

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUSINESS MEETING  
ACTION ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** **Response to Board Member Initiative: Review of Confederate and Segregationist Symbols in Loudoun County**

**ELECTION DISTRICTS:** Countywide

**CRITICAL ACTION DATE:** At the pleasure of the Board

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Daniel Galindo, AICP, Planning and Zoning  
Alaina Ray, AICP, Director, Planning and Zoning  
Valmarie Turner, Assistant County Administrator, County Administration

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this item is to present a scope of work to the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County in response to a Board Member Initiative (BMI) and to seek clarity regarding the breadth of the inventory.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the scope of work outlined in this staff report for the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County.

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**BACKGROUND:** At the [Board Business Meeting on September 15, 2020](#), the Board directed (7-2: Buffington and Kershner opposed) staff to prepare an informational inventory detailing the symbols and their locations honoring or memorializing Confederate and segregationist figures or history in Loudoun County, in consultation with experts in Loudoun history where deemed necessary, and report back to the Board no later than June 2021. The BMI identified the following categories to be included in the inventory: County-owned and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)-owned road or street names; buildings; signs; logos; markers; monuments; battlefields; and other names or symbols in public spaces.

In response to this BMI, staff has prepared a scope of work for the Board's consideration.

**ISSUES:** Staff seeks Board review and endorsement of staff's recommendations for the establishment of parameters for the work plan and following issues: the method for development of the inventory, the types of items to be inventoried, the information provided within the inventory, and a project timeline.

### Development of Inventory

The Board's motion initiating the BMI directed staff to prepare an informational inventory as discussed above. A multi-departmental staff team currently including staff from the Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, and Office of Mapping and Geographic Information has been established to pursue this work. However, the expansive geography of Loudoun County, combined with Loudoun's complex history from the Civil War through desegregation, necessitates enlisting the assistance of outside resources to thoroughly inventory all possible Confederate and segregationist symbols across the County. As such, staff proposes to develop the list of items to be included on the inventory with assistance from the public via: (1) submissions by members of the public, and (2) meetings between County staff and subject matter experts. Such subject matter experts could include but would not be limited to members of the: Heritage Commission, Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Loudoun Museum, and Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition. Leveraging the assistance of the public and subject matter experts allows numerous knowledgeable members of the Loudoun community to supplement staff's efforts and will enable the creation of the most expansive list of items possible in a short timeframe.

### Items to be Inventoried

As noted in the original motion initiating the BMI, the inventory to be created will include County-owned and VDOT-owned road or street names, buildings, signs, logos, markers, monuments, battlefields, and other names or symbols in public spaces honoring or memorializing Confederate and segregationist figures or history in Loudoun County. Staff recommends the Board further support the following parameters to be used by staff to determine whether an item should be included in the inventory:

- The Board has authority to directly rename the inventoried item, or the Board has significant influence with the entity responsible for renaming the inventoried item. Practically, this will limit the inventory to public or quasi-public items. Private businesses, private organizations, private roads, and religious organizations would be among the types of items not included in the inventory if this parameter is accepted.
- Schools and school mascots will not be included in the inventory as Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) is currently conducting an independent review of these items. LCPS already announced the 'Captains' as Loudoun County High School's new mascot on September 3, 2020, and further research on school mascots is not being recommended by LCPS staff as no other mascots have been identified as being affiliated with the Confederacy. Research on school names for all schools not previously researched in a

school naming process and/or other historical evaluation will be conducted by LCPS' contracted consultant and is anticipated to conclude by December 2021.

- The item is named for: (1) a Confederate leader, (2) the Confederate cause, or (3) individuals or movements that promoted and implemented racial segregation laws in Virginia during the eras of Jim Crow (1896-1965) and Massive Resistance to desegregation (1954-1959) in Virginia. These three categories are consistent with LCPS' review of school names are not intended to place limits on historical era or origin (Jim Crow, Massive Resistance, Confederate, etc.) regarding inclusion in the inventory.

As an example of items that would fall within these parameters, US Route 50 is known in Loudoun County as both John Mosby Highway and Lee Jackson Highway, named for Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. All three of these men were Confederate leaders, and the Board has significant influence with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Commonwealth Transportation Board that the Board would work with to rename the highway, if desired.

### Inventory Content

For every item included in the inventory, staff proposes to include the following information:

- Name of Item
- Location
- Date of Creation/Erection/Naming
- Entity that Controls Item/Name
- Description
- Photograph

Staff proposes to limit the amount of information in the inventory to the data points listed above, with no significant research conducted on any specific item prior to Board presentation other than cursory filtering and organization by staff. Once the inventory has been presented to the Board for review, staff could conduct additional research on specific items based on Board direction.

### Timeline

In order to fulfill the scope of work outlined above and report back to the Board no later than June 2021, staff proposes the following timeline for the creation of the informational inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County:

#### *December 2020 – February 2021*

- Development of a public information campaign notifying the general public to submit possible symbols through Loudoun.gov.
- Development of public submission tool – likely a [map-based submission tool as previously used for the collection of cemetery information](#).

- Initial contacts with subject matter experts and related community organizations to discuss the inventory project and schedule meetings.

*February 2021 – March 2021*

- Accept public submissions of possible symbols through website.
- Staff meets with subject matter experts and related community organizations to discuss possible symbols.

*April 2021*

- Staff compiles submissions and creates inventory.

*May 2021 or June 2021*

- Staff presents inventory to Board.

Staff's ability to present the inventory in May versus June will depend on the response to the crowdsourcing effort, the number of submissions, and whether items/names are submitted with missing information, such as photos, that will need to be collected by staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No significant fiscal impacts are expected from the creation of the inventory. Fiscal impacts resulting from additional Board direction resulting from Board review of the inventory will be evaluated in subsequent reports to the Board.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The following alternatives have been identified for the Board's consideration:

1. The Board may approve the scope of work outlined in this staff report for the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County;
2. The Board may approve a modified scope of work for the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County; or
3. The Board may halt any further work on the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County.

**DRAFT MOTIONS:**

1. I move that the Board of Supervisors approve the scope of work outlined in the December 15, 2020, Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Action Item for the creation of an inventory of Confederate and segregationist symbols in Loudoun County.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.