sense of pride in not just who we think we are, but who we hope we can become. I love Richmond. I know we can do better by the history of this place. Instead of knocking those old heroes off their pedestals, let the pedestals ring with the history of its people - as a city, and as a nation.			x			
	Emily Cruz		1. I think moving them is a way to pat ourselves on the backs with our virtuousness, I may have made up the word, without dealing with the actual problems caused by Jim Crow. Let's actually spend money and work on dealing with the real aftermath of segregation and then we can make a better decision about the statues. In fact, I don't think there's a better place in Richmond to actually talk about Jim Crow, and if they are torn down then we're losing an opportunity to actually face that history rather than white wash it. I do feel that to use them as the story of Jim Crow in Richmond is important and to move them "into the shadows" of a museum or out of the way park would also be a kind of white washing. Let's add signage to put things into the perspective of oppression, and not civil war history- since that's not what these are- and then make way in the medians for different art in Richmond, inclusive art. Let's change the story of Monument Avenue. Take the power back in the place where it was most meant to intimidate. Then let's stop talking about public art and get the schools in Richmond more integrated. Let's work on poverty and education. I really think people get hung up on the "visible symbols" but aren't making enough noise about the real legacy of "the moonlight and magnolias" South. Let's roll up our sleeves and make some changes here. There are much bigger problems than what to do with some statues. And I say that mostly because a new solution for the statues would take money, money that could be spent making a real difference! Put me to work! This is a chance to actually do something in Richmond that might be revolutionary. Let's hope we don't mess it up. 2. I would like to see Nora Houston on Monument Ave. I would like to see other women, people of color, and people who engaged in generating change in RVA. I am glad that Maggie Walker will be somewhere in town. Let have a statue to Loving v Virginia! Let's have competitions for RVA/Virginia artists to win commissions to create works to grace monument ave. Get public involvement in the selections!	x		x	x		

		1) It is my understanding that the area that became Monument Ave was farmland, even after the War. I am curious to know if that farmland during and before the Civil War was operated by enslaved labor. If so, wouldn't it be appropriate to acknowledge the literal landmark of the area as being enslaved land that developed over time into residential housing and Monument Ave? There are precedents for landmarks, of course, elsewhere in Richmond. For example, there are markers at some of the "outer defenses" of Richmond (there are mounds preserved today in Windsor Farms with historic markers). Some highly visible acknowledgement just like the scale of the monuments should be present on that stretch explaining the history of the land and its people, whether enslaved or free. 2) Tell me the stories of the enslaved people who lived, worked and died in Richmond. If Monument Ave is about "extraordinary people," tell me who are the extraordinary enslaved individuals history overlooked or hid. Tell me also the stories of those who rose from the Civil War in freedom and led all free people forward in bettering Richmond. Show me diversity of race, gender, and age. Show me the complete picture of building a truly free Commonwealth in the free United States of America, understanding it was ugly then and the tension remains active even today.											
	Carrie Rose Pace								x				
	Ashby Bland Crowder		After the commission has discussed the issues, I hope it will charge Ed Ayres to create the texts for the historical markers to accompany the statues on Monument Avenue. He will assure consistency, objectivity, clarity, and , above all, historical accuracy. If the commission as a whole tries to compose, the result is bound to be a mere collection of various viewpoints. Might I recommend that the members of the commission read and discuss William Humphrey's novel The Ordways, which grapples with how the South deals with its past. This novel is available in paperback from Louisiana State University Press.							x			
	Dewi Smith		I believe the current monuments should be removed and kept in an outdoor museum in Richmond with appropriate context given through plaques or similar. It is not right for them to be kept up as these regal monuments on the main thoroughfare when they fought against everything Richmond stands for today. Yes, historical times change, but it is through how we interpret past events that dictate how they permeate our society today. As far as adding other people to Monument Avenue I would be interested in seeing a statue built for Gabriel Prosser, Maggie Walker, & Virginia Randolph. I especially think Gabriel Prosser of Gabriel's Rebellion is not given enough recognition in the Richmond area and, if not put on Monument Avenue, deserves a monument somewhere.						x		x		
	Derald McMillan		After listening to your message, I feel you think the cause of the War was slavery. This is Not the cause of the War. Please do research on this and you will find that taxes passed by a Northern controlled Congress was the cause. Have you read any of the papers about President Lincoln? If so you will find out the he said the taxes that were passed to [punish the South were the cause. Have you read any of the information relating to Fort Sumter and South Carolina State? Please do so.								No stated position on monuments.		
	Nathanael Rudney		As a resident of Richmond over the last 15 years who has worked for the city as a social worker with RDSS and continues to be active in community social justice, I am ecstatic to see this commission formed as a first step towards correcting the myths of the Confederacy. I recently visited the new Museum of African American History in DC and I cannot stress enough the impact that monuments or museums can have in telling history and forming a complete world view. I would like to see the monuments taken down because all signage or historical plaques will be overshadowed by the romanticized deified statues. What we are seeing in New Orleans should be our goal for Richmond as there is no more important place to tell the real and complete history of slavery and the Civil War. Until those statues come down, the false narratives and glorified view of the Confederacy will remain. In the statues' place, I would prefer to see monuments to overlooked figures that contributed to this city's history like Grace Arents or Maggie Walker. The city is lacking monuments to important women in Richmond's history but I certainly would not object to a monument to African American Union troops or Oliver Hill. Another idea, would a monument to Gabriel who led a slave rebellion and was executed. This would be a brave and substantial statement about the real history of slavery in Richmond as well as a memorial to a courageous man that many people know nothing about.						x			x	
	Cheryl Pallant		Thank you for looking into this and welcoming input. Keep the monuments but add text that better explains them. I would like a more complete history of Richmond as well. Richmond is not only about the Civil War. Show that Richmond also lives in the 20th and 21st century. Why not the historic, interracial couple, the Loving's, folks with whom Richmond can show pride. Women, often excluded from history, need to be represented. Theresa Pollak?						x			x	x
	Lt Col Al Bruner, USAF retired		Richmond is the Capitol of the South. The monuments belong to all Southerners. Recommend you simply post a graceful marker that displays the entire keynote dedication speech of each monument. That would reflect the truest context of why they were erected.									x	Suggested that Richmond should post a graceful marker that displays the entire keynote dedication speech of each monument. Also, suggested that it would reflect the truest context of why they were erected.

			I believe it would be wrong to tear down these statues. It is not our place to try and rewrite history. The Civil War was not just about slavery (even though a lot of it was), but the question of state's rights. The men honored were Virginians, protecting Virginia's rights. I do believe that an additional sign could be erected, that shows the dedication to Virginia by these men. I also believe that we should erect other statues, honoring people that have made Virginians proud, people like Maggie Walker, Booker T. Washington, or James Armistead Lafayette. Finally, maybe we can redistribute the locations of these statues, showing that Virginians honor people for their deeds, regardless of Race, Sex, or Religious beliefs, as our great country, the United States of America defines itself.	x		x	x		
	Scott McDowell								
			Monument Avenue should be diversified or the street name should be changed to Confederate Avenue. It's also likely the law, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that it is illegal to fly the Confederate Battle Flag, out of context, on government owned property like courthouses. Monument Avenue is government taxpayer owned property. Also Monument Avenue receives first class maintenance by the City of Richmond, separate locations are not equal. Richmond's history also includes it's history pre-dating the Civil War and it's history since. Here are a few ideas to consider. What would a visitor touring Richmond think? The statue at the intersection of Boulevard and Monument should be of Richard and Mildred Loving ("Loving v. Virginia") showing Richmond has evolved into the 21st Century. Instead of completely removing existing statues, relocate them so every other statue is diverse. Maybe have statues of Katherine Johnson (movie: Hidden Figures), Governor Wilder, Oliver Hill, Wendell Scott, etc. Another idea is that at least partial funding could be from individual private donors, my wife and I are founding members of the Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial on the National Mall - financed entirely by private money.					x	x
	Ross Bailey								
			If not already familiar please take a look at the works by James Loewen on this very subject. In his book "Lies Across America" one of the main points I took away from reading it is that there are three time frames associated with monuments and historical markers. The time being commemorated, the time the monument was constructed and the time we are viewing it. For example this may be 1865, 1930 and 2017 for a statue on Monument Avenue. Please consider this approach to adding context to the monuments. I personally do not think the statues should be removed but they sorely need something like the above. If the community decides to remove them then I would support that. Many thanks for your dedication to this project. We the people of the RVA metropolitan area have another unique opportunity here to help the USA make steps toward recognition and reconciliation for some of our worst history.	x		x			
	Rick Carr								
	Jillian Paterson		Patrick Henry!!!					x	
			I started a facebook group in 2015 to explore some ideas on how to add context. I think just using signage would fall far short of the goals of adding context. Visuals must be met with visuals. https://www.facebook.com/Update-the-Civil-War-Monuments-in-Richmond-1647423188827903/ Here is an example of an idea I photoshopped together. Says far more than a sign ever could. (Not that signage should be excluded: https://www.facebook.com/1647423188827903/photos/a.1647428902160665.1073741828.1647423188827903/1647514225485466/?type=3&theater)				x		
	Arthur Brill								
			I do not think any monuments should be taken down; however, I do believe it is time to tell the whole truth of slavery. And clearly add monuments to people of color. Involve the sculpture department at VCU with a competition to develop new monuments to add to monument avenue. Let's honor all people. Though Richmond was once the capital of the confederacy, we have the potential to model true racial healing.	x					
	Betty Caldwell								
			I am very happy to hear of the mayor's plans to add context to the confederate statues. I think it is critically important to understand the duality of history, especially in such situation as this one. One way this could be done with the confederate statues would be to offer more context and a more truthful understanding of each person erected on Monument, specifically the confederate generals. If when viewing the statues, the viewer was prompted to physically walk across the lawn reading information, maybe in a north to south trajectory, the viewer could read different facts, quotes and perspectives of the person. This would allow the viewer to focus on the truth of the person, both good and bad, while also allowing for a better understanding as to the mindset and ideas that individuals in both the North and South held of the the other during the war and even today still.					x	
	Anne Forrester								
			I am no longer a Richmonder, but I was born and raised in Henrico and attended VCU for undergraduate and graduate degrees. I also was an intern at the American Civil War Museum during Summer 2008. What Monument Avenue needs more than anything else is a monument to reconciliation. I'd like to see a two statues: one of a white Confederate soldier and another of a black Union soldier shaking hands with Lincoln's words emblazoned beneath them: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."					x	x
	Jonathan Wyss								Suggested that there should be two statues added. One of a white Confederate soldier and another of a black Union soldier shaking hands with Lincoln's words emblazoned beneath them, "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Janet White		YES! We need more monuments on Monument Ave! In a way, I wish Maggie Walker's monument had been placed here. Let's tell a more complete story of RVA by celebrating more representatives from diverse populations, NOT by tearing down history. Examples to get you started: Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Bowser, Women Civil War Soldiers, Virginia Minor, etc.	x		x	x		
Brad Scaggs		I commend Mayor Stoney's approach. Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. Removal of these statues would do more harm than good. Instead tell the whole story with context from both sides of the argument, include the confederate defeat, emancipation, and civil rights struggle. Let these monuments tell our past, celebrate the work we've done together, and provide hope for a united people in the future. There is an opportunity to have dialogue here. As for monuments to add, Booker T Washington, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and James Farmer come to mind. These people all played an important role in laying the ground work for discussions of equity and social justice.	x		x	x		
kenneth trimmer		i would like to see all 8 presidents who came from va to be added. and a w.o.t memorial. and a city peace memorial or something like that. lastly a STOP VIOLENCE memorial if the city would ever incorporate stop violence into the communities. I think that would cut to many police man hours and cut crime possibly 44%. arm former criminals with information not police officers with warrants. ok I sorry im off track or looking towards the future. but these are all good ideas					x	
Marissa Mancini		Thank you for doing this. If we can't remove the existing monuments, I echo the sentiment to add context with monuments to Gabriel, the underground railroad, and will support anything like-minded vocally and with volunteer hours if helpful. Thank you again.			x			
Panayotis Giannakouros, Ph.D.		While I am not a Richmond resident, I have been presenting research on the Readjuster movement of the 1880s and am interested in learning from and sharing in your process. The Readjuster movement which governed Virginia for four years threatened the foundations of white supremacy. Erasing its memory and the example it set was a key goal of the monument movement.						No stated position on the statues.
Emily Bates		It would be nice to see a memorial to the Lovings. Also a civil rights memorial would be lovely, too. Finally, markers to explain the existing monuments should be added.			x	x		Suggested that it would be nice to see a memorial to Richard and Mildred Loving. Also, a Civil Rights Memorial.
Andrew Reid		So I've been in Richmond for about 4 years now-- came here for VCU-- and I've been wondering myself what could be done to add context to the confederate monuments on Monument Ave. Taking down the statues seems like not enough-- it feels like an attempt to erase the history, which has never served for betterment. Then I thought "what if they added statues lining Monument Ave, between each of the monuments of enslaved peoples with their names, and even a sample of their story?" Enough of these statues could give a hint to the gravity of the fact that these human beings existed, and that they were treated as property or even livestock, but that they were indeed human.					x	
Chris Tignor		Adding context including what these men did after the Civil War to better the country (if anything) would be helpful. Also showing why they served for the Confederates (slavery, states rights, etc) - not all of these men were pro-slavery and why they served is still a mystery to man of us. As for other statues, I'd suggest: Doug Wilder, Jimmy Dean, John J Jasper, Alden Aaroe, Patricia Cornwell, David Baldacci, Warren Beatty, Lucy Goode Brooks, James Branch Cabbell, Walter F. Turnage. so many great richmonders i could go on for days!			x	x		
Glenn Robinson		My opinion is to add monuments all the way past the Squirrels Stadium. There are hundreds of leaders from Richmond or related to Virginia that are deserving of a monument. John Marshall, Patrick Henry, many more. Please do not remove these statues. Thank you					x	
Brandon Powell		Most of the monuments to the Confederate a generals have enough space around them to add additional granite plinths detailing their lives and context to show how the statue came about and the role the person played in the South. I also believe that we should add additional statues to monument Avenue depicting famous people from Richmond and Virginia such as Supreme Court Justice Louis Powell, Admiral Byrd and the monument that Salvador Dali designed for Confederate women although I believe we should alter it to make it a monument to the women of Richmond. Additionally monuments should be placed to memorialize slavery such as a monument to the slaves sold in the city at the slave auctions and shockoe bottom as well as abolitionist movements and heroes from Virginia and that came through the city as well monument Avenue is a very long street there are quite a few intersections the can add statues can be added to to enhance the culture of our city	x		x	x		
Patti Kilcullen		I would like to see statues of Pocahontas and Maggie Walker added to Monument Avenue The statues should be viewed in the context of the times they were erected. The Confederate monuments were put up after the War which makes sense. Arthur Ashe was added after his death since he was a great Virginian. I think statutes of Pocahontas and Maggie Walker would send a message about the Avenue being inclusive rather than exclusive and they were also two great Virginians.					x	
Lorraine Henicheck		Virginia is full of historical significance. I would include history that has impacted all generations including the Lovings, Maggie Walker, Governor Wilder and others					x	Suggested that the Lovings, Maggie Walker, and Gov. Wilder to all be added to Monument Ave.

