



FREE

# Richmond Free Press

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## Begin again

### City Council majority strikes \$1.5B Coliseum and Downtown development project, urging the administration to start over with public inclusion

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Start over — and this time include the public.

That's the cry from the five members of Richmond City Council who followed through Monday night in eliminating the \$1.5 billion Coliseum replacement and Downtown redevelopment plan, just as they said they would do when the nine-member governing body met last week as a committee.

The five members overrode efforts by the four others to keep the proposal — already on life support — alive for another two weeks to allow it be amended before final consideration.

But no one from the city administration, the Navy Hill District Corp. developers or City Council supporters released any of the proposed alterations.

The decision to strike the project from the council's agenda was a defining moment for the city government and the council, which almost routinely has embraced taxpayer-supported development plans that the business community has pushed as beneficial.

The rejection vote could well impact the political futures of Mayor Levar M. Stoney, who will seek re-election in November, along with most of the City Council members — giving voters their first opportunity to issue their judgment on those who supported or opposed the massive proposal.

What is clear is that the council vote shot down the signature project of Mayor Stoney, who ducked Monday night's meeting and later expressed disappointment. He also vowed to continue to work to move the city forward.

The vote also crushed the hopes of the Navy Hill District Corp., led by Dominion Energy top executive Thomas F. Farrell II, which had spent multiple years and millions of dollars spearheading what the group described as a "transformational plan" for a 10-block area near City Hall that includes land from which the city government had displaced a once thriving black community decades ago.

In a statement, the Navy Hill group also expressed disappointment but declared its pride in the "proposal that we delivered." "This was a missed opportunity to address many of the issues we heard about through countless hours of community engagement."

The decisive vote to strike from the council agenda all ordinances related to the Navy Hill proposal came after more than 120 people spoke for or against the contentious pro-

posal. Supporters envisioned the plan creating thousands of new jobs for people previously hard-pressed to find work, along with a large mix of apartments, offices, restaurants and retail spaces, a new hotel and a new Coliseum. Opponents saw it as a boondoggle for the wealthy that would cost taxpayers dearly.

The divisions the proposal generated, particularly within the African-American community, were embodied in two men — James E. "J.J." Minor III, president of the Richmond Branch NAACP, who strode to the microphone to urge City Council to back the measure that he said would create new hope, and John Dixon, a former Petersburg police chief and president of the Richmond Crusade for Voters, who encouraged the council majority to stand firm in their rejection of a risky development.

Despite the vote, the majority sought to dispel any impression that they are anti-development toward the sector of Downtown encompassing the Coliseum, the city's main courthouse, the city Social Services building, parking lots and the

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Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Naomi Isaac urges Richmond City Council to kill the \$1.5 billion Coliseum replacement plan at Monday's meeting. She was among a long line of people speaking on the proposal before council voted to scrap it. Behind her, supporters and opponents of the plan hold up signs reflecting their views.

## VUU surprised by \$1M announcement on Founders Day



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Delegate Luke E. Torian of Prince William County, right, receives a standing ovation following his keynote address last Friday at Virginia Union University's 155th Anniversary Founders Day Convocation. Joining in the applause is VUU President Hakim J. Lucas.

By Ronald E. Carrington

Virginia Union University President Hakim J. Lucas stood before an audience of more than 350 students, faculty, alumni, trustees and dignitaries last Friday to remember the past and mark the path to the future at the university's 155th Anniversary Founders Day Convocation.

"We are here today to celebrate our 155th birthday and dedicate a new historical landmark," Dr. Lucas said at the convocation in the Allix B. James Chapel at Coburn Hall on the North Side campus.

A new gray stone marker dedicated to Mary Lumpkin, "the mother of VUU," was unveiled at the Lombardy Street entrance to the campus, along with a new temporary street sign naming the campus drive from Lombardy Street to Graham Road "Mary Lumpkin Drive."

While VUU traces its founding to 1865 and the arrival in

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## Confederate statues in State Capitol remain unaddressed

By George Copeland Jr.



George Copeland Jr./Richmond Free Press

A statue of Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson stands on the grounds of Capitol Square along a walkway between the Capitol and Old City Hall.

As the General Assembly wrestles over whether to give localities the right to control their Confederate monuments, their debate is being waged in the State Capitol — a virtual shrine to the Confederacy.

A full-size statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee adorns the museum-like Old House Chamber, a largely ceremonial room on view to visitors and during tours. It was at that spot where the statue stands, docents tell visitors, that Gen. Lee accepted command of the Army of Northern Virginia, leading the Confederates' strategy and battle efforts in the Civil War against the United States of America.

The room also is lined with the busts of 15 others, six of whom were leaders of the Confederacy, including Confederate President Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens of Georgia and Confederate officers Stonewall Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart, Joseph E. Johnson and Fitzhugh Lee.

A plaque honoring Confederate House Speaker Thomas S. Bocock adorns one wall, a gift from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Outside the building, three statues to Confederates are situated on the grounds of Capitol Square, including one of Stonewall Jackson on the walkway connecting the Capitol and Old City Hall.

While these symbols don't have the visibility or the scale of the equestrian statues drawing contention on Monument Avenue, they still honor a traitorous regime that turned against the U.S. government in order to keep humans in bondage.

They remain largely out of the limelight and unaddressed, even

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## Casino gambling advances with Pamunkey Tribe in the driver's seat

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe has gained a boost from the General Assembly in its efforts to build lavish casino-resort hotels in Richmond and Norfolk.

This week, both the state Senate and House of Delegates passed bills for the second year to allow casino gambling that

require both cities "to provide substantial and preferred consideration" to the tribe's proposals.

As the \$1.5 billion Coliseum replacement and Downtown redevelopment proposal recedes in the rearview mirror, the tribe's plan to build a \$350 million resort hotel and casino on Commerce Road near the Hillside Court public housing

community is now potentially the single biggest private development on the horizon in Richmond.

Still a major question is whether Richmond residents want a casino, although there is little sign of any backlash.

The current slot machine-style opera-

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Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

## A new smile

Bayron Rosales, 3, opens wide as Dr. Taibah AlBaker works on his mouth during VCU Dental Care Pediatric Dentistry's annual day of free dental care last Friday at the Lyons Dental Building on 12th Street in Downtown. The effort was part of the American Dental Association's annual "Give Kids A Smile" program begun in 2003 in which dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants around the country volunteer their time and talents to provide free care to youngsters who otherwise would not have access to a dentist. In Richmond, pediatric dental specialists offered exams, cleanings, X-rays, fillings, extractions and minor restorations to youngsters without dental insurance. The national program kicks off National Children's Dental Month.

## City Council majority strikes project, urging the administration to start over with public inclusion

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former public safety building. The area, along with two city-owned parking lots south of Broad Street, has been eyed by City Hall as a potential redevelopment area since at least 2009.

"Tonight is not about saying 'no,'" said 5th District Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch before joining Council Vice President Chris A. Hilbert, 3rd District; Kim B. Gray, 2nd District; Kristen N. Larson, 4th District; and Reva M. Trammell, 8th District, in scrapping the Navy Hill ordinances.

"It is about saying 'yes' to a pathway forward that a majority of our citizens said they want," said Ms. Lynch, including finding out whether Richmond residents support replacing the Coliseum with a new, larger one at taxpayer expense.

In the view of Ms. Lynch and her colleagues, the vote "to hit the reset button on the current proposal" opens the door to creation of an inclusive and equitable process to redevelop the 22 acres of largely city-owned property in the blocks bounded by Marshall, Leigh, 5th and 10th streets, as well two blocks south of Broad Street.

In their view, a restart would require the Stoney administration to first launch public forums, surveys and wide outreach to determine if Richmond residents want a new arena. They also called on the administration to get the city-owned property appraised, to complete a plan of development for the area that includes public input, to provide an assessment of the infrastructure and then issue new requests for proposals from developers.

"I think there are opportunities," said Ms. Gray, who is considered a potential challenger in November to Mayor Stoney. "This process needs to be transparent and involve the people from the beginning."

The minority, led by Council President Cynthia I. Newbille, 7th District, unsuccessfully sought more time to make the plan more palatable before the vote that had been scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24.

"Our city and our citizens deserve our due diligence on any project before us to fully vet it," Dr. Newbille said. "Not to try is not acceptable."

Joining her were Andreas D. Addison, 1st District; Ellen F. Robertson, 6th District; and Dr. Michael J. Jones, 9th District.

Ms. Larson called it time to end the proposal. She said the long fight over the development, particularly since August when Mayor Stoney introduced the ordinances, has consumed her and other council members and forced other important matters to get short shrift. "I think it doesn't matter if you're for or against this process; I think we are all worn out."

For the majority, the key issue remained just one section of the proposal — the plan to replace the aging and now closed nearly 50-year-old Coliseum with a new larger event space for concerts, sporting events and family activities.

The proposal for a modern 17,500-seat arena would have required taxpayers to bear much of the estimated \$600 million cost to finance the construction — in large part from real estate taxes generated by future increases in values on property located in an 80-block swatch of Downtown outside of the proposed development area.

A commission of experts that the council created to review the Navy Hill plan ended up panning that idea. Mayor Stoney lobbied the General Assembly in a bid to gain permission to replace a major share of the financing with state sales taxes as other cities have been allowed to do, but that effort collapsed Feb. 3.

The arena development was the linchpin of the ill-fated proposal, and both Mayor Stoney and Mr. Farrell insisted none of the private development could take place without a new arena built by taxpayers, despite clear signals from residents that construction of new school buildings was a far higher priority.

While the council majority had little problem with Navy Hill's proposed private development, they could not get behind the arena based on its cost to the public, the lack of any regional support and the likelihood that the city would not see any significant return from the taxpayer investment for at least 20 years.

The level of trust in the Navy Hill projections of big future

returns to the city appeared to be undermined by at least three changes in the financial package and by memories of past taxpayer-supported development that defied projections and never became revenue gushers, leaving debts for the city to pay off, such as the 6th Street Marketplace and the Washington NFL team training camp.

Skeptics and opponents made use of social media tools to get their message out as effectively as Navy Hill proponents. Activists Farid Alan Schintzius created a Facebook group that raised \$10,000 to pay for a series of billboards urging rejection.

Unexpected players proved influential, such as Justin Griffin, a small business attorney who create a NoColiseum webpage, and used it to skewer the flaws he found in examining Navy Hill's numbers, creating credibility issues with his trenchant reports that undermined confidence in projections for job creation, revenues and other elements of the proposal.

## Casino gambling advances

Continued from A1

tion, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, opened July 1 in South Side by Colonial Downs is raking in an average of \$70 million a month in gross revenue before expenses, payouts to winners and taxes, according to monthly reports from the Virginia Racing Commission.

The General Assembly voted last year to include Richmond as a casino location, but needed to pass legislation again this year to launch Las Vegas-style gambling establishments in the state's capital city and other localities in Virginia.

The bills that passed the House and Senate this year continue to authorize the state's first casinos in Richmond, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Danville and Bristol, with the Virginia Lottery and its oversight board serving as regulators.

While the city would have some discretion to choose another casino operator, the legislation's language indicates that Richmond would have to provide substantial justification to eliminate the Pamunkey proposal. The only potential roadblock would be Richmond voters.

Both the House and Senate bills would require a referendum in which voters would have to approve casino gambling and the proposed site recommended by the city administration and City Council.

Assuming approval, the casinos would have less competition as both houses also approved separate bills that would ban slot machine-style games that have popped up in gas stations, convenience stores and other retail outlets in Virginia in the past two years.

The Pamunkey Tribe, which has secured financial backing from a Tennessee billionaire, originally was tapped to secure the rights to casinos in Richmond and Norfolk in the 2019 version of the legislation.

As the legislation moved this year, it initially appeared the House heeded Mayor Levar M. Stoney's call for a competitive process.

The House version included language that would have provided an equal preference to any proposal from Pacific Entertainment, a Los Angeles investment firm that owns the Colonial Downs racetrack in New Kent County and the three current Rosie's satellite gambling outlets, including the Richmond Rosie's located in a remodeled Kmart store in the city's South Side at the Chesterfield County border.

In what some are calling a surprise move, Richmond Delegate Jeff M. Bourne declined to go along with what Mayor Stoney wanted. Delegate Bourne won House support for his last-minute amendment that eliminated wording that would have put a casino proposal from Pacific Entertainment on equal footing with a proposal from the Pamunkey Tribe.

Delegate Bourne could not be reached for comment on the amendment, nor could representatives of Pacific Entertainment on the impact of the change.

Any group competing for a casino license would need to propose at least a \$250 million investment at their chosen site, according to the House and Senate bills on casino gambling.

There also is language in the House bill calling for inclusion of non-white investors in any chosen casino project.

## Casino forum Feb. 20

Robert Gray, chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, is expected to participate in the first community forum on a proposed South Side casino resort the tribe hopes to build at Ingram Avenue and Commerce Road.

City Councilwoman Ellen F. Robertson, 6th District, is sponsoring the forum 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Bellemeade Community Center, 1800 Lynhaven Ave., next door to Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School.

Along with Chief Gray, panelists at the forum are to include Richmond Police Chief Will Smith; Leonard Sledge, city director of economic and community development; and Mark Olinger, director of planning and development review, Ms. Robertson announced.

Details: Tavares M. Floyd, (804) 646-7964 or tavares.floyd@richmondgov.com.

## Confederate statues in State Capitol remain unaddressed

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as lawmakers push to change how Confederate imagery in Virginia is presented, maintained and controlled.

While some cities, including Richmond, have removed the names of Confederates from schools and roads, localities have been blocked by state law to move or alter war memorials. Localities from Richmond to Charlottesville have requested local control over Confederate statues and memorials within their jurisdiction.

Bills giving localities that authority passed their respective chambers in the House and Senate earlier this week, along with a bill creating a commission to replace Virginia's statue of Gen. Lee in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

But no bills addressing the Confederate memorials inside the State Capitol or on the Capitol grounds were introduced this session.

"Whether it's this Capitol, the U.S. Capitol, whether it's on Monument Avenue, in the middle of Norfolk, a park in Charlottesville, none of them should be on publicly owned property," Delegate Lamont Bagby, chairman of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, told the Free Press

in a recent phone interview.

"We are working expeditiously to address all of them. Make no question about it," he said. "And we are doing it in a very strategic manner."

He also stressed the need for the legislature to be prepared before committing to any action, including determining what statues and memorials the General Assembly has jurisdiction over and which ones fall under Gov. Ralph S. Northam's oversight, as well as any legal ramifications.

The Free Press learned through inquiries that the House and Senate clerk's offices are responsible for the interior spaces in the State Capitol dedicated to their respective legislative body, while memorials and statues on the grounds of Capitol Square fall under the state Department of General Services, which comes under the purview of the governor.

Asked by a Washington Post reporter in January about the statues of Gen. Lee in the Old House Chamber and on Monument Avenue, Gov. Northam called the statues "offensive to a lot of people," but didn't elaborate much beyond that.

"It's a discussion that needs to take place with a number of individuals."



George Copeland Jr./Richmond Free Press

A statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee stands near the entrance to the Old House Chamber at the State Capitol. The chamber also features the busts of six other Confederate leaders.

## VUU surprised by \$1M announcement on Founders Day

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Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy, of representatives of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, who held classes for the new freedmen, it was Mary Lumpkin who gave the school its first home.

Ms. Lumpkin was the enslaved common-law wife of white slave trader Robert Lumpkin, whose land and buildings at 15th and Franklin streets in Shockoe Bottom were known as "Lumpkin's Jail," or "the Devil's Half Acre." The jail was a holding pen for enslaved people before sale and transport, as well as a punishment or "breaking" center, according to the university's history.

Dr. Nathaniel Colver, an abolitionist and Baptist minister looking to establish a seminary, went to Ms. Lumpkin, then a widow, and rented the property in 1867. Classes for formerly enslaved people were held on that site for the next three years, according to the history.

The Colver Institute, as Dr. Colver's school was known, became Richmond Theological Seminary and finally Virginia Union University.

"Richmond Theological School for

Freedmen was one of the four institutions forming the 'Union' that gives us our name," Dr. Lucas told the audience.

He later reminded the audience that VUU is the only historically black college or university in Richmond and has been "a pillar of the community for 155 years."

"Much like our mission then, we continue to empower students while providing a nurturing, intellectually challenging and spiritually enriching environment for learning," he said.

Delegate Luke E. Torian, who earned his master's in divinity in 1984 from VUU's School of Theology, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. In addition to serving as pastor of First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries and founding VOICE, Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement, Delegate Torian is the first African-American chairman of the House Appropriations Committee in the 400 years of the Virginia General Assembly.

"The Virginia General Assembly will be contributing \$1 million to the university," Delegate Torian announced.

The audience responded with an energetic round of applause and extended standing ovation.



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, chairman of the Virginia Union University Board of Trustees, dedicates a marker last Friday on the campus commemorating Mary Lumpkin, an enslaved woman and common-law wife of slave trader Robert Lumpkin, who gave VUU its first home following the Civil War.

Pamela Cox, VUU's director of strategic communications, said the money will support the university's restoration of historic Industrial Hall, one of the original nine buildings on the Lombardy Street campus from the late 1800s. It is being converted into an arts and cultural

center, Ms. Cox said.

She noted that university officials were surprised and pleased by Delegate Torian's announcement and are awaiting details on the state award.

Delegate Torian declined to provide details this week to the Free

Press. Lawmakers, including Delegate Torian, are still in negotiations over Gov. Ralph S. Northam's proposed 2020-22 state budget.

"Like those who came before us, we are created for good work," Delegate Torian told the audience. "God created you and this university for good work. We stand here today on sacred ground where God transformed the 'Devil's Half Acre' into 'God's Half Acre.'"

After his sermon-like remarks, Delegate Torian received a standing ovation as Dr. Lucas presented him with the Doris and Steve Bullock Presidential Medal of Honor, which was established in 2019.

"Virginia Union University has much to celebrate, and we are thankful that our alumnus, Delegate Torian, will be with us," Dr. Lucas said. "He is a shining example of the type of leaders, both locally and nationally, that have graduated from VUU."

University officials also used the occasion to highlight the VUU logo newly placed at the top of the campus' landmark Belgian Building. The logo, which appears on all four sides of the building, will be lighted at night and visible at points around the city and from Interstate 95.

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Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

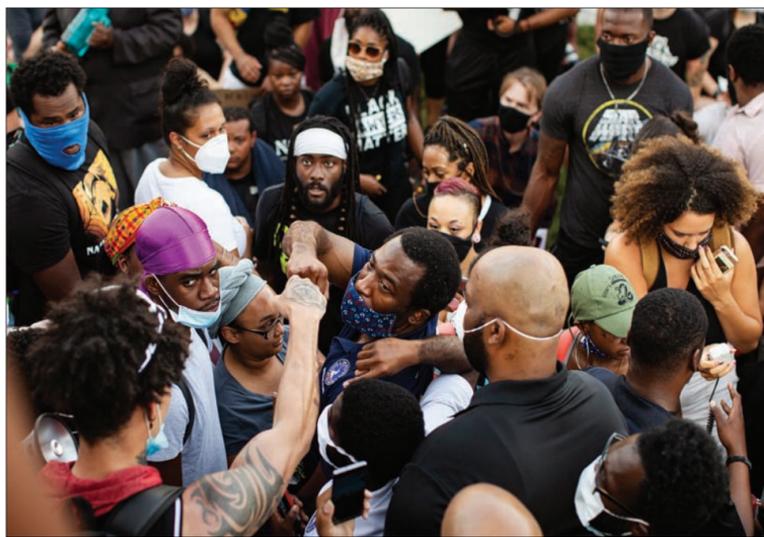
Tear gas clouds the air around the Monument Avenue statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monday evening when Richmond Police scattered hundreds of peaceful protesters by releasing tear gas and shooting pepper spray about 30 minutes before the 8 p.m. curfew was to go into effect. The Confederate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



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press



Brian Palmer



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

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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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.

Please turn to A6



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.

# Plans for reform by Northam and Stoney after city erupts

Continued from A1

to introduce legislation to remove the four other Confederate statues on Monument Avenue. Dr. Jones has been the leading advocate on City Council for removing the statues.

The mayor stated that the statue removal legislation, the first of several reform initiatives he plans to undertake, is to be introduced on July 1, the same day a new state law goes into effect allowing localities to take down statues of those who broke with the United States in the 1860s to create a separate nation to perpetually enslave black people.

The other statues include those of Confederate cavalry Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Confederate Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and Confederate Navy officer and renowned oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury.

Based on the work of a commission he formed in July 2017, the mayor previously supported only the removal of the Jefferson Davis statue and urged creation of contextual signage for the others.

However, in a statement released Wednesday, Mayor Stoney said that “times have changed, and removing those statues will allow the healing process to begin for many black Richmonders and Virginians. Richmond is no longer the Capital of the Confederacy — it is filled with diversity and love for all — and we need to demonstrate that.”

He noted that the change goes along with demands of protesters who during recent days have ensured the monument pedestals were “thoroughly spray-painted” and used them as launching pads for street marches demanding change.

The announcement of reforms aimed at what the mayor said would improve equity and change policy, were issued a day after Mayor Stoney and Police Chief Will Smith faced a raucous crowd of protesters to apologize for police tear-gassing people on Monday night.

