

FREE

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Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Tear gas clouds the air around the Monument Avenue statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monday evening when Richmond Police scattered hundreds of peaceful protesters by releasing tear gas and shooting pepper spray about 30 minutes before the 8 p.m. curfew was to go into effect. The Confederate statues are headed for removal under plans announced Wednesday.

City erupts

Death of George Floyd in Minneapolis prompts plans for reform by Mayor Stoney and Gov. Northam, including removal of Confederate statues on Monument Avenue

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

The statues of Confederate traitors are headed for removal from Monument Avenue — ending their long reign as white supremacist icons of Richmond that extends back to 1890.

The removals now in the works appear to be the first of the reforms to grow out of the seething unrest over racism and police brutality that has led to days of protests in Richmond and other cities.

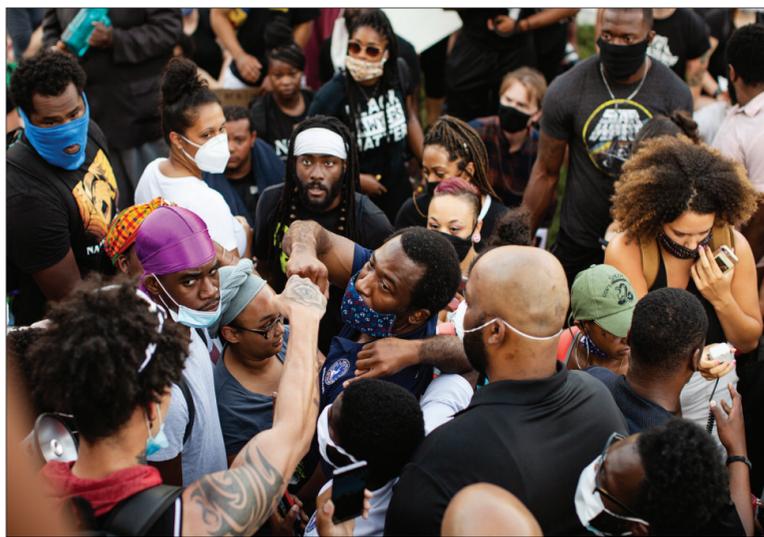
The Free Press learned that Gov. Ralph S. Northam is to announce Thursday that the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee will be removed from its pedestal — now filled with spray-painted tags — and placed in safekeeping.

Separately, Mayor Levar M. Stoney announced Wednesday that he will join 9th District City Councilman Michael J. Jones

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Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press



Brian Palmer



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Police Chief Will Smith takes a knee at a joint press conference with Mayor Levar M. Stoney on Tuesday outside City Hall where they apologized to the crowd for police using tear gas and pepper spray on a peaceful crowd on Monday night at the Lee statue. Mayor Stoney gives a fist-bump to a protester in the crowd Tuesday evening after walking with the throng from the State Capitol to the Lee statue on Monument Avenue. Nasiah Morris, 4, carries a sign with a powerful message during Sunday's peaceful grassroots march from Brown's Island to the 17th Street Market in Shockoe Bottom. The youngster, kneeling at 9th and Grace streets across from the Capitol, attended the rally with her mother, Toya Morris, and 15-year-old brother, Tye.

Thousands of protesters hit the streets

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

A white Minneapolis police officer's killing of 46-year-old George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for nearly 9 minutes was the final straw.

Outrage over the death May 25 of Mr. Floyd has flowed through the streets of Richmond and cities across the country and around the world.



Mr. Floyd

Huge throngs have turned out for nightly protests and marches — some of which have been marred by violence, looting and battles with police — triggered by fury over the Memorial Day slaying of the club security guard who was arrested for allegedly passing a phony \$20 bill.

It hasn't mattered that the officer, Derek Chauvin, and three fellow officers who did not intervene to save Mr. Floyd were immediately fired and that Mr. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder. The three other officers were charged Wednesday with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

It hasn't mattered that, almost universally, police chiefs, including Richmond Police Chief Will Smith, condemned the actions of the four officers after viewing the viral cell phone video that showed Officer Chauvin kneeling on Mr. Floyd, whose last words included, "I can't breathe."