Paul Jez			I think the idea of providing context to each statue is an improvement. I would hope it not become a politically correct endeavor but deal with facts of the time period when they were added and constructed. Clearly good people today with have differing opinions of the events 100+ years ago so let's not make it a debate over current opinions. I would strongly urge the city of richmond get out of the statue business - we don't need more statues to increase cost, complicate traffic and cause divisions in our communities. find ways to honor other great Richmond's by naming schools or courthouses or other important public facilities . tx for the opportunity to comment and good luck with your efforts			x			
JoAnn Anderson			I suggest adding famous African American Civil War heros. Dr. Robertson, the retired VA Tech Professor, would certainly be able to assist in selecting additions to Monument Ave.				x		Suggested that African American Civil War heroes should be added to Monument Ave.
Lara Coggin			Please remove all Confederate military statues, and all statues of slaveowners from Monument Avenue immediately. It is a human rights disgrace to glorify their white supremacist ideology. We have ample local figures to highlight, ideally without resorting to giant bronze and stone objects. There are local floral, fauna, and temporary art installation opportunities that will crop up once we make space for them to appear. We need to rethink the idea of a monument, and make sure this space reflects the Richmond we want to become, not the Richmond we have been.		x				
Nathanael Rudney			I just wanted to add a suggestion to my initial comments regarding the need to take down the monuments vs. proposed ineffectual efforts to contextualize them. I suggest that the monuments be taken down and placed in their rightful places in some of Virginia's Civil War National Battlefields. This is a proper context for the monuments and could receive some bipartisan support as those who support the monuments want those Civil War figures to be remembered for the military prowess and roles before and after the war. The Civil War Battlefields regularly hold reenactments and historical education events garnering attendance from both Union and Confederate history devotees . This could be a good opportunity to place them in their context of the War and allow those devotees of both sides to have public access to them with educational opportunities to learn about the complete history of those figures and others in both the Confederacy and Union.		x			x	
Patricia Williams			I am praying the city will keep the monuments. You cannot erase history. Most tourists that visit want to see them. I know this because I am from Pittsburgh and have hosted many out of town guests. I have also taken the trolley tour numerous times, and I see the reaction of the tourists as the tour goes past the Monuments. They help make our city special and the Avenue unique. The cities that are removing monuments have a lot of strife and violence happening. Let's not go there. I agree with Mayor Stoney's idea of adding context. This could be done using tasteful stone plaques. Also, think of the money required in moving the statues. I believe they are also protected by federal law. Personally, if the statues are moved, I will no longer consider Richmond a place to eat, work or shop. I live in Henrico but close to the city. I will no longer spend a dime in the city if the decision is made to erase history. I thinking adding more monuments is a wonderful idea. Black, white, men, women.	x			x		
Felix Gostel			1. Why would we waste tax money to remove art? While at the same time losing one of RVA's tourist draws & then, wasting more tax dollars to replace them. Our school system is in crisis, our public transportation is laughable, and our roads & public housing are literally falling apart. We should prioritize our public funding to address real, everyday problems. 2. Recently, it occurred to me that we should utilize the sidewalks that surround each of the monuments (engrave/mold the message into the slabs of concrete). Dependent on font size, we could have a whole lot of commentary/contextualization that everyone could read as they walked around each of the monuments, and I think it would look great. 3. Why not add more diverse historical figures of RVA/VA (James Armistead Lafayette, Dred Scott, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Booker T. Washington, Oliver Hill, the Lovings, etc)? I think it would be pretty cool to be able to drive out of the city and see a physical testament to our evolution as a society. It should be noted that I wanted to see Maggie Walker's statue on Monument, but I can understand the rationale behind the chosen location. 4. I recognize the nefarious intent behind our monuments, but to that I say, "Why not take that intent out from under them?". Take the monuments that were intended to idolize these figures and make them stand for what they truly are - Grave reminders of one of the darkest periods in our history that help to insure that we never make the same mistakes again. 5. Where does removal of art for the sake of offense end? Will we go on to remove every public reference to historical figures that committed terrible acts? If that is the case, then we will need to remove many of our Founding Fathers' and former Presidents, as many were guilty and/or complicit in some form of hegemony, terrorism, genocide, discrimination, etc. People will get offended in life. That is one of its few guarantees. As a lifelong resident of RVA, I never perceived our monuments as honoring the figures. I have always looked at them as historical markers, helping to insure that the unforgivable mistakes of our ancestors are never repeated.			x	x		Suggests carving context into sidewalk. Suggests adding James Lafayette, Dred Scott, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Booker T. Washington, Oliver Hill, the Lovings.

	Madge Bemiss		<p>I suggest that we look at the Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Boston as a model for expanding public access to tell a more inclusive story on Monument Avenue. There, a pedestrian path through the center of the median, shaded and overlooked by houses on either side, incorporates statuary in a series of small gathering spaces to tell a multi-faceted story of Boston. Statues along this mall include:1.Alexander Hamilton, co-author of The Federalist Papers, sculpted by William Rimmer. The first statue placed on the mall. 1865.2.John Glover, Revolutionary War soldier, sculpted by Martin Milmore. 1875.3.Patrick Andrew Collins, former mayor of Boston, sculpted by Henry Hudson Kitson and Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson. Moved in 1966.4.The Vendome Memorial, which honors nine firefighters killed in the 1972 Hotel Vendome fire, sculpted by Theodore Clausen with landscape architect Peter White. 1997.5. William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist and journalist, sculpted by Owen Levi Warner. 6.Samuel Eliot Morison, naval historian and writer, sculpted by Penelope Jencks. 1982.7. The Boston Women's Memorial, with statues of Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone, and Phillis Wheatley, sculpted by Meredith Bergmann. 2003.8.Domingo Sarmiento, former president of Argentina, sculpted by Yvette Compagnion. 1973. A gift of the Argentine government in 1913, the statue arrived in Boston sixty years later.9. Leif Ericson, first European discoverer of Newfoundland, sculpted by Anne Whitney. 1887.Generally, I would like to bring the conversation along Monument Avenue to pedestrian/bicycle scale. This might mean taking the confederate statues down from their pedestals. Then we could place ourselves, or our surrogates in the form of other statues or plaques, in a position to have a direct conversation with these men - and the people who erected the monuments. For example, John Mitchell speaking about the erection of the Lee statue in 1890.I support Mayor Stoney's wish to tell a broader and more inclusive story of our city. I would not limit the interventions to the story of Monument Avenue.</p>			x	x		<p>Suggests looking at Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Boston as example of public space with expanded narrative via commemoration. Suggest removing from pedestals to bring to human scale and direct communication with statue figures. Suggests adding John Mitchell.</p>
	Karen Andrews		<p>When I drive or walk down Monument Avenue, I see a piece of Richmond's and Virginia's History. While some people laud or revile the celebrity of the historical markers, I simply see a piece of history frozen in time. We cannot change the past or how our ancestors thought or what they did. What we can do is continue to present a picture of our current society for future generations. In so doing, we should not change what our predecessors have chosen to express. We should add our own story to the picture. As we do this, the view of the entire Avenue will tell the story of our progress.I personally had hoped that the Maggie Walker Statue would be put on Monument Ave. She has always been an inspiration for me to exceed all expectation using all means at my disposal and to make Lemonade out of the Lemons I may have been given by my circumstances. I can't argue that the statues placement is not appropriate. It absolutely is. But I would have placed it on the Avenue that our City has designed to recognize it's residents who stand apart. I believe that by continuing to use Monument Avenue for what it was designed for will tell our story like nothing else can. The good parts and the bad parts. Each will have it's own meaning for each of our citizens now and in the future. We cannot measure how far we have come without seeing where we have been. Virginia's starting point was 1607. We should want to know our history, the bright and the dark, so that we understand how far we have come and how far we have to go.I would like to see monuments to the first Virginians as well as the Black Soldiers who fought on both sides of the civil war to gain their freedom. Lewis and Clark were also from Virginia. Virginia is the mother of presidents. Virginia's history is integral to our nations history. We are at the forefront of our nations formation and development. We must remember that we cannot hold 18th and 19th century people or societies accountable to 21st century ideals. If we could do that with any success, it would mean that we ourselves are not making much progress.</p>	x			x		
	Jeb Midyette		<p>Hello Monument Avenue Commision,I had an incredible "ah, ha" moment as I read this morning's AP article about the Monument Avenue problem. I think Mayor Stoney's words and the silhouette of the J.E.B. Stuart monument awoke me.Why not bring the statues off of their pedestals, down to ground level literally (and figuratively) so that when a citizen gazed across Monument Avenue, he or she would see a man or a man on a horse At Ground Level, brought down to earth, another citizen caught up in the sweep of history--and not an untouchable god of false moral perfection? What a sight! And what a reminder of the reality of that conflict!In addition, why not open the monument circles to pedestrians--if safely possible, perhaps a history walk down the Monument Avenue Median--where we all could get a close-up look at the statues, walk among them, touch them even, and where historians might add markers or other ground level statues/monuments with contextual information about the war, the times and the people of 19th century Virginia, putting everyone on equal footing with equal access to the full story of the Civil War?In this way, the monuments would remain in place, not even an inch from where they have always stood, but a million miles from what they have always stood for. And this plan would change the profile of Monument Avenue and Richmond for generations to come.</p>			x	x		<p>Suggests removing from pedestals and putting at ground level for symbolism and pedestrian access.</p>