Among the key reforms the mayor announced that he is backing:

- Enacting the Marcus Alert, named for 24-year-old Marcus-David Peters, a naked and unarmed public schoolteacher who was fatally shot when he charged a Richmond Police officer in May 2018 while experiencing a mental health crisis. The alert program that Chief Smith supports would allow city officers to bring in a mental health professional from the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority to help de-escalate such situations. The family of Mr. Peters has been advocating for such a policy since his death.

- Taking steps to ensure racial equity is a core component of the city government’s policies and practices, a proposal 6th District Councilwoman Ellen F. Robertson put forward. Among other things, the initiative would include racial equity training for staff, departmental action plans and a study to provide a roadmap to improve inclusion and equity in city government, according to the mayor’s statement.

On Monday night, up to 5,000 people gathered at the Lee statue to continue their calls for justice and change in the wake of the Memorial Day killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed man who was placed on his stomach, hands cuffed behind his back, in a Minneapolis street by a white police officer who kept his knee on Mr. Floyd’s neck for nearly 9 minutes.

Despite the protest being peaceful and at least 30 minutes left before an 8 p.m. curfew went into effect, Richmond Police officers without warning began firing tear gas into the crowd and pepper spraying those who did not disperse.

Adding insult to injury, the Richmond Police initially released a statement to justify the action that turned out to be false. That statement claimed that some officers engaged with violent protesters and were separated from the rest of the police force and the gassing was aimed at halting any conflict — a statement that people present told the Free Press had no basis in fact.

Just a few hours later, Chief Smith acknowledged that officers who had fired the tear gas had taken action in violation of department policy and would face discipline.

Mayor Stoney apologized in a tweet and also urged those affected by the tear gas and pepper spray to come to City Hall on Tuesday so he could personally apologize.

Facing a crowd of up to 1,600 people that sprawled across Marshall Street into the plaza of the city Social Services building, the mayor sought to apologize on Tuesday, though he was

often shouted down by the crowd.

“It should not have happened,” Mayor Stoney told the crowd, adding that as a 39-year-old black man, he feels the same pain many do from Mr. Floyd’s death. The mayor said the city and its police department violated its contract with protesters — that if they kept the demonstrations peaceful, the police would not intervene or disrupt the event.

“We violated that contract,” he said.

Mayor Stoney was moved when 8-year-old Raigen Tucker, who was among those tear-gassed, was lifted on shoulders and told the mayor, “I’m scared.” Raigen’s mother, Latisha Carson, added that her daughter is afraid police are “going to shoot tear gas at us.”

While little was settled, the mayor ended up walking Tuesday evening with protesters from the State Capital to the Lee monument. He was joined by Councilman Jones and Henrico Delegate Lamont Bagby, chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus.

Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax also participated, as did Richmond state Sens. Ghazala F. Hashmi and Jennifer L. McClellan, who all stayed after the mayor left to a chorus of boos before the 8 p.m. curfew went into effect.

Mayor Stoney used the moment to begin outlining the reforms on Wednesday.

“Yesterday, I marched with Richmond for Richmond,” the mayor stated in the release. “George Floyd’s death may have happened in Minneapolis, but the shockwaves are bringing very valid pain to the surface in our city.

“Last night,” he continued, “Richmond told me to channel our city’s pain into reform. We have so much work to do to build an equitable city. That entails reforms to address racist systems, combating this public health crisis, addressing health inequities, and remaining committed to my administration’s priorities to lift people up, including affordable housing, strong public education systems, economic empowerment and fast and reliable public transportation.”

## Henrico, Chesterfield able to reopen under Phase Two

Continued from A1

Restrictions remain in place, however, with swimming pools able to open only for exercise and swimming instruction, and no shared equipment allowed for outdoor sports.

Businesses seeking to operate under Phase Two must follow a number of social distancing guidelines, including clear signage and communication on physical distancing in areas people may gather, encouraging telework when possible and spreading out workstations when it isn’t, and limiting the length, attendance and amount of in-person gatherings like conferences and training meetings.

In addition, face coverings or masks are still required in public buildings under Phase Two, while Virginia’s state of emergency, which was to end on June 10, was extended indefinitely.

Gov. Northam also cautioned that, at this point in the pandemic, risks from the coronavirus still persist and that isolation remains a valid and valuable option for residents as localities adapt to the newest status quo.

“We are still safer at home,” he said.

On Wednesday, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Virginia had risen to 46,239, hospitalizations to 4,884 and deaths to 1,428, according to the Virginia Health Department.

As of Tuesday, African-Americans made up 14 percent of cases and 20 percent of deaths in which racial and ethnic data was available, while Latinos comprised 32 percent of cases and 9 percent of deaths.

## Thousands of protesters hit the streets

Continued from A1

In multiple states, including Virginia, the National Guard was mobilized to support police to quell weekend violence as numerous cities, including Richmond, reported buildings and cars burned and stores looted.

Richmond was among the places that imposed curfews. The 8 p.m. curfew led to 233 arrests in Richmond on Sunday night — at least half of which were of people who reportedly live outside the city. Police backed off making such arrests after magistrates and the Richmond Justice Center were overwhelmed in processing so many. Some detainees waited 15 hours or more to be processed.

The city police also backed off after the curfews failed to deter people from protesting late into the night, keeping more of an eye out for people seeking to do damage. Early Wednesday, police reported arresting at least seven people with handguns and fire-making accelerants who had been part of earlier protest marches. The curfew expired at 6 a.m. Wednesday, and city officials did not seek to extend it.

The protests also brought attention to the deaths of Mr. Floyd and other African-Americans, including Ahmaud Arbery, whom white vigilantes killed on Feb. 23 as he jogged outside Brunswick, Ga., and Breonna Taylor, an EMS worker whom Louisville police officers killed on March 13 during a mistaken raid.

Dr. Stephen Webster, author of a new book, “American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics,”

said in an interview that the time is ripe for rage.

Along with the high-profile killings of black people at the hands of white officers and others, “there are the inequalities in how the pandemic has affected black Americans,” Dr. Webster said. “We’re angry for so many reasons. If you were trying to make a cocktail of anger, this would be the perfect set of ingredients.”

When the protests will end is uncertain, though there appear to be signs that they are waning. On Wednesday evening at Free Press deadline, several hundred mostly young, mostly white, people marched in protest down Franklin Street to the State Capitol — a familiar route for many of the marches.

Whether the protests result in change remains to be seen.

In Virginia, some political leaders, including Gov. Ralph S. Northam, are pushing for new studies and recommendations to root out racist policies. Separately, some members of the General Assembly, including Richmond state Sen. Ghazala F. Hashmi, are laying out aggressive legislative agendas that could bring change in laws and policies involving police.

Some are calling for laws to reduce or limit the qualified immunity that largely shields officers from lawsuits.

And the governor and Mayor Levar M. Stoney are announcing plans to remove the Confederate statues — racist reminders of oppression — from Monument Avenue.

Mayor Stoney, 5th District City Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch and other members of City Council,

who, like him, are facing re-election, also are talking up new policies, including support for a civilian review panel to investigate allegations of police misconduct.

Councilwoman Ellen F. Robertson, 6th District, also plans to bring back legislation that would seek “to reform all operations and budgeting to correct the city’s history of disparities.”

Applauding the energy and passion of the protesters, Ms. Robertson urged them to “stay strong” and join the effort to get rid of the “inequities in health care, finances, education, housing, nutrition and other basic necessities.”

What is certain is that the protests and related vandalism upended the attempt to reopen Richmond during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the Downtown area.

Many city business owners, who had welcomed May 29 as their first opportunity to reopen and serve customers again, had customers disappear during the weekend and the early part of the week.

“We started strong,” barber Marvin Smith said Monday, “but all this has made it harder. I haven’t had a customer all day.”

Like in many cities, a big chunk of Richmond’s retail areas looks like it has been hit by a hurricane. Many of the storefronts in Downtown, Midtown and Carytown have boards over their windows, with signs or stickers prominently displaying BLM or Black Lives Matter, to ward off acts of vandalism or looting.

The city protests that began Friday night were initially peaceful, but ended with violent acts,

including the burning of a police car and windows broken at the Police Headquarters on West Grace Street. A GRTC Pulse bus also went up in flames, which led to four days of disruption of the public transit service. Some people were left stranded when GRTC shut down service through Monday night.

The violence also led to the looting of a state liquor store near Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as substantial damage to and closure of the new Whole Foods grocery store and the 24-hour Rite Aid pharmacy at Belvidere and Broad streets.

The Franklin Express convenience store in the 500 block of East Franklin Street was hit on Saturday and Sunday. Owner Shamsun Chowdhury reported that \$10,000 worth of cigarettes, lottery tickets, beer and wine was taken, which did not include the damage from smashed windows, which cost more than \$3,000 to board up.

“Why did they have to do this?” Ms. Choudhury asked.

The damage provided a windfall to carpenters and glass replacement companies, but was another financial hit for owners already struggling to stay in business as a result of the pandemic.

Still, for many, the actions seem like an opportunity to bring a long overdue change.

“I’m here because I see this as an opportunity to start change that will impact my children,” said protester Jessica Swann, a 27-year-old computer technician. “When I see all these people coming out and taking a stand, I think it is a real opportunity for all of us to make a difference.”

## Business owners sweep up after vandalism

Continued from A1

Mr. Waller said he is not sure yet of the value of all of the items that were stolen when the store was ransacked.

One family treasure, a 1922 display case, survived with its merchandise intact. He showed it off Wednesday, noting that he cleaned the case as a youngster when he started helping out in the shop that was founded by his grandfather, Marcellus C. Waller, in 1900.

“The family is happy vandals didn’t touch it,” he said of the display case. “We are going to be alright. This is just a bump in the road.”

Mr. Waller recalled surviving past unrest in Richmond following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968.

At the time, “looters came through the back of my store and took everything out of my only showcase,” he said. The store was located north of Broad Street then, in a building rented from Barky’s Record Store.

“We lived through it,” he said.

Mr. Waller said his faith is keeping him strong and optimistic now. On Sunday morning, about 80 members of black sororities and fraternities showed up at the store to help with the cleanup. Mr. Waller said he and his family were surprised.

Because all the glass had been cleaned up, he said, “they helped the store by buying fraternity and sorority merchandise. One of the sorority members built us a GoFundMe page.”

After the second night of vandalism, Mr. Waller posted a sign on the plywood covering the shop’s broken windows. It said: “Waller & Co. Jewelers is a small black-owned business. Please don’t break our windows. Thanks.”

Other small businesses are working to salvage

what remains and continue operations.

“I’m definitely trying to continue to go forward, but it took a toll,” said Leonard G. Blue, president of Experimax of Richmond, an Apple computer sales and repair shop in the 1300 block of West Main Street near Virginia Commonwealth University.

Vandals broke in through the front of his store and stole computers in the shop for repair.

“I’m just taking it a day at a time,” Mr. Blue said.

The destruction and looting have been blamed largely on outside agitators, but nothing further has been confirmed. Some Richmond residents have been volunteering to help clean up and repair the damage where they can.

“I’m truly grateful to the community of the city of Richmond and the surrounding community for reaching out to us and making sure we’re doing OK,” Mr. Blue said.

He suggested people interested in helping donate used electronics for recycling or help replace inventory.

On Friday night, a largely white crowd reportedly sought to burn Jamal’s Hair Salon in the 300 block of North 1st St., only to be stopped by the owner who was sleeping inside on Friday and Saturday night.

A similarly described group tried to burn the 2C Condominium Building Apartments, formerly the Virginia Mutual Insurance Co. building at 2nd and Clay streets in Jackson Ward on Saturday night, according to Wanda Stallings, whose family owns the building.

Ms. Stallings said a resident stopped the group by showing the buildings were owned by Ms. Stallings’ family, pulling up on a cell phone records from the city assessor’s office and a photo of Ms. Stallings. An accelerant poured

in front of the building before the crowd was halted was later washed away by the Richmond Fire Department, Ms. Stallings said.

Barksdale “Barky” Haggins, owner of the Barky’s Spiritual Store at 18 E. Broad St., said people on the streets avoided looting or damaging his business, which was started in 1956 nearby on First Street.

He said he is contributing financially to the repair and restocking of other businesses that weren’t as fortunate.

Mr. Haggins expressed concern about the potential negative impact a focus on the damage and looting will have on businesses that are trying to stay afloat despite restrictions caused by the pandemic.

“They’re a lot of people who would like to come out, but they’re afraid,” he said.

Richmond City Councilwoman Kim B. Gray, vice chair of the council’s Public Safety Committee, was out on Friday, Saturday and Sunday helping businesses clean up and board up.

She held an impromptu 90-minute meeting Monday with Marvin Smith, owner of The Barber Shop On2 at 420 N. 2nd St., and several other business owners, where they vented their concerns and brainstormed solutions to the issues that had sparked the protests.

“They wanted to let people know they are not collateral damage and don’t want to be,” Ms. Gray said.

Ideas from the meeting included more community policing, greater civilian oversight of law enforcement, increased transparency from the police department and more connections between police and community.

Free Press staff writer Jeremy M. Lazarus contributed to this article.



**RRHA**  
Richmond **Redevelopment & Housing** Authority

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice to Citizens of Richmond, Virginia

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) is proposing to convey 2124 N. 29th Street, Richmond to Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School in exchange for seven nearby vacant parcels owned by the school. This transaction will serve the goals of allowing the school to continue operating and serving the community and RRHA residents while also creating opportunities to expand services to the community and RRHA residents and assisting RRHA’s redevelopment and community revitalization efforts in the city of Richmond.

RRHA’s Board of Commissioners will consider a resolution approving this transaction at their next regular meeting on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be conducted virtually using GoToMeeting.

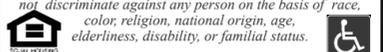
A copy of the proposed resolution will be available beginning **Wednesday, May 26, 2020** on our website at [www.rrha.com](http://www.rrha.com).

All interested persons wishing to comment on the proposed plan may submit written comments to RRHA, Attention: Office of the Chief Executive Officer, 901 Chamberlayne Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23220, by **Tuesday, June 16, 2020**.

The public meeting will be available in audio and video formats. A sign language interpreter or other accommodations will be provided upon request. To request assistance, please contact RRHA seven (7) business days in advance of the meeting at (804) 780-4276 or TDD – Dial 711.

**RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER (M/F/H).**

The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, elderliness, disability, or familial status.



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# In context

Protesters and politicians alike are redefining Richmond by removing racist and obsolete symbols of oppression and inequality from public spaces

## City Charter language may stymie efforts to remove Confederate statues

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

As demonstrations in Richmond for racial justice and against police brutality continued for the 12th day on Wednesday, all nine members of City Council already are on board for one monumental change — removal of the statues of Confederate traitors that litter Monument Avenue and other parts of the city.

But even as two City Council members added proposals to change the slavery-defending Confederate names of Jefferson Davis Highway and the Robert E. Lee Bridge, the council quietly was being reminded that removing the city-owned Confederate statues could require General Assembly help to dismantle a legal barrier.

The legal complications that have halted the state's plans for quick removal of the Lee statue on Monument Avenue also could interfere with the city's efforts to remove its statues.

The Free Press has learned there is a behind-the-scenes effort to get rid of the legal barrier.

That barrier is a line in the City Charter — the city's constitution — that makes it a duty of the city Planning Commission to "preserve historical landmarks." Virtually every one of the statues targeted for removal is listed on the state and national registers of historic sites and places.

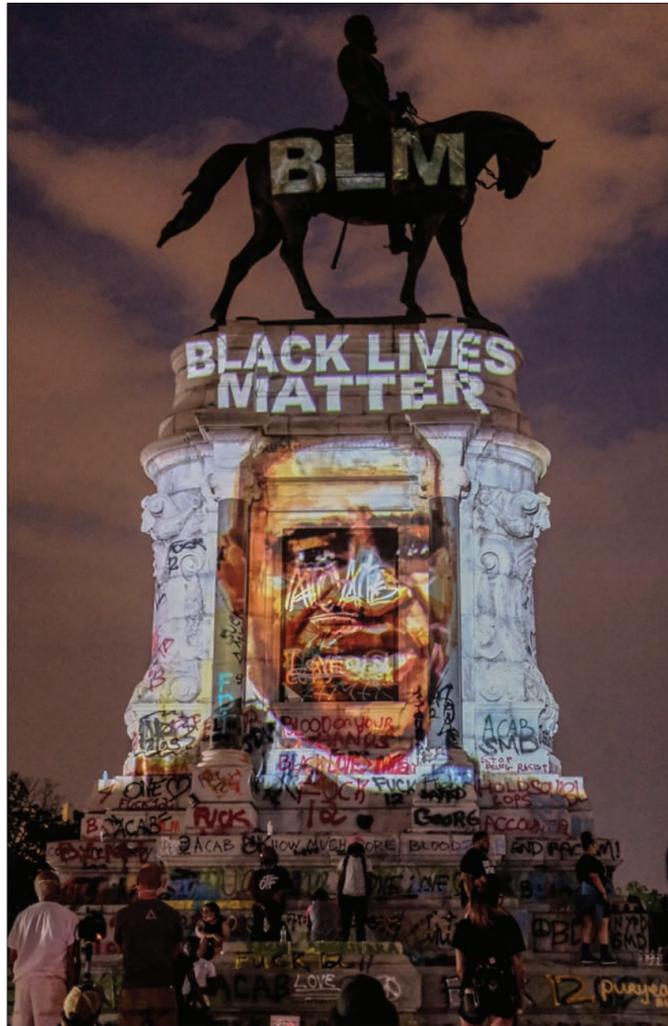
Despite a new state law approved by the General Assembly this year that allows localities to decide what to do with their Confederate statues as of July 1, the Richmond charter provision appears to dictate any action for now.

At least that was the 2017 opinion of then-City Attorney Allen L. Jackson.

Under the charter, City Council itself has no authority to remove public statues. The city Planning Commission controls the location and design of public statues and art under the charter.

In response to a council query, Mr. Jackson

Please turn to A4



A Black Lives Matter tribute to the late George Floyd is projected onto the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Saturday night by local artist Dustin Klein, a striking signal of change.

By Brian Palmer

The daily explosion of young activists on Richmond streets is forcing a reckoning with Virginia's racist past and the symbols of oppression that hang over it.

With their voices — and their feet and hands — demonstrators have seized control of the stalled conversation about police brutality from politicians and pundits, their myth-busting starting almost immediately after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a white police officer.

Confederate monuments became targets of rage by people who see them as symbols of systemic racism, which allows lethal police violence and abuse of black people to go unchecked.

Even as Gov. Ralph S. Northam announced last week that the 21-foot-tall, 12-ton bronze statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee would be removed from Monument Avenue, graffiti-

Related stories and photos on A2 and A5

ists already had covered its base — as well as the statues of Confederates J.E.B. Stuart, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, and Confederate president Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue — with hundreds of colorful tags such as "Black Lives Matter" and profanity aimed at the police.

On Saturday night, protesters knocked down the statue of Williams Carter Wickham, a Confederate general and enslaver, in Monroe Park. By Sunday morning, that statue was gone, reportedly taken by the National Guard for safekeeping.

And late Tuesday night, activists wrenched Byrd Park's bronze statue of Christopher Columbus from its base and dumped it in Fountain Lake. On Wednesday morning, city workers hauled it away like a corpse.

Textbook history portrays Columbus as the "discoverer" of the New World, ignoring his genocidal acts against the indigenous

Please turn to A4



## A glimpse of history

Marasia Robertson, 4, watches as hundreds of protesters march peacefully down Franklin Street last Friday, one in a succession of civil actions taken in Richmond since the death of George Floyd in Minnesota. The youngster was with family at a local restaurant when the demonstrators marched by.

## George Floyd, 'cornerstone of a movement,' is laid to rest

Free Press wire report

HOUSTON

Fifteen days after George Floyd cried out for his mother with his final breaths, the 46-year-old who has become a worldwide symbol in the call for justice was laid to rest beside his mother after a funeral Tuesday in his boyhood home of Houston.

Hundreds of mourners wearing masks against the coronavirus packed the private service held at Fountain of Praise Church, where Mr. Floyd was memorialized as "an ordinary brother" transformed by fate into the "cornerstone of a movement."

During a four-hour service broadcast live on every major

television network, family members, clergy and politicians exhorted people to turn grief and outrage at his death into a moment of reckoning for the nation.

The funeral followed two weeks of protests across the nation and the world ignited by graphic cell phone video of Mr. Floyd handcuffed and lying face down on a Minneapolis street while a white police officer kneels on his neck for nearly 9 minutes. The video shows Mr. Floyd gasping for air as he cries out, "Mama," and groans, "Please, I can't breathe," before falling silent and still.

Please turn to A4



The coffin of George Floyd proceeds to his final resting place next to his mother inside Houston Memorial Gardens in Pearland, Texas, on Tuesday as throngs capture the picturesque farewell on their phones.