There has been an outpouring of fury not seen since the 1968 assassination of civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led to upheaval in 100 cities. Cries of "No justice, no peace" and "Black Lives Matter" have been heard during the last week in cities in all 50 states and at least 20 cities around the world.

But it was not just black people who responded. The diversity of protesters was noticeable, with white and Latino people making up a large percentage of participants.

"It's all of our fight," said Army Reservist Malachai Johnson. However, some people did not go unscathed. At least 6,000 people were reported arrested during the first six days of protests, at least six people have been killed and dozens of police reportedly have been injured, with at least one death.

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Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Richard Waller Jr. stands outside his family's business on Broad Street that was vandalized Friday and Saturday night.

Business owners sweep up after vandalism

By Ronald E. Carrington and George Copeland Jr.

One of Richmond's oldest family jewelry stores is recovering from late-night looting and vandalism last weekend by rogue elements attached to local protests of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Surveillance cameras showed that Waller & Co. Jewelers at 19 E. Broad St. suffered damage last Friday and Saturday when the shop's front window and inside jewelry cases were broken and merchandise was stolen, said Richard Waller Jr., owner of the 120-year-old business that has been in the family for four generations.

Mr. Waller and his son, David, were busy Wednesday morning taking inventory for insurance claims.

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Henrico, Chesterfield able to reopen under Phase Two of COVID-19 plan

By George Copeland Jr.

Restaurants in Henrico and Chesterfield will be able to open Friday for limited indoor dining, along with gyms, museums, zoos, botanical gardens and sports facilities as most of the state enters Phase Two of Gov. Ralph S. Northam's reopening guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor announced the progression of the state's reopening during a news conference Tuesday, in which he said Richmond and Northern Virginia will remain under Phase One because of their delayed schedule. Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, he said, has not yet moved to the first phase because of its still high infection rate from the coronavirus.

Phase Two reopening will allow gatherings of up to 50 people, with restaurants able to operate indoor dining at 50 percent capacity, and indoor classes and workouts in gyms and fitness centers at 30 percent capacity. Public places like zoos, museums, botanical gardens and sports facilities also will be allowed to reopen with certain restrictions, Gov. Northam said.

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Free COVID-19 testing

Free testing for COVID-19 continues by the Richmond and Henrico health districts. The latest testing events are:

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Thursday, June 4 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Tuckahoe Middle School	9000 Three Chopt Road, in Western Henrico
Friday, June 12 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hotchkiss Field Community Center	701 E. Brookland Park Blvd.

Both events will be held regardless of the weather. To register, call the Richmond and Henrico COVID-19 Hotline at (804) 205-3501 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Walk-up testing will be done at both sites while test supplies last.

Upset, unrest

Free Press photographers Regina H. Boone and Sandra Sellars have been documenting the Richmond protests that began Friday night and continued through Wednesday by thousands of people calling for change following the brutal death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police.

These two pages reflect their photographic views of the unfolding events in the city.

Friday



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Tangelic Ellis holds her sign high as she stands in Monroe Park at the first protest in Richmond over the death of George Floyd. The 20-year-old Northern Virginia resident joined hundreds who took the protest to city streets.



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

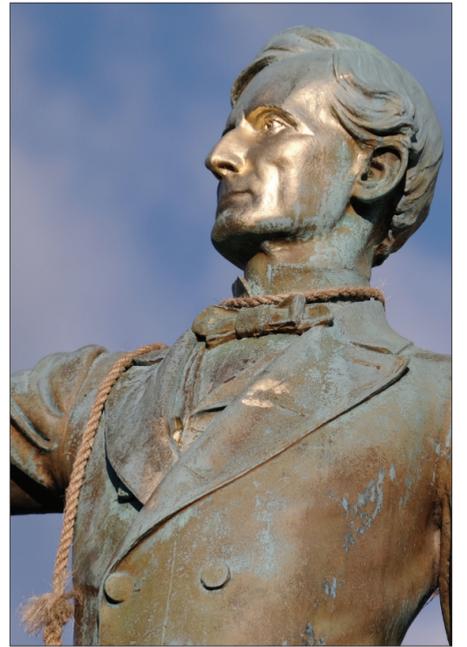
The flood of protesters, most masked against the coronavirus, turned off Broad Street and flow onto 2nd Street on their way to the State Capitol in what was then a peaceful action.