	Patrick Clark		<p>Dear Sir or Madam,When looking at the future contextualization of Monument Avenue, there should be waysides somewhere near the statues of Stuart, Lee, Davis, Jackson, Maury, and Ashe. These waysides should be visually tasteful, in harmony with the late Victorian and Edwardian aesthetic of the neighborhood, but also informative regarding their subjects. There are many good examples of waysides and panels in the Richmond area that deal with Civil War, Reconstruction, and Civil Rights topics. The waysides provided by the National Park Service at Richmond National Battlefield Park and the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site are positive models to follow, as they are simple, informative, and apolitical. They state the facts about individuals and events, while allowing the visitor to draw their own conclusions about the history presented. The Virginia Historical Society also provides excellent interpretative panels for the Memorial Military Murals at the former Battle Abbey building. The panels highlight the history, creation, and purpose of the Charles Hoffbauer murals, and state, rightly so, the artistic importance of the paintings, although popular understanding of the Confederacy may have changed since they were completed in 1920. The information presented by the National Park Service and the Virginia Historical Society in their public spaces doesn't make a moral judgement on the Union or Confederacy, or on those long-dead individuals who served on either side of the Civil War. Nor do they pass judgement on a previous era of history using contemporary standards. The waysides and panels explain historical perspectives, leaving it up to the viewer to create their own perspective. As far as future monuments that may be added to Monument Avenue, there are several Virginians who have not been properly memorialized in our capital city's public spaces. Among them are important literary figures such as Ellen Glasgow, James Branch Cabell, Douglas Southall Freeman, and Virginius Dabney. Several other individuals with roots in Virginia could also be added, among them Booker T. Washington, William Mahone, and Lewis Ginter. Naturally, as the first statues on Monument Avenue were originally financed by private donations, the City of Richmond should not spend taxpayer dollars on creating new memorials until other more pressing city projects are properly funded and managed. Funding for public utilities, education, and safety ought to come before funding for public art.</p>			x	x	<p>Suggests adding tasteful waysides with apolitical content. Suggests adding James Branch Cabell, Douglas Southall Freeman, Virginius Dabney, Booker T. Washington, William Mahone, and Lewis Ginter.</p>
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Taking down the statues will not change those behaviors. Pretending that it will does more harm than good. The history of the times leading up to and including the Civil War cannot be changed. What is important is to make sure that it is accurately understood and not biased by political correctness or revisionism. Why did otherwise honorable people believe that slavery was acceptable and not inconsistent with either the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or fundamental Christian principles? Slavery has a long history, going back to ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece. African slavery goes back to the 15th century and it was not until the 18th century that public opinion in Europe began to turn against it. It was not abolished in the British Empire until 1833. Many Americans assumed that slavery in the U.S. would die out with the passage of our Constitution. The passage of time did not produce that outcome among most states and, as a result, our nation suffered the loss of over 600,000 lives. The tragedy of the Civil War is a sobering experience that can serve today as a stark reminder of the consequences of failing to resolve differences peacefully. Those who have been most vocal in demanding that the statues be taken down accuse the individuals they commemorate, including Robert E. Lee, of being traitors. Statements along those lines reveal how ill-informed the advocates for removal are. Whether or not they are pursuing an undisclosed agenda, it is clear that they are not well-informed about the complexity of secession. Recently, columnist and economist Walter Williams wrote an enlightening opinion piece in the Richmond Times-Dispatch that explained how different the relationship between states and the federal government in the 19th century was from what it now is. As he explained, "The U.S. Constitution would never have been ratified — and a union never created — if the people of those 13 "free sovereign and Independent States" did not believe that they had the right to secede." During the ratification process, Virginia delegates as well as those from New York and Rhode Island expressed the view that "The powers granted under the Constitution being derived from the people of the United States may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression." The history of the times shows that the allegiance of Americans was first to their states and then to the union. That perspective helps to explain Lee's comment in declining to lead Union forces against the Confederate states. He could not raise his sword against "my home, my family, and my native state of Virginia." In spite of leading Confederate forces, Lee did not favor either slavery or secession. After the war, he wrote to a Confederate veteran, "I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony." His efforts at reconciliation were widely recognized in both the north and south, making him a symbol of a nation trying to heal. An understanding of Lee the man justifies his statue and the reverence in which his memory is still held. Monument Avenue is an integral and unique part of Richmond and its history. Its designation as a historical landmark provides a justification for preserving that history and also for adding to it by building statues recognizing people like Maggie Walker and Sarah Garland Jones. Monument Avenue can become living history. The context suggested by Mayor Stoney can be provided by a close linkage with the Civil War Museum and by Richmond related educational efforts that can promote civility and genuine acceptance that "all men are created equal." I am writing to submit comments on the work of the Commission, which can represent a wise response to the conflicting views being offered about Monument Avenue's statues. The process of finding common ground will be challenging, but an outcome worthy of your efforts must do exactly that—find common ground. Common ground can be based on the fact that there are no shades of gray when it comes to slavery, racism, bigotry, and intolerance. They are just plain wrong. My comments are based on a few simple principles—getting the history correct, providing an understanding of the people who have been honored with the statues, and using the Monument Avenue statues as a means of teaching civility, tolerance, and the great harm caused by bigotry, racism, and intolerance. I suspect that those in the African-American community who are advocating removal of the statues are motivated by the pain they see and feel because of today's bigotry and racism. 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	Laura Cameron		<p>Interpretation: signs add more clutter to already awful clutter around Lee and Maury in particular. Only the very best designers should get this asSIGNment. Apps would great, as long as they are free. Don't worry about extremes of balancing opinion--we've been extreme in the Lost Cause propaganda way too long. Scholars like Ed Ayers, Christy Coleman, Drew Faust and Charles Bryan are great, but include radicals. Language from secession documents is a must.Adding statues: All for it, but not without an endowment for their care. Otherwise Mr. Lee, so beautifully tended by the Commonwealth, will outsparkle everyone else. Have a massive PR campaign by Christy Coleman, calling attention to how much more diverse Richmond's public and private collection is: Maggie Walker, Arthur Ashe, Bojangles, the Batteauamen, the Civil Rights memorial, Box Brown, Reconciliation.My nominees for new statues: Elizabeth Van Lew, Gen. George Thomas, Gabriel "Prosser", John Mitchell, Henry Marsh, first woman mayor, Theresa Pollak--founder of VCU and UofR art programs. Would rather have Wilder on state property.Don't rule out altering a statue or two. James Loewen of "Lies My Teacher Told Me" suggests putting slaves behind the bars on either side of Jefferson Davis.Call attention to VCU's "General Demotion, General Devotion." Thank you for this effort.</p>			x	s		<p>Suggests requiring language from secession documents and endowments for care of new statues. Suggests adding Elizabeth Van Lew, George Thomas, Gabriel Prosser, John Mitchell, Henry Marsh, and Theresa Pollak.</p>
	Laurel Scott		<p>The Monument Avenue monuments are not only priceless pieces of public art and part of Richmond's vibrant and diverse history, they provide some excellent teaching opportunities going forward. Perhaps it is indeed time to contemplate adding interpretive signage. We might even consider adding unobtrusive kiosks with on-demand video clips of costumed living historians discussing the story behind the construction of these monuments — and the different views about them — in first person.However, if interpretive signage or something similar is added, we should NOT make the tragic mistake of replacing one perceived bias with another in a misguided attempt to right old wrongs. Instead of swinging the pendulum to the other extreme, let's try to find a balance.In order to be fair and truly inclusive, for example, the descendants of the people who actually erected those monuments — including members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans — should be among those contacted for their views. I don't believe they are represented on the monument commission at present, but they are the keepers of many of the original records pertaining to these monuments. They know best why their ancestors erected these statues, and their input should certainly be considered when deciding how best to tell the monuments' story.It seems to me that many of the monuments' most ardent critics have been too quick to embrace 21st century "hindsight bias" and scream "white supremacy" when it comes to anything related to Confederate history (which, it's important to remember, is American history). This is sadly simplistic and short-sighted, and any attempts to rewrite, edit or "cherry-pick" history do not speak well of our progress — our evolution, if you will — as a culture. The truth of Richmond's history—and indeed, the Civil War itself—is much more complex than that, and we owe it to future generations to try to step back, take a deep breath and address everything that these monuments have meant to different people in an honest and compassionate way.Let's start by seeking input from all sides at several town halls or hearings. After this, I would suggest that the proposed text or dialogue for each interpretive effort be submitted to Richmond city residents for consideration, and then again, for a final vote.I feel that future monuments should be erected to whomever Richmond residents decide, by vote, is worthy. Our city has been in the process of erecting other relevant monuments to the memory of other important people for years now, which is much to our credit and should not be ignored. However, each monument or memorial should be carefully considered and researched, reputable sculptors hired and the locations adequately scouted before being voted upon by city residents.Our Monument Avenue has been called one of the most beautiful avenues in the world; let's keep that in mind and continue that great tradition for the sake of our beautiful city and its many residents, both past and present.</p>			x	x		<p>Suggests open public process for panel text comment and selecting subjects of new monuments.</p>

	Matt McGuire		<p>Commission members: I appreciate your service on a commission intended to address the contentious subject of the monuments to Jefferson Davis and various Confederate officers that are prominently displayed on Monument Avenue. I'll try to keep my comments brief and to the point: I think signage offering historical context to the statues is reasonable. I would urge that political rhetoric making specious comparisons between President Trump and the leaders of the Confederacy be avoided when this new signage is unveiled/discussed. I think it is reasonable to contemplate removing some of the statues, but not all of the statues. Why would I recommend this? Because our city in general, and Monument Avenue in particular, are strongly connected to commemorating the Civil War. I suggest the following:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Keep the statues of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis, but with significant signage explaining the history of the statues.* * Replace the statue of Stonewall Jackson with a monument to the U.S. Colored Troops participating in the liberation of Richmond. This idea of having a monument to the U.S. Colored Troops has been discussed by others and it strikes me as a great replacement for the Jackson statue that would give long overdue recognition to black troops. * Replace the statue of J.E.B. Stuart with a statue of Confederate General James Longstreet (and rename Stuart Circle to Longstreet Circle). Why replace one controversial statue with a statue honoring a different Confederate General? Partly because Longstreet deserves the positive recognition, but even more because a monument to Longstreet should be surrounded by signage that explores an important question: Why would the general thought by many to be the Civil War's finest tactician not be honored by a place on Monument Avenue when the other statues were erected? The answer of course is that it was well known to "Lost Causers" who viewed Longstreet as the Reconstruction Period's great "Scalawag." After the conclusion of the Civil War, Longstreet supported Reconstruction and the Republican Party. Indeed he famously commanded black troops in New Orleans during Reconstruction. Longstreet's embrace of Reconstruction merits praise and including him on the Avenue would help maintain the Avenue's Civil War emphasis while serving a positive education purpose. * Replace the statue of Admiral Maury with one honoring former Governor L. Douglas Wilder. Surely as the nation's first elected African-American governor Wilder deserves a place of genuine honor in the city. I think Monument Avenue is appropriate, but I can see a case for having him replace Sen. Byrd on the grounds of the state capitol too. Regardless, Admiral Maury needs to go.* <p>Other thoughts on the possibility of additional new monuments: I don't have any specific recommendations for new locations for statues on Monument Avenue. But I agree with those who think that statues honoring Oliver Hill and Spotswood Robinson might be appropriate. I know there is a new statue of Maggie L. Walker... why not have it on Monument Avenue? Hopefully my suggestions are helpful. I do hope you succeed in the difficult task of revamping Monument Avenue so that we do real honor to our Civil War heritage by telling the truth about it more frankly.</p>	x	x	x		<p>Keep Lee and Davis with significant signage. Replace Jackson, Stuart, and Maury with USCTs entering Richmond. James Longstreet, and Douglas Wilder. Suggests adding Oliver Hill and Spotswood Robinson, and possibly moving Maggie Walker to Monument Ave.</p>
	James Goodwin		<p>In an ideal world, we would decide together to remove public monuments to the Confederacy or it's key leaders, and that is my first and best hope. However, if we can't do that, perhaps we can build on to existing monuments so that they can only be experienced in an appropriate historical context. For inspiration, we can look to this World War I memorial in Hamburg, Germany: http://denkmalhamburg.de/kriegerdenkmal-an-der-st-johanniskirche/ Constructed in the '20s as a monument/memorial to German soldiers, in the '90s images of suffering, starving people were added to it, re-contextualizing the existing monument in light of the anguish of civilian and military victims of the two world wars and the Holocaust. So, we could surround the statues of Jackson and Jefferson Davis with pictures of slaves or slave auctions, and of victims of post-war racial violence, such as lynching victims. That way, visitors would both literally and figuratively view Confederate leaders through the lens of black oppression. Finally, we could add new statues to Monument Ave, prominently situated next to Confederate monuments, of people like John Brown, Nat Turner, and Medgar Evers.</p>	x		x		<p>Suggests adding John Brown, Nat Turner, and Medgar Evers.</p>