## Gov. Northam announces plan to reopen schools in the fall

Free Press staff, wire report

Richmond Public Schools teachers and students are to return to in-person classes after a long summer break, but with strict new social distancing guidelines aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

Gov. Ralph S. Northam unveiled guidelines on Tuesday that call for students to be spaced 6 feet apart at their desks and for teachers to wear masks. The guidelines also call for limiting access to or closing altogether certain common spaces such as



Mr. Kamras

school cafeterias. "All Virginia schools will open for students this year, but the school experience will look very different," Gov. Northam said.

Virginia was one of the first states to cancel the school year in March amid the coronavirus pandemic, with students shifting to remote or online learning. Gov. Northam said the state's priorities for re-

opening later this year are based on "the health and social, emotional and physical well-being of students and staff."

The state's guidelines for reopening all concerns, including businesses, government, schools and restaurants, are divided into three different phases. Most of the state is in the second phase of reopening and Gov. Northam said the current metrics look good, meaning the state could enter the third phase in coming weeks.

The new school guidelines only allow for

Please turn to A4

## Richmond reopening takes next step Friday under state's guidelines

By George Copeland Jr.

Restaurants, museums, gyms and other businesses in Richmond can open more to the public beginning Friday as the city enters Phase Two of the state's reopening plan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The stepped up opening will apply to Richmond and Northern Virginia localities that are about two weeks behind the rest of the state, including Henrico and Chesterfield counties, under Gov. Ralph S. Northam's guidelines.

Please turn to A4

### Free COVID-19 testing

Free community testing for COVID-19 continues throughout Metro Richmond at events organized by the Richmond and Henrico County health districts, the Capital Area Health Network and the Chesterfield Health Department.

Testing will be held at the following locations:

**Thursday, June 11:** Community Supermarket, 1915 Mechanicsville Turnpike, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In case of rain, testing will take place at the Gill Center, 2508 Phaup St.

**Friday, June 12:** Hotchkiss Field Community Center, 701 E. Brookland Park Blvd., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturday, June 13:** Greater Fulton Medical Center, 1718 Williamsburg Rd., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event held by Capital Area Health Network, which requires registration to be tested. Register online at cahealthnet.org/communitytesting or call (804) 409-5230

**Monday, June 15:** Saint Paul's Baptist Church, South Side campus, 700 E. Belt Blvd., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In case of rain, testing will be held Tuesday, June 16, at Diversity Richmond.

**Tuesday, June 16:** Diversity Richmond, 1407 Sherwood Ave., 9 to 11 a.m.

**Thursday, June 18:** Tuckahoe Middle School, 9000 Three Chopt Road in Henrico, 9 to 11 a.m.

Appointments for testing are encouraged by calling 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 offered while test supplies last.

### Chesterfield County testing

**Wednesday, June 17:** Stonebridge Recreation Center, 230 Karl Linn Drive, 9 to 11 a.m. Testing is for county residents who are uninsured or underinsured. Walk-up testing is limited; appointments are recommended by calling the Chesterfield Health Department, (804) 318-8207.

# Redefining Richmond by removing racist and obsolete symbols of oppression and inequality from public spaces

*Continued from A1*

Taino people he “discovered.”

Elected officials are playing catch-up, but even they are starting to recognize the handwriting on the pedestal.

The Lee statue, said the governor, represents a “system that was based on the buying and selling of enslaved people” and “false version of history, one that pretends the Civil War was about state rights and not the evils of slavery. No one believes that any longer.” And so in the governor’s words, “we’re taking it down.”

In a statement to the Free Press, Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax called the events of last 10 days “inspiring,” but said there’s more to do.

“We must focus on tearing down other monuments to systematic racism,” he said. “Those include rebuilding crumbling schools, changing a justice system that has always been racially biased against African-Americans and continuing to build a health care system that serves all equitably.

“The Confederate monuments must come down,” he continued. “But the monuments to bias and racism that have endured for decades must also be replaced with hard policy that results in systemic change.”

Supporting Gov. Northam’s stance at his June 4 announcement were more than a dozen people, among them Lt. Gov. Fairfax and other descendants of enslaved people; the Rev. Robert W. Lee IV, the great-great-grandnephew of the Confederate commander; state Attorney General Mark R. Herring; and Robert Johns, brother of the late Barbara Johns who, in 1951, led a student walk-out to protest inferior educational facilities in segregated Prince Edward County. Her efforts sparked a lawsuit that became part of the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* striking down separate and unequal public schools.

On Monday morning, state employees, contractors, and others in neon vests buzzed around the monument’s heavily graffitied — some would say contextualized — base, while a trio of men inspected the sculpture from a cherry picker as part of the effort to draw up a removal plan.

But just a few hours later on Monday, Richmond Circuit Court Judge Bradley B. Cavado issued a 10-day injunction halting the removal. A complaint filed with the court by William C. Gregory, a descendant of people who in the late 1800s donated the land for the statue, asserts “that there is the likelihood of irreparable harm to the statue if removed.” This would be in violation of the Commonwealth’s legal obligation to protect the statue made in 1890, Mr. Gregory’s complaint asserts.

The Monument Avenue Preservation Group, a loosely organized group of Monument Avenue residents and others dedicated to preserving the street and sculptures, stated on Facebook that it supports the injunction.

But the governor reiterated his plan to take the statue down, noting in a statement to the Free Press and at a media briefing on Tuesday that the administration is on “very legal, solid ground” and anticipated a court challenge to a removal plan that has been in the works for at least a year.

While the administration is reviewing the order, “Gov. Northam remains committed to removing this divisive symbol from Virginia’s capital city, and we’re confident in his authority to do so,” his office said in a statement to the Free Press.

During the weekend, members of Richmond City Council unanimously said they will back a plan announced by Mayor Levar M. Stoney and Councilman Michael J. Jones to remove the other four Confederate statues on Monument Avenue that are under city control.

This response by city and state leaders — along with the hands-on approach by some protesters — goes far beyond what Mayor Stoney’s Monument Avenue Commission called for in

its 2018 final report, which recommended removal only of the Jefferson Davis statue and for contextual signs to be erected around the others.

The reaction from less radical quarters has been more traditional, but just as clear.

“The Virginia State Conference (of the NAAP) stands with Gov. Northam,” Robert N. Barnette Jr., president of the statewide branch of the civil rights organization, said in a statement released last Friday.

“White supremacy is personified in these Confederate monuments. And while Klansmen, neo-Nazis and white nationalists defend them as an innocent representation of a mythologized ‘American Heritage,’ we know that these symbols glorify treason and a hateful history of black subjugation, reinforced through domestic terrorism.

“In order for our Commonwealth to move forward — to become a state united and free from inequity and bigotry — we must remove, not protect, Confederate symbols from the parks, schools, streets, counties and military bases that define America’s landscape and culture. These monuments are not history and (their) continued presence in this country is a signal to people of color that America has not repudiated racism.”

Meanwhile, state Republicans had a different take on the governor’s announcement.

The state Senate Republican Caucus expressed its “outrage” at Mr. Floyd’s killing, but said the removal of the Lee statue “was not in the best interests of Virginia.” They added: “Attempts to eradicate instead of contextualizing history invariably fail.”

The caucus also questioned Gov. Northam’s motives and took a swipe at one of their own, GOP Sen. Amanda Chase of Chesterfield, a far right candidate for governor, for her “idiotic, inappropriate and inflammatory response” calling the governor’s action a “cowardly capitulation to looters and domestic terrorists.”

## City Charter language may stymie efforts to remove Confederate statues

*Continued from A1*

noted that critical line about the Planning Commission’s duty in section 17.05 of the charter and advised the council that the charter language would need to be changed by the legislature or removed if the Planning Commission was to take action.

Mr. Jackson also counseled that more research was needed to ensure there are no deed restrictions requiring perpetual maintenance when the city took possession of the Monument Avenue statues of J.E.B. Stuart, Jefferson Davis, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and Matthew Fontaine Maury in the early 1900s.

The attorney provided the opinion after 9th District Councilman Michael J. Jones launched his first bid to secure council support for removing the Confederate statues on Monument Avenue. It took two more attempts to win majority support.

The current city attorney, Haskell C. Brown III, did not respond to a request for comment on his view of the charter language.

Sources told the Free Press discussions are underway with members of the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly on legislation to amend or eliminate the words about preservation and to clear any other problems, such as voiding deed restrictions.

In addition, the sources said proposals are

in the works to have council endorse General Assembly action to eliminate the charter language, with the possibility that the legislature could vote on such a charter-change measure at a special session this summer.

Dr. Jones and Mayor Levar M. Stoney announced last week that they would introduce legislation on July 1 to take advantage of the new state law. The mayor has said he wants the changes to go beyond Monument Avenue.

Dr. Jones said he is on board with removing a statue of Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill at Hermitage and Laburnum avenues in North Side, the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Church Hill and other Confederate items that need to be eliminated.

Impatient demonstrators did not wait for legal niceties to topple the statues of Confederate Gen. Williams C. Wickham, an area slaveholder who fought in the Civil War and would go on to become a local leader in railroad development, and Christopher Columbus in Byrd Park.

The Wickham statue was brought down on Saturday night. The removal Tuesday evening of the Columbus statue reflected the protesters’ view that he is to be disdained for unleashing the European holocaust on natives in the Caribbean and in what is now the United States. The City of Richmond long ago stopped celebrating Columbus Day, and last year joined other localities in renaming the October holiday Indigenous Peoples Day.

Peoples Day.

Meanwhile, 5th District Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch introduced a resolution Monday that would authorize the Stoney administration to begin the renaming process for the Lee Bridge. The resolution is to be heard in the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee next week.

Separately, 8th District Councilwoman Reva M. Trammell on Tuesday submitted a request for a resolution to rename the South Side section of U.S. 1 known as Jefferson Davis Highway. She wants the street to be renamed Richmond Highway.

The resolution to start the renaming process is now in the hands of the Mr. Brown’s office, with expectations it will be introduced at the next council meeting on Monday, June 22.

“I’ve talked with the merchants along the

street, and they understand why it is needed and why it should be done,” said Ms. Trammell, who has been motivated by the demonstrations occurring mainly north of the James River. “They just want peace and don’t want their windows smashed and their stores looted, and if this is what it takes, they are behind it.”

The proposal is endorsed by the Jefferson Davis Neighborhood Civic Association, led by Charles Willis, and the Richmond Branch NAACP.

Still, demonstrators are keeping up the pressure, with raucous but peaceful marches for change, such as creation of a civilian oversight board for Richmond Police. Early Wednesday afternoon, nearly 100 people marched along Franklin Street to the State Capitol, chanting and holding up signs criticizing police, urging racial justice and promoting Black Lives Matter.

## Gov. Northam announces plan to reopen schools in the fall

*Continued from A1*

widespread in-school instruction in Phase Three. Schools can offer summer camps and limited in-school instruction to certain students in Phase Two. (Henrico and Chesterfield entered Phase Two of reopening on June 5, with Richmond scheduled to enter Phase Two on Friday, June 12.)

Gov. Northam’s guidelines leave each of the Commonwealth’s school districts to come up with specifics for how they will reopen. Student schedules may be staggered to accommodate the guidelines, which could mean a mix of in-person and remote learning as well as changing the length of school days.

Each school district will be required to submit plans for reopening, including both private and public schools.

RPS officials said Wednesday that the administration will establish reopening plans after receiving community feedback from surveys to determine the level of comfort for reopening during the pandemic.

A link to the survey will be on RPS Superintendent Jason Kamras’ RPS Direct webpage later this week.

“We need to create the plan with our families because we are educating their children,” Mr. Kamras told the Free Press on Wednesday. He emphasized the importance for people to share their perspectives to help create an effective. “That is our top priority,” he said.

## ‘Cornerstone of a movement’ is laid to rest

*Continued from A1*

The former officer, Derek Chauvin, 44, has since been charged with second degree murder and second degree manslaughter and three other officers with aiding and abetting Mr. Floyd’s May 25 death. All were fired from the Minneapolis police force a day after the incident.

Mr. Floyd’s dying words have become a rallying cry for hundreds of thousands of protesters around the globe who have since taken to the streets, undaunted by the coronavirus pandemic, demanding justice for Mr. Floyd and other unarmed black men and women killed by police or white vigilantes and an end to police violence and abuse.

“I can breathe. And as long as I’m breathing, justice will be served,” Mr. Floyd’s niece, Brooklyn Williams, declared in remarks that drew applause from mourners inside the church. “This is not just a murder but a hate crime.”

Ms. Williams was one of several relatives and friends who addressed the service, remembering Mr. Floyd as a loving, larger-than-life personality. The memorial was punctuated by gospel music and a video montage of shared memories of the 6-foot-6 man affectionately known as “Big Floyd.”

His younger brother, Terrence Floyd, spoke about awakening in the middle of the night in recent days, traumatized by the memory of seeing his older sibling calling out for their mother as he lay dying.

His sister, LaTonya Floyd, sobbing in grief, told mourners, “I thank God for giving me my own personal Superman.”

Civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton called Mr. Floyd “an ordinary brother” who grew up in a housing project but left behind a legacy of greatness despite rejections in jobs and sports that prevented him from achieving all that he once aspired to become.

“God took the rejected stone and made him the cornerstone of a movement that is going to change the whole wide world,” Rev. Sharpton said, invoking a biblical parable from the New Testament.

Rev. Sharpton said the Floyd family would lead a march on Washington being organized for Aug. 28 to mark the 57th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1963 “I Have a Dream” speech given from the steps of the

Lincoln Memorial.

Some 2,500 people attended the funeral, after more than 6,000 people filed past Mr. Floyd’s open casket on Monday.

Two columns of uniformed Houston police officers saluted his golden casket as it was wheeled from the hearse into the church before the service. The funeral capped six days of mourning for Mr. Floyd in three cities — the first, a memorial service in Minneapolis on June 4, followed by a private service last Saturday in Raeford, N.C., near Fayetteville, where Mr. Floyd was born and one sister and other relatives still live.

Following Tuesday’s service in Houston, hundreds of people lined the route to the cemetery in suburban Pearland, Texas, to pay their respects. A white horse-drawn carriage carried his casket on its last mile to the cemetery, where he was laid to rest next to his mother in a private ceremony.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate in the Nov. 3 election, addressed the funeral service via a video recording, lamenting that “too many black Americans wake up knowing that they could lose their life in the course of just living their life.”

“We must not turn away. We cannot leave this moment thinking we can once again turn away from racism,” he said.

Two voter registration tables were set up outside the church.

Among those in attendance were loved ones of several other black men killed by white police officers or civilians.

The mother of Eric Garner, the New York man who died in a police chokehold in 2014, was present, as was the family of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Georgia man who was shot and killed in February while jogging. Three white men have been charged in his death.

Amid the furor over Mr. Floyd’s death during the past two weeks, sweeping and previously unthinkable things have taken place: Confederate statues have been toppled in Richmond, Va., and elsewhere; many cities are debating overhauling, dismantling or defunding police departments; and discussions and action are taking place to combat centuries of systemic racism. Authorities in some locales have barred police from using chokeholds or are otherwise rethinking policies on the use of force.

“We will have to have a hybrid approach to accommodate the means of families and students,” Mr. Kamras said, noting that the school system may have to shut down again if the pandemic peaks again in late summer or fall.

He said bus transportation for students will be an issue because of social distancing requirements that limit the number of passengers to 50 percent capacity on each trip.

Alternative solutions will be made, officials said, which could mean more virtual, online learning paired with creative and innovative scheduling for in-person instruction. Distance learning will be a full-time option for families that don’t feel comfortable sending their children to school.

“We need to get a sense of where folks are and their comfort level with the environment and use that to implement (the Virginia Department of Education’s) guidance as we begin planning reopening schools,” Mr. Kamras said.

The plan will be submitted to the public and the School Board for review. When completed, it will go to the VDOE for approval.

The Virginia Education Association, which represents teachers and staff, said the measures outlined by Gov. Northam would be costly and called for more federal aid and state spending.

“A crisis of this magnitude requires crisis measures to support Virginia students, especially those living in poverty,” VEA President Jim Livingston said in a statement.

## Richmond reopening moves to next level under state’s COVID-19 guidelines

*Continued from A1*

Gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed under Phase Two, while restaurants, which were open only for curbside, pickup and delivery service and some outdoor patio service, can open for indoor dining at 50 percent capacity. Gyms and fitness centers can open for indoor exercise classes and workouts at 30 percent capacity.

Zoos, museums and botanical gardens are also among the public spaces able to reopen to the public.

“Given the data landscape, the governor’s requirement that all Virginians wear face coverings and my trust in the Richmond community to look out for each other, I’m comfortable with our city entering Phase Two of Forward Virginia,” Mayor Levar M. Stoney said in a statement Tuesday.

These new allowances come with a number of conditions, including signage and communication on social distancing in areas for public gatherings; continuing teleworking and spreading out

work stations to mitigate the chances of infection in workplaces; and limiting the number and duration of and attendance at gatherings such as conferences and training meetings.

Restrictions are still in place for non-essential services, from swimming pools limited to exercise and swimming instruction to no shared equipment for outdoor sports.

Face coverings and masks also are still required in public buildings under Phase Two.

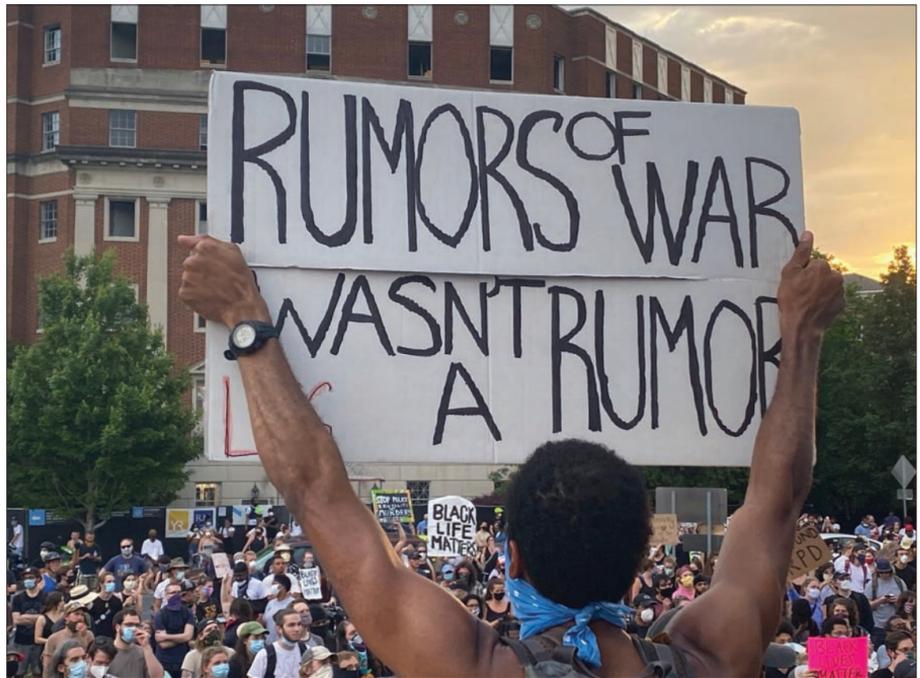
On Tuesday, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Virginia reached 51,738, with 5,203 people hospitalized and 1,496 deaths, according to Virginia Health Department data.

As detailed by Dr. M. Norman Oliver, the state’s health commissioner, the coronavirus still is disproportionately impacting people of color in Virginia. African-Americans comprise 20 percent of the state’s positive COVID-19 cases and 23 percent of deaths for which racial and ethnic data is available. Latinos comprise 50 percent of the state’s positive cases and 11 percent of deaths.

Local News



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press  
**Protesters raise their fists in solidarity at the Robert E. Lee statue Saturday afternoon.**



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press  
**Thousands of protesters flooded the area around the Lee statue on Monument Avenue on June 3, the day word spread that Gov. Ralph S. Northam was going to order the state-owned statue to be removed. The official announcement was made by the governor at a news conference the next day.**



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press  
**A band of demonstrators sit, stand and pray at the intersection of Belvidere and Broad streets on Sunday, temporarily blocking traffic at one of the most heavily traveled locations in the city.**



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Above, the graffiti-tagged pedestal is all that remains where the statue of Confederate Gen. Williams Carter Wickham once stood in Monroe Park. Protesters pulled down the statue Saturday night. The Virginia National Guard reportedly now has it. Dallas Gardner, 15, rides his bike by the graffiti-tagged base of the Lee statue on Monday. Dallas, a BMX rider for Team USA, came to Monument Avenue with his father, Kelly Gardner, to get a closer look.

Right, artist Barabbas Rowland II draws a portrait of Marcus-David Peters, a 24-year-old biology teacher who was experiencing a mental crisis when he attacked and was fatally shot by a Richmond Police officer in May 2018.



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

# Columbus and Wickham statues come down

By George Copeland Jr.

Decrying police brutality and white supremacy, Richmond protesters have taken an active approach to removing symbols of oppression by pulling statues of Christopher Columbus and Confederate Gen. Williams Carter Wickham from their pedestals in public parks.

The Columbus statue in Byrd Park was brought down with ropes, briefly set on fire and dragged into Fountain Lake on Tuesday evening following a protest and march down Arthur Ashe Boulevard led by members of Richmond's indigenous community.

