



*Mary Custis Lee—17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7  
United Daughters of the Confederacy  
Alexandria, Virginia*



September 29, 2015

Mayor William D. Euille  
Honorable Members of the City Council:  
301 King Street  
Rm. 2300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

Our chapter has learned of the city council's decision to stop flying the 1<sup>st</sup> National Confederate flags on Robert E. Lee's birthday and Confederate Memorial Day (May 24), in spite of a decades long agreement with us. It was even more distressing that we learned of this decision not from the city, but through the news media. There was no formal contact with our chapter prior to the city council meeting on September 8, 2015. Mr. Garbacz and Mr. Melkerson at City Transportation have contact information for at least two members of our chapter. There was no problem contacting us in January 2009 when the city decided at the last moment to not display the flags because Barack Obama was being inaugurated. The lack of correspondence or personal contact seems purposeful.

Volumes have been written about Robert E. Lee's contributions to the city, state, and country. They need no retelling here. Especially in light of the mayor's formal proclamation of the achievements of Gen. Lee and his father in January 2014. Robert E. Lee considered Alexandria to be his home town. He was educated and confirmed at Christ Church. His mother, brothers, sisters, and other family members lived here.

It was obvious to those attending the city council meeting that some council members are not aware of the historical significance of May 24 to Alexandria. On May 23, 1861, Virginia voted to secede from the Union. At 2:00 a.m., on May 24, Federal forces seized the city. The residents of Alexandria awoke to find themselves under martial law, where they would remain for the next four years. On that day at 6:50 a.m., the local militia forces gathered at the intersection of Prince and Washington Streets to march out of town.

We consider the council's action to be nothing short of egregious. Those amongst our eighty member chapter who live in the city will remember the council's actions on election day.

The city is in possession of three 1<sup>st</sup> National Confederate flags purchased by our chapter. Please take the necessary action to return our property immediately to 806 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah A. Mullins".

Deborah A. Mullins  
Chapter President

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