	Teresa Roane		<p>The creation of monuments have been around since the beginning of time that represents an event or a person. How sad that people do not understand the contributions of these men to American history. There are people who cannot understand the beauty of the artwork or that it is about honoring their memory. Perhaps they should look at the financial implications of these statues. People come from all over the world to see these memorials. Visitors to Richmond need to eat, buy and perhaps stay in Richmond. It is revenue for the city and for the Commonwealth of Virginia. If you cannot honor these men, then think of the bottom line. There is no need to reinterpret these monuments, but what if you made the decision to do it, would you include: Robert E. Lee graduated from the United States Military Academy and spent over 30 years serving as an Engineer which included changing the course of the Mississippi River, Superintendent at West Point, and that military schools around the world study the strategies of the Army of Northern Virginia. Will you mention that Lee signed the manumission document that freed the slaves at Arlington, Romancoke and White House which had force of law, unlike the Emancipation Proclamation that freed no one? Jefferson Davis' household in Richmond consisted of Free People of Color, slaves and immigrants. Will you mention that the ex-slaves kept in touch with the Davis family after the war? Will you let everyone know Mrs. Varina Davis gave the valet and coachman, James Henry Jones one of her husband's walking cane? She had it inscribed "to my friend James Jones". This was a big deal because of the status it gave him since he was a Man of Color. The cane is at the North Carolina Museum of History. Will you let the public know that General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson broke Virginia's law by having a Sunday school for slaves and Free People of Color? This is a slippery slope. Why? Because you will apply 21st century judgement on history. Will this be the beginning? Will there be a reinterpretation of Lincoln's statue, Christopher Columbus, Bill Robinson, or any other monument or memorial in the city? How will you explain to the Richmond taxpayers that their taxes are going to go up because of your reinterpretation due to the fact that city will stop being a tourist destination? Ms. Coleman, the documents that I mentioned are at the former Museum of Confederacy now known as the American Civil War Museum. Perhaps you should take some time and read these documents if they have not been shipped to the Virginia Historical Society. I am a Woman of Color, born and raised in Richmond. The Confederate monuments have never kept me from moving forward in life.</p>					No stated position on the statues.
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	Katie Watkins		<p>My thanks to Mayor Stoney and the Monument Avenue Commission for offering the public this opportunity to offer their collective thoughts and perspectives on the history of this great city and its lasting legacy. As communities across the country begin the difficult conversations about their identity and their ideals, I believe Richmond has taken a bold step forward in addressing not just the presence or non-presence of public displays of Lost Cause ideology, but why and how this narrative was allowed to take hold in the south. I live across the road from the Jefferson Davis monument. Each morning and each afternoon I walk by it, and more often than not, I find myself wondering about its place in this neighborhood and this city. As an employee in the world of local public history, I tackle daily the challenge of interpreting our American history and how our understanding of historical events can be shaped by our environments. The towering edifice, topped with Vindicatrix and bearing the motto of the Confederacy was proudly touted as, "the emblem of those martyred principles for which the Lost Cause suffered." It honors a man who fought to create a nation based on the ideals of racial hatred and unspeakable cruelty, and one who worked after the war to mythologize the history of the south and create a false narrative endearing his cause to future generations. This monument was not intended to preserve or teach us history- still, along with many others in Virginia and the United States. I do not think this or any of the currently standing monuments should be removed. To remove them is to erase history, but not the true and unbiased history of the Civil War. Richmond is simply no longer the bastion of racial inequity and Lost Cause rhetoric that it once was- our understanding of our history is changing, most effectively and boldly led by our own American Civil War Museum: no longer the shrine to Davis and Confederate figures it once was, but instead a thoughtful preservation and evaluation of the symbols of the Confederacy. To move forward as a society, I feel we must have open and frank discussion about history and historiography, to explore why we are taught what we are taught, and how that history shapes our current social and political landscapes. Because of this, I believe the monuments should be preserved (perhaps in an altered state- does Vindicatrix still deserve a place overlooking and casting her judgement on the city?), but with additional statues and signage to add context to their placement. The changes and additions to Monument Ave and to statuary throughout the city of Richmond will be a long conversation and a long process, and will continue to evolve and change their emphasis and interpretations for generations to come. I do, however, have some suggestions. To me, my neighborhood monument stands in representation of the subjugation and abuse of millions of human beings, the destruction of families, lives and dignity, and offers no apology for its subject's hateful rhetoric. Directly opposing the Davis statue, I propose installing a monument to the families who suffered under the institution of slavery and those who experienced liberation at the defeat of the man who the monument currently honors. This monument could consist of a four person family unit, standing in defiance of the Davis statue in the spirit of the Fearless Girl statue of Wall Street. Embodying a spirit of resiliency and defiance, the signage associated with this installation should highlight the triumph of the American spirit and the American people, the defeat of the Confederacy and why and by whom the Davis monument was erected. In addition, I would support a monument to the United States Colored Troops who marched into Richmond and well as to any strong figures who helped shape our local history and culture. Monument Avenue could be an inspiring outdoor museum documenting the full histories of our city and our state, and this influence can and should spread throughout the city. I believe the proposed Maggie Walker monument on Broad Street is an excellent step in the right direction. Currently, Christopher Columbus stands honored on Boulevard despite the violent and troubling history associated with his arrival, but no monument documents the history of the Native population who pre and post-dated him. As our country stands divided and questioning its national identity and consciousness. Citizens and cities across the country and are asking themselves what community means, and how best to define ourselves. I believe we have taken the first step towards answering this question in our capital city- by inviting the city to discuss this for ourselves. I look forward to the public meetings on this subject and what this conversation will produce.</p>	x		x	x	Suggest keeping but possibly altering statues. Suggests adding statues of emancipated slave families in direct opposition to Davis statue. Add statues to USCTs entering Richmond, and to Native American figures.
	Anne Chazal		<p>Thank you for allowing me to comment. Yours will not be an easy task - to hear all sides, discuss civilly, and make a decision that will reflect who Richmond was, is, and wants to be. I support keeping the monuments in place and the overall character of Monument Avenue but I strongly encourage reframing the context of the existing monuments. I would add more monuments to the story starting with Chief Powhatan and Pocahontas and all native Americans. I would add a monument to the 'unknown slaves' without whom Richmond, Virginia, and the US would not be the great places they are. One or two more statues to significant people of color should also be included: Maggie Walker, Bill Robinson, Doug Wilder etc (I admit ignorance of history and strong contributors in this category). I would add a monument that represents the Civil Rights movement so that we can reflect on the costs of segregation and Jim Crow. I would add a reconciliation monument - the largest of them all - that acknowledges and apologizes for our transgressions and shows we are united moving into the future. I would make these monuments as 'grand' as the existing ones - OR, I would restructure the existing ones to downplay their importance (remove from the pedestal so to speak). In addition, the signs on the current statues should be reworked to convey an accurate account of their role in developing Richmond or Virginia, and their role in the Civil War, as slave owners etc. I know you are aware of other cities dealing with their monuments. I hope you will reach out to them and listen to their lessons learned concerning the process. No matter how inclusive this Commission desires to be, some will believe it is partisan from the beginning. Consider hiring an outside, neutral team to facilitate meetings, community input, notes, press and, so forth, though the final recommendations will be the commission's.</p>	x		x	x	Suggests adding statues of unknown enslaved people, Chief Powhatan, Pocahontas, Maggie Walker, Bill Robinson, Doug Wilder, Civil Rights movement monument, and (the largest) reconciliation monument. New monuments should be either as grand as existing ones, or alter existing to be of comparable scale.

	Barry O'Keefe		(1) how do you best add context and tell the whole story of Monument Avenue I think glass and steel "display cases" should be erected around the statues - so that they appear as (dead) specimens in a display case, and such that they can only be viewed through this modern context.(2) what persons or events would you like to see added on Monument Avenue?1. Madison Washington2. Ralph White3. Chief Powhatan			x	x		Suggests adding large display cases around existing statues. Add Madison Washington, Ralph White, and Chief Powhatan.
	Karen Kelly		1. Add signage like current VA historic markers, placed where they are readable, like on the medians facing the statues.2. Monuments to local Native American tribes, slave laborers who built Richmond, Oliver Hill and other local civil rights fighters.Not Doug Wilder.Ever. 3. Monument funding should be private!! Fix our schools, transportation, and poverty issues first!			x	x		Suggests adding statues to local Virginia Indian tribes, slave laborers, Oliver Hill, and civil rights fighters (but not Doug Wilder).
	Theresa Kennedy		First, I'm fairly disappointed that the commission is starting out on the premise that context just needs to be added to Monument Ave. I would like an assessment of all options, including removal.Second, if "context" is going to be added, then it needs to be LARGE, visible from ALL SIDES of the monuments, and CLEARLY state who these men are. Stonewall Jackson: Racist, slave owner, general who fought to maintain slavery out of fear. Robert E Lee: lead general for the Confederate Army, slave owner, white supremacist.I am a firm believer that people are not the worst they have ever done; however, if we are going to build monuments to these men, let's be clear that they lived their lives off of the benefits provided to them through slavery and they are remembered for the "heroism" they fought with in an effort to maintain slavery.Please don't shame our city by creating tiny plaques with a tidbit of information. Lay out the whole truth in a big and ugly way because that's what this truth is - ugly.			x			Consider removal. "Context" needs to be visible from all sides of monument, large, and clearly stated ties to slavery.
10/09/2017 19:52:50	Louise Nemecek	Leave the monuments as they are.	I was born and raised on Monument Ave. and it has always been a large part of my life. My great grandfather was Marshall of the parade the day the monument of Lee was unveiled and his sons helped drag the monument up Franklin Street to it's present home at Allen and Monument. I have pieces of the crate that were given out as souvenirs of the occasion. PLEASE, PLEASE do not destroy these monuments it will be destroying a very important of History!!!!	x					
10/09/2017 20:02:05	Cynthia Schoonover	Leave the monuments as they are.	These monuments are a part of Richmond's history. Many people come to Richmond to see them, and you can not rewrite history. If people find them offensive, there are other routes through the city and these monuments are harming no one, and all this money wasted should be spent on improving the schools, which are falling apart. Richmond was the Capital of the Confederacy. If people don't like Richmond, move elsewhere.	x					
10/09/2017 20:54:20	Karen Gregory	Leave the monuments as they are.	As a 9th generation Richmonder I consider them a part of my history and the history of generations to come. I don't think they should be touched and that decision should not be made from a come here.	x					
	Patricia Compton		In response to the commission deciding the fate of Monument Avenue's future:I'm a native born Virginian and have lived here for the majority of my life. I always considered Richmond as the capitol of Virginia. The city belongs to the people of Richmond, but the capitol of Virginia belongs to the people of the state. Decisions made should be made on behalf of the citizens of the state.When I was a child in school we studied Virginia history and it was one of my favorite subjects as I care greatly for my state. Our text books and the lessons I was taught emphasized that the Civil War was fought to preserve the land of the south. Nothing was ever taught that the Civil War was fought because of slavery. Our land was being overcome by the forces from the North trying to put down the people and land of the South.If you ever go to the far reaching parts of our state you will find museums and history that shows how the Northern aggression destroyed land and homes and people. It laid waste farmland and crops and the livelihood of the people. In our region surrounding Richmond you can find that Petersburg and Richmond City as well as other places were destroyed.If it had not been for the leadership of many of the men, such as J.E.B. Stuart and Stonewall Jackson, and Robert E. Lee, whose statues stand on Monument Avenue they would have wrecked even more havoc. Robert E. Lee was chosen and it caused him much serious thought about whether or not to lead the army of the South. He was a wise leader and forwarded off a lot of the destruction that could have happened.Another valuable lesson I was taught in my childhood both from studies of history and lessons from my parents is that you cannot destroy history. History happens and what we are to do is to learn from our mistakes. There are many lessons to be learned from our history. One is to be brave and do what is right to protect ourselves. The day will come when the future citizens of our state will have to hold on to this lesson as we fight any enemy that comes our way, whether it be a foreign nation or idea that is not right.I find that Mayor Stoney is very wise in doing what he is doing and his thoughts that we should not remove the statues. He probably realizes that he will have to fight against many who are going to be very upset if the statues are removed. There will possibly be riots, more evidences of racial unrest and the taking of lives by those who are greatly upset.Instead I agree that what is there should be enhanced by the addition of other statues of great leaders of our state. Google African- American Virginians and you will find a multitude of great leaders from Virginia,such as Booker T. Washington, Nat Turner, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Oliver-White Hill, Ella Fitzgerald, Henrietta Lacks, Adam Clayton Powell and on and on. Some we might not agree with but many that have made great contributions to our state. Put up statues of some of those. Put up plaques to tell the history of our great state. Show off our capitol. Be an example to the rest of the country what Virginia can do to tell a well-rounded, bi-partisan and how a people can learn to agree and get along with our neighbors.We enjoy a lot of tourism to our state. This is our chance to draw visitors to see what Richmond can do that is right and good.	x			x		Suggests adding Booker T. Washington, Nat Turner, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Oliver Hill, Ella Fitzgerald, Henrietta Lacks, Adam Clayton Powell

	Hannah Porter		I love that this issue is being addressed! I would like to see Monument Ave become a celebration of those who have not only fought for improved equality, but for those who have had a positive impact on the lives of others in Richmond and on a larger scale. Names such as...Elizabeth Van Lew who started a spy ring in Richmond, VA for the Union during the Civil War.Sarah Garland Jones who was the first black person and first woman to be certified to practice medicine by the Virginia State Board of Medicine she then opened a hospital to serve the black community.Coach George Lancaster: Long time basketbal coach at Highland Springs. One of the first black coaches following integration. Over 700 career wins. There are so many more.				x		Suggests adding Elizabeth Van Lew, Sarah Garland Jones, and George Lancaster.
	Rhonda Tyson		As a museum professional I have worked on controversial exhibits. One on the Constitutional amendments the artifacts had two labels - one pro and one con.A whiskey still had two labels about prohibition- one of alcoholism, the other about the illicit trafficking in liquor.The confederate flag was interpreted in two labels- 1) as a representative of the traditions of the South, families torn apart, heroes that survived. 2) label spoke of the horrors of slavery and the flag represented the system of oppression. The labels were side by side so you can read both interpretations, and decide for yourself how complicated symbols are.Perhaps a similar approach can be considered for the monuments: Two labels to show how differently we can interpret the past.			x			Suggests having side-by-side contextual panels of different interpretations.
	Nissa Lipowicz		I will preface this by stating that systemic racism is a major issue historically for Richmond. This is an issue that needs to be corrected throughout the city landscape and through our education system and programs- Monument Avenue is just one opportunity for change. We could start also by scrubbing the names of known violent racists off of our history museums. My point is that Monument Ave is not the place to solve ALL of Richmond's problems- it is just a starting point. Do it well and do the story justice - don't just haphazardly try to represent or squeeze every phase of Richmond's very nuanced history into one linear street.I believe that the narrative for Monument Avenue should stick to the time period before and after the Civil War. The Civil War is off major interest to tourists and to residents interested in history and might appease some opponents of updating the Monument Ave narrative. It also helps keep the story concise - as any exhibit must have a plot that unfolds with many characters and voices. There are so many people to celebrate in Richmond/Virginia history that have long been forgotten that keeping the story focused will make the story stronger.I am no subject matter expert on Richmond history. But I am a lifelong resident and I have tried my best to learn about my city where our public schools and universities have failed to tell the stories. I would love to see Powhatan Beaty represented on Monument Ave. Powhatan Beaty was an African American Union soldier who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service. I would like to see Elizabeth Van Lew represented on Monument Ave. Elizabeth Van Lew was an abolitionist and Union spy who worked in Richmond. And I would like to see Carter Woodson's parents James Henry Woodson and Eliza Riddle represented on Monument Ave. James Henry Woodson physically dominated his enslaver and escaped slavery near Richmond to join the Union and Eliza remained enslaved and was sold in Richmond. After the Civil War the family purchased their own land and raised their children for a short time in VA before moving away. Carter Woodson is known as the Father of Black History and credits his philosophy of self determination to his parents. Their family story is a great representation of justice.And lastly, to the interpretive team - please update the language that you use when you write and speak about this history. Please remove offensive and dated terminology. Please stop just crediting and celebrating Lincoln for Emancipation. Kids are already learning that in schools, its not adding to the story, and its not helping tell the whole truth. No more white men on Monument Ave. And to the NPS members of the commission- no more putting the black man/woman into the limited role of "slave" - that just reinforces the problem that already exists.			x	x		Suggests keeping any new statues to period immediately before, during, or immediately after the Civil War. Suggests adding Powhatan Beaty, Elizabeth Van Lew, and James Henry Woodson/Eliza Riddle (Carter Woodson's parents). Suggests keeping terminology on panels current and not only relegating black men/women to roles of passive slaves.
	Vincent Revene		Believe it or not, there is an easy answer for this problem.Step 1: Move all the monuments to the Chimborazo Medical Museum site and create a beautiful garden "monument walk". This keeps the monuments on display and in Richmond and concentrated on a site already dedicated to Civil War history. Also, throwing money at the creation of the garden monuments walk shows a certain respect.Step 2: Instead of filling the areas left behind with more boring statues, fill it with public art. It can be established in the beginning that the public art will only be housed in each spot for a set amount of years so that new art can be cycled through. We are an artistic community, let's put some art on display. It shows culture.Step 3: Follow through with plans for a slave museum or a Richmond history museum. Make it something special. Show the true history of Richmond, warts and all.					x	Suggests moving statues to Chimborazo Park for new monument garden walk. Convert Monument Avenue into rotating public art gallery. Build slavery museum and make it special.