During a peaceful protest in Byrd Park, demonstrators reaffirmed a commitment to inclusivity and solidarity with all marginalized and oppressed peoples.

"We no longer leave behind people in this movement," said Joseph Rogers, a member of the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality.

Around midnight, the words "BLM" for Black Lives Matter and "This is Powhatan Land" were projected in the spot where the Columbus statue stood.

The statue was fished out of the lake on Wednesday morning and hauled off under the eye of city workers.

Columbus has long been a contentious figure in Richmond, with the city refusing to recognize the Columbus Day holiday in October by keeping City Hall open even as federal and state

offices are closed.

Last October, Richmond joined 60 other localities and seven states in honoring native communities by recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day.

The toppling of the Columbus statue followed the toppling Sunday evening of the Wickham statue from its pedestal in Monroe Park.

That statue was one of the few remaining landmarks in Monroe Park following decades of change, including a recent two-year redevelopment of the park. It once served as an instructional camp and a military hospital for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

A stone cross honoring Confederate Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, a former Virginia governor and the nephew of Robert E. Lee, and a monument to newspaper publisher Joseph Bryan, an industrialist and supporter of the Lost Cause narrative, remain in the park.

This is not the first time in recent years that people have objected to the presence of the Wickham statue. In the wake of the deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017, two descendants of Mr. Wickham, Clayton and Will Wickham, called on Mayor Levar M. Stoney and Richmond City Council to remove the statue memorializing a man who, as they wrote in a letter, "unapologetically accrued power and wealth through the exploitation of enslaved people."

The Wickhams also met and discussed the



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

**The statue of Christopher Columbus floats in Fountain Lake after it was knocked down Tuesday night following a protest where the statue stood for decades at Byrd Park.**

matter with Alice Massie, president of the Monroe Park Conservancy group that led the renovation of Monroe Park.

Currently, no announcements have been made about the future of these monuments.

The choice to dump the Columbus statue in the lake seemed inspired by similar actions in England, where a statue of 17th century slave trader Edward Colston was pulled down by anti-

racism protesters in Bristol on Sunday before being thrown into Bristol Harbour.

A petition is calling to put in its place a statue of Paul Stephenson, a youth worker who organized a Bristol bus boycott in 1963 — inspired by the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott spurred by Rosa Parks — that helped to end an illegal employment color ban in the local bus companies.

## Local News



Mr. Hill



Mr. Robinson



Ms. Randolph



Mr. Mitchell



Mr. Boone



Mr. Wilder

## Who should be on Monument Avenue?

By Ronald E. Carrington

Who should go on the pedestals along Monument Avenue once the Confederate statues are removed?

The answers, offered recently by Richmonders, range from local legal icons in the 20th century struggle for civil rights to men and women of color who have contributed to the community, to reserving the space for fountains, reflection and conversations.

Legals scholars and practitioners Oliver W. Hill Sr. and Spottswood W. Robinson III, who laid the foundation for the celebrated *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 ending the racially discriminatory doctrine of "separate but equal," should be honored on Monument Avenue, according to a proposal by the Oliver Hill Sr. Foundation.

J. Maurice Hopkins, president of the foundation, said he has been advocating for more than five years to have a statue of Mr. Hill replace the one of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Gov. Ralph S. Northam announced June 4 that the 12-ton statue of Lee, which is owned by the state and has long been a symbol of white supremacy and division, will be removed.

Similarly, Mayor Levar M. Stoney and the unanimous members of City Council have said they will start the process on July 1 to remove

the four other city-owned statues honoring Confederates on Monument Avenue.

Plans for their removal are advancing despite lawsuits and a Richmond judge's injunction blocking it for now.

Mr. Hopkins said he has submitted the foundation's proposal to Gov. Northam and Lt. Gov. Justin E. Fairfax for consideration.

"Having Mr. Hill's statue in that location is very appropriate because the social justice aspect of his life is ideal for Virginia," Mr. Hopkins said.

"It would also be appropriate to include Spottswood Robinson because he is a part of Mr. Hill's legacy," he added.

Others, including a Richmond historian and families with long and deep ties in the community, want to see African-Americans replace the current statues that glorify slavery and the oppression of Black people.

Dr. Laurant L. Lee, a public historian and visiting lecturer at the University of Richmond, was a member of the mayor's Monument Avenue Commission that recommended in July 2018 that the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis be removed from Monument Avenue and contextual signs be added to the rest.

Protesters pulled down the statue of Jefferson Davis on June 10.

"Why do we have to have just men?" Dr.

Lee asked when queried about whose statue should replace the Confederates.

She said although she understands what the statues mean to African-Americans, she is ambivalent about their removal because "I know what it feels like to have your history erased, denigrated or removed," the historian says. "I would not wish that on anyone."

However, she named a variety of women from Richmond and Virginia that could replace the Confederate monuments, including Virginia Estelle Randolph, a brilliant educator whose system of upgraded vocational education was replicated across the country and parts of Africa. A school in Henrico County is named for her.

Dr. Lee also suggested Mary Peake, who was born in Norfolk in 1823. Ms. Peake was a dedicated educator and creator of a school under the Emancipation Oak located on Hampton University's campus that began in September 1861 for African-American adults to attend in the evenings.

"Women are very underrepresented in the public space," Dr. Lee said. "There are a number of women who have done tremendous work to advance, not only African-Americans, but Virginia history."

She also suggested statues of crusading journalists be placed on Monument Avenue — John Mitchell Jr., editor of the *Richmond Planet*

newspaper in the late 1800s and the early 1900s, and Raymond H. Boone Sr., the late founder and publisher of the *Richmond Free Press*.

"They were journalists who got news out to Black people that otherwise wouldn't be published," Dr. Lee said.

Carmen Foster, a Richmond historian and leadership coach, asked why statues of people need to be erected on those spaces. She believes they should become a public space containing a healing, peaceful sculpture or water fountain or possibly a meditative space for spiritual solace and introspection. The public could interact there and share their perspectives in a safe environment, she said.

"What type of symbols do we have that go beyond individual ideologies and reveal the nature of the healing spirit?" she asked. "Richmond needs to honor something deeper and more powerful than fighting battles."

James E. "J.J." Minor III, president of the Richmond Branch NAACP, said Richmond needs a symbol of justice on Monument Avenue.

However, "I prefer to see statues of people representing justice — Oliver Hill, Henry Marsh and former Gov. Douglas Wilder and a few others — on Broad Street, where there is more traffic," he said. "They helped to change the climate in Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, as well as the state."

## City attorney cautions officials against any emergency order to remove Confederate statues

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Calls for City Hall to remove the last three city-owned Confederate statues on Monument Avenue before people are injured or killed trying to pull them down appeared to die this week after Interim City Attorney Haskell C. Brown III cautioned that city officials and any contractors hired to do the work could face felony charges.

The issue of emergency action to remove the statues arose after protesters attempted to pull down the statue of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Monument Avenue and Lombardy Street

Sunday night. Police thwarted the protesters actions.

Court action continues to block Gov. Ralph S. Northam's effort to remove the state-owned statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue. But City Council is poised to use its new authority on Wednesday, July 1, to legally remove the city-owned statues of Confederates, including those of Gen. Stuart, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Matthew Fontaine Maury, on Monument Avenue.

Two City Council members, Stephanie A. Lynch, 5th District, and Michael J. Jones, 9th District, began the push for emergency removal following the Sunday night battle over the

Stuart statue that led to police tear-gassing protesters and arresting six people.

Their push came after five other statues have been toppled, including the latest Saturday night at a park on Meadow Street in The Fan that paid tribute to Virginia soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War. Others ripped down by protesters include the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue and one of explorer Christopher Columbus in Byrd Park.

In a letter, Dr. Jones and Ms. Lynch wrote the city attorney asking about the legal authority to act under emergency authority.

"Protesters have clearly shown they are willing to take the removal of those statues into their own hands. There is a risk of injury in an attempt to damage or remove the remaining monuments," they wrote.

But at a council session Monday night, Mr. Brown said he could find no way around the current law that makes it a criminal offense to remove the statues. On July 1, the law changes, allowing localities to make that decision. He said City Council needed to ask Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette W. McEachin if she would charge people should such emergency removal take place.

During the meeting, council members made no effort to get in touch with Mrs. McEachin. She has not publicly commented.

Mr. Brown also suggested the city seek authority from Gov. Northam to remove the statues under his emergency authority and via an executive order.

However, when asked by Ms. Lynch about emergency authority, Mr. Brown said neither the mayor or his administration has authority under the City Charter or state law to declare a local emergency and that such a declaration would not meet the criteria to remove the statues.

He did not mention the state law on emergencies that allows local officials to declare an emergency with the consent of the governing body.

Mayor Levar M. Stoney said his administration is still exploring ways of gaining legal authority to remove the statues immediately.

Meanwhile, Richmond Circuit Court Judge Bradley B. Cavedo last week threw out a lawsuit seeking to block removal of the Lee statue. The suit was filed by a descendant of people who donated the land on which the statue stands to the state.

Judge Cavedo ruled that the descendant, William Gregory, had no rights to the land and thus no right or standing to sue.

Still, he gave Mr. Gregory time to file an amended complaint and set a new hearing for Thursday, July 23, to consider the matter again. Judge Cavedo also extended his temporary injunction blocking removal of the Lee statue until then.

## City Council starts process to rename Lee Bridge and other Confederate memorials

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Legal tangles continue to block removal of state-owned statues honoring Confederate Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue and in the State Capitol.

But Richmond City Council took the first step Monday night toward stripping the slavery-defending general's name from a key bridge over the James River — the first legal step in removing Confederate symbols, names and memorials that litter the city.

In a unanimous vote, the council approved 5th District Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch's resolution instructing Lenora Reid, the city's interim chief administrative officer, to start a renaming process that would include the public.

Other steps could quickly follow.

Councilwoman Reva M. Trammell, 8th District, who is recuperating from an injury and did not participate, has submitted a renaming resolution for the portion of U.S. 1 in South Side known as Jefferson Davis Highway, in tribute to the former Confederate president.

That resolution is considered likely to pass on Monday, July 27. Ms. Trammell is calling for that stretch of road to be renamed Richmond Highway.

The council also is considering meeting at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, to introduce legislation to remove the remaining Confederate statues the city owns. The late-night/early-morning meeting would come just a minute after a new state law goes into effect allowing local governments to take down such statues.

Councilman Michael J. Jones, 9th District, is teaming with Mayor Levar M. Stoney on the legislation.

Ahead of the legislation, Richmond protesters already have toppled three Confederate statues, including the Jefferson Davis statue on Monument Avenue.

Ms. Lynch said she has received calls from people urging elimination of Confederate names from public honor. She cited an African-American constituent who has always wondered why the city would name the bridge for a traitorous general. The bridge was dedicated to Gen. Lee when it opened in 1934, and the council made no move to rename it when a new bridge replaced it in 1989.

In other business, City Council authorized the Stoney administration to market the former Public Safety Building on 9th Street near City Hall.

The city hopes to issue requests for proposals from developers and plans to

begin negotiations with a private group that proposes replacing the aging and decaying building with a 17-story, mixed-use, taxable development that would provide medical offices for Virginia Commonwealth University and space for two hotels to serve relatives of those undergoing treatment at the hospital.

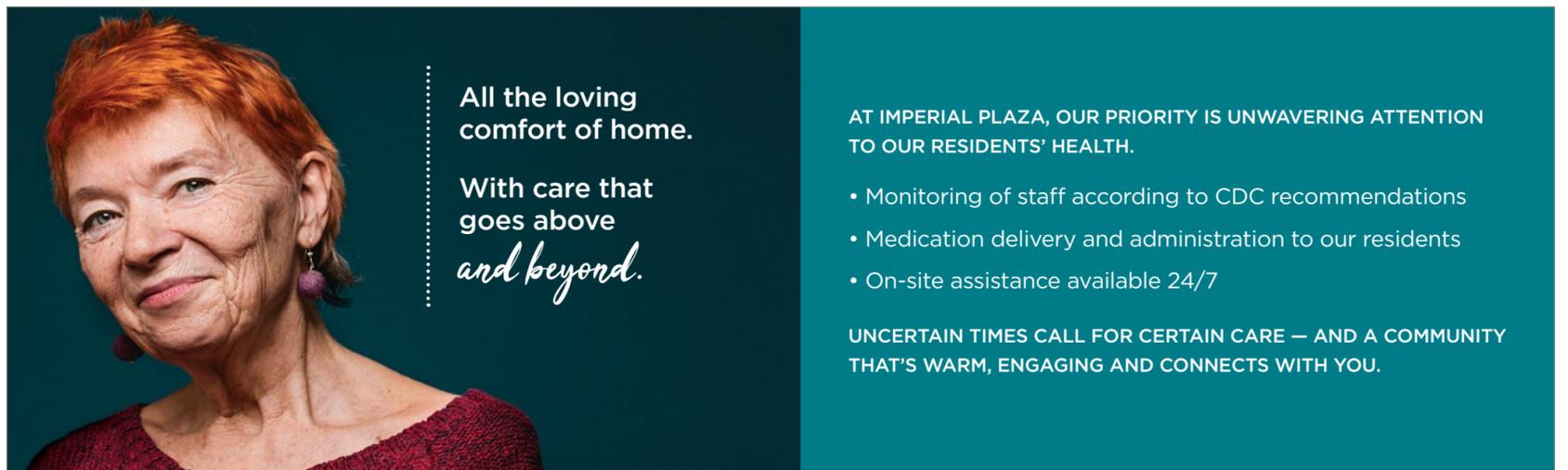
Also, the council voted 6-1, with one abstention, to approve regulations for hotel-like short-term rentals of housing.

Dr. Jones abstained. Ms. Lynch cast the lone vote against the ordinance that allows homeowners to secure a permit to rent their primary residence to visitors. Ms. Lynch objected to the fact that investors who have bought homes and converted them to short-term rentals could be wiped out.

They could not legally operate such properties without obtaining a special use permit, city officials said.

By some estimates, as much as 80 percent of current short-term rentals are owned and managed by investors who have converted single-family homes.

Councilman Chris A. Hilbert, 3rd District, voted for the measure despite being disappointed that owners who rent their property would not have to pay transient lodge tax to the city as hotels and motels now do.



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Spotlight on president of Black Men Read **B1**



Negro Leagues 100th Anniversary **A9**

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JULY 2-4, 2020

After more than 100 years, the statue of Confederate 'Stonewall' Jackson on Monument Avenue comes down to cheers of hundreds of people Wednesday shortly after Mayor Stoney's emergency order for the racist symbols to be removed



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Above, a crane hauls away the massive, 100-year-old statue of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from its pedestal at Monument Avenue and Arthur Ashe Boulevard during a downpour Wednesday. Right, a crew carefully places the bronze statue on a truck. Mayor Levar M. Stoney ordered the removal of remaining Confederate statues as a public safety measure.



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

# Gone!

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Goodbye, "Stonewall" Jackson.

So long, J.E.B. Stuart, Matthew Fontaine Maury and maybe A.P. Hill.

The removal of city-owned statues of those Confederates and other champions of slavery and white supremacy began on Wednesday, with the bronze statue of Confederate Gen. Jackson hauled from the perch it has occupied for more than 100 years at Monument Avenue and Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

Cheers rang out from hundreds of people watching at the intersection as a large crane hoisted the statue from its granite base. Bells from a nearby church began to peal, the crowd jubilant even in the sudden downpour near the end of the 3½-hour job to secure the heavy statue and carefully remove it from its base.

With the entire operation being livestreamed on social media, more than 250,000 people reportedly tuned in to see the statue being lifted and then lowered onto a flat-bed truck. It was taken to an undisclosed storage facility, where city officials said it will remain until a decision is made on what to do with it.

Chants of "Black Lives Matter" and "Take it down" erupted from the crowd.

The swift action marks a historic moment for the former capital of the Confederacy, where such oversized symbols of

## Related photos on B3

oppression seemed permanently affixed to the landscape.

"Today is a monumental step in the history of the City of Richmond," Delegate Lamont Bagby, chairman of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, said in a statement later Wednesday evening.

"The long overdue removal of these statues is an important step toward honestly and clearly addressing our city, our Commonwealth and our country's past. This removal was an answer to the countless calls from our Virginia communities, our members and many others to take Virginia into a new, more just tomorrow."

The prospect that Richmond would follow in the footsteps of other big and small localities that already had removed Confederate statuary had long seemed remote, but July 1 marked the city's day of independence from such icons of the "Lost Cause." The Virginia General Assembly, for the first time under Democratic control in more than two decades, voted earlier this year to give localities control over Confederate statues within

Please turn to A4



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

"I'm listening," new Richmond Police Chief Gerald M. Smith says at a City Hall press conference Saturday after Mayor Levar M. Stoney, right, introduced him. "My office, my phone line, my email is open to you, so let's have a conversation." The city's 20th chief began work Wednesday.

## New Police Chief Gerald Smith greeted with eventful first day

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

For Gerald M. Smith, the first day as Richmond's new police chief was anything but routine.

Along with the regular calls for service on Wednesday, Chief Smith, who was tapped for the job late last Friday, found the department caught up in a whirl of events typical of the upheaval that has gripped the city since late May following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

In the late morning, 100 people marched to the John Marshall Courts Building to protest evictions of struggling families. The upshot: A window shattered, protesters pepper-sprayed, three arrests and the building roped off with police tape.

By mid-afternoon, crowds gathered to watch the historic removal of the statue of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson at Monument Avenue and Arthur Ashe Boulevard following Mayor Levar M. Stoney's emergency order to take the oppressive symbols down.

As the sun set, another group prepared a sit-in at the Lee statue a few blocks east to protest the Richmond Police Department's use of tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets to disperse crowds protesting police violence and racial injustice.

Chief Smith, 51, is the city's 20th police chief and the fourth person to hold the top position during Mayor Stoney's first term. The chief's starting salary: \$185,000 a year, the city reported. That's roughly

Please turn to A4

## Legal efforts continue against use of tear gas on peaceful protesters

By Jeremy M. Lazarus and George Copeland Jr.

From marches to nighttime clashes and courtroom battles, the demand for racial justice and an end to police violence continues in Richmond — now the epicenter of Virginia protests and police actions to control the situation more than a month after they began.

On Tuesday, as Gov. Ralph S. Northam extended for 30 days a month-old emergency declaration in the city at the request of Mayor Levar M. Stoney, a Richmond Circuit Court judge upheld the authority of police to declare unlawful assemblies and to use tear gas, chemical deterrents and rubber bullets to disperse protesters.

Judge Beverly W. Snukals

Please turn to A4



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

More than 40 faith leaders from a variety of faith traditions call for an end to police violence against those protesting racial injustice during a news conference Tuesday at the base of the Lee statue on Monument Avenue. Protesters renamed the area Marcus-David Peters Circle to bring attention to the 2018 death of the 24-year-old biology teacher who was shot and killed by a Richmond Police officer during what has been described as a mental crisis.

**Free COVID-19 testing**

The Richmond City Health District is offering free community testing for COVID-19. Testing will be held 9 to 11 a.m. at the following locations:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Tuesday, July 7	Diversity Richmond	Sherwood Ave. in North Side
Thursday, July 9	Powhatan Community Center "The Hut"	Northampton St. in Fulton

People are asked to bring an umbrella in case of inclement weather or to use as shade from the sun while waiting in line. Appointments for testing are encouraged by calling 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 offered while test supplies last. On Wednesday, the Virginia Department of Health reported a total of 63,203 positive cases of COVID-19 in the state, with 1,786 deaths and 6,262 hospitalizations. African-Americans comprised 18.8 percent of the positive cases and 23 percent of deaths for which racial and ethnic data is available, while Latinos made up 44.9 percent of the cases and 11.7 percent of deaths.



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

## History in her lifetime

Skylar Matthews, 2, of Richmond takes in the colors and new energy at the Lee statue on Monument Avenue last Friday. The youngster, who was with her mother, Shanice Winston, is living through the historic moment when the statues honoring Confederate oppressors are coming down in the city.

# Statue of Confederate 'Stonewall' Jackson on Monument Avenue comes down

Continued from A1

their jurisdictions beginning July 1.

To get the city's statues down quickly, Mayor Levar M. Stoney declared a public safety emergency early Wednesday in his capacity as director of emergency management and authorized the city Department of Public Works to remove the statues and place them in storage to await a plan of disposal.

The only Confederate statue that is to remain is the largest, that of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Monument and Allen avenues. That statue is owned by the state, and Gov. Ralph S. Northam's effort to remove it is now tied up in a court fight.

The exact timetable for removal of the other city-owned statues on Monument Avenue, including those of J.E.B. Stuart and Matthew Fontaine Maury, was uncertain at Free Press deadline on Wednesday night.

The city has been under a state of emergency since March 31 because of the outburst of protests sparked by a police officer's killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The state of emergency is to continue now until the end of July.

Mayor Stoney told City Council on Wednesday morning that his emergency order to take the statues down "would remove a dark shadow" and enable the city "to begin to heal and allow us to focus our attention on the future."

He said it is time for the city to take down Confederate shrines and begin the process of replacing them with "righteous cause symbols" that better reflect and embrace "the diverse and inclusive city that Richmond seeks to be."

