

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

BRYCE E. REEVES
17TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF ORANGE COUNTY; ALL OF THE
CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG; AND PART OF
ALBEMARLE, CULPEPER, LOUISA,
AND SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTIES
POST OFFICE BOX 7021
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22404



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES, CHAIR
COURTS OF JUSTICE
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
RULES

December 20, 2021

Dear Charlottesville City Council Members,

The December 7, 2021 unanimous vote by the Charlottesville City Council to transfer ownership of the Robert E. Lee Monument to the Jefferson School American Heritage Center is unlawful and in blatant violation of §15.2-1812, the Virginia War Monuments and Memorials Law.

As detailed in my July 9, 2021 letter to each of you, I discussed how §15.2-1812 directs localities concerning the “removal, relocation, covering or contextualization” of war monuments and memorials. A copy of my July 9, 2021 letter is included.

Nowhere within §15.2-1812 is the “destruction” or “alteration” of these works of art allowed. However, despite these facts, and despite my good faith letter to each of you explaining §15.2-1812 as well as “future disposition,” your unlawful action by vote on December 7th, 2021 to transfer ownership of the Robert E. Lee Monument to an entity with the stated purpose of “melting down” the bronze statue is simply in wanton disregard of §15.2-1812 and an egregious and illegal act unconscionable of elected officials. Further, allegations of procedural impropriety concerning the December 7th vote are even more alarming.

§15.2-1812 provides reasonable alternatives for localities desiring removal or relocation; however, those that violate §15.2-1812 will be subject to prosecution under §18.2-137 (injuring, etc., any property, monuments, etc.). “Alteration” or “destruction” will not be tolerated. I have copied my correspondence to Attorney General-elect Jason Miyares.

In closing, I had previously offered my assistance to relocate these monuments to appropriate locations, such as state battlefields. My offer still stands.

In service to The Commonwealth,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce E. Reeves".

The Honorable Bryce E. Reeves
Senate of Virginia, 17th District