	Meredyth Temple		<p>I am delighted by the Mayor's thoughts on Monument Ave. I support retaining the statues but, as he described, providing more complete historical context and also adding more monuments to the avenue - something I think many of us have thought important for quite some time. It would be a wonderful opportunity to include women, who are completely unrepresented, people of color, and also to celebrate some concepts rather than just historical figures as well. Here are some suggestions worth considering:- Dorothy Height, activist- Grace Arents, Pocahontas- a monument celebrating & honoring the native tribes of the area- Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Union spy, suffragist, educator- a monument celebrating the arts (performing arts, writing and others)- Mary Munford, activist- Mollie Holmes Adams, activist & native culture preservationist- Admiral Richard Byrd, WWII hero & polar explorer- Pauline Adams, suffragist- Lucy Goode Brooks, founder of the Friends Association for Children- Naomi Silverman Cohn, suffragist, women's rights activist- Ethel Bailey Furman, architect & civic leader- Ruth Cole Harris, PhD, educator & business leader- Nora Houston, artist, suffragette, civic leader- Sarah Garland Boyd Jones, doctor, civic leader- Mary Ball Washington, mother of George Washington (founding mother)</p> <p>- Patrick Henry- Edmund Ruffin, founded the Virginia public school system- Walter Reed, Army MD, discovered the cause of yellow fever- James Armistead Lafayette, Revolutionary War hero- Oliver White Hill, civil rights leader & first African American Richmond city council member- Doug Wilder, first elected African American governor in history- Dr. William Foushee, first Richmond mayor & Revolutionary war hero- Lila Meade Valentine, suffragist, civic leader</p> <p>These are just a few ideas! I hope you'll consider them. Thank you for working to bring inclusiveness to this city - I fully believe we can honor the past while looking to the future and bring people together.</p>			x	x	<p>Suggests adding Dorothy Height, Grace Arents, Pocahontas, Virginia Indian tribes monument, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, monument to the arts, Mary Munford, Mollie Holmes Adams, Admiral Richard Byrd, Pauline Adams, Lucy Goode Brooks, Naomi Silverman Cohn, Ethel Bailey Furman, Ruth Cole Harris, Nora Houston, Sarah Garland Boyd Jones, Mary Ball Washington, Patrick Henry, Edmund Ruffin, Walter Reed, James Armistead Lafayette, Oliver White Hill, Doug Wilder, Dr. William Foushee, Lila Meade Valentine.</p>
	David Salay		<p>The primary conflict with the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue comes from two arguments, one that the statues should remain to preserve the history of Richmond as the capital of the Confederacy and a center of rebellion, and two that the preservation of that legacy is no longer in the spirit of this city. The former view has tried to gain contemporary acceptance by being framed in such a way by its proponents to seem as though it argues for the preservation of all history (particularly of rebellion) related to this city instead of just the history of the Confederacy. However, the proponents of this view have been the same who are the most resistant to attempts to preserve other types of history in this city, such as the Arthur Ashe statue and the Lincoln statue (both of which faced resistance by these groups.) I think this helps clarify that their position is specific to the Confederacy and not an argument about the preservation of Richmond history in general. If one makes an argument for the preservation of all history, the city of Richmond has a way to go to make an equal effort compared to what it has made for the Confederacy. Another component of their argument is that the government should not use its resources to make such an effort as removing the statues, and that to make this effort would be paramount to governmental rewriting history. Although this may be a waste of government resources, it certainly is not any more of a waste than the total money and manpower poured into maintaining and protecting these statues each year. As years have passed this effort becomes more and more costly mainly because they are becoming more frequently painted over. These two components of these two conflicting arguments can be resolved, in my opinion, by at least one or both of the following solutions:¹ The erection of statues recognizing the other figures in Richmond's history. In particular figures who were noteworthy for rebellious actions or forms of resistance. This has been done to some extent throughout the city, such as the bust of Oliver Hill. But for this to be potent they must all be on Monument Avenue, and in equal grandeur and number to the Confederates. I think a good figure to begin this would be an individual whose history truly has been erased from this city, leader of a slave rebellion in Richmond in 1800, Gabriel Prosser. I think it would also be important to include figures that are not necessarily from Richmond but whose legacy lies somewhere in Virginia (as is the case with most the Confederate generals.) Because of this I think two other figures who would be appropriate are Nat Turner and John Brown (Harper's Ferry was in Virginia at the time.) I think honoring this juxtaposition of legacies, particularly of rebellion, but in equal grandeur and effort is a way of shedding light on a history that has either been erased or forgotten and it simultaneously allows our monuments to update to the contemporary spirit of this city.² The designation of Monument Avenue autonomous art zones. As to allow for these statues to reflect the spirit and people of this city, the city should intentionally cease to spend resources to prevent individuals from painting them. While at first this may seem like a recipe for disaster I think this has the potential to provide an incredible opportunity to allow these monuments to reflect a contemporary Richmond which has a vibrant arts community and is becoming more well known for its widespread murals. Similar unregulated community projects have been allowed elsewhere and have been successful enough to attract tourism in other cities throughout the world. One example of this working successfully is the ever-changing Lennon wall in Prague, Czech Republic. In a very different type of way, this honors a similar spirit of rebellion and resistance in this city by allowing people the autonomy to physically create what their city looks like and honors. As well, in the long term it can relieve the city of wasting resources on maintaining these statues. Lastly, I think this will create a scenario in which people will have to confront and resolve their differences and decide what this city actually is about and what direction we think we should be going.</p>				x	<p>Suggest added statues have spirit of rebellion and of equal grandeur to current statues -- particularly Gabriel Prosser, Nat Turner, and John Brown. Also suggest designating Monument Ave. as "autonomous art zone" by allowing graffiti/public art expression to happen (see Lenin Wall in Prague).</p>
	Adam McEwen		<p>I am certainly of the opinion the statues should remain but be diluted by adding several more statues. First, presidents Monroe and Tyler certainly deserve a spot as they are buried in the city. Edgar Allen Poe should merit one as well. Additionally, as the capital of Virginia, statues of any famous Virginians would be welcomed. I think it is important to highlight that most the history of the city exists 1737-1860 and 1866-2017. As far as the existing statues, maybe etching the full message of the CSA leaders & their cause in as unbiased of a manner as possible in the sidewalks surrounding them would provide the space necessary? I feel that more positive messages such as US patriotism would be welcomed over antagonism.</p>	x		x	x	<p>Suggests adding Pres. James Monroe, Pres. John Tyler, and Edgar Allen Poe. Also suggests etching context for Confederate figures into sidewalks nearby.</p>

	Harold Adams		<p>I would like to share a recent experience that I hope may contribute to this discussion. In May my wife and I visited the site of Custer's Last Stand in Montana. A memorial to Custer and his men was erected there in 1881. In 1991 the U. S. Congress authorized the construction of an Indian memorial, which was dedicated in 2003, and the name of the battlefield was changed from Custer Battlefield National Monument to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. While touring the Indian memorial, we met a man who was showing the area to his son and sharing his family history. We learned he was a former federal law enforcement officer of Sioux, Crow and Irish descent and that his great grandfather was a warrior killed in the battle. It was a fascinating conversation and an experience showing that our common American history is ultimately more important than what divides us. We made two friends. This would not have happened if the park at Little Bighorn still told only one side of the story. Little Bighorn might serve as an example of what might be done to put Monument Ave. in broader context. https://www.nps.gov/libi/indian-memorial.htmThe Richmond area shares much in common with places like Little Bighorn and Gettysburg. You could really consider our entire region as a battlefield and use that concept to expand the context of Monument Ave. We need to create a richer dialogue about our shared history to facilitate the kind of experience my wife and I had at Little Bighorn for both residents and visitors. As a Richmond area resident since 1957 and descendant of at least three Confederate veterans I therefore support changes to Monument Avenue that would retain the historic character of the street while more broadly and comprehensively reflecting the city's history. Today it is important for the city to tell the whole story and to recognize the contributions African-Americans have made to our history. I support a memorial in honor the slaves who had no choice but nevertheless helped build the city and the south. I also suggest a memorial to honor the many Union soldiers who fought and died around Richmond in addition to the Confederate statues. This parallels the approach at Little Bighorn and Gettysburg. We have many visitors from northern states and a memorial to honor the Union sacrifice would be in keeping with the character of Monument Ave. and would help extend a welcome to tourists. Perhaps the street could take on an expanded formal educational role in some way within the regional Civil War park system. This is an opportunity to move forward that the city should not miss. I look forward to the recommendations of the commission.</p>				x		<p>Suggests Little Bighorn Battlefield NM as example of reinterpretation and memorialization. Suggests adding statues to enslaved people, to Union troops who fought and died in the area, as well as possibly expanding educational opportunities on Monument Ave.</p>
	Robert Hopper		<p>I think that history of the Civil War and Virginia's participation in it is more complicated than taught. It was about both states right and slavery. Virginia's who fought for the South were both traitors to the USA and patriots to their States. In teach about the South and the Civil War a broader and more complicated approach should be taken and Mon. Ave. can be used. Changes I'd make in Mon. Ave. First, on context of The Civil War and Virginia, I'd get rid of Jefferson Davis, not a Virginian. Second, I'd add two Civil War themed monuments; one, for the larger deaths and destruction to the state and the heroics of the civilian survivors and, two, to Virginians who choose loyalty to the USA and fought for the Union. After, those changes to the Civil War aspect of Mon. Ave. I'd make a few other changes and additions to broaden and improve it. First, I love Arthur Ashe but feel his monument is buried in the back and doesn't stand up to the others. Improvements to it need to be made. Monuments I'd add. One for Jefferson's Virginian Statue on Freedom of Religion. One for Richard & Mildred Loving. One for the Native Americans of Virginia. One for the importance of Virginia and the history of transport locally and nationally (Canals, Trains, Street Cars, Automobiles, Planes and Aerospace.) Monument Ave is important to Richmond, both symbolically and as a tourist attraction. We need to respect that and help it do its job here in the community. It is important that any new monuments meet the standards of the old monuments or it belittles the subject matter and belittles the importance of Mon. Ave. To help expand its educational use downloadable audio podcast files can be created. And as people walk Mon. Ave. and enjoy the monuments and buildings they can listen to the history as they do the walking tour. A central walkway can be created with more trees, bushes and flowers planted to enhance the enjoyment. Think NYC's new High Line park but incorporating a broad range of Richmond's and Virginia's history with a beautiful landscape park.</p>	x	x	x		<p>Suggest remove Davis, add monument to Civil War deaths/destruction/civilian sacrifice, add monument to Virginians who fought for Union, improve Ashe monument. Suggest adding statues for Jefferson's Statue on Freedom of Religion, the Lovings, Native Americans of Virginia, importance of Virginia. Suggests new statues be of equal grandeur to existing. Create podcasts for self-directed audiotours, and improve pedestrian experience for such (ex: NYC's Highline Park).</p>	
	Eric Crump		<p>I think telling the story of the current monuments is a grand idea. I also do believe several new monuments should be considered. Ideal candidates are as follows: Booker T. Washington – (1856-1915) Hardy; Educator, Founder of Tuskegee Institute. Maggie L. Walker – (1864*-1934) Richmond; First woman bank president in America, Advocate of black women's rights. Henrietta Lacks (1920-1951) - Roanoke; The progenitor of the HeLa cell line, one of the most notable cell research discoveries ever made. Her cells lead to many important breakthroughs in biomedical research, including the polio vaccine. Today, the HeLa cell line has been recognized as a globally significant contribution to medicine and research.</p>			x	x	<p>Suggests context, plus adding Booker T. Washington, Hardy, Maggie L. Walker, Henrietta Lacks</p>	
	David Johannas		<p>Please keep me informed of your progress. The urban form and fabric of Richmond is very important to me, and, as such, I am most interested in an additive approach when working with our urban environment. One exception maybe, the Jeff Davis monument. It's the form that is important, if we lost the statue of Davis, the obelisk and semi-circular colonnade could remain. I also think the time period, when Monument Ave was created is also an interesting and essential part of the story - the grand avenue and the continuity of connecting parkland (the median.) I love the location for the Maggie Walker Plaza. It will become the living room of the arts district - also located at the nexus of the east versus west (close anyway) and the true former division of the north of Broad versus South of Broad districts as well as the diagonal axis of Brook, the road into Richmond for commerce. Also, historically significant is the gateway into Jackson Ward. There are so many locations in Richmond that need confirmation, and such a complicated story to communicate. Thanks so much for working on/with this new commission. I greatly look forward to following your progress.</p>	x	x	x		<p>Generally likes adding to existing Monument Ave., but removing Davis statue and Vindictrix (to repurpose rest of structure).</p>	