In a resolution he submitted to the council and in public remarks, Mayor Stoney justified the "temporary" removal of the statues based on the risk of injury or death to protesters who have previously sought to topple statues as part of their ongoing demonstrations over racial injustice and police brutality. Five smaller statues in the city already have been pulled down by



Richmond sheriff's deputies lead away Meade Skelton after he made a failed effort to stop the removal of the "Stonewall" Jackson statue Wednesday.

protesters, including one of Confederate President Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue.

Mayor Stoney started the removal without the required approval of City Council, but only after most council members signaled their support at a special session held two hours before the removal began.

Council President Cynthia I. Newbille, 7th District, said she would call a special meeting, but then abruptly canceled it without explanation. That meeting was set for 1 p.m. Thursday, July 2.

Dr. Newbille could not be reached for comment.

The mayor appeared to have at least six of the nine council members supporting his resolution to remove the statues.

The governing body was warned against acting immediately because of the absence of 8th District Councilwoman Reva M. Trammell, who is still recovering from a severe injury. City Attorney Haskell C. Brown III advised Wednesday morning that all nine members had to vote to override a City Charter provision requiring 24-hours notice before the council could consider the resolution.

Mr. Brown said he is still of the opinion that the mayor and council cannot use the emergency provisions of state law to remove the statues, but he said that the council can override him.

On June 22, the council and the mayor halted efforts to begin removing the statues based on Mr. Brown's opinion, though the current state law effective Wednesday includes a provision

barring lawsuits against the city for removing statues and no longer makes mention of a potential felony charge that Mr. Brown cited.

Mayor Stoney said the city Department of Public Works would be allowed to spend \$1.8 million on the statue removal, but anticipates much of the money could be reimbursed from a private campaign seeking to raise \$2 million through the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust to cover the cost.

Before the removal process began, the council used the 11 a.m. meeting to introduce an ordinance to begin the 60-day clock for permanently removing the statues and to introduce other ordinances and resolutions to usher in police reforms, including creation of a civilian review board to review complaints about police abuse and misconduct and a mental health alert system.

The introduced legislation also would seek to ban police from using tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper spray and other noxious chemicals on protesters and to shift funding from the Richmond Police Department to other city agencies addressing public health, mental health and social services issues.

The ordinance on statue removal relies on the new state law that went into effect on Wednesday and gives localities authority to take down and dispose of unwanted war memorials. The state law also spells out a 60-day process of advertisement and public hearings to accomplish that purpose.

The new statute also appears to remove any legal barriers to City Council action, including other state laws and local charter provisions. That would enable the council to bypass the city Planning Commission, which by charter controls city-owned statues, and the city Commission of Architectural Review, which under the city code governs city Old and Historic Districts. Monument Avenue and its statues are listed on the Old and Historic District that runs between Lombardy Street and Roseneath Road.

## Legal efforts continue against use of tear gas on peaceful protesters

Continued from A1

rejected the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia's request for a temporary restraining order to halt such police actions as a violation of protesters' First Amendment rights.

In a written opinion, Judge Snukals stated that such a restraining order would represent "an unwarranted intrusion into and interference with the ability of law enforcement to do its job during an unprecedented period of civil unrest."

The ACLU, now engaged in a lawsuit to uphold the right of protesters to occupy city streets without interference, called the decision disappointing and expressed concern about "whether Virginians have a right to challenge in state courts unconstitutional police actions and violations of their civil rights under the Virginia Constitution."

The request for the restraining order was the opening skirmish in the lawsuit filed June 26 by the ACLU against the Virginia State Police, the Richmond Police Department and the City of Richmond for actions taken against protesters on June 22.

The case focuses on authorities' actions to disperse protesters who occupied the 900 block of East Marshall Street in front of City Hall during a City Council meeting and threw up a barricade to traffic as part of the takeover.

Hours later, around 12:40 a.m. June 23, police declared the protesters were engaged in an unlawful assembly and around 1:25 a.m. began firing tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets to disperse people who refused to move. Twelve people were arrested.

Before police moved in, participants who had dubbed the area "Reclamation Square" played music and instructed others on police brutality and inequality.

The ACLU lawsuit claims the peaceful occupation was protected by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment right to assembly and to petition the government.

In a letter to Gov. Northam, Mayor Stoney requested the state of emergency in Richmond be extended because of the

continuing upheaval. He noted that peaceful protests were "evolving into unlawful assemblies during late night and early morning" hours.

While Mayor Stoney has not spoken of it, the Richmond Police Department has assigned him a protection detail based on death threats the mayor has received from people objecting to his plan to remove racist Confederate statues from city property.

Others organizations have joined the ACLU in condemning police actions to disperse protesters. As the court issued its decision on Tuesday, more than 40 faith leaders from Clergy Action RVA gathered at the Lee statue on Monument Avenue to speak out against police brutality and racism and authorities' ongoing effort to disrupt peaceful protests.

The Richmond Branch NAACP also registered its support for the peaceful protests for racial justice and against police brutality and police-related murders "as an effective tool to dismantle systemic racism and effectuate positive change. ... At no point should peaceful protesters have rubber bullets or tear gas shot at them."

A protest group led by Farid Alan Schintzius had scheduled a sit-in at the Lee statue at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday to protest police brutality.

Meanwhile, City Council members Michael Jones, 9th District, and Stephanie Lynch, 5th District, see police as overreacting to protests and are seeking to pass legislation that could prevent police from using noxious chemicals like tear gas and similar chemicals to disperse crowds.

But Councilwoman Kim B. Gray, 2nd District, said that some of the people involved in the protests are engaged in terrorism.

Ms. Gray said in Jackson Ward, a historically African-American section of Downtown, protesters come armed and often are threatening. She said one protester leveled what appeared to be an AK-47-style weapon at her daughter in front of their home, while another ran onto a neighbor's porch waving a machete at the homeowner who was filming the scene.

She also noted that Black-owned or operated businesses have been vandalized and

a building and several cars set on fire.

Ms. Gray, who is African-American, said a young white woman who lives nearby shouted at her to get out of the neighborhood because she didn't belong there.

"That is the kind of arrogance and assertion of white privilege we are experiencing from people ironically claiming to be acting to ensure Black lives matter. This is so out of control."

However, the protests have had an impact in pushing public officials to consider reforms in police practices and for police departments, including the one at Virginia Commonwealth University, to follow Richmond's lead in publicly posting information about complaints and disciplinary action taken against police officers.

In Richmond, an investigation continues into the police tear-gassing of peaceful protesters on June 1 at the Lee statue that occurred about 30 minutes before the city's 8 p.m. curfew.

Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette W. McEachin and the police department's Internal Affairs Division are both investigating the incident that led Mayor Stoney and then-Police Chief Will Smith to issue a public apology.

The police action also has brought on two lawsuits filed by attorney Thomas H. Roberts on behalf of people in the crowd who were tear-gassed. The suits claim the police attack on a peaceful protest constituted a violation of rights protected under the Constitution's First and Fourth Amendments.

"We are working diligently toward resolution and transparency and holding people accountable," Mr. Roberts said.

The ACLU similarly promised to "continue to fight in court to bring justice to people who are speaking out against systemic, anti-black racism."

The group also stated, "It is time for the governor, the mayor and the heads of the Richmond, State and Capitol police to de-escalate the police response and direct their attention to addressing the systemic anti-black racism in the city and within their ranks that has been called out by the protesters."

## New Police Chief Gerald Smith greeted with eventful first day

Continued from A1

\$10,000 more than his predecessor.

To the mayor, the new chief's willingness to leave at a moment's notice the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina where he has served for 29 years was a strong point in his favor, given that Mayor Stoney considered it a priority to fill the job.

Mayor Stoney has declared Chief Smith is "who Richmond needs right now — a reform-minded leader with deep experience in community police and de-escalation." However, Mayor Stoney could not point to any specifics in Chief Smith's record in North Carolina to indicate reform leadership.

The mayor said he consulted with two past Richmond police chiefs, Alfred Durham and Rodney Monroe, before making the selection. He said he has "full faith that this is the leader who not only can move the police department to the next level, but also bring our city together."

"Chief Smith is ready to lead this department in these challenging times and to work collaboratively," Mayor Stoney continued. "I knew we had the chief that Richmond needs when told that his number one priority is to listen to the community because this is their police department."

Still, even as Mayor Stoney and Chief Smith promise that community input will play a big role in the development of reforms, such as a civilian oversight board to handle complaints about officers, the chief's selection process did nothing to reassure activists.

Chief Smith's new job opportunity opened two weeks ago when Mayor Stoney asked for the resignation of former Chief Will Smith, who he chose to lead the department after Chief Durham resigned in late 2018.

However, the interim chief he chose, Maj. William V. "Jody" Blackwell, who was in the job only 11 days, was a lightning rod for criticism after it was publicly disclosed that he had fatally shot a man in the back 18 years ago.

As he takes over, Chief Smith, who started with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg department in 1991, is vowing to offer wide community interaction through his email and social media accounts and in his outreach.

"We're looking for this community to be deeply involved in the police department, and we're looking to be deeply involved in the community," Chief Smith said when the mayor introduced him last Saturday at a City Hall news conference.

Chief Smith said that he is familiar with Richmond since he has been involved with internal assessment panels for 11 to 12 years. "I've always been impressed with the department in what it does and how it does things," he said.

He said he is fully aware of the protests that have been going on for the past 30-plus days. He said Charlotte, too, also has seen similar upheaval, including a recent court case in which a judge barred police from using tear gas indiscriminately. In his view, tear gas and other non-lethal items "can be an effective tool if used properly," he said.

"My message to the community is thank you for letting me be here, and I'm listening," Chief Smith said. "We want to make this department better than what it was. My office, my phone line, my email is open to you, so let's have a conversation."

Chief Smith is a graduate of Pfeiffer University in North Carolina and is working on a master's degree from Clemson University.

He and his wife, Phillist, have been married 26 years and have three children.

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## Remnants of the Confederacy

### Ashe sculptor consultant for moves

By Reginald Stuart

In his four decades of studying history around the world and interpreting it through professional sculpture work, Richmonder Paul DiPasquale has faced many a challenge.

Today, he is in the midst of helping the city turn a major page in its history.

He is consulting for the city on carefully removing the controversial, larger-than-life-size statues of the Confederacy along Monument Avenue.

Removing the symbols of oppression is a long pursued effort whose time finally arrived during the midst of persistent protests in Richmond and across the nation against police brutality and racial injustice following the death in late May of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

“What we have seen is more of a turning point in history,” said Mr. DiPasquale, explaining Mayor Levar M. Stoney’s emergency decision to promptly remove the high-profile statues embraced by many rooted in past generations and a reminder of an agonizing past for many.

“Public historic art creates a dialogue,” Mr. DiPasquale said. “People are reconsidering what they think.”

Richmond’s decision to remove rather than destroy the statues affords residents and visitors an opportunity to dialogue about the truth and “not

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The statue of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, the last of the four city-owned Confederate statues on Monument Avenue, was taken down and moved to storage Tuesday

By Jeremy M. Lazarus



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

The statue of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart is turned on its side and lowered onto a flatbed truck Tuesday after being removed from its pedestal at Monument Avenue and Stuart Circle. It is the last of four city-owned statues on the tree-lined street to be taken down and sent to storage.



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Sculptor Paul DiPasquale prepares the place on the flatbed truck where the statue of Confederate naval commander Matthew Fontaine Maury will be placed. The bronze statue was taken down July 2 under the watchful eye of Mr. DiPasquale, a consultant to the city on removing the statues.

The former capital of the Confederacy has largely been wiped clean of the racist statuary that has long dominated the landscape.

As of Wednesday, the four city-owned Confederate statues and two cannons had been taken off Monument Avenue, leaving only the state-owned statue of traitorous slavery-defender Gen. Robert E. Lee. The removal of his six-story, 12-ton statue is tangled in a still unresolved legal fight and an injunction issued by Richmond Circuit Court Judge Bradley B. Cavedo.

At the same time, the Richmond Police Department has stopped confronting the dwindling numbers of protesters whose energy and outrage over racism enabled City Hall to do what long seemed impossible — rid Richmond of its symbolic veneration of white supremacy.

The emergency action by Mayor Levar M. Stoney has been accompanied by efforts to remove Confederate symbols and names elsewhere. Along with a call from Gov. Ralph S. Northam for Virginia’s public schools to remove Confederate names — an action Hanover County is still resisting — James Madison University plans to rename three buildings, while the faculty at Washington and Lee University is urging a name change to eliminate ties with Confederate Gen. Lee.

In Powhatan County, Black students have been joined by a diversity group in calling for schools to ban Confederate flags and symbols from school grounds.

But Richmond remains the center of attention as it gets rid of the statues and prepares to rename at least one bridge and a portion of a major thoroughfare.

On Tuesday, the statue of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart was removed. On Wednesday, the statue on the towering Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Church Hill was taken down after 126 years of lording over Libby Hill Park.

Just two Confederate statues remain in the city — an unblemished six-foot stone cross in Monroe Park honoring Confederate cavalry officer Fitzhugh Lee, a nephew of Gen. Lee, which is likely to be removed this week, and a statue of Ambrose P. Hill at Laburnum Avenue and Hermitage Road in North Side. It is proving tougher to remove because it sits atop his tomb.

Mayor Stoney began the official cleansing on July 1 using a declaration of a local emergency that City Council informally supported but has yet to officially ratify as required by state law.

Under the supervision of Richmond sculptor Paul Di Pasquale, an expert crew has removed the Monument Avenue statues of Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Matthew Fontaine Maury and J.E.B. Stuart, along with two cannons that marked Confederate defensive positions and the statue in Church Hill.

Work also is beginning to remove some of the figures on the pedestals to which the statues were attached, including the

Please turn to A4

### Child care a major issue as RPS officials grapple with reopening plan

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

A 3-foot change could help working parents — most notably single mothers — keep their jobs or avoid the cost of expensive day care.

In a surprise move, the Virginia Department of Education confirmed Tuesday that it will allow school divisions to reopen with students wearing masks and staying 3 feet apart when classes resume rather than requiring students to be 6 feet apart.

The Free Press has learned the change was made after Dr. James F. Lane, state superintendent of public instruction, was advised the 6-foot rule could dramatically limit the number of students in a building — forcing parents to choose between going to work or staying home to care for their children.

In Richmond, Schools Superintendent Jason Kamras already has pivoted in the wake of the new guidance.

Just hours after getting the new guidance, Mr. Kamras used his daily message to parents, teachers and staff to announce a new reopening proposal that will allow all students to either take classes online or to return to school for face-to-face classes in buildings that can accommodate 3-foot spacing, but not 6-foot spacing.

He described the proposal

as a way to aid parents who are “terrified of sending their children” to school because of the pandemic and also to accommodate families “who will lose their jobs — and their homes — if they need to stay home to watch their children.”

Mr. Kamras has left it to the School Board to decide between this option and a previously favored option that remains

on the table. The other option calls for students to attend in-person classes two days a week, with half of them on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other half on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Fridays for online learning.

Under that option, only special education students and

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### Pandemic ‘is still very real’

By George Copeland Jr.

The spread of COVID-19 has slowed in Richmond — but the city isn’t in the clear just yet.

That’s the prognosis Richmond officials offered Monday during a news conference.

“The pandemic is still very real,” Mayor Levar M. Stoney said. “And what we don’t want to happen is that COVID-19

catches us slipping.”

As of Wednesday, the city has seen 2,321 positive cases and 29 deaths from the coronavirus, as reported by the Virginia Department of Health.

Officials also reported 67,375 cases of COVID-19 in Virginia, along with 1,905 deaths and 6,577 hospitalizations. African-Americans making up 19.4 percent of the

cases and 23.7 percent of the deaths, while Latinos comprise 44.1 percent of cases and 11.3 percent of deaths.

Dr. Danny T.K. Avula, director of the Richmond and Henrico County health districts, said while there have been no confirmed deaths from COVID-19 in the last two weeks, the

Please turn to A4

### Federal report condemns state failure to intervene in special education complaints

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

For more than four years, former schoolteacher Kandise Lucas has repeatedly condemned the Virginia Department of Education for its alleged failure to intervene against schools in the Richmond area and across the state that are denying special needs children a free and appropriate public education — most notably African-American children.

Now in her 14th year as an advocate for special education children, Ms. Lucas has used emails, social media and public events to wage her crusade for change, only to have people in power — including school division leaders, African-American legislators, governors and the state Board of Education — ignore her concerns, arrest her, attempt to ban her from school grounds and have her sanctioned by the courts.

It turns out, Ms. Lucas,



Ms. Lucas

leader of A d v o c a t e s for Equity in Schools, has been right all along.

In a newly released report, the U.S. Department of Education has found the Virginia Department of Education failed to supervise, monitor or correct local school divisions that violate the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA.

Despite having a full special education staff, the state education department has failed to step in when local school divisions refuse to educate special needs children or make false claims about the services being provided, according to the June 24 report from the federal department’s Office of Special Education Programs.

The report is based on interviews and a two-day site visit conducted in May 2019. According to Matthew Schmeer, OSEP’s associate director, the investigation became necessary due to the large volume of “letters, emails and phone calls from parents, advocates and educators expressing concerns about special education in Virginia.”

The office found that the state violated the federal IDEA by ignoring credible complaints and requiring parents to go through a costly dispute resolution process while never ensuring that localities met the tight deadlines to settle complaints.

After finding parents are on their own, the federal OSEP took the unusual step of ordering the state to install within three months corrective policies and procedures after the state admitted no such policies and

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### Skate world

Autumn Bell, 2, takes a brief break from skating to relax with her mom and dad. The youngster was with her parents, DeMarius Thomas and Brinnay Bell, on July Fourth outside Virginia Commonwealth University’s Institute for Contemporary Art in Downtown.

Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

## Pandemic 'is still very real'

Continued from A1

sharp decline in cases and hospitalizations from the virus has started to plateau.

The city is "not out of the woods" yet, he said, adding that state measures and individual efforts could moderate any uptick.

Dr. Avula also said more attention is being placed on Richmond's Latino population that comprise half of the city's confirmed COVID-19 cases. This includes adding more bilingual health officers, working to earn the trust of undocumented members of the community and offering greater support with testing, isolation and quarantine.

Richmond residents who test positive for the coronavirus will continue to receive primary care support, particularly for those who have no health insurance or who are underinsured, as well as isolation options for

those unable to do so on their own, officials said.

The city also is working with community colleges to understand the needs of workers who have lost jobs or been furloughed because of the virus, health guidelines and decisions made by employers.

Richmond businesses that have seen support through tax amnesty, PPE distribution and more also will be the focus of a grant program for small businesses and restaurants supported by \$3 million allocated from the federal CARES Act funding received by the city, according to Mayor Stoney. About \$6 million has been allocated to the new Emergency Rent Assistance Program, created at the urging of housing justice advocates, to aid residents facing eviction in the city.

"We have to be diligent, but we know we have to be urgent as well," Mayor Stoney said.

## Remnants of the Confederacy

Continued from A1

globe on the Maury statue saluting the Confederate naval commander for pioneering work on ocean currents and weather forecasting.

Of the 11 city-owned Confederate items, protesters previously toppled the Monument Avenue statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, as well as a statue of Gen. Williams Carter Wickham in Monroe Park and the Richmond Howitzers statue at Park and Harrison streets on the Virginia Commonwealth University campus.

One statue that will remain untouched is that of Joseph Bryan, a notorious racial bigot who used his daily newspapers in Richmond and his business connections to promote the "Lost Cause" narrative and to crush the voting rights, political influence and economic empowerment of African-Americans in Virginia.

Even while City Council has yet to formally endorse Mayor Stoney's declaration of emergency, the statues' fate is already certain: They will not return.

City Council, led by Dr. Cynthia I. Newbille, 7th District, has started the process of ensuring permanent removal of the 11 Confederate items on the mayor's list using a new state law.

The council is scheduled to vote Monday, Aug. 3, on the removal ordinance that is now being advertised. All nine council members have committed to supporting the action, which would be voted on following a pro forma public hearing. The council also is in the process of gathering requests from people and entities who want to acquire the statues and would vote at later meetings on resolutions to dispose of them.

The action followed more than a month of protests over racism and police brutality that were sparked by a viral video showing the killing of an unarmed, handcuffed Black man, George Floyd, whose neck

was pinned under the knee of Minneapolis police officer for 8 minutes and 46 seconds on May 25.

Protests over police abuse and racial injustice have sprung up around the nation and the globe, with demonstrations beginning in Richmond on May 29 and continuing daily since then.

Mayor Stoney first sought to quell the unrest by using an 8 p.m. curfew. That led to more than 230 arrests and ultimately a huge embarrassment after police, on June 1, fired tear gas and pepper spray into a peaceful crowd nearly 30 minutes before the start of the curfew.

Now under investigation, that incident and a video that a few days later showed a police officer driving his SUV into a crowd gathered on the grass around the Lee statue on Monument Avenue led to the ouster of Police Chief Will Smith.

City police, with the help of State Police and other law enforcement agencies, continued for weeks to use tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse nightly crowds. Fears of an attack on Richmond Police Headquarters led to the erection of large concrete posts in front of the building on Grace Street to block traffic and protesters.