Saturday

Daylight reveals the spray-painted pedestal, left, of the Robert E. Lee statue at Monument and Allen avenues. Just a few blocks away, right, the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis sports a noose, the remnant of a rope someone unsuccessfully sought to use to pull down the statue. Below left, the burned out hulk of a GRTC Pulse bus was still at Belvidere and Broad streets as the sun rose — one of the most visible signs of the violence that took over the protest Friday night. Below right, Paul Tribble, owner of menswear and shirtmaker Ledbury, looks out of the glassless window of his storefront at 315 W. Broad St., one of the Downtown stores that was looted.

Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Sunday



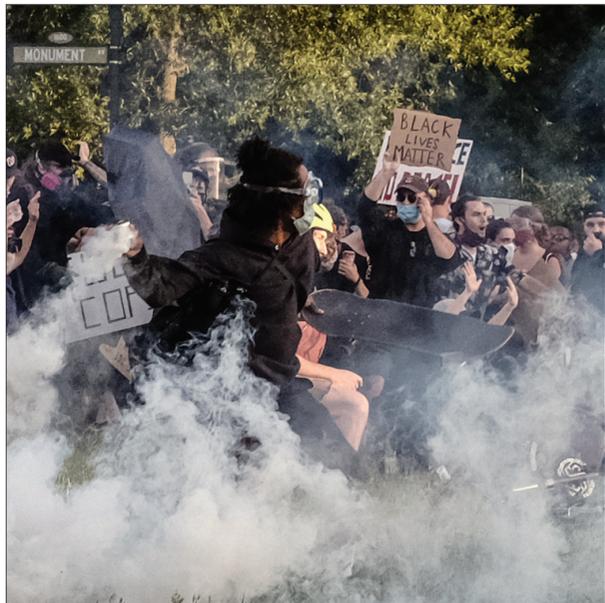
Kenyan Smith speaks passionately about the issues at a protest that brought people to Shockoe Bottom, as one of the organizers, Quiara Holmes, assists with the mega phone. Right, people march peacefully, but with passion, through the city to get to the event.



Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Photo Feature

Monday



Protesters participating in a peaceful demonstration react to being hit by Richmond Police with tear gas and pepper spray on Monument Avenue at the Robert E. Lee statue on Monday about 30 minutes before the city's curfew. Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Tuesday



Left, an angry and frustrated crowd of about 1,500 people call for the resignation of Mayor Levar M. Stoney and Police Chief Will Smith on Tuesday at City Hall despite the mayor's and chief's apology for police actions on Monday evening. Above, in the midst of the crowd gathered Tuesday at the Lee statue, Kyle Rudd paints a picture honoring George Floyd of Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor of Louisville, both victims of police violence. The march and rally around him on Tuesday was peaceful. Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Virginia: Open with care. COVID-19 isn't over.

We're making progress, but we can't leave behind all the safety measures we've been taking. They're working! That's why, when you visit your local stores, restaurants, and places of worship, they'll only allow in half as many people as before. And they need all of us to do our part to keep them safe.

Please continue to:



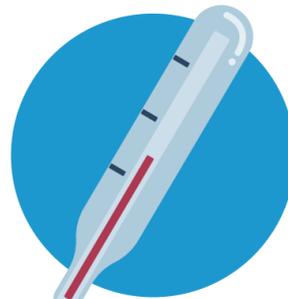
Wear a mask in public.



Stay 6 feet away from others.



Wash your hands often.



Get tested if you're sick!

More at vdh.virginia.gov, or call **2-1-1** for help with food, shelter or safety.



VIRGINIA'S HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS.
Do your part, stop the spread.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