10/10/2017 18:07:09	STEPHANIE MUDD COUCH	Leave the monuments as they are.	A monument has no meaning unless you attribute meaning to it. My black friends pay it no mind because removing them will not change anything in their lives. When you talk about context, the context is knowing your history. These monuments represent how one thought in another time. They are lessons that tell us what people in past did wrong. We do not worship them! We look at them as men who thought they were doing the right thing in going with their state.	x		x			
10/12/2017 9:57:24	Pamela Arnold	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	As a parent trying to keep their child in the Richmond school system, I agree with the popular opinion that money should be directed to schools first. Let's take care of our future, before throwing money at our past. After the schools are better addressed, then it would be best to give context to the monuments. Let them be used to educate about our present vision and to our history, not eradicate it. Finally, YES please, lets add a monument that reflects the other half of our entire population -- let's make sure our women are represented as history makers too.				x		Suggests adding a woman.
10/13/2017 9:35:15	Jonathan Ashe	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Attached is a link to an 11-minute audio clip from a podcast called "The Memory Palace". I found the episode to be helpful in understanding what can be done in our city. If the members of the commission have not already heard it, I hope you can find the time to listen and it proves to be helpful. Along with the link, I have copied and pasted what I found to be the most useful excerpts into this message. http://themorypalace.us/2015/08/notes-on-an-imagined-plaque/ "First, it should be big, the plaque, not necessarily because there's so much to say, though there is so much to say, but big enough to be noticed on the side of this rather grand monument, after they move it and the bodies beneath it across town to the cemetery. And not just big for the sake of bigness; it needs to stick out as something off, something that disrupts the admirable balance of the statue, currently so tasteful, regal even. This bronze man on this bronze horse. Goatee. Square jaw. You get it. You've seen it before, even if you haven't seen it before...So let's think about material for this imagined plaque. Maybe the plaque should be garish. Not intentionally ugly, but necessarily, but like titanium, maybe. A patch of frank, eerie futurism on this stayed, stately old thing. It would catch the light. It would catch the eye. In contrast to the northward-facing brown-green man on his brown-green horse. Or a grey pigeon, alit on his brown-green epaulet. And I like that the eerie of it all, the futurism, is not at all futuristic. It's millennial. A decade from now, it'll be dated, literally dated. Bilbao or Disney Hall or whenever will seem so late-90s, so 2000s. And you'll scoff. And I want that. I want this plaque to be fixed in time, to let people know when it went up, let people know what was up at the time, because that is the point here. The point of this plaque is to make sure that these future people realize that this lovely old statue wasn't always old and wasn't always here in this cemetery. And, moreover, I want the reader, standing there in the shadow cast by the late, somehow still lamented, Nathan Bedford Forrest, on some future summer Sunday, to know why it wound up in a park on the other side of town in the first place. Because memorials aren't memories. They don't just appear upon death. A letter of surrender, signed in some farmhouse at the edge of some battlefield, doesn't come complete with a historic marker affixed to the door...So the plaque should be big, but it can't be big enough to say all that. Maybe it should just say -- maybe they should all say, the many, many thousands of Confederate memorials and monuments and markers, that the men who fought and died for the CSA, whatever their personal reasons, whatever was in their hearts, did so on behalf of a government formed for the express purpose of ensuring that men and women and children could be bought and sold and destroyed at will. Maybe that should be enough."						Provides podcast excerpt/link suggesting large plaque to fix directly to statues with context.

10/13/2017 16:53:02	Michael McFall	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	<p>To the Monument Avenue Commission,</p> <p>First, I appreciate your service on this committee. Obviously there is political pressure on all sides and a sense of urgency due to the events in Charlottesville and the activity of the CSA II from Tennessee. I've been very concerned about the statues being used as a political lightning rod and possibly attracting events that might jeopardize public safety in the Fan. So I'd like to give my perspective as a proud Richmond resident and someone who lives very close to the Stonewall Jackson statue.</p> <p>While it appears to the media that there are two sides to this issue, I would say Richmonders fall on a broad spectrum between those two poles and no one is particular keen to spend too much money that would take away from state and city budgets.</p> <p>I think the statues should be relocated. They should be protected and conserved. They could be shared between the VHS, VMFA, and the Civil War Museum at the Tredegar site and possibly at Hollywood Cemetery. Let's say they were housed at Tredegar, outdoors. The museum could provide context indoors, but outdoors, the statues could be in a more informal atmosphere. The museum could allow local families and visitors to provide their own context by hosting events allowing families to tell stories of their ancestors in the civil war, both those who served for the CSA, the USA and those whose families were enslaved in the Southern states. It would be a safe space for those who have different opinions and concepts of history to visit the statues and not feel that some political opinion was being foisted on them. But they could still visit the museum inside and learn about the lost cause. Families could visit them, take pictures and have lunch nearby. But it would not be an area where political groups could come demonstrate or rent. Also having days to record oral histories of families would add to the context of the statues.</p> <p>Richmond has shown an ability to fundraise for other causes to improve the city. A non-profit could be formed to raise money to assist with the relocation. An effort based on a positive message of moving forward showing that Richmond isn't merely defined by a handful of years as the former capitol of the CSA, but a pivotal player in the entirety of American History. Moving away from the CSA history by changing Monument Avenue would be a symbolic gesture that national and international businesses and individuals would donate to as a worthy and moral cause. It would also give Richmond national attention that could attract business and tourism.</p> <p>Which leaves Monument Avenue, which seems to be framed as a problem to be solved. What statues are next? Who do we choose? Will we choose another figure that's controversial in the opposite direction? I think that's too narrow of a definition of Monument Avenue</p> <p>Let's continue to hold public events like Christmas walks, Easter Parades, the Monument 10k and let's add more. Let's find reasons to bring all Richmonders to Monument. And let's not focus on permanent statues. Let's have a real conversation by making the length of Monument between Lombardy and Roseneath a space for temporary art installations and making hubs at the former statue locations. We have a potential for a very formidable art advisor board that could be composed of members from VCU, the VMFA, The Visual Art Center and the history museums. Installations would be temporary from short 8 week exhibitions to 12 month installations. It would give us time and perspective to decide what we want Monument Avenue to look like over a long period of time, or we could simply continue like that. But we could reshape Monument in the way that New York and Chicago have reshaped their abandoned elevated rail lines. It could be a place with art and natural beauty and bring in visitors with events, music and outdoor theater performances. Let's make it a centerpiece that we can all be proud of and want to come to and not allow outside groups to make it about politics.</p> <p>Thanks for your attention to my letter and again, thank you for your attention to this issue.</p> <p>Michael McFall 2802 West Grace Street Richmond, VA 23221 mmcfall@gmail.com (312) 608-5480</p>						
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10/13/2017 17:44:35	Charles Lippy	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Oct. 13, 2017</p> <p>Dear Monument Ave. Commission:</p> <p>I am in favor of keeping the monuments the way they are because there were a number of things going on back then, not just the view of the people of the South are the bad guys and gals, with slaves.</p> <p>I'm writing today also to give my opinion of Mayor Stoney's plan to add signage to the monuments on Monument Ave., with the viewpoint of the Generals and President being lionized by the monument producers, and the monument figures as being the architects and defenders of slavery. I give my view with all due respect to the slaves of the past. I was not around back then, do not know exactly what went on, except what I have read or heard. Hearsay may not be accurate. I'll mark my items where they are from.</p> <p>At the start of this country, slavery existed, or could exist, everywhere in the colonies or States (hearsay). I capitalize States because this country was founded on the principle of sovereign States, with no central government over them (hearsay). "States" is capitalized mostly in documents of the period, such as the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. In 1860 slavery was the law of the land (speaker at a Civil War study group). The North, or some of it, nullified the Constitution which led some southern states to secede from the Union (speaker at Civil War study group). I did not catch how the North nullified the Constitution. The South mainly wanted to be left alone (World Book Encyclopedia). There is a piece in the Bill of Rights which gave the States the right to secede if they wanted (hearsay). There is a book, Ten Reasons For Secession One Reason For War by Les Updike. Updike said these reasons are from historical accounts.</p> <p>Ten Reasons For Secession</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.High tariffs on the South's cotton. 74% of the Federal budget taken from the South with 10—20% returned to the South. 2.Centralized government versus State's rights. 3.Christianity versus secular humanism. 4.Cultural differences of the North and South. 5.Control of western territories. 6.Northern industry and southern resources. 7.Slander of the South by the Yankee press. 8.Instigations of slave rebellions by the North. 9.Slavery itself. 10.Military aggression against the South. <p>One Reason For War</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President Lincoln would not let the South secede. <p>From what I have read or heard, it looks like #1 reason above, the loss of Federal revenue, was the basis of Lincoln making war on the South. The South was doing well because of its cotton (hearsay). A speaker said a piece from the North in 1861, the year the war started, said the North was fighting to preserve the Union. Theresa Roane, a former black employee at the Museum of the Confederacy, said, "people think the war was about slavery," and Robert E. Lee freed slaves at 2 or 3 places in 1862. I heard (hearsay) that Lee detested slavery. She also said, "emancipation did not free one slave." Lincoln "freed" by his emancipation only the slaves of the South (a book), but he had no jurisdiction over them. A book written from a southern perspective said that Lincoln freed, or attempted to free the slaves of the South to try to get the blacks, the ones who were slaves to stop fighting for the South. Gen. Grant had slaves by way of his wife (hearsay). Someone said the Generals honored on Monument Ave. did not own slaves; another person said that Gen. Jackson did, so I don't know. I heard that slaves and free blacks fought for the South, also that four northern states had slaves, and refused to give them up even when Lincoln tried to get them to give them up (hearsay). According to a book, the South got its slaves largely from northern slave owners. There were a number of circumstances back then.</p> <p>If signage is defacing I would be against that because the monuments were put up to honor the veterans who sacrificed for the causes. If signage is put up, I think placing anti-monument signage on the north side of Monument Ave., since most of the monuments are in the middle of the street, and pro-monument signage on the south side of Monument Ave. would be good, since there are two sides to this. We have a tradition in this country of honoring veterans, their sacrifice. There are four laws saying that Confederate veterans were recognized by the U. S. government as equivalents to Union veterans. Congressional Appropriations Act, FY 1901, signed 6 June 1900, Congressional Act of 9 March 1906, U. S. Public Law 810, approved by 71st Congress 26 Feb. 1929, and U. S. Public Law 85-425: Sec.410 Approved 23 May 1958. The monuments are good for tourism for the city, Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy, so it is a good place for historical Confederate monuments. An article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch recently said the monuments on Monument Ave. bring in taxes of \$3.7 million for the city. A friend said last year a petition came out to take down the monuments, but there was also another petition against the first petition. At the Monument Ave. commission meeting, a good number of people did not want the monuments removed. It is not fair to judge the southern movement back then on crazy or radical behavior of individuals or groups of today. Should we be intimidated or swayed by a crazy act, or violent or uncivil type protests by people against removing monuments? No. A speaker said that Mayor Stoney can't take the monuments down because they are on the National Historical Registry. TV news said that the monuments belong to the people, except the Lee Monument belongs to the state, and I respectfully do not want them removed. Also, it could cause division. History plaques, monuments can be put up to commemorate the end of slavery or other things. That way, those views would be clearly stated. That way, the war memorial view, including State's rights, would not be removed.</p> <p>I urge you and your constituents to ponder the items here. This period was a long time ago. None of us were around. The facts, etc. should be studied before a decision is made about the monuments. No quick decision should be made.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing my views.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours truly,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Charles Lippy</p>	x					
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10/14/2017 14:20:33	Susan Woodson	Leave the monuments as they are.	In America we live with layers of our history, they tell us who we are as a people and where we've been. Americans add to Public History and do not remove.	x					
10/15/2017 23:45:05	Scott Andrews	Remove the monuments from Monument Avenue., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue., Relocate the monuments.	Assuming that I understood what I had read and my sources were accurate, I suggest the following: Lee Monument: Despite Lee's statement that he thought a monument to him would be too divisive, the monument should remain with more context including how Arlington National Cemetery came about. The planning for this monument began within days of his death and I don't think that this was meant for anything more than honoring him. Stuart & Jackson: Leave the pedestals. Remove any identifiers as to what was there. Move the statues to the Blvd. to the Historical Society & Daughter's of the Confederacy. Place them on simple, no more than 2' high concrete pedestals and add historical context including where & why the statues were moved. These were erected to intimidate & reinforce Jim Crow Laws. Find an alternative figures to be placed on the remaining pedestals. Since these would be on private property, there wouldn't be any protests without permission. Jeff Davis/Confederacy Monument: Leave the monument except remove Jeff Davis & put him at the Museum at Tredegar. Replace him with Abraham Lincoln and change the narrative to the reunification of the United States. Maury: THIS MONUMENT MUST BE REMOVED! This monument was intended for Washington, D.C. They refused it because he was a traitor. While working for the Confederacy, this man sent scouts to the Amazon to find a place for slave holders to relocate. He was the most blatantly racist. After the war, this coward stayed longer in Europe for fear of being tried as a traitor of the U.S. Once he decided to return to the U.S., while sailing, he learn of his amnesty. I suggest that this whole monument is moved to the Museum at Tredegar near the water with context added. A.P. Hill - Since he is buried there at Hermitage & Laburnum, I think we should leave this alone but add historical context. Additional ideas: We should consider adding some smaller monuments reflecting the resistance to the Confederacy in the median of Monument Avenue. Also, maybe a monument to General Grant on the Stuart Pedestal in the similar style to the current statue. After Charlottesville, I went online to read the history of these monuments. I looked for reliable sources like Tufts University. I believe that this proposal is the best compromise considering the history, intent, neighborhood significance and economics. Thank you for your consideration.		x	x	x		Suggest the following: Add context to Lee about his views on monuments and creation of Arlington National Cemetery; Remove statues of Stuart & Jackson and move to UDC building on Boulevard with interpretive panels about connection to Jim Crow policies, replace with new statues (maybe Grant); Remove Davis figure (send to ACWM) and replace with statue of Lincoln; remove Maury.
10/16/2017 20:06:57	Melissa Kravetz	Add context to the monuments.	I think the Monuments with some context can be a site of critical thinking and learning. I wish that more of the current political conversations, debates, energy, and funding would go into improving the public schools--the actual sites of learning--than the Monuments themselves.				x		