Meanwhile, protesters' demands grew louder, particularly for a civilian oversight board to handle complaints against police, along with mounting pressure from members of City Council eager to end the street warfare between police and protesters.

As of July 1, the same day the city's



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

The statue of a Confederate private faces forward Wednesday after being taken off its towering pedestal in Libby Hill Park, where it has stood for 126 years. The monument was placed on the hilltop in 1894 overlooking the site where the Confederate Navy Yard operated during the Civil War.

new police chief, Gerald M. Smith, took charge, the police have stood down. State signs tell people they are subject to arrest for being in the park surrounding the Lee statue between sunset and sunrise, but police have not come.

About 50 people gathered in the area around midnight Tuesday, and some sought to attract resident and law enforcement attention by using a bullhorn to lead chants of "No justice, no peace," but officers never came and it petered out.

## Free COVID-19 testing

The Richmond and Henrico County health districts are offering testing 9 to 11 a.m. at the following locations:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Thursday, July 9	Powhatan Community Center	5051 Northampton St., Fulton
Tuesday, July 14	Broad Rock Community Center	4615 Ferguson Lane, South Side
Thursday, July 16	Tuckahoe Middle School	9000 Three Chopt Road, Western Henrico

People are advised to bring an umbrella in case of inclement weather or to use as shade from the sun while waiting in line.

Appointments are encouraged by calling the Richmond and Henrico COVID-19 Hotline at (804) 205-3501 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Walk-up testing will be offered while test supplies last. The Chesterfield Health District is hosting free testing for those who are uninsured or underinsured at the following locations:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Saturday, July 11 9 a.m. to noon	River City Sportsplex	13030 Genito Road Drive-thru testing
Wednesday, July 15 5 to 7 p.m.	First Baptist Church of South Richmond	6201 Ironbridge Road
Saturday, July 18 9 a.m. to noon	The Heights Baptist Church	17201 Jefferson Davis Highway Drive-thru testing
Saturday, July 22 9 a.m. to noon	Falling Creek Ironworks Park	6407 Jefferson Davis Highway
Wednesday, July 29 5 to 7 p.m.	Crystal Lake Apartments	3501 Meadowdale Blvd.

Testing is limited, with some walk-up testing available. People with COVID-19 symptoms should make an appointment for testing by calling the Chesterfield Health Department at (804) 318-8207.

## Arthur Ashe sculptor now consultant in removing Confederate statues from Monument Avenue

Continued from A1

preserve the falsehood" about the Confederacy, he said.

Richmond's response to public appeals for the statues to be removed does not reflect the "mob mentality" demonstrated in some cities around the country, he said, offering last week's toppling in Baltimore of a statue of explorer Christopher Columbus as an example.

The task at hand is a "multi-pronged job," said Mr. DiPasquale who counts among his achievements the statue of Richmond native and tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr. on Monument Avenue, along with the statue of Neptune on the Virginia Beach boardwalk.

The task in Richmond starts with the four bronze monuments weighing up to 2,000 pounds each and sitting atop pedestals on Monument Avenue.

On Tuesday, the last of them on Monument Avenue — Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart — was removed. Demonstrators tore down the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis on June 10.

His work on how best to safely dismantle each statue from its base and secure it for removal took several weeks of analysis,

he said. To assess his challenge, Mr. DiPasquale took a myriad of photographs from every possible angle above and below each statue to grasp details about how they were erected and planted in position decades ago.

The photographs helped him decide what sections to take apart at what junctions and in what order. The process takes some figuring, he said.

The statues are hollow, he said, asserting that he and the movers had to calculate the weight, width, circumference and length of each precisely.

Decisions had to be made about arms stretched out, a waving hand, the head or tail of a horse. The whole process of dismantling, loading and moving each statue took anywhere from three to six hours, he said.

He said he is uncertain about the future of the statues. "Over 100 years ago, it was a lot more people" willing to spring forth funds to underwrite the cost of a statue, he said.

Today, "it's always hard to get people to pull out a checkbook to build a monument."

Still, "most of it is controversial," he said of Confederate figures. "The enemy is not hate, it is fear."

## Federal report condemns state failure to intervene in special education complaints

Continued from A1

procedures existed.

Ironically, the scathing report was issued just two weeks before the Virginia Department of Education received for the eighth straight year the highest rating from the U.S. Department of Education for improving outcomes for students with disabilities and for compliance with the IDEA — an award Ms. Lucas alleges is based on concocted or false data that the state collects from local school divisions.

Dr. James F. Lane, the state superintendent of public instruction, issued a statement that he takes the OSEP report seriously and "intends to take prompt action" to address the

concerns that were raised.

But evidence in the report shows that Dr. Lane, continuing the practice of his predecessors, has ignored the problems and avoided doing anything to solve them.

According to the OSEP report, a group of Henrico County parents spent 2018 pleading with the state Department of Education to intervene after providing evidence the school division was undermining the education of their special needs children and that staff were falsifying documents about the services their children were receiving.

The upshot: Dr. Lane threw out their complaints in 2019, claiming they were more than a year old and no longer valid,

according to the report.

In another instance, a Fairfax County parent went to the state Department of Education for help when a high school refused to provide special education and related services that her child required and that were documented in the student's individual education program or IEP. Dr. Lane and his staff simply referred the parent back to the school division.

"Completely ignoring credible allegations ... is not a reasonable method of exercising the state's general supervisory responsibilities," the federal report noted. Other states have "a practice of responding proactively — through investigation or other means — outside of the formal dispute resolution

mechanisms."

But inaction on complaints has long been a routine by the state, while allowing Henrico, Chesterfield and other school divisions to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on attorneys to defend themselves when a parent validly complains about the failed education of a child.

The federal office reported that Dr. Lane and his staff admitted they never installed any policies or procedures to monitor local school divisions' special education programs or ensure that the programs for disabled children meet state educational standards.

Based on the findings, the federal office notified Dr. Lane that the state education department must "establish and

implement" reforms, including setting up a supervision and monitoring program to ensure local school divisions are complying with the IDEA.

The supervision effort must ensure that the state can identify noncompliance and address issues, the federal report stated. Notice of the new initiative also must be given to all school divisions, advocacy groups and other interested parties, according to the federal office.

The U.S. Department of Education also called on the state to overhaul its dispute resolution process and implement a system that allows it to respond and investigate complaints and ensures that localities have the kind of mediation system the IDEA calls for to resolve disputes.

And, after Dr. Lane and his staff acknowledged that they had no system in place to follow up on allegations of IDEA noncompliance, the federal agency also told him to put such a system in place.

Ms. Lucas welcomed the "determination of systemic non-compliance and violations by the state Department of Education in ensuring that students, families and advocates are protected as intended by IDEA.

"We, especially our families of color, will no longer be ignored," Ms. Lucas continued, "nor will the (Virginia Department of Education) and school divisions be able to continue to place their 'knees on the necks' of our children and families without accountability."

## Child care a major issue as RPS officials grapple with reopening plan

Continued from A1

those who are still learning English would have in-person classes five days a week. The option also would allow students to take all classes online.

The two options, which have received mixed reviews from parents, are to be discussed but not voted on at a virtual School Board meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, July 9. The vote is to be taken at a special meeting set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 14.

At least one elected official in Richmond believes that the school division has no choice but to consider fully reopening to avoid the financial havoc an alternate days plan could wreak on thousands of work-

ing families.

"Schools are the default child care system that most of us rely on," noted Fifth District Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch, who has a school-age child, and the first to sound the alarm about the consequences of adopting the alternate-days proposal.

Ms. Lynch said in order to work, many parents count on having their kids in school during the day. They also depend on before- and after-school programs, depending on their work schedules.

She said parents she talked with in the Swansboro and Randolph neighborhoods have been alarmed after learning about the two-day alternating attendance program.

"One woman broke down and cried when I told her. She had heard nothing from the school system about this and was unaware, like most of the parents I talked with," Ms. Lynch said. "She didn't see how she could continue working if that plan is adopted."

Ms. Lynch said the only option for parents would be costly private day care, which in the Richmond area, runs between \$720 and \$1,500 a month per child, depending on family income and the age of each child.

For the majority of families in the city, income will not stretch to cover that expense. And even finding day care is expected to be more difficult as 40 percent of the day care

centers in the Richmond area reportedly closed permanently after losing their business during the COVID-19 shutdown.

At least 70 percent of children attending Richmond Public Schools qualify for free and reduced price lunches based on family income — meaning that private day care would be unaffordable, even at places like Friends Association for Children, which offers discounted rates.

There is no data on how many families would be affected. In Richmond and across the country, day care operations, like restaurants, have been hit hard by the pandemic.

J. David Young of Friends Association for Children said the nonprofit has been able to

stay open primarily to serve children of first responders, but has had to cut the number of children, toddlers and infants served from 225 slots at its two locations in Jackson Ward and Church Hill to a total of 167 slots. The 58-slot reduction represents an annual loss of at least \$500,000 in revenue for the nonprofit. He said gifts from generous donors have enabled Friends Association to remain financially stable.

Surviving operations are now facing the costly challenge of revamping programs that previously promoted children playing together and where masked instructors were never allowed.

Mr. Young said he has offered lessons his organization

has learned during the pandemic to other day care operators seeking to start up.

Experts note that despite the high fees, day care providers already were operating on thin margins due to staffing and other requirements for licensure. The COVID-19 challenge is only making their business situations far more difficult.

Mr. Young agrees with Ms. Lynch that a major effort must be made to meet the need. He is hopeful that Friends and others day cares will be consulted, as well.

"This is a call to action," Ms. Lynch said. "If we are serious about restarting the economy, we need to deal with day care. Otherwise, many who want to work won't be able to."



Meet a talent that is undebatable **B1**



Beyoncé's 'Black Is King' **B2**

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# Richmond Free Press

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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JULY 30-AUGUST 1, 2020

# 'Defunding police' rejected

Richmond City Council kills proposal to examine police funding in social, mental health and community services and move the money to other departments

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

No to reducing the Richmond Police budget to assuage demonstrators' demands to "defund police."

Yes to the demand to develop a mental health alert system named for Marcus-David Peters, the 24-year-old high school biology teacher whom a Richmond Police officer fatally shot in 2018 as Mr. Peters charged and threatened him while experiencing what has been described as a mental crisis.

Yes to another demand for an independent civilian review board with subpoena power to



Dr. Jones



Ms. Lynch

consider complaints against police officers for use of excessive force.

That was the response of Richmond City Council on Monday night amid the ongoing protests and demonstrations sparked by the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd during his May 25 arrest for allegedly passing a phony \$20 bill.

The largely peaceful wave of protests in Richmond were marked last weekend, however, by confrontations with police, window smashing,

Please turn to A4



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

A hologram of the late George Floyd shines Tuesday night at the Robert E. Lee statue on Monument Avenue, where hundreds of people joined Mr. Floyd's family for the unveiling. The memorial project, sponsored by Change.org and the George Floyd Foundation, will be on display in Richmond through Aug. 6.

## George Floyd Hologram Memorial brings new light, tribute to Monument Avenue

By Ronald E. Carrington

Hundreds of people gathered at the Robert E. Lee statue on Monument Avenue on Tuesday night to hear the family of George Floyd and their attorney Benjamin Crump speak and to witness the unveiling of a new hologram in tribute to Mr. Floyd.

The death of Mr. Floyd, the 46-year-old unarmed, handcuffed Black man who was killed May 25 when a Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck for more than 8 minutes, inspired a global movement against police

brutality and racial injustice. Demonstrations have been held almost daily in Richmond since late May calling for police reform, equity and justice for people of color and an end to systemic racism and symbols of oppression.

On Tuesday night, people of all ages, races and ethnicities gathered to see the hologram in the area around the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee that has been renamed Marcus-David Peters Circle by protesters to

Please turn to A4



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

Richmond Police stand guard on Grace Street near police headquarters as a dump truck set ablaze by rioters burns behind them last Saturday.

## Police, others stymied by outside agitators at demonstrations

By George O. Copeland Jr. and Jeremy M. Lazarus

Are "outside agitators" and white supremacists infiltrating the Black Lives Matter protests against racial injustice and police brutality?

Such claims are re-emerging following a renewal of destructive activity in recent days that resulted in smashed windows, a burned city dump truck and at least 23 people arrested on a wide range of charges.

The outburst that began last Saturday was the first in 24 days after an unspoken truce went into effect between police and demonstrators,

Photo coverage on A5

with police stopping the use of tear gas and protesters ending their damage to property.

On both Saturday and Sunday nights, gather-

Please turn to A4

## Confederate icons swept from Virginia Capitol building

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

After 88 years, the statue of Confederate traitor Robert E. Lee is gone from the State Capitol.

Gone also are the busts of the eight slavery-defending Confederate leaders and military officers that were positioned with the Lee statue in the Old House Chamber of the Capitol.

In a surprise move, House of Delegates Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn ordered their removal, claiming authority under the state Constitution and House rules to get it done.

The removal drew cheers from the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and derision from Republican leaders in the General Assembly.

House Clerk Suzette Denslow carried out the order last week, beginning the removal July 23 and completing it on July 24. The Lee statue and busts now are stored in an undisclosed location under House of Delegates control.

"Generations of Virginians, Americans and visitors from around the world have been greeted by these imposing symbols of treason and white supremacy for far too long," Henrico Delegate Lamont Bagby, chair of the 23-member VLBC, stated in an email issued on behalf of the group.

"If we are going to continue building a more inclusive and just Commonwealth, we must acknowledge and denounce the darker parts of our nation's history, not celebrate them," he continued. "A significant step is to ensure that these misguided symbols that honored a lost cause be relegated to space outside the people's Capitol."

Along with the life-sized Lee statue created in 1932, the items removed include busts of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Vice President Alexander H. Stephens, Confederate House Speaker Thomas Bocoock, Confederate Navy officer Matthew Fontaine Maury and Confederate Gens. Joseph E. Johnston, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee.

The removal came five months after the Free Press spotlighted in its Feb. 13-15 edition

the General Assembly's continuing honor of those who sought to destroy the Union with its open display of the items in the Old House Chamber.

The eviction of the racist icons is part of the larger effort to eliminate white supremacist Confederate symbolism from Richmond, the former

Please turn to A4

### Free COVID-19 testing

Free community testing for COVID-19 continues. The Richmond and Henrico County health districts are offering testing at the following locations:

Date/Time	Location	Address
Thursday, July 30, 9 to 11 a.m.	Tuckahoe Middle School	9000 Three Chopt Road in Western Henrico County
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 9 to 11 a.m.	Fairfield Middle School	5121 Nine Mile Road in the East End
Friday, Aug. 7, 9 to 11 a.m.	Hotchkiss Field Community Center	701 E. Brookland Park Blvd. in North Side

People are advised to bring an umbrella in case of inclement weather or to use as shade from the sun while waiting in line.

Appointments are encouraged by calling the Richmond and Henrico COVID-19 Hotline at (804) 205-3501 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Walk-up testing will be offered while test supplies last. With Virginia facing continuing spikes in COVID-19 cases, outbreaks and deaths, Gov. Ralph S. Northam issued an executive order Tuesday that tightens restrictions on businesses and gatherings in the Hampton Roads, where the increases have been most pronounced.

The order, which goes into effect at midnight on Friday, July 31, and impacts jurisdictions from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach, bars the public selling and consumption of alcohol after 10 p.m., requires restaurants to close at midnight, limits all indoor dining to 50 percent capacity and prohibits public and private gatherings of more than 50 people.

The Virginia Department of Health reported on Wednesday 87,993 positive cases of COVID-19 statewide, along with 7,738 hospitalizations



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

Taneisha Spell, 27, keeps her eyes closed to avoid seeing the nasal swab coming toward her during her test for the coronavirus. The Spell family, including 2-year-old Trinity Spell, participated in the free COVID-19 testing conducted Tuesday morning by the Richmond City Health District outside the Southwood Management Center in South Side. The health district offers free testing weekly, with results expected in five to seven days.

and 2,125 deaths. Officials also said Virginia has a 7.3 percent positivity rate, meaning that 7.3 percent of the COVID-19 tests done in the state during the last seven days have come back positive for the virus. At the peak of the pandemic, the positivity rate was more than 20 percent.

According to state health department data, African-Americans made up 23.2 percent of cases and 25 percent of deaths for which ethnic and racial information is available, while Latinos made up 38.8 percent of the cases and 11.4 percent of the deaths.

# 'Defunding police' rejected

Continued from A1

graffiti tagging and additional arrests.

City Council voted 7-2 to kill a proposal that would have required the administration to provide information by Oct. 1 on police spending on social services, mental health and other community services and recommendations for moving the money to other departments and private providers that do similar work.

"This proposal is not about demolishing, dismantling or even defunding the police department," Councilman Michael J. Jones, 9th District, told his council colleagues.

Dr. Jones spearheaded the effort with Councilwoman Stephanie A. Lynch, 5th District, for an analysis of departmental spending.

Dr. Jones said the goal was to allow the administration to lay out where funding for police involved expenditures in social, community and mental health programs covered by other departments and whether the money would be better spent in beefing up the resources of those departments.

"That's it," Dr. Jones said before the meeting. "Given our scarce resources, we need to assure our citizens that we are making the best use of our dollars.

"This is something we should be doing, and I don't understand why just talking about taking a fresh look at police spending is creating such pushback. I've received death threats just

for talking about this. My family has been harassed."

But City Council rejected the proposal after Police Chief Gerald M. Smith noted that the headlines and news stories describing the proposal as "defunding police" made it unpalatable.

"Words matter," Chief Smith told the council. He said the tagline on the proposal sent a message to the police department that there was a "loss of faith and lack of support" for officers at a time when morale is low and officers are overtaxed trying to deal with the continuing demonstrations and regular calls for service.

Chief Smith said he supports the administration and the council spending more on social services, mental health and recreation, but he said it should not come at the expense of the police department.

"I'll examine our budget head to toe in the spirit of improvement. But first I need to change the misconception that the RPD budget is up for grabs," he said.

Ahead of the meeting, 2nd District Councilwoman and mayoral candidate Kim B. Gray and 4th District Councilwoman Kristen N. Larson issued a statement rejecting the proposal as a preliminary step to cutting spending on police without clearly spelling out a policy objective. Eighth District Councilwoman Reva M.



Mr. Peters

Trammell, chair of City Council's Public Safety Committee and who was participating in her first meeting after being sidelined by an accident a few weeks ago, found little to like.

Concerned like 3rd District Councilman Chris A. Hilbert over the recent spike in shootings and killings in the city, Ms. Trammell also expressed dismay at the insults she said are being hurled at police.

"It breaks my heart to see what is going on," she said, "how (officers) are being belittled, how they are being cussed out, how they are being told 'F... the police.'

"Yeah, there needs to be some changes, but on both sides, both sides," she said.

Dr. Jones and Ms. Lynch both noted that full funding of a Marcus Alert System that would have mental health professionals respond to non-violent emergency crisis situations rather than police and a civilian oversight board of police will have to come from somewhere.

City Council approved legislation that would set up task forces to design both of those programs, with a view to creating models for the rest of the state.

However, the proposal for the Marcus Alert System may not have aided Mr. Peters.

Mr. Peters, who was driving Downtown, was chased by a police officer after side-swiping several cars and driving erratically toward an

entry ramp to Interstate 95.

According to police video released after the May 14, 2018, fatal shooting, Mr. Peters, who was naked and unarmed, climbed out of his car feet first through the driver's side window and ran onto the interstate, where he was struck by a car, and then danced and rolled around in the traffic lane as vehicles slowed around him.

When he noticed the police officer, he threatened to kill him and charged at him, screaming expletives. The officer fired his Taser at Mr. Peters, which failed to connect or subdue him and then fired his service revolver, striking Mr. Peters.

The incident lasted about 19 seconds, with events unfolding in too short a time span to allow a mental health professional to respond. In calling for backup before the shooting, the officer acknowledged the Mr. Peters seemed to be suffering a mental crisis.

Separately, Ms. Trammell's committee put off action on Tuesday on another proposal by Dr. Jones and Ms. Lynch calling for an end to police use of tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets against protesters, another demand from protesters.

In other business Monday, City Council cleared the way for development of a new shared-housing apartment complex on Arthur Ashe Boulevard. The council also overrode the city Planning Commission to permit an Ashe Boulevard gas station to raise an 84-foot sign to be seen on Interstate 95.

## Confederate icons swept from Virginia Capitol building

Continued from A1

Confederate capital, the state and much of nation. Their removal is one of the biggest changes the continuing protests over racial injustice and police brutality has produced to date.

In Richmond, huge statues honoring the white supremacist Confederacy that have loomed over the city have mostly been taken down. The state-owned Lee statue on Monument Avenue remains only because it is tangled in a legal fight involving elements who want to protect it.

Richmond Circuit Court Judge W. Reilly Marchant is considering whether to dissolve an injunction barring Gov. Ralph S. Northam from taking down that statue. The parties are still awaiting a written opinion from Judge Marchant, given an appeal is likely to go to the state Supreme Court.

Other places taking action include Hanover County, whose School Board reversed its stance and voted to eliminate the Confederate names on two of its schools along with the signage after years of defending the names.

