

Jackie Henderson

From: Daniel Zim via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 6:55 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #104680: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 104680.

Request Details:

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- Name: Daniel Zim
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-242-1609
- Email: danielrzim@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members,

Re: Traffic Safety Issues related to Appomattox Statue Location

I have heard that the City Council will consider and deliberate on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Confederate Monuments and Street Names this week. I don't know if I will have the opportunity to attend a public meeting which is why I write you now. I am a former 5-year resident of Alexandria and I commuted to Alexandria for work for over seven years. Even though I now live nearby in Vienna, Alexandria has great charm and appeal. It has a special place in my heart and my wife and I are seriously considering moving back to an Old Town neighborhood after our kids leave the nest.

I have heard many arguments about the appropriateness of Alexandria's Confederate monument but I am concerned, first and foremost, that the location of the Appomattox statue in the middle of a busy intersection causes a traffic hazard. I have read about an accident that occurred at the base of a similar Confederate monument in Demopolis, Alabama where a police cruiser crashed into the structure causing the statute to split at the ankle line and fall directly on top of the cruiser, nearly killing the police officer. The news media in Alabama reported on the incident which occurred just this past July. See http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/07/will_an_alabama_confederate_mo.html

The Demopolis incident occurred in a town with a much smaller population than Alexandria. Yet, I have heard about other incidents of cars crashing into Appomattox. These incidents place drivers, pedestrians and even the statue itself at serious risk. We are only tempting fate by waiting for an unfortunate but avoidable impact to occur.

The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation is to keep the statue in Alexandria but add context through the use of descriptive plaques that provide explanation of the City's past. However well intentioned explanatory context might be, doing so would turn Appomattox into a larger spectacle than it is today. Alexandria is a tourist city and installing interpretative plaques would create an unwanted invitation for even more tourists to cross to the middle of the intersection with selfie sticks to capture photographic souvenirs of themselves next to the statue. Such enhancement of the spectacle with tourists disobeying traffic laws would distract drivers and could cause them to veer off course, hitting other cars, pedestrians or the statue.

A better solution would be to move the statue to safer ground where people can approach the statute on foot and learn about it through interpretative plaques. I would, therefore, urge the City Council to ask the Virginia Legislature for permission to move the statue to a safer location.

The removal of a statue that has dominated Alexandria's landscape for decades is not easy for me to accept even though I believe the Confederacy should not be honored so prominently in public places. Washington, DC and many great capitals in Europe, Asia and Latin America are full of majestic monuments and statutes that give beauty and character to those cities.

What would Tokyo be without its Buddha's? What would Rome be without the Trevi Fountain? What would Rio be without Christ the Redeemer? So, my other recommendation is for the City of Alexandria to look into commissioning artists and sculptors to tell story of the City and it's values. I know that it is costly to erect new monuments but it may be worthwhile and it may attract tourists to appreciate and admire these modern marvels.

Kind Regards,

Daniel R. Zim
Vienna, Virginia

(Disclosure: I started a petition with over 4,000 signatures in May 2015 seeking to rename Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway - <https://www.change.org/p/terry-mcauliffe-virginia-general-assembly-commonwealth-transportation-board-stop-memorializing-a-slave-owner-and-white-supremacist-rename-jefferson-davis-highway>)

- Expected Response Date: Monday, September 19

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Jackie Henderson

26
9-13-16

From: William Euille <williameuille@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 1:29 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Confederate Committee Report

Dear Mayor and Council,

As you may recall, it was at my suggestion that a committee be created to focus on the topics of confederate memorials in the City, with a particular emphasis on Jefferson Davis Hwy; the Statue on Washington St; and finally, any other items the committee felt appropriate to consider. The creation of the committee was formally approved by the Council.

While I was not engaged in attending any of the committee's meetings, I did observe their progress from afar.

I write to let you know that I fully support their final recommendations to the Council, as I believe they have mapped out a "pathway forward" to the Council and community in addressing, particularly, the renaming of JD Hwy and leaving the Statue in place; unless an appropriate location can be found in a park or museum for its public display. I do not support a "a cart blanch" approach to renaming other streets under consideration.

As a senior at TC Williams HS in 1972, I was among the many students from the 4 existing high schools at that time, in partnership with the faith community to lobby Council to stop the display of the Confederate Flag in the city for official city events along side of both the City, State and American flags, and to remove the Statue.

Council listened and made the right decision with regards to the flag, and chose to let the Statue remain in place.

On Saturday, you will have the opportunity to both deal with history, and to make history, with your decision.

Should you decide to move forward in renaming the Highway or any other street names, I would suggest that they be considered within the parameters of the Council's Naming Committee.

Whatever the final outcome, Alexandria will continue to prevail.

Always,
Bill Euille

Sent from my iPhone

26
9-13-16

Jackie Henderson

From: Charles Ziegler via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 10:02 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #104627: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Mayor Silberberg, Vice-Mayor Wilson, and

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 104627.

Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: Charles Ziegler
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703 370 0648
- Email: cziegler1@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Mayor Silberberg, Vice-Mayor Wilson, and Members of the City Council,

I strongly endorse the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names Issues Report as reflecting a sensible set of compromises on a particularly complex set of issues. It is in the nature of compromises that they will not please everyone, especially in matters such as this, where there are strongly-held views. Nevertheless, I believe that the report's recommendations are the best way forward for our City in dealing with the issues that it addresses.

Yours sincerely,
Charles Ziegler

- Expected Response Date: Monday, September 19

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26
9-13-16

Jackie Henderson

From: Jim Bender via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2016 10:07 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #104606: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To the editor, Alexandria TimesCopy, C

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 104606.

Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: Jim Bender
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 571-235-0613
- Email: jimbbender@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: To the editor, Alexandria Times Copy, City Council and Mayor of Alexandria

I am pleased to see that the City Council is willing to do at least the bare minimum in response to the report out of the Ad hoc Committee on Confederate Names. Let us rename the major thoroughfare which currently honors the president of the Confederate States of America --a man who has precious little connection to Virginia and no connection to Alexandria—with all deliberate haste. It is an embarrassment that in 2016 that we have this relic of the late 19th Century "lost cause" movement that sought to sanitize the history of chattel slavery and obfuscate the reasons for the Civil War. It might cost a few dollars to put up new signs, change the stationery for business on the road, but it is, in my mind, a small price to pay to retire this name from the public eye and return him to the pages of the history books where he belongs.

But what new name is appropriate? I suppose Patrick Henry Highway would be the easy way, but the best way? Your article made little mention of the dozens of other streets and landmarks in Alexandria named for Confederate era heroes (all White) that the Committee considered changing. Were they honorable men? Undoubtedly many of them were. Were the names chosen in a manner that reflected the will of all the residents of Alexandria, or just the White males that held political power at that time? Have we given due consideration to the honorable men and women of Alexandria that are of African ancestry in choosing street names? Because of our White-dominated (and let's admit it, racist) past, our street names are not consistent with a balanced view of our history, Black and White. Here is an opportunity to make some inroads toward re-balancing that inequity. I recommend that the City Council visit the Black History Museum of Alexandria and pick a name from the men and women honored there when they consider what to rename US Route 1 in our City.

Please, let's do the right thing when we have a chance to do it.

Jim Bender
Proud citizen of Alexandria, Virginia

- Expected Response Date: Monday, September 19

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