10/17/2017 21:10:10	Sababu Sanyika	Leave the monuments as they are... Add context to the monuments.	<p>PEACE IN...</p> <p>Leaving the Confederate Monuments as they are but add context that reflect the history of a southern society born into existing problem of color racism that justified slavery of African People based on the "Curse of Ham Doctrine" that had been indoctrinating and victimizing European Caucasians to have white supremacist mindsets for over 1500 years. Because the false doctrine was supposedly guidance from G-D, southerners as well as northerners were both brainwashed victims who honestly held to supremacist belief because of sincere belief that it was a sacred duty to obey what G-D had ordained. They were unaware, unsuspecting, and completely dependent on religious guidance to live by as promulgated by mostly errant church leaders, vast majority of whom believed and accepted the doctrine as truth legitimately guided by G-D. All had drank the cool aid, EXCEPT JUDAS P. BENJAMIN AND COMPANY.</p> <p>Therefore, "BASED ON THIS UNDISPUTABLE TRUTH", reason for mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation must guide in deciding what to do with monuments of people who were actually victims of a mindset deceptively indoctrinated into them by the blasphemous, evil, false, and ungodly doctrine - Curse of Ham.</p> <p>The monuments should stay as representation of a "GRAND AWAKENING" in our society to the truth about how innocent but brainwashed people were used and abuse to promote the divide, conquer, and rule doctrine infamously known as the "Curse of Ham."</p> <p>"People in the Confederate South were just as truthful, honest, trustworthy, loyal, and G-D fearing as Northerners or any others." Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Jefferson Davis, and the entire Confederate South were unknowing victims of a divide and rule scheme that had its origin in the 2nd century false interpretation deliberately given Bible story for purpose to divide Gentiles into hostile and conflicting color camps to be exploited and ruled over by an ancient cursed mindset of rebellious Jews who willingly chose to live by their own fallible, errant, self-serving, blasphemous, and ungodly understanding. Babylonian Talmud minded Rabbis did intentionally invent the infamous Curse of Ham interpretation as scheme for dividing Gentiles into psychological indoctrinated goyim, unaware victims of an treacherous and evil scam that has deceptively divided and harmed Gentiles in mighty bad, harmful, and damaging ways for far, far, far too long.</p> <p>The USA public, honest citizens, must honor the Confederate people post mortem as recognized victims of a doctrine that caused them to wrongly act against their African brothers and family based on that false doctrine that evilly claimed origin from G-D rather than from its true perpetrators - rebellious, Babylonian Talmud mindset of "Synagogue of Satan" led Jewry, "like their father, liars and murderers from the beginning."</p> <p>It's time for a celebrated "GRAND AWAKENING" that recognize truth about color racism - its origin, that hold no grudge of vengeance against innocent people to be forgiven, honored, recognized, and celebrated as unaware victims, and to fully expose TRUTH of true perpetrators and benefactors of the color divide that has caused such injury, pain, suffering, misery, death and destruction to innocent abused Gentiles, at home and abroad, for far too long.</p> <p>Let the Monuments remain in recognition of truth of why they exist as honored and celebrated icons to a "GRAND AWAKENING" that freed and liberated all of G-D's children from the evil clutch of Satan's earth agent devil helpers, whose scheme has been fully exposed and justly discarded to the trash bin of never ever again in this life shall humanity act hatefully toward one another based on the fraudulent pure evil scam of color conscious conscience racism.</p> <p>And, Christ Jesus, son of Mary, has said - "THE TRUTH SHALL SET US FREE"</p> <p>IT'S OUR TIME DEAR PEOPLE TO GIVE SATAN AND THE EARTH AGENT DEVILS TOTAL DEFEAT AND COMPLETE ELIMINATION FROM HARMING OUR LIVES AND DESTINY EVER, EVER, EVER AGAIN.</p> <p>LET THOSE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS STAY.</p> <p>FREE AT LAST... FREE AT LAST... THANK G-D ALMIGHTY... FREE AT LAST..... PEACE IN...PEACE OUT...</p>			x			
10/18/2017 17:28:59	Arthur Walker	Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>I'd like to strongly urge the Commission to begin the process of removing Jefferson Davis from the Avenue within the next 3 years, less if possible. Send it back to Mississippi, his home state. Lee, Jackson, and Stewart were all native to Virginia, so they should stay, for now. Add context to them....while Davis is 'relocated' home.</p> <p>It's pretty clear right NOW that doing nothing is untenable, so let's get behind removing Davis ASAP. He doesn't deserve to be here and removing him has the prospect of lowering the temperature on this contentious issue.</p> <p>I would also like to see a few more monuments added to the Avenue. Absolutely.</p>	x	x	x			Remove Davis within 3 yrs (at latest).

Commission Members:

No doubt there are several opinions among our community that have merit regarding the task you've been entrusted to recommend and endorse. I believe our described plan works best.

The City of Richmond has marketed Monument Avenue globally for decades as the street of White privilege. It was purposeful for the former southern capital of Virginia and later the Capital of the Confederacy in the last couple of centuries. But now, our city officials realize the negative connotation the Confederate statues have on the future economic development impact that major thoroughfare has on our city's growth opportunities.

With the recent controversies in New Orleans, Baltimore and Charlottesville the exposure has been magnified and elevated. As a result, of the senseless death of Heather Heyer by a White Nationalist the complexion of this Confederate statue issue has been escalated nationwide.

Unfortunately, both our Mayor and Governor changed their positions from contextualizing the Confederate Statues to publicly communicating taking them down. Whether they destroy them or relocate them somewhere else seems to be the underlining motivation. And, since it is a political year even the candidates running for office have decided to use it as a talking point and voice their opinion to garner support and further divide its citizens. Thus, creating more dissension and adverse dialog fueled by the media. Which ultimately has caused us as a city to operate on the defensive searching aimlessly for a tempered resolution.

Most recently I was advised that Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Marines that fought in the Civil War were made U.S. Veterans by an Act of Congress in 1957, U.S. Public Law 85-425. Sec 410, Approved 23 May 1958. Accordingly, this made all Confederate Army, Navy, Marines Veterans equal to U.S. Veterans. Additionally, under U.S. Public Law 810, approve by the 17th Congress on 26 February 1929, the War Department was directed to erect headstones and recognize Confederate grave sites as U.S. war grave sites. Some will assert that when you remove a Confederate statue, monument or headstone, you are in fact removing statue, monument or headstone of a U.S. Veteran. If proven true, removal isn't an option.

Richmond, Virginia was the second capital of the Confederacy and the second most profitable slave market in America. The Confederate statues boast the pride of yesterday's past that doesn't exist in today's society. Eliminating history never works. And, if done in this case, should we not also eliminate memorializing the Lumpkin's Slave Jail Site?

All that being said, we'd like you to focus your attention on removing the Arthur Ashe, Jr. statue from the Roseneath Road and Monument Avenue and relocating it to the S. Boulevard location where Christopher Columbus currently stands. We contend that Arthur Ashe, Jr.'s statue should have never been located on Monument Avenue. Ideally, removing the Columbus statue which has no historical merit and putting Arthur across from the William Byrd Park tennis courts is the right decision for the city. The statue designed by Paul DiPasquale was designed in part to engage people which in its current location doesn't permit that to occur. With a minor reset by the City Public Works in that same location people will be able to walk around the statue and enjoy the engagement.

Moreover, we would like to have that entire generic Boulevard renamed to "Arthur Ashe, Jr. Boulevard" from his relocated statue to the intersections of Westwood Avenue, Brookland Parkway and Hermitage Road. The "Arthur Ashe, Jr. Boulevard" would encompass his Recreation Center at Robinhood Road and the Sports Ballpark Complex. I refer to that corridor as the Museum and Sports thoroughfare.

The rationale for this relocation and street renaming is very simple. Arthur Ashe, Jr. was a worldwide recognized humanitarian and civil rights activist who has never been really appreciated by his hometown. The adulation and acknowledgement he receives comes during the annual Espy Awards and during the Wimbledon tennis championships. This twentieth century sports icon who was born and is buried here needs to be afforded the benefit of being recognized by his hometown. Plus, by doing so would set a precedence for Richmond, Virginia. Even though a similar proposal was made over twenty years ago, him being on Monument Avenue was a political move to force diversity. By having had him on Monument Avenue wasn't in the best interest for Arthur Ashe, Jr. because very few people have been able to embrace and engage his statue memorial. His statue suggests and welcomes community.

As a replacement for Arthur Ashe, Jr. at the Roseneath Road and Monument Avenue location, we'd like to propose the City consider adding the Honorable Oliver White Hill, Sr. Mr. Hill would be the ideal candidate to fit amongst the military and political statuary on Monument Avenue. For those who aren't familiar with Oliver Hill's life and contribution to our city and nationally would be overwhelmed in learning about his accomplishments. Having his addition would be a huge "public relations" advantage for our city despite whatever decision is finally made regarding the Confederate statuary on Monument Avenue.

We know that sometime in the future the city should honor Lawrence Douglas Wilder as the nation's first Black (African-American) Governor. Whether the city moves forward on a statue on Monument Avenue or the State of Virginia elects to honor him beyond the capital grounds, like the Lumpkin's Slave Jail Site as a possibility. Something has to be done where he's concerned in the future as he his more than deserving.

It isn't too farfetched to think that both Richard and Mildred Loving and Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr., along with many other minorities belong on Monument Avenue if we continue the narrative of the military and political theme on that thoroughfare. All these people have overcome the hurdles and complexity of our world. Showing how we as a people have overcome indifference by sharing the real truths of our historical past is essential in reflecting the growth of our city.

As we build our coalition, we the "Friends of Arthur Ashe, Jr." and the Maggie L. Walker High School ALUMNI "Mass Classes" will continue to lobby support from the city by following through on our strategic plan to make this proposal a reality. Arthur recognized, "A Hard Road to Glory" isn't easy. His relocation would open up a new opportunity for much more

10/20/2017 21:59:34	Andrea Covert	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>Lexington, Virginia is the final resting place of Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson. There is something deeply and morally wrong with anyone, who objects to these two great Virginians--great Americans being honored by the native State, for which they gave their lives, limbs and blood in selfless patriotic service.</p> <p>President Dwight D Eisenhower kept Lee's portrait in his executive office, while president. Churchill extolled him as the greatest American. Ulysses S. Grant threatened to resign from the U.S. Army, if Lee were tried for treason.</p> <p>The statue that marks the grave of "Stonewall" Jackson was paid for not only by the veterans, who served under him, but by financial contributions from former slaves, whom he had taught to read in violation of Virginia law.</p> <p>When a Lexington local assailed Jackson for breaking the law to "teach those people", Jackson uncharacteristically lost his temper and shouted, "If you were a Christian you would not say so!"</p> <p>After the war, it was Lee who broke social convention at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, by kneeling beside a former slave, who had mortified the White congregation by kneeling at the altar.</p> <p>Asked afterward by a bigot why a man like himself would kneel beside a former slave, Lee simply chastised him, "The ground is always level at the foot of the cross."</p> <p>The anniversary of the deaths of Lee and of Jackson were long commemorated in this Commonwealth by veterans of the North, who were often the honored keynote speakers invited to praise the virtues of their once-foes</p> <p>Every monument to a Confederate Virginian is a war memorial to an American veteran. It has been the mark of manhood and civility and longstanding American tradition to leave politics out of the way we honor our veterans. They fought the battles; we did not. They shed the blood; we did not. They reconciled with their enemies; we did not.</p> <p>End of subject. It is not for children born a hundred and fifty years later to re-adjudicate the past and expose to double jeopardy men their own contemporaries exonerated.</p> <p>It is the height of arrogance to suppose that you know more about these men and their times than their even contemporaries.</p> <p>If you find it impossible to respect your elders, attempt at least to revere your betters.</p> <p>The destruction of Virginia's monuments to her war dead is sacrilege. (Credit to Sherwin W Dillar)</p>					
10/20/2017 23:58:34	Craig Covert	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments.	Getting rid of the monuments only naively attempts to erase history yet does nothing to teach or educate. Keep the monuments in place and add a contextual plaque at each monument	x		x		
10/23/2017 13:52:59	Thomas Williamson		I have authored a paper for submission to the Commission. I wish to submit this paper via email for consideration by the Commission.					Submitting paper separately.