Also, Gov. Northam last Friday received the green light from a General Assembly-created panel to request the removal of another Lee statue that represents Virginia in the U.S. Capitol. U.S. Reps. A. Donald McEachin of Richmond and Jennifer Wexton of Northern Virginia requested the action and praised the decision.

Speaker Filler-Corn told the Free Press that her decision to remove the Confederate iconography from the state Capitol Building grew out of the public outcry over the May 25 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

She said before and after becoming speaker, she had discussions about making the change, but she found the protests and demonstrations that have continued since late May created urgency. "No more talk; it was time for action," she said.

Although Republicans in the General Assembly have criticized the unilateral action, Speaker Filler-Corn said that she made the move after receiving assurances that she had the legal authority to act, given that the Old House Chamber is under the purview of the House of Delegates.

"I am like the CEO (chief executive officer) of the House," she said.

She called the statue removal highly appropriate and explained her position in a statement she released after the move:

"Virginia has a story to tell that extends far beyond glorifying the Confederacy and its participants. The Confederacy's primary objective in the Civil War was to preserve an ideology that maintained the slavery of human beings. Now is the time to provide context to our Capitol to truly tell the Commonwealth's whole history."

She also named Richmond Delegate Delores L. McQuinn to lead an advisory group to consider further actions regarding House-controlled Confederate artifacts in the Capitol and to make recommendations about the development of additional historical artifacts. The advisory group also is to develop recommendations for what to do with the removed items.

"The artifacts at the Capitol are a painful reminder of the deep-rooted wounds of slavery and 401 years of oppression," Delegate McQuinn stated. "These Confederate artifacts are constant reminders of individuals who had no intention of guaranteeing justice, equality and equity for all."

House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert of Shenandoah County called the action "perplexing" if the speaker is serious about telling "the whole history of the Commonwealth."

He noted that "the Lee statue in the Old House Chamber literally marked the spot where Lee accepted his general's commission, setting off some of the most historic and tragic events in our nation's history.

"Unlike the Lee monument on Monument Avenue," Delegate Gilbert continued, "this statue in the Capitol is a historical marker."

He also quipped that as the State Capitol served as the Confederate Capitol, it "should no doubt force the speaker's new advisory group on Capitol artifacts to recommend that it should be razed to the ground."

Republican leaders in the Senate also decried Speaker Filler-Corn's action and stated that she apparently was so fearful of scrutiny that she acted "in the dead of night."

They claimed that she failed to receive public input and usurped the authority of the Capitol Square Preservation Council, which they called "emblematic of the arrogant and unaccountable stewardship of the General Assembly we have seen merging under the Democratic majority."

The preservation council, however, focuses on statues on the grounds of the Capitol, not items inside.

## Police, others stymied by outside agitators at demonstrations

Continued from A1

ings of people dressed in black began after dark in Monroe Park and continued into the early morning of the next day.

The most serious clash came Saturday night, when about 1,000 people faced off with city police officers and State Police troopers dressed in riot gear. Tear gas ultimately was used after rioters began throwing rocks and other hard objects at the line of officers and set a dump truck ablaze, police said.

The riotous behavior that continued Sunday into early Monday morning appears to have died down, leaving police and others reaching for explanations.

"We want peace to radiate throughout this city," said community activist James E. "J.J." Minor III in a phone conversation Tuesday after he took part in condemning "white supremacists" for being responsible.

Mr. Minor is president of the Richmond Branch NAACP. But he said he wasn't representing the organization when he joined his mother, Richmond Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, Charles Willis of the United Communities Against Crime and others at a news conference Tuesday on Libby Hill to point the finger of blame at "the white supremacists that have entered Richmond" for the violence.

Their comments partly echoed statements from Richmond Police Chief Gerald M. Smith, who said Monday that extremists had infiltrated the protests to subvert their goals and message. He said that white supremacists, as well as leftist extremists called anti-fascists or Antifa, were engaged in the weekend activities.

He pointed to a poster circulated on social media that he said was "designed to bring violence and disruption to Richmond" as evidence of this and led to the Richmond Police Department's first use of tear gas since at least June 29.

Similar claims of outside agents were made in the past by Chief Smith's pre-

decessor, former Richmond Police Chief Will Smith, and more recently by residents who have criticized how the city police approached the protests and offered contrasting accounts of the weekend's events.

"Richmond Police detained and arrested several members of the press, including independent storytellers who've been covering the protests since they first started, as well as protesters at random," said Jasmine Leeward, co-founder of Richmond For All.

"However, reports of a white supremacist shooting his gun at protesters didn't lead to a single arrest by the city," Ms. Leeward noted. "Instead, Richmond police have justified their actions by using law and order language that values property over Black lives."

Property damage was significant, including the loss of a city dump truck that was set ablaze in front of the Richmond Police Headquarters where it was positioned to block traffic.

Windows in several businesses spanning the 800 to 1000 blocks of West Grace Street were smashed, as were more than 80 windows on buildings on the academic campus of Virginia Commonwealth University.

VCU President Michael Rao estimated the university suffered at least \$100,000 in damage, including furniture that was destroyed.

"VCU supports free speech and stands in solidarity with those peacefully expressing messages of social justice and equity for all people," Dr. Rao said, stating that police told him that those involved were "different" from previous protests.

However, he stated that "VCU does not condone — under any circumstances — acts of violence or vandalism regardless of the purported cause."

So far, neither VCU nor police have made a connection between extremist groups who might have been present and the damage.

For example, people who identified themselves to a Free Press writer as members of The Boogaloo Boys, a far-right group that has been associated with neo-Nazis, were gathered near the Robert E. Lee statue Saturday afternoon. Accounts of their actions and involvement vary, but there is no clear link between them and the vandalism that occurred.

Chief Smith also confirmed that no direct links to white supremacist groups or Antifa have turned up among the 23 people who were arrested.

He said that, so far, police have not been able to determine who created and distributed the flyer that urged people to come out Saturday night and be destructive.

Meanwhile, questions continue to be raised about whether the police are able to properly respond to these protests.

Still, City Council's Public Safety Committee on Tuesday tabled until late September consideration of a resolution calling for an end of police use of tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets on protesters. Speaking during discussions on the resolution, Chief Smith suggested any potential misuse could be resolved by improving training, having commanding officers on the scene to make decisions and the development of written police policies to limit discretion.

Chief Smith also said he plans to bring in independent reviewers to assess the last two months of protests and the police response.

For now, however, the protests continue, with those involved endeavoring to keep focused and steadfast in their mission for police accountability and racial justice.

"We recognize attempts to sway and misdirect our true goal — true liberation and equity and justice for all of us," Ms. Leeward said. "We continue to question and we continue to march with the same demands."

Free Press writer Brian Palmer contributed to this article.

## George Floyd Hologram Memorial brings new light, tribute to Monument Avenue

Continued from A1

honor Mr. Peters, a 24-year-old biology teacher who, naked and unarmed, was shot and killed when he charged and threatened a Richmond Police officer in May 2018.

A large group of marchers joined the crowd as they carried signs demanding that local authorities reopen an investigation into Mr. Peters' death. They also called for defunding the Richmond Police Department and removing all monuments to white supremacists.

As the evening clouds descended into darkness, the syncopated rhythms of the Richmond Drum Collective embraced the crowd. Rodney and Philonise Floyd, the brothers of George Floyd, and other family members arrived with Mr. Crump. They mingled among the crowd and took pictures with people eager to talk with them.

Fittingly, the hologram of Mr. Floyd, a project of Change.org and the George Floyd Foundation, was projected onto a screen near the base of the Lee statue, with Mr. Floyd's visage becoming the central focus.

When the moment arrived, hologram lights appearing like golden fireflies morphed into an image of Mr. Floyd, with

his named spelled in lights. A collective "Aww" went up from the audience, followed by applause.

The Floyds expressed to the crowd and to a Free Press reporter their heartfelt appreciation for people turning out for the tribute to their late brother.

"This means a lot," Rodney Floyd told the Free Press on Tuesday night. "It just shows that from Minneapolis to right here in the capital of the South, and across the world, this means a lot to carry on my brother's legacy. I love the energy. We are still fighting for the cause."

Mr. Crump reflected on the importance of the hologram exhibit as well as starting the tour in Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy.

"Symbols and images are such a powerful dynamic, not only for society, but for individuals," Mr. Crump said. "Positive images, like the George Floyd hologram, will help begin to balance all of America's negative imagery, including the Robert E. Lee monument that should be removed from this location, and erase the idea that Black people are supposed to be second class citizens."

He said the hologram "unites people and affirms the Declaration of Indepen-

dence."

Philonise Floyd was struck by the size, diversity and energy of the crowd.

"This is unbelievable right now. I feel love. I feel embraced by Richmond and the world," he said.

"I am going to keep pushing. I don't want my brother's death to be in vain."

Richmond is the first stop on a Southern tour for The George Floyd Hologram Memorial Project, where the hologram can be viewed nightly through Aug. 6.

Like in Richmond, the hologram will be shown in places where Confederate statues stand or stood. It's a symbolic call to people to continue the fight for racial justice, according to organizers.

The hologram was designed by Kaleida Imaging and projected by a Virginia company, Quince Imaging.

Patricia Henley, a 25-year-old who lives in The Fan, brought her young son to the event because she wanted him to witness a historical event and expose him to the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"I want my son to witness firsthand the beauty of all people," she said. "That will show him that all people are equal and you cannot judge people by the color of their skin."



**Meet cyclist who pedals positive change in community** B1



**Joseph B. Jefferson remembered** B5

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# Richmond Free Press

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AUGUST 6-8, 2020

# Pushback

## Maggie L. Walker's grave, historic Black, Jewish cemeteries, hit by graffiti

By George Copeland Jr.

Cleaning plans, discussions and investigations are underway after Maggie L. Walker's gravesite at historic Evergreen Cemetery and at least four other historic sites — including two African-American cemeteries and a Jewish cemetery — were tagged with graffiti.

The numbers "777" were spraypainted. Walker's gravesite, a bench and nearby trees, and on the entrance pillars to the cemetery off Stony Run Parkway in the City's East End near the Henrico County line.

Evergreen Cemetery officials, volunteers and members of Mrs. Walker's family were first alerted to the vandalism early Monday morning by John Shuck, who for the past seven years has helped lead efforts to clean up and restore the historic burial ground where the pioneering businesswoman, bank president and activist was laid to rest in 1934.

Similar graffiti also was found at adjacent East End Cemetery, on grave markers at Barton Heights Cemetery in North Side, and at Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery in Fulton, which was started in 1886 by orthodox Jewish immigrants to the city.

More graffiti was discovered Tuesday at the launch pad for the Richmond Slave Trail near the James River, and graffiti targeting Mayor Levar M. Stoney also was found on the Reconciliation Statue at 15th and Main streets near Shockoe Bottom.

"Upon hearing the news, my heart dropped," Liza Mickens, 22, Ms. Walker's great-great-granddaughter told the Free Press on Monday. "She is so beloved in the city. To choose to defame her final resting place is shameful and vindictive."

There was some initial speculation that the tagging of Mrs. Walker's grave was related to a similar incident at Evergreen three years earlier ago, according to John Sydnor, executive director

Please turn to A4



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

**Dr. Johnny Mickens III, right, the great-grandson of Maggie L. Walker, and his daughter, Liza Mickens, survey the damage Monday morning at Mrs. Walker's gravesite in historic Evergreen Cemetery. The back of the headstone, entrances to the gravesite and benches around the gravesite were spraypainted with "777," numbers that are linked to white supremacist groups.**



Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

**Hanover Branch NAACP officials claim the county School Board bowed to pressure from the Hanover County Board of Supervisors to re-install signs bearing the Confederate school names. This one, outside the high school, went back up on the marquee just days ago.**

## Signs with Confederate school names go back up in Hanover County

By George Copeland Jr.

The Hanover County School Board has temporarily re-installed the signs of two Hanover schools named for Confederates, just weeks after voting to rename the schools and their mascots to eliminate ties to the Confederacy.

"Under the directive of the Hanover County School Board, school division staff will be temporarily re-installing the primary signage at Lee-Davis High School and Stonewall Jackson Middle School for a brief period of time while school division administration works through the transition process for renaming the schools," the School Board said in a statement this week.

The signs were removed following a 4-3 vote on July 14 by the School Board to rename the schools.

The high school, opened in 1959 during Massive Resistance, was named for Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The schools were segregated at the time; Black students could not attend.

The middle school, which was named for another Confederate general, was opened in 1969, just months after Hanover County submitted its school desegregation plan to the federal court.

The School Board's close vote to change the names and eliminate the honor for racist traitors was viewed as a sea change in the county that is 86 percent white, 9.5 percent African-American and 3 percent Latino. It also garnered approval from a variety of sources, including the Hanover Branch NAACP, which had advocated for the change, and Gov. Ralph S. Northam, who called eliminating Confederate names "an important step" in ensuring a learning environment that reflects Virginia's student body.

"The School Board recognizes that those who

Please turn to A4

## Free COVID-19 testing

Free community testing for COVID-19 continues. The Richmond and Henrico County health districts are offering testing at the following locations:

Date/Time	Location	Address
Friday, Aug. 7, 9 to 11 a.m.	Hotchkiss Field Community Center	701 E. Brookland Park Blvd. in North Side
Tuesday, Aug. 11, 9 to 11 a.m.	Broad Rock Community Center	4615 Ferguson Lane in South Side
Thursday, Aug. 13, 9 to 11 a.m.	Tuckahoe Middle School	9000 Three Chopt Road in Western Henrico County

People are advised to bring an umbrella in case of inclement weather or to use as shade from the sun while waiting in line.

Appointments are encouraged by calling the Richmond and Henrico COVID-19 Hotline at (804) 205-3501 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Walk-up testing will be offered while test supplies last.

Virginia has rolled out a new smartphone app to automatically alert users if they might have been exposed to the coronavirus, becoming the first state to use the new pandemic technology. The free Covidwise app was created by Apple and Google and is available in Apple and android app stores.

During Gov. Ralph S. Northam's COVID-19 media briefing on Wednesday, state officials encouraged its use, particularly within African-American and Latino communities to help curb the spread of the virus.

The app uses wireless Bluetooth technology to detect when someone who downloaded the app has spent time near another app user who later tests positive for COVID-19. Those who test positive can anonymously notify others to help stop the spread.

State officials repeatedly stressed that the app will not track or collect users' information.

The Virginia Department of Health reported on Wednesday 95,049 positive cases of COVID-19 statewide, along with 8,126 hospitalizations and 2,274 deaths. According to the data, African-Americans comprised 24.1 percent of cases and 25.5 percent of deaths for which ethnic and racial data is available, while Latinos made up 37.3 percent of the cases and 11.1 percent of deaths.

## City's Confederate statues now up for disposal

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

Let the disposal begin.

The Richmond City Council on Monday set in motion a plan to finally rid Richmond of most of the city-owned statues and icons of Confederate traitors, although surprisingly, not all.

As expected, the council voted 9-0 to approve the permanent removal of the Confederate statues and to start the process to receive bids for 10 of the 12

items under city control. That includes the four former Monument Avenue statues of Jefferson Davis, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, Matthew Fontaine Maury and J.E.B. Stuart.

After the vote, Lawrence Anderson, City Council's chief of staff, said that he would work with council to create a process that would allow governments, museums or private organizations to bid for the statues.

Mr. Anderson said he and other staff

would vet the applications and offer recommendations for sale to the council. He said the first recommendations could come as early as Sept. 8.

City Council has to wait 30 days after the vote to begin a sale, but is under no deadline to actually undertake that action.

Please turn to A4

## Lee statue to remain under new 90-day injunction

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

The statue of slavery-defending Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee will continue to loom over Monument Avenue for at least 90 more days.

In a legal battle full of tangles, Richmond Circuit Court Judge W. Reilly Marchant this week issued his own injunction to temporarily block Gov. Ralph S. Northam from taking down the 12-ton, 130-year-old statue.

The injunction is to remain in force until a full hearing is held on the merits of the governor's proposal. That hearing has not been scheduled.

The issue of the Lee statue continues to percolate even after the removal of virtually all other publicly owned Confederate icons in Richmond and City Council approval

Please turn to A4

## RPS releases initial details of online reopening

By Ronald E. Carrington

When school starts Tuesday, Sept. 8, for Richmond Public Schools students, their online lessons will begin at 9:15 a.m. and end at 4:20 p.m. Students in pre-school through third grade will start earlier — at 9 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m.

While the younger students will have a majority of live teaching online, older students will have a mix of learning experiences, including live teacher-led, on-screen instruction, independent work on and off their Chromebooks and small group or one-on-one lessons.

That is part of the 51-page plan for RPS' first semester of the 2020-21 academic year under COVID-19,

according to details given to the Richmond School Board at its meeting Monday night.

No school system employees will be put on furlough, according to the plan, a serious concern for office staff, paraprofessionals and support workers who do not have

Please turn to A4



Mr. Kamras



Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

## Six times the fun

**Mom Ajibola Taiwo tries to keep from getting wet during splash time with her 3-year-old sextuplets on a recent hot summer afternoon. The youngsters are, from left, Jubeelo, Sindara, Funbi, Semiloore, Setemi and Morayo. Mrs. Taiwo said it takes teamwork with her husband, Adebayo Taiwo, to make their household in The Fan run smoothly. The Taiwos are natives of Nigeria.**

# RPS releases initial details of online reopening

Continued from A1

direct responsibility in virtual learning.

Superintendent Jason Kamras walked the board through the five-part plan, called "Reopen With Love," that will impact about 24,000 students and their families and hundreds of teachers, administrators and school employees as they adjust to virtual learning beginning next month.

The daily school schedule accommodates meal delivery and pick-up via bus stops that will occur between 7 and 9 a.m. for grades K-12. Pre-K students and students who typically require door-to-door transportation will receive meal delivery between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Tracy Epp, RPS' chief academic officer, provided the sample schedules and emphasized that each school principal has the flexibility to develop master schedules tailored for their school's specific academic programs and needs.

Since March when schools across the state were closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, RPS has distributed approximately 16,000 Chromebooks and 6,000 Wi-Fi hotspots to students for their academic use. The school system also has provided more than 1 million meals to students and families across the district.

Mr. Kamras said Monday that all RPS students, regardless of economic need, will have a Chromebook by the end of September. Students with economic need who do not have a personal computer are the priority, he said.

RPS has placed orders for another 8,000 Chromebooks for the new academic year, officials said.

School Board member Dawn Page, 8th District, expressed parents' and teachers' concerns about dealing with the youngest students, saying, "We know the short attention span of this group of learners and the need for flexibility and creativity by teachers."

Approximately 3,800 students with IEPs, or Individualized Education Programs, who typically receive support within the general education classroom setting, will continue during the virtual semester. IEP renewal meetings will begin this month.

For students requiring unique services, RPS will arrange in-person, at-home support using district contractors with Personal Protective Equipment and physical distancing, officials said.

Administration officials said they have tried to be flexible to accommodate special needs for the large number of realities parents and families are living with across the district as school begins.

Sandra Lee, RPS' chief talent officer, said as of July 31, 90 percent of the teacher vacancies have been filled for the new

academic year, with only 38 positions remaining out of 370 vacancies. At the same time last year, only 80 percent of the school district's vacancies had been filled, she said.

Officials said 12 teacher vacancies remain in elementary schools, 18 in middle schools and eight in high schools. New RPS teachers will have a two-day, online orientation Aug. 24 and 25, while all teachers have six days of virtual pre-service training, as well as two planning days to prepare for the start of the year on how to build strong student relationships remotely.

All teachers will receive virtual teaching kits to help them teach from home. The \$2.1 million cost was covered by a board approved transfer of funds from contract transportation services that will not be needed during the first semester.

Overall, the plan was developed since the board unanimously approved virtual reopening just three weeks ago. Mr. Kamras called Reopen With Love a collective effort by RPS teachers and principals, parents and students, care givers and community partners. However, he said more work needs to be done on the details and ironing out specific tasks.

"These groups have been working to vet ideas, provide new and creative solutions to the many challenges the district faces in the wake of setting up a virtual semester opening in a short time," Mr. Kamras told the board at Monday's Zoom meeting.

## Maggie L. Walker's grave, other historic cemeteries, hit by graffiti

Continued from A1

of the Enrichmond Foundation that owns Evergreen Cemetery, founded in 1891 and the final resting place for many notable African-Americans in Richmond's history.

This theory was dropped, however, as news spread of the same green graffiti found at Montefiore Cemetery and Barton Heights Cemetery, which was founded in 1815 by free African-Americans in Richmond.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, the numbers "777" became a symbol appropriated by the Nazis and has links to a white supremacist group in South Africa, though nothing has been confirmed. Richmond and Henrico police are investigating.

Mr. Sydnor said that it's difficult to pinpoint when the vandalism took place, but volunteers were working in Evergreen on Saturday evening.

He said officials and volunteers are brainstorming to ensure this and other acts of vandalism don't happen in the future, and are working to clean up the graffiti and provide as-

sistance to the other cemeteries that were hit.

"Any help we can give to our other folks and fellow caretakers and stewards, we're here," Mr. Sydnor said.

