

# Questions Guide for 7/7/2020 Meeting with Supervisors Alcorn & Palchik Regarding 6/23/2020 Board Matter Concerning History Commission assignment to

*Prepare a report listing a full inventory of Confederate street names, monuments and public places in Fairfax County and on Fairfax County – owned property.*

Report to include:

*A comprehensive list and history of places in Fairfax County named after individuals who held military or governmental responsibilities under the authority of the Confederate States of America between 1861-1865*

Also:

*Identification of the party responsible for renaming the street*

~ ~ ~

Discussion Responses prepared by Anne Stuntz  
In attendance: Supervisor Alcorn and Gwenn Minton on his staff  
Supervisor Palchik and Aryeh Kalender on her staff  
Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive  
Mary Lipsey, History Commission  
Anne Stuntz, History Commission

## **Summary Statement:**

Develop a clear and straightforward process  
Develop a list of priorities  
Provide the requested information in the time allotted  
Focus on data that is accessible

## **Bullet Points 1 and 2: List and History: Scope**

1. HC assumes markers are included although not specifically noted in motion  
~ types of marker: History Commission, VDHR, Park Authority, Civil War Trails, Community, plaques.

Response: Yes, they indicated that markers of all sorts should be included.

2. HC assumes markers limited to describing historical events, locations, individuals involved are not subject to consideration for removal (e.g. Civil War Trails, battle sites)

Response: They indicated that all markers should be included in the inventory. Mary Lipsey will be researching all markers within the County and can manage this task. They are interested in the full picture of Civil War activity: Confederate and Union.

3. HC assumes association or sympathy with Confederacy by civilians (e.g., Laura Radcliffe); and locations of Confederate activities other than battles (e.g., Frying Pan Meeting House) are not subject to listing.

Response: They would like a full inventory of all Civil War related markers in Fairfax County and topics covered.

4. Confirmation of Ms. Flynn's definition of "public spaces" as "publicly-owned land and streets" (from statement offered at July 1<sup>st</sup> History Commission meeting). However, she added that there are privately owned spaces used by the public and, therefore, suggested that a list of these place be provided to the Board, for their information only, as they do not have purview over the naming of private spaces.

Response: The priority is Fairfax County-owned and controlled places. But they would like a comprehensive inventory to include additional items, i.e. cemeteries, neighborhoods, HOAs, etc.

5. Confirmation that items located on private lands will not be listed (e.g., Mosby's Rock)

Response: They would like to be aware of these items, to the extent that it does not require extensive effort and result in delays to the project.

6. Are the Towns of Herndon, Clifton, and Vienna and the Cities of Falls Church and Fairfax to be inventoried?

Response: The Cities: no. The Towns: yes

7. Does "Confederate military" encompass all officers and enlisted personnel?

- ~ There may be streets named for currently virtually unknown soldiers
- ~ Considering the scale of the hundreds of thousands of Confederate troops, HC recommends limiting street name listings to generally known individuals.

Response: This is perhaps the most difficult area to research. The term "generally known individuals" seems an appropriate approach. HC can decide on a process that focuses on well-known Confederate officers and on locally well-known Confederates – as it is not possible to capture every name. Also, there will be a significant portion of the list that will be "ambiguous" because, in many cases, there will be no means of verifying whether a common last name, i.e., Johnson, refers to a Confederate.

**8. Further consideration regarding street names:**

- ~ most are under the authority of VDOT
- ~ HC assumes all public streets throughout county are to be included
- ~ should HOA & other privately-owned streets be included?
- ~ HC assumes that confirming when naming occurred, “specifically . . . in the 1950s and 1960s”, per Supervisor Herrity’s comments, only refers to those with obvious Confederacy connotation.

Response: Include private streets; they can be separated from public streets at a later time. They want to know who has the authority to re-name going forward. History Commission is not responsible for identifying who has the authority any re-naming. Regarding Supervisor Herrity’s request, that information can be added if known.

**9. HC assumes we may enlist help of knowledgeable nonprofit organizations such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Civil War Roundtable, and Sons of Confederate Veterans to aid in research.**

Response: Yes, they should be included. Add other historical societies and organizations as appropriate.

**Bullet Point 3: Implications (including legal, costs and other)**

**10. HC assumes that other county agencies will address these matters, i.e., legal, transportation, etc.**

Response: Yes.

**Bullet Point 4: Recommended Guidelines**

**11. HC assumes that the Board’s directive to recommend guidelines for the renaming/replacement process of Confederate Monuments, Street Names, Rec Centers & Parks, and additional public spaces does not imply recommendations of specific actions.**

Response: Yes.