10/24/2017 18:48:39	Elizabeth Lipford	Leave the monuments as they are., Add context to the monuments., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>I currently work in the City not far from Monument Avenue. I have been a member of a church on Monument Avenue for 25 years. I used to live in the City of Richmond. I currently reside in Henrico County, which has quite a bit of Monument Avenue in it.</p> <p>I have struggled with the question of whether to remove the monuments or keep them. I have decided that they should REMAIN for two reasons.</p> <p>1)Richmond has a come a long way since the time these were erected and I no longer think they are symbols of white supremacy, but instead are relics of history with a story to tell. We may have been the Capital of the Confederacy, but today I see that only in the historic sites that survive, not in the majority of the attitudes of our citizens. We have embraced with honesty our history as it relates to the slave trade and we have honored our African American citizens through numerous monuments and museums, including the Maggie Walker house and the recently opened Black History Museum.</p> <p>2) The removal of a monument will not change a racist heart.</p> <p>I suggest three areas where context can be added:</p> <p>1) Tell the history of the time period in which they were erected. The "Lost Cause" context. The history of these monuments and what went into having them put up is very well documented. The motivations, the personalities, the attitudes, and the controversies surrounding them. Emphasize "Lost" - as in the Confederacy lost and our country was reunited - thank goodness!</p> <p>2) Reduce the "god-like" status of the individuals on the monuments by humanizing them. Tell their stories as people - the flaws along with the contributions each of them made during their careers. Each of these men served the USA long before there was a CSA and for a lot longer than 4 years. Each made other contributions that should be told. Maury made huge contributions to science and that should be emphasized.</p> <p>3) Monument Avenue is a designed landscape with outdoor works of art. The street itself has a history. The monuments were designed by artists, some quite well known. How does it relate to the "City Beautiful" movement? Who are the architects designing the homes? How did this street symbolize Richmond's recovery after the war?</p> <p>Historic context can be added through signage, but may be more widely accessible through a mobile app and through guided tours. Richmond is a city of monuments and we should have a monument tour - one that includes ALL our monuments, many of which are to our significant African American citizens.</p> <p>Please add more monuments - go west all the way to the end of the avenue in Henrico County! Here are a few ideas, some in keeping with a military theme, others more about well known Virginians</p> <p>1) monument to the black troops of the Civil War</p> <p>2) monument to General Thomason from Southampton County, Virginia. Same county as Nat Turner. Thomason joined the UNION army and became a decorated famous Union general.</p> <p>3) Lott Cary - (1780-1829). the first black American missionary to Africa and one of the founding fathers of Liberia. Commissioned for service by First Baptist Church, located on Monument Avenue.</p> <p>4) Virginia Randolph - great black female educator who influenced educators all over the world.</p> <p>5) And some day a statue of Doug Wilder should be there.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p>						
10/24/2017 20:28:07	Cary Howard	Leave the monuments as they are.	<p>I am a native Virginian. Every ancestor on both sides of my family fought for the Confederacy. My great grandmother was a Confederate spy. By removing these monuments, you would be taking away an important part of my identity. It is our culture. Do you really want Richmond to lose its character?</p> <p>Must every American city look alike? Nothing but Walmarts and Pizza Huts? Think of the loss of tourism \$. How much would this cost to remove the statues? Hands off!!!</p>	x					
10/24/2017 20:57:42	Elizabeth Howard	Leave the monuments as they are.	Please leave the statues where they are. No additions. They are our culture.	x					
10/26/2017 12:20:32	Julie Hulett		<p>I believe that as Dr. Hayter said: we cannot have "reconciliation without recognition". For me, if we truly recognize the horrors of slavery, it will simply no longer makes sense to have Confederate generals in a place of honor as they are now. In my perfect world, they would be melted down and the material would be used to create symbols of beauty and peace that would stand in the same place. I know that is a stretch. So, I think moving them to the museums along with contextual explanation is a good compromise. In their place...the sky's the limit. We have an amazingly creative city full of artists, I'm sure we will come up with something beautiful, inspiring and uplifting to all our citizens.</p>			x		x	Relocate to museums, repurpose pedestals.
10/28/2017 16:06:32	Glenda Saunders	Leave the monuments as they are., Add more monuments to Monument Avenue.	<p>Even though I do not live in Richmond, I visit very often. I visit monument ave. several times a year and do not believe that anything positive will come from their removal or adding context to them. Anyone with an unprejudiced knowledge of confederate history will know their meaning. I know that there are other deserving Afro-Americans and Caucausian men and women that could be honored with statues on the avenue. I would like to see the Tuskegee Airmen on the avenue.</p>	x				x	Suggests adding Tuskegee Airmen.

Monday, August 21, 20	Rich Johnson		<p>Dear Ed,</p> <p>I hope you will forgive my offering an unsolicited comment on the issue of the Richmond monuments, but I feel that this issue is so wrought with emotion that few if any are considering the practical (economic) side of the matter.</p> <p>Specifically, of all the qualities that Richmond has to offer—and they are many with the rise of the City as a mecca for craft beer, a first choice for “foodies” and a hub for young entrepreneurs—perhaps Richmond is best know on a world-wide basis as a City filled with history. To that end, it would seem that the sudden pressure to remove all statues and everything else related to the Civil War, if successful, will have at least one consequential result—and that is an impairment to the City’s position as one of the great places in the world where history was both created and preserved.</p> <p>If Richmond were to lose this unique position—even if only a partial loss—the economic impact on tourism would be painful, perhaps even devastating, to our local economy. It seems that all the parties have failed to recognize this important part of the equation. As you are aware, tourism generates over seven million visitors who contribute over \$2 billion annually for the Richmond economy and accounts for over 20,000 jobs. History is a very significant part of this draw.</p> <p>Perhaps Christy Coleman said it best in her lengthy interview when she suggested that we all just need to “pause” and give this matter some time to be fully thought through.</p> <p>In any event, many of us in the City are pleased that this ad hoc committee has been formed and wish you the best of luck in arriving at a rational decision in such a fast changing political environment.</p>						
8/20/2017	James Buchanan Ballard		<p>I regard myself as a historian. I have recently published a biography of a Virginian Confederate Civil War general, William Edmondson “Grumble” Jones and therefore feel that I possess a more than casual knowledge on the subject.</p> <p>I am among the group of historical preservationists who would like to see the monuments remain. With that said, I was most impressed with your discussion on ABC’s This Week Martha Raddatz. You present your point of view in a very eloquent and dignified manner with that cannot help but respect. I particularly liked your comment that (paraphrased) the historical truth can sometimes get confused with historical nostalgia.</p> <p>Somehow, I feel that if a solution to this debate can be resolved, it will involve you and fellow voice of reason, Mayor Stoney.</p>	x					

	<p>Bill Flowers</p>	<p>In the discussion of the monuments, I started out in the "add context" camp until events outpaced my thinking. I looked at the "remove and relocate" position and can see a lot of merit and logic to the argument. Anything that causes pain to so many of our fellow Virginians demands that all of us make a genuine effort to understand that pain. Likewise there are good, loving people (including in my own family) to whom the pain of removing memorials is just as real. Having given the subject a good deal of thought, I remain in the "add context" camp. As I've heard said far and wide, it's about history. Taking them down or leaving them be. Both claim to be defenders of history. Add to the mix that periodic arguments about the monuments are --and likely, will always be --also part of our Richmond history. That's the first bit of context we need to add to the avenue. We argue. We try to make it right. Our modus operandi to date has been to add context and monuments on the avenue and throughout the city. Arthur Ashe, Abraham & Tad Lincoln and Henry "Box" Brown. And long overdue, Ms. Maggie Walker! As they stand, the Confederate monuments represent four years of the 400 since the founding of Jamestown. That's a whole lot of monument for 1% of Virginia history. As comedian Robin Williams quipped: "The world's largest collection of second-place trophies."</p> <p>To my thinking, there are some compelling reasons to leave the monuments --and let me be perfectly clear--with brutally honest context added in large measure. Richmond monuments, if I may be parochial, are different from monuments in other cities. The obvious history of serving as the "Capital of the Confederacy." By the date created and the generation that created the monuments. Equestrian art. Tourist attraction in a history filled city. Easter parades and marathons. One of America's most beautiful avenues. The monuments themselves are different. We're not talking about a single 12-foot monument in a park. The logistics and cost of doing anything worries us. Certainly these monuments are different from those put up in homage to Jim Crow and "segregation now, segregation forever." Although they certainly came with the baggage of their generation. They are not guarantors of second-class treatment standing in front of courthouses. They are, however, on a major avenue, and that's a problem.</p> <p>In a very real sense, Monument Avenue is also a museum. (Perhaps the world's only drive-thru museum.) It may be helpful to think of it in those terms: as a museum. And as with any museum, context is added as research is completed and all history is valued. The gallery is not gutted. It is re-envisioned and recreated.</p> <p>Quoting Mayor Stoney: "For me, it's about telling the complete truth. I don't think removal of symbols does anything for telling the actual truth or changes the state and culture of racism in this country today.</p> <p>Will removing/ relocating the monuments serve to tell the actual truth or change the state or culture of racism? No. Our Richmond history of the monuments is, as mentioned, to argue, to create new monuments and to add context. To the history of when and why these monuments were created, we need to add the context of removing flags and monuments -- the actions we took in response to the events of Charleston and Charlottesville.</p> <p>The reaction to immediately remove public Confederate memorabilia which serves as a cause and rallying point, is understandable and in many cases, long overdue. But in doing so, we forfeit reasoned authority over such matters. That the ignorant hatred and violence of the Klan and Nazis has prompted us to do anything -- anything! -- gives them too much sway over the issue. We should not change anything because fools defend it.</p> <p>Will removing/ relocating the monuments sooth or inflame? The answer is obvious. As the events of Charlottesville sickened us, we run the very real danger of repeating it on the avenue. If we do it (whatever "it" may be) in the wrong way. If we do it in haste. Let's fool those who would bring hatred to our city. Let's begin -- block by block -- to create opportunities for small groups of good people to discuss the issues of monuments, actual truth, and the state and culture of racism. Let us talk quietly. Let us listen intently. (Image the impact, for example, if each individual with the responsibility for making these decisions -- Governor, Mayor, Members of City Council and the Monument Avenue Commission--would commit to creating and nurturing a conversation about "the state and culture of racism" in a group or organization to which he or she already belongs and feels safe.)</p> <p>Enclosed is the "Welcome" page to GraceParkRVA.org--we're one of many voices advocating a reasoned, respectful discussion that might serve to unite us. (More information, of course, available onsite). Our hope, for those to whom we've entrusted this decision, is that you will take a deep breath and resist the temptation to act in haste. The passions of the day are persuasive and must be given their due. More importantly, consider the voices of the generation who wut live at the end of this century, who will ask if we were willing to do the hard work of healing.</p>						
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	Perry Ellis	<p>History is what it is. The Civil War was not only over the slavery. There were many things involved. It was a terrible thing for both sides.</p> <p>Did you know, George Washington's wife, Martha, and George Washington were directly, in some form or fashion, connected to Confederacy? Martha Washington's son who was also adopted son of George Washington had a daughter that married General Robert E. Lee. It made the Washingtons directly related to the South. They never talked about that. Both Martha and George Washington had slaves. Does it mean that we have to rip off Martha and George Washington from the history books and remove all the monuments of George Washington?</p> <p>Lee was not a big supporter of slavery. If you look into the history books, it says something about that. At one point Gen. Robert E. Lee was the Commander of West Point. He was considered to be an outstanding military man by both South and North.</p> <p>It is not right to take down monuments related to Confederacy. It is just a part of history that should have never happened.</p> <p>I am not a defender of the Confederacy, but let us be fair about it. It is a part of our history.</p>	x					
	John Wilkes	<p>It is with great sadness that I write you today concerning the present status of the monument debate in Richmond, Virginia. Two weeks ago, I was pleased to join you at the Library of Virginia where a small group of thoughtful citizens raised many issues related to these monuments and the work of your commission. You were kind enough to listen to my view that as a high school teacher in the city of Richmond, I see these monuments as historical artifacts which I often use to teach my students about the history of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Lost Cause as well as the difficult decisions people made in a time when "nation" "country" "duty" and "honor" meant things quite different than they do today. I expressed at that gathering the sincere hope that the monuments would not be removed but that context, or as you remarked, "information," could be added and that long-overdue recognition of diverse Richmonders might be added to Monument Avenue. Needless to say, my heart sank when our mayor announced today his plan to remove these historical pieces.</p> <p>As you know, our gathering occurred before the tragic events in Charlottesville, a place near-and-dear to me. It is a place where as an undergraduate, I became a man, a place where I later lived as an adult, a place where I was married, where my sister was married and where my son is scheduled to be married next year. It is a place I return to dozens of times each year; a frequent journey I know you share. I detest the hate-filled racists who brought violence to this town. There is a place for them and I take heart in the belief their day of reckoning will come. Most pertinent to the discussion of monuments is the racists' appropriation of them in their despicable crusade. You and I both know that these sad human beings and the historical figures and monuments they now embrace are not one in the same. Moreover, those who support these monuments often do see their historical and aesthetic importance while harboring no racist or hateful inclinations at all. I believe I am one such person. I feel certain there are many, many others.</p> <p>I have watched these debates unfold for quite some time Dr. Ayers and one clear reality is that ignorance of history inflames both the racists who cling to these pieces and the people who now clamor for their removal. You have heard the voices of both and the inaccuracies about who these men were and what they stood for is twisted into convenient shapes to fit modern sensibilities and fill monstrous gaps in understanding. I know of no one better aware of the subtleties and complexities of the Civil War than you, sir. The previously articulated plan to add "context" seemed a hopeful one to me as it gave the only chance of answering all sides in this debate. Moreover, it presented the chance of making Richmond a leader in how to deal with such a sticky historical period.</p> <p>Mayor Stoney's call to now remove is fraught with the same misunderstandings shared by the rank-and-file protestors on all sides. While I believe he seeks a positive resolution, I know this course is anything but. Tearing down these monuments will only strengthen the rhetoric and resolve of the racists. More likely, it could even drive many more towards a less tolerant position. Their claims of destroying "my" history and "my" family's or "my race's" sacrifice can only resonate louder if such a move is made.</p> <p>To be frank, the mayor is a politician and he jumps with the rise of shifting political winds. What he really needs is strong advice from those with the knowledge to inform him of the meaning of history. You are such a man as are many on your commission. I hope you will advise him of the error of removal and encourage him in letting historical truths be the "Richmond way"; no matter the discomfort some might feel. Let us lead and not follow.</p>						