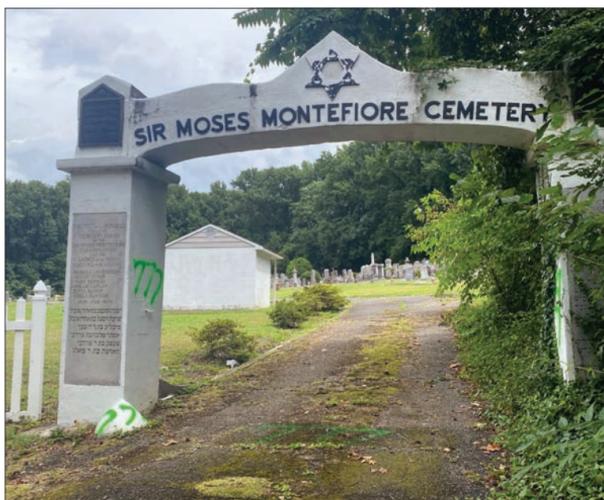
For Ms. Mickens, the places chosen by vandals to tag are a sign "that marginalized communities are being targeted as a means of retribution" and possible response to the calls for racial justice that have accompanied the widespread and ongoing protests against police brutality in Richmond and across the United States.

A similar possibility was raised by the family of the late tennis star and humanitarian Arthur Ashe Jr., who weeks earlier suggested his statue be moved temporarily from Monument Avenue to avoid the potential for vandalism as demonstrators called for the removal of Confederate monuments from the street.

For Dr. Johnny Mickens III, Ms. Walker's great-grandson and

the father of Ms. Mickens, the incident is sad, although he's thankful that the damage was minimal.

For Ms. Mickens, it's a situation that validates the work of volunteers and others and "further amplifies the mission to enshrine these sites and uplift the stories of those buried there."



The entrance to Sir Moses Montefiore Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery started by immigrants in 1886 in Fulton, also bears graffiti linked to hate groups.

## Signs with Confederate school names go back up in Hanover County

Continued from A1

find the names offensive would like them removed immediately and those who are not offended by the names would have liked them to remain longer," the School Board noted in a statement.

"Just as there is an ongoing process for determining the



A small sign bearing the Confederate battle flag and the words "I Support Confederate Heritage" is posted on the Hanover high school's marquee.

new names of these schools, the School Board is asking staff to present a formalized process for the removal of the current names that includes signage and various articles located throughout the schools and campuses."

Robert N. Barnette Jr., president of the Hanover Branch NAACP and the state NAACP, slammed the Hanover School Board for backing away from its earlier decision. He claimed the board "apparently succumbed to pressure from the Hanover County Board of Supervisors, members of which have declared their intention to reverse the name change."

"Re-installing the Confederate names at the schools just one month before the start of the school year reflects an ongoing hostility to African-American

students and is antithetical to the values of morality and equality," Mr. Barnette continued.

"We regret that the School Board has decided to waste additional taxpayer funds clinging to the past rather than helping students move forward."

He said that the Hanover NAACP's appeal in a federal lawsuit it filed last August seeking to change the schools' names is moving forward. The suit had been dismissed in May.

Mr. Barnette said last month that the appeal would continue in case the Hanover County School Board dragged its feet on the name change.

Staff at the two schools are to present plans about the re-naming during the next School Board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 11. The board is to vote on new names in October.

# City's Confederate statues now up for disposal

Continued from A1

The vote was based on a new state law that allows localities to remove war memorials. However, the city's process might have to be redone to address two Confederate statues that were left off the original list for removal — those honoring Richmond railroad tycoon and Confederate Gen. Williams C. Wickham and a Confederate unit known as the Richmond Howitzers.

City Council also did not consider how to deal with the statue of Christopher Columbus that was torn down in early June by protesters from its pedestal in Byrd Park. Disposal of the Columbus statue would require a separate process as it is not a war memorial.

Still, City Council's action represents a clear victory for 9th District Councilman Michael J. Jones, who began advocating for the removal of the Confederate statues three years ago when only one other council member supported the idea.

This time, the eight other council members signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation Dr. Jones sponsored. Mayor Levar M.

Stoney, who had announced in late June that he also would co-patron the ordinance with Dr. Jones, is not listed as a sponsor.

In July, Mayor Stoney used emergency authority granted to him on June 8 by City Council to remove all the city-owned Confederate statues except that of Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill at Laburnum Avenue and Hermitage Road in North Side, where Gen. Hill's remains are buried.

Dr. Jones did not speak during the meeting on a triumph he sees as benefiting the city. Most of the other council members also kept silent on the historic action to remove the Confederate images that have long dominated the city's landscape and which are to be followed in the months to come with elimination of Confederate names from a major bridge and a stretch of U.S. 1, a major north-south road.

Council Vice President Chris A. Hilbert did take a moment to mark the occasion.

"These statues were placed in the public square as an affront to individuals in this city who were reduced to 'Jim Crow' status. They sent a definite message that white people were in charge,"

Mr. Hilbert said.

He called it time to move forward and to end the monuments to a lost cause and to a "breakaway country. It was illegal. We need to own up to that," he said.

"We should not honor those who led an armed insurrection against federal authority where so many were killed. We need to honor history, not those who fought for the perpetuation of slavery."

The full list of the 10 items to be disposed of includes the four Monument Avenue statues plus two cannon that were in the median; the statue of Gen. Hill; a stone cross to Fitzhugh Lee and a statue of Joseph Bryan that were in Monroe Park; and the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Church Hill.

During a public hearing before the vote, Richmond representatives of the Italian-American Cultural Association and the Giuseppe Verdi Society, unaware that the Columbus statue was not up for disposal, urged the council to return the statue to them so it could be placed on society property in Mechanicsville.

"This statue was a gift to Richmond from the sons and daughters of Italy who were making a new life here," Aldo F. Funai of the society told the council. "They paid for it and it should be returned to our organization if the city no longer wants it."

The Free Press was told the council would need to rescind the 93-year-old ordinance of acceptance of the statue to make that happen.

The council also heard from a representative of relatives of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, who urged the council to turn that statue over to them so it can be placed at Laurel Hill, his birthplace in Patrick County. Dr. Jones endorsed the idea.

Only three of the speakers urged City Council to reconsider removing the statues. Among them was Betsy Blevins, who told council she represented white people "who believe in racial equality and needed to speak up after weeks of destruction that went on under the veil of the Black Lives Matter movement."

She said the council needs to ensure individuals' rights are preserved and that decisions are made that are "fair and honest." Ms. Blevins decried Mayor Stoney's sudden removal of the Confederate statuary instead of following the guidance of the Monument Avenue Commission he appointed that recommended four of the five statues remain with contextual signs added.

Another woman told City Council that it was blowing the opportunity to create a "learning laboratory" on the Civil War that could become a major attraction.

That was the point that another speaker made, noting a Wall Street Journal article estimating that 7 million people yearly spend \$2.6 billion in visiting Civil War sites.

He said instead of removing the statues, City Council should promote them to draw more tourists and gain a larger share of those dollars.

"Given the current fiscal needs of the city," he said, elected officials are making a grave mistake in "ridding the city of a potential cash cow. Think long and hard about what you are doing."

Meanwhile, Richmond sculptor Paul DiPasquale urged the council to write into any future sales documents a requirement that the purchaser preserve the item.

## Lee statue to remain under new 90-day injunction

Continued from A1

of their future disposal.

Judge Marchant took over the cases in mid-July after another judge, Richmond Circuit Court Judge Bradley B. Cavado, stepped aside because he lives in the Monument Avenue Historic District near the statue.

Judge Marchant issued his restraining order Monday against Gov. Northam to block the Lee statue's removal in two written opinions stemming from a July 23 court hearing.

In a win for Gov. Northam, Judge Marchant first threw out Judge Cavado's original injunction as having no basis in law as argued by Attorney General Mark R. Herring.

The opinion boosted the credibility of two recently filed complaints seeking Judge Cavado's removal from the bench for allegedly ignoring the judicial requirement to be impartial. The complaints were filed with the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission, the state's disciplinary body for judges.

In a separate case brought on July 22 by Monument Avenue preservationist Helen Marie Taylor and four other property owners within the Monument Avenue Historic District, Judge Marchant issued the 90-day

injunction. He wrote in an Aug. 3 opinion that the plaintiffs had standing, or a legal right to sue, based on their property ownership and linkage to the statue and the harms they allege they would suffer if the Lee statue is removed.

Judge Marchant wrote that the plaintiffs had offered arguments that were strong enough to justify a temporary restraining order keeping the statue in place based on state Supreme Court precedents.

The plaintiffs claim in their suit that removal of the statue could result in a loss of the National Historic Landmark designation for Monument Avenue and a reduction in the value of their properties. They also claim they would be harmed by "the loss of a priceless work of art and the degradation of the internationally recognized avenue on which they reside."

Judge Marchant wrote that a brief delay would not harm the state, but could cause harm to the plaintiffs if the statue were removed before the issues they raised were fully litigated.

Mr. Herring and his office had little time to prepare for the case, which was filed the day before the scheduled July 23 hearing on the original Lee statue case. He also did not seek to remove the case to federal court as he did the first time Ms. Taylor and the

plaintiffs filed the case in June.

The original Lee statue case was brought by William C. Gregory, a great-grandson of two association members that gave the land, the Lee statue and its pedestal to the state in 1890.

Judge Cavado used the Gregory case on June 8 to block Gov. Northam from removing the Lee statue. He followed up on June 18 by extending his restraining order until July 23 even though he dismissed Mr. Gregory's original court filing. He justified his injunction by giving Mr. Gregory time to amend his lawsuit to show he had a right to sue.

In ruling on the Gregory case after Judge Cavado stepped aside, Judge Marchant found that Mr. Gregory lacked any legally recognizable property interest in the Lee statue and land upon which it sits. He also wrote that the law Mr. Gregory claimed would be violated if the statue were removed "provides no right of action under which any member of the general public ... can proceed" and that automatically precludes an injunction.

As a result, "both of plaintiff's substantive claims fail as a matter of law," Judge Marchant wrote in dismissing the case with prejudice, meaning that Mr. Gregory cannot bring it again.

## Local News

## Cityscape

Slices of life and scenes in Richmond

These two signs depict the old and the new when it comes to the name of this North Side street whose residents include U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine and his wife, Anne B. Holton. Left, the aging street sign still reads Confederate Avenue, while the sign in the median, right, displays the new name City Council officially approved last month for the street—Laburnum Park Boulevard. The city Department of Public Works has not announced when the replacement signs bearing the new name will be put in place.



Photos by Regina H. Boone/Richmond Free Press

## Holiday schedule

In observance of Christmas, Friday, Dec. 25, please note the following:

## Government

**State and federal offices:** Closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25.

**City of Richmond offices:** Closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25.

**County offices in Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover:** Closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25.

## Public schools

Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover public schools will be closed through Friday, Jan. 1.

## Public libraries

Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover public libraries will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25.

## Garbage and recycling collection

No trash or recycling collection on Friday, Dec. 25. The collection schedule will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

## U.S. Postal Service

Post offices closed and no

regular mail delivery on Friday, Dec. 25. Regular service and delivery resume on Saturday, Dec. 26. Some post office locations may close early on Thursday, Dec. 24.

## DMV service centers

Closed Friday, Dec. 25.

## GRTC

Buses operate on a normal weekday schedule on Thursday Dec. 24, with Express routes remaining on COVID-reduced schedules. Buses operate on a holiday schedule on Friday, Dec. 25.

## Banks and financial institutions

Closed Friday, Dec. 25.

## ABC stores

Retail stores close 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, and reopen at noon Saturday, Dec. 26.

## Malls, major retailers, movie theaters

Varies. Inquire at specific locations.

## Richmond Free Press office

Closed Friday, Dec. 25.

## Applications being accepted for new Dominion Energy Educational Equity Scholarship Program

Applications currently are being accepted for the Dominion Energy Educational Equity Scholarship Program, a new \$10 million scholarship fund announced by the energy giant in July to aid African-American, Latino and other young people from under-represented groups seeking a college education or vocational training.

Applicants must be a high school senior or graduate, or a current college undergraduate who lives in Virginia or one of nine other states served by Dominion Energy. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA and plan to enroll full time in an accredited two-year or four-year institution or a vocational-technical school.

Applicants also must identify as a member of a historically underserved group, including African-American, Latino, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander.

The company is awarding 20 \$5,000 scholarships for students in two-year programs and 40 \$10,000 scholarships for students pursuing four-year degrees. The scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years, contingent on maintaining a cumulative 2.5 GPA.

Winners will be selected based on their academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, work experience, a statement of goals and aspirations, unusual personal or family circumstances and an online recommendation.

According to the company, 80 percent of the scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of need and merit, with the remaining 20 percent given based on merit.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. Jan. 25. Winners will be notified in May.

The program, which is being administered by Scholarship America, was announced during the summer during the national protests calling for racial justice in the wake of the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police. Dominion officials said at the time the initiative was in recognition of the role played by HBCUs in African-American advancement and the importance of education as an equalizer in society.

Details and to apply: [www.dominionenergy.com/Equity-Scholarships](http://www.dominionenergy.com/Equity-Scholarships)

## Record mail volume and worker shortage lead to USPS delays

The U.S. Postal Service is struggling to deliver gifts, medications and other mail in a timely fashion.

Several clerks and retired members of the Postal Service, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity, have said that deliveries in the Greater Richmond area are backlogged at the mail processing center in Sandston.

"I paid for priority delivery of a package my mother needs in New York, and it still had not arrived a week later, though it should take no more than three days," said one retiree. "I found out it had yet to be processed. There's a lot of mail like that, I was told."

USPS spokeswoman Freda Sauter confirmed that the mail is moving slower and attributed it to the impact of the pandemic on the workforce as large amounts of holiday mail has poured in.

She noted the Postal Service has logged a record volume of letters and packages needing to be moved at the same time the Postal Service is experiencing a "temporary employee shortage due to the COVID-19 surge."

Ms. Sauter also noted that the USPS is facing transportation constraints as airlines reduce flights that carry mail and trucking firms face cutbacks due to the impact of the virus on the supply chain in numerous industries. — JEREMY M. LAZARUS

## Gov. Northam takes action to help unemployed

Tens of thousands of Virginians who lost their jobs, but whose applications for unemployment benefits remain in limbo, are about to get their money.

Gov. Ralph S. Northam on Tuesday ordered the Virginia Employment Commission to distribute unemployment checks to the 40,000 to 50,000 people whose cases are still being adjudicated.

Many are still waiting for the VEC to hear and make a determination of their eligibility or to eliminate inaccurate information from their file.

The governor's action means those individuals will get paid, with VEC able to later seek to recover the money if the benefits turned out to be improperly paid.

About 1.4 million people in Virginia have filed for unemployment since March, according to the governor's office, or more than 10 times the approximately 140,000 claims filed in 2019.

While the governor praised the VEC for distributing "more than \$9.7 billion in federal and state benefits since the start

of the pandemic, which has helped hundreds of thousands of Virginians get through these hard times," he noted that the new order will put such benefits in the hands of workers who have been left out and desperately need assistance.

In addition, the governor's order allows businesses to escape an increase in the unemployment rating tax due to layoffs resulting from the pandemic between April and June 30, when the state's 2019-20 fiscal year ended.

Private employers pay the tax to support unemployment insurance. Collectively, they were to pay an additional \$200 million next year as a result of the increase in unemployment during that three-month period in 2020 to help the state's trust fund recover.

The governor and General Assembly put an additional \$200 million into the trust fund to help mitigate the impact. Companies that have laid off workers since July 1 likely will be looking for similar help next year when the tax is adjusted for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

## Money available for one-time help with overdue city utility bills

Behind on your utility bill?

For city residents, there is help.

The Richmond Department of Public Utilities is accepting applications from customers to pay off the backlog.

The assistance is coming from DPU's share of \$60 million that Gov. Ralph S. Northam allocated from the federal CARES Act to aid municipal utilities and their customers.

According to DPU, the program allows for a one-time payment per household or business that applies by mail or online by Sunday, Jan. 17.

Qualifying applicants must be behind on city utility bills because of job loss or

other hardship caused by the pandemic and have not previously received DPU assistance this year with utility bills, DPU stated. The program applies to past due bills from March 1 to Dec. 30.

Applications are available online at [www.rva.gov/publicutilities](http://www.rva.gov/publicutilities). Application forms also are available at City Hall in Downtown, the East District Center at 701 N. 25th St. in Church Hill and the Southside Community Services Center at 4100 Hull Street Road in South Side, the department stated, or by calling customer assistance at (804) 646-4646.

"This assistance is in addition to the suspension of disconnections that began in

early March and remains in effect," DPU Director Calvin Farr stated.

The revamped state budget approved in November also includes language barring all utilities from disconnecting service until 60 days after the state of emergency is lifted unless the losses from customers' failure to pay creates financial instability. That language applies to electric service, as well as water, sewer and natural gas service.

Still, the new program aims to assist by allowing customers to pay off a backlog of utility debt so that would be behind them once the moratorium on disconnections is lifted. — JEREMY M. LAZARUS

## Lee statue leaves U.S. Capitol; injunction keeps statue on Monument Avenue

By Jeremy M. Lazarus

The statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was removed with ease Monday from the U.S. Capitol, but the towering statue of the slavery-defending general will remain on Monument Avenue for now, courtesy of a Virginia Supreme Court ruling.

The state's highest court refused to give Gov. Ralph S. Northam what he had hoped for—the legal right to remove the six-story Lee figure that stands over Richmond.

The Virginia Supreme Court rejected the state's legal request to dissolve a lower court's order that blocks the governor from taking down the state-owned, white supremacist image still in place on Monument Avenue.

The court also rejected state Attorney General Mark R. Herring's companion request for the seven justices to put a rush on hearing a case involving three Monument Avenue property owners who want to keep the statue in place and believe they have a property right that makes their request viable, Mr. Herring's office stated in response to a Free Press inquiry.

Two months ago, Richmond Circuit Court Judge W. Reilly Marchant dismissed the property owners' lawsuit against the governor, but barred the state from taking any steps to remove the Lee statue to allow the property owners to appeal to the high court.

Offering no public explanation, the state Supreme Court on Dec. 18 kept Judge Marchant's injunction against removing the statue intact and decided to allow the case to proceed normally. The court directed its clerk's office to put the case involving the Lee statue in the court's inactive file until all the documents and briefs are in place, according to court records. No hearing date has been scheduled.

Legal experts suggested that the court's action indicates that at least a majority of justices want to consider the merits of the issues regarding the governor's authority to remove the statue, which were raised by the property owners.

Meanwhile, on Monday, a state-hired company collected the Lee statue from the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, where it has stood for the past 111 years as one of two statues representing Virginia. The other is a statue of George Washington, the nation's first president.

Gov. Northam announced on Dec. 16 that a commission he set up recommended as a replacement a new statue of the late Barbara R. Johns, whose teenage protest



Jack Mayer/Office of Gov. Ralph S. Northam



Workers delicately remove the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from the U.S. Capitol following a recommendation last week by a state commission that it be replaced with a statue of the late teen civil rights activist Barbara R. Johns. The Lee statue was one of two representing Virginia in the U.S. Capitol and among 13 located in the Crypt of the Capitol, representing the 13 original colonies. At the request of the commission, the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond has accepted ownership of the statue.



against deplorable school conditions in Prince Edward County helped bring an end to government-enforced racial segregation.

The General Assembly still must approve the choice of Ms. Johns, which has gained widespread support. The legislature already has endorsed Gov. Northam's request for \$500,000 to sculpt and set up the new statue in the U.S. Capitol.

The selection drew praise from U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, who, while governor, commissioned a Civil Rights Monument for Richmond's Capitol Square that prominently features Ms. Johns, who died in 1991.

"Barbara Johns bravely led a protest that defied segregation and challenged the barriers that she and her African-American peers faced," Sen. Warner stated. "She will represent the best of our Commonwealth in the U.S. Capitol."

The Virginia Legislative Black Caucus lauded the removal of the Lee statue in a statement Monday that said visitors to the U.S. Capitol have been greeted far too long by "imposing symbols of hate, treason and white supremacy." By contrast, Ms. Johns "symbolizes tenacity, courage, justice, positive change and the future."

"It's time for us to start singing the songs of some of the Virginians who have done great things that have gone unnoticed,"

stated Delegate Jeion Ward of Hampton, who sponsored the legislation creating the commission that made the replacement recommendation.

"This is a proud moment for our Commonwealth, and I am humbled to have been a part of it," Delegate Ward said.

"If we are going to continue building a more inclusive and just Commonwealth and country, we must acknowledge and denounce the darkest parts of our nation's history, not celebrate them," the VLBC previously stated.

As a 16-year-old in 1951, Ms. Johns led a student walkout at the Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville to protest the dilapidated and decaying condition of the high school for Black students that starkly contrasted with a new county high school for white students.

The protest brought in NAACP lawyers Oliver W. Hill Sr. and Spottswood W. Robinson III, whose lawsuit challenged the constitutionality of government-imposed segregation of public school students by race.

That Virginia suit became part of the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, that overturned the long-standing "separate-but-equal" doctrine of racial discrimination and ultimately resulted in the dismantling of mandated segregation in all areas.