

RESOLUTION
Blue Ribbon Commission on Race, Memorials and Public Spaces

WHEREAS, Council seeks to address questions that have been raised regarding race, memorials and public spaces in Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, Council created the Human Rights Commission in 2013 to address issues of discrimination and carry on the work of the Dialogue on Race;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council does hereby authorize the creation of an ad hoc blue ribbon commission on race, memorials and public spaces and tasks the commission with the mission to provide Council with options for telling the full story of Charlottesville's history of race and for changing the City's narrative through our public spaces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the blue ribbon commission shall have nine members to be appointed by Council, including six at-large members and one representative each from the PLACE Design Task Force, Human Rights Commission, and Historic Resources Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the blue ribbon commission is charged with providing options to Council for specific ways in which our public spaces are used, or could be used, to address race, including, but not limited to:

- Relocating, or adding context to, existing Confederate statues;
- Augmenting the slave auction block at Court Square;
- Completing the Daughters of Zion cemetery;
- Providing a further narrative for the Vinegar Hill community in conjunction with the ongoing work of the African American Heritage Center;
- Highlighting and linking existing historic places, such as the Tonsler House and the Drewary Brown Memorial Bridge;
- Commissioning a new memorial or memorials to an African-American leader;
- Identifying naming opportunities;
- Identifying additional opportunities within the City to enhance a holistic reflection of our history;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the blue ribbon commission is tasked with the following goals:

- 1) Amply engage with the Charlottesville/Albemarle community through public hearings, forums, etc.;
- 2) Evaluate and advise Council on the full range of options within the mission;
- 3) Coordinate with the City Attorney's office to provide full legal review of options;
- 4) Identify and communicate with other efforts underway relating to its mission*;

*including, but not limited to, the Governor's commission, African American Heritage Center, Historic Resources Committee, Human Rights Commission, Drewary Brown Committee, Daughters of Zion, UVA Commission on Slavery, UVA ad Hoc group on the monuments, PLACE, Board of Architectural Review, Parks and Recreation, and University and Community Action for Racial Equity (UCARE).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council shall appoint members to the blue ribbon commission who meet the following criteria:

- Commitment to the mission
- Open-mindedness
- Respected in their area of expertise or representation
- Principled and collegial
- Diverse and reflective of our community
- Strong affiliation with the Charlottesville/Albemarle area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council charges the blue ribbon commission with providing a written report by no later than November 30, and after robust opportunities to gather public comment, which will advise on costs, revenue, sites and siting, and fundraising, related to the following:

- Recommend to Council how best to complement the previous and ongoing work of the groups identified above in telling the full story of Charlottesville's history of race and changing the City's narrative through our public spaces, either through a policy or a specific plan to implement the recommendations, and determine appropriate locations where memorials may be relocated, if applicable.
- Research, evaluate and advise Council on the full range of options regarding disposition of the two large Confederate monuments in Lee and Jackson Parks, including moving the memorials to a museum or historical site, changing their context to reflect current values, or adding new memorials:
 - Make a recommendation as to the course of action Council should take
 - Estimate the costs involved and any revenue that might be anticipated from such action
 - Develop a fundraising strategy for any relocation effort
- Specify any recommendations involving the erection of additional monuments, memorials or historical markers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council will reserve \$10,000 from the Council Strategic Initiatives Fund for the operating costs of the blue ribbon commission, with expenditures approved by the City Manager and reported to Council at regular intervals.

Approved by Council
May 2, 2016



Clerk of Council