



PRESS RELEASE

Davidson County Government
PO Box 1067, Lexington, NC 27293

For additional information contact: Casey Smith 336-242-2200

Lexington, NC – October 14, 2020 –

Announcement: Davidson County Board of Commissioners statement on the Agreement between the City of Lexington and the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy

The Confederate Memorial in Lexington should be retained in its current location, as a memorial and tribute to the Davidson County men who lost their lives during the Civil War. The United Daughters of the Confederacy agreement with the City of Lexington to remove the memorial, however, puts an end to the County's ability to honor and preserve this memorial.

Davidson County has been consistent in response to demands to remove the memorial: the County will abide by the law and require that others also do so. The law in North Carolina, General Statute §100-2.1, limits the circumstances in which a monument, memorial or statue placed on public property can be removed or relocated.

The UDC had previously stated that it wanted the memorial to remain on the Courthouse Square. Only this week, after the entry of the Temporary Restraining Order, was the County provided with a copy of an Agreement between the UDC and the City of Lexington. In this Agreement the UDC agrees that the memorial will be relocated; the City agrees to pay for the cost of removing and storing the memorial; and the City agrees to dismiss the UDC as a party to the current litigation. The Agreement between the UDC and the City of Lexington was reached without the knowledge or involvement of Davidson County. Davidson County is not a party to the Agreement. The Agreement reflects a complete reversal of the prior position of the UDC.

In 1902 the City of Lexington granted permission to the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to “erect a monument on the public square in the town of Lexington to the memory of our Confederate dead.” The City moved the memorial to its present location, on Davidson County property, in 1950. Although the monument was placed on City, and later County property, ownership of the memorial has always remained with the UDC. There has never been any legal agreement between the UDC and Davidson County for the placement of the memorial on County property.

The Confederate Memorial in Lexington should be retained in its current location, as a memorial and tribute to the Davidson County men who lost their lives during the Civil War. The law that limits the relocation of memorials, however, provides that the UDC, as owner of the memorial, can determine the proper placement for its memorial. The owner of the memorial- the United Daughters of the Confederacy- has now decided that it wants to move the memorial to a different location.

Attachment: Settlement Agreement between Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy #324 and the City of Lexington

Settlement Agreement

1. The parties to this agreement are the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy No. 324 ("the Robert E. Lee Chapter") and the City of Lexington, North Carolina ("the City").


2. Both parties agree that the Robert E. Lee Chapter owns the Confederate monument ("the Monument") located in the southeast corner of the Old Courthouse Square in the City of Lexington, North Carolina that is the subject of a lawsuit currently pending in Davidson County Superior Court bearing case number 20 CVS 1716 ("the Lawsuit").

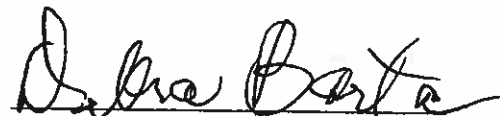
3. To settle claims asserted against it in the Lawsuit, the Robert E. Lee Chapter agrees that the Monument will be moved from its current location in the Old Courthouse Square to an alternate location outside the City's jurisdictional boundary, and the Robert E. Lee Chapter authorizes the City to make this occur without delay.

4. The parties agree that the City will hire and pay the fee of an appropriate third-party vendor to remove the Monument from its current location in the Old Courthouse Square and deliver it to the possession of the Robert E. Lee Chapter to an alternative location selected by the Robert E. Lee Chapter, provided said alternative location is outside of the City's jurisdictional boundary, but within the State of North Carolina. The City agrees to pay for the costs associated with the removal and delivery of the Monument and further agrees to pay any reasonable storage costs, subject to the mutual agreement of the parties.

5. Within three business days after the Monument is removed from its current location in the Old Courthouse Square, the City will dismiss from the Lawsuit all claims asserted against the Robert E. Lee Chapter, and the parties agree that upon the filing of said dismissal, all claims that either party has or could have asserted against one another related to the Monument or the Lawsuit will be fully and finally released.

This the 16th day of October, 2020.

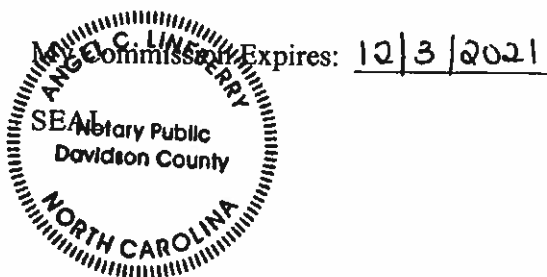

Newell Clark
Mayor, the City of Lexington, N.C.


Debra Barta
President, Robert E. Lee Chapter of
the Daughters of the Confederacy
No. 324

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
DAVIDSON COUNTY)

On this 16th day of October, 2020, before me personally appeared Newell Clark, to me known to be the person who executed the foregoing Settlement Agreement, and acknowledged that he executed the same of his own free act and deed for the consideration set forth therein.

Angel Clineberry
NOTARY PUBLIC



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
GUILFORD COUNTY)

On this 16th day of October 2020, before me personally appeared Debra Barta, to me known to be the person who executed the foregoing Settlement Agreement, and acknowledged that she executed the same of her own free act and deed for the consideration set forth therein.

Angel Clineberry
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 12/